Multinational Conventions and Agreements

CONGRESS OF VIENNA

TREATY AT A GLANCE

Completed
June 9, 1815, at Vienna

Signatories
Great Britain, Austria, France, Portugal, Prussia, Russia,
Spain, and Sweden

Overview
The general treaty of June 9, 1815, resulted from a congress held
from September 1814 through June 1815. The business of the con-
gress was, pursuant to the FIRST PEACE OF PARIS, to reestablish a bal-
ance of power in Europe and, to the extent possible, restore
pre-Napoleonic dynasties.

Historical Background
With Napoleon presumably in permanent exile on the
island of Elba, the powers of Europe convened in
Vienna, where after 25 years of almost constant war
stretching back to the French Revolution, the old order
was ready to reassert its control over Europe and estab-
lish a stable, conservative international settlement.
Austria's Francis I (formerly Holy Roman Emperor
Francis II) hosted the unprecedented congress,
attended by Alexander I of Russia, Frederick William
III of Prussia, and many lesser rulers and monarchs. Of
even greater significance was the galaxy of diplomats
present, including Viscount Castlereagh, representing
Great Britain; Prince Karl August von Hardenberg,
Prussia; Count Karl Robert Nesselrode, Russia; Prince
Klemens von Metternich, Austria; and the highly flex-
ible Charles-Maurice de Talleyrand-Perigord, foreign
minister under Napoleon and now in service to the
restored Bourbon government.

In the course of the congress, Napoleon made his
dramatic return from Elba, landing at Cannes on March
1. The powers gathered in Vienna paid no heed to
Napoleon's protestations of peaceful intentions but
instead outlawed the returned exile and prepared for
war. As massive Russian and Austrian forces assembled,
Napoleon decided to act decisively to separate and
defeat the Prussian and Anglo-Dutch armies in what is
now Belgium. He did win several initial victories before
he met defeat at the hands of the duke of Wellington
and Gebhard von Blücher at Waterloo on June 18, 181

Terms
In the meantime, Talleyrand had emerged as Europ's
premier diplomat and power broker. He played bril-
lantly upon the differences among the four domi-
nant powers at Vienna and broke a deadlock over t
claims. The final result: Prussia was given two-fifths
Saxony, and Russia received most of the Grand Duc
of Warsaw.

As to the west, the aim of the dominant pow
was to erect barriers against future French aggressio
Belgium was given to the Netherlands; the Rhinela
and Westphalia to Prussia; Nice and Savoy to Sardin
and Lombardy and Venetia went to Austria. A new
loose German Confederation was established, chie
to facilitate defense. Switzerland was neutralized un
an international guarantee that endures to this d
Denmark ceded Norway to Sweden in exchange
Lauenburg. In Spain, Portugal, and Italy, the P
Napoleonic dynasties were restored.

The lengthy document of June 9 was in large t
a detailed redivision of Europe. Typical was Article

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ARTICLE XXIII
His Majesty the King of Prussia having in consequence of the last war, resumed the possession of the provinces and territories which had been ceded by the Peace of Tilsit it is acknowledged and declared by the present Article that His Majesty, his heirs and successors, shall possess anew, as formerly, in full property and Sovereignty, the following countries, that is to say:

Those of his ancient provinces of Poland specified in Article II;
The City of Danzig and its territory, as the latter was determined by the Treaty of Tilsit;
The Circle of Cothbus;
The Old March;
The part of the Circle of Magdeburg situated on the left bank of the Elbe, together with the Circle of the Saale;
The Principality of Halberstadt, with the Lordships of Drenburg, and of Hassenrode;
The Town and Territory of Quedlinburg (save and except the rights of Her Royal Highness the Princess Sophia Albertine of Sweden, Abbess of Quedlinburg, conformable to the arrangements made in 1803);
The Prussian part of the County of Mansfeld;
The Prussian part of the County of Hohenstein;
The Eichsfeld;
The Town of Nordhausen with its territory;
The Town of Mühlhausen with its territory;
The Prussian part of the district of Trefourt with Dora;
The Town and Territory of Erfurth, with the exception of Klein-Breimbach and Berlstedt, inclosed in the Principality of Weimar, ceded to the Grand Duke of Saxe-Weimar by Article XXXIX;
The Bailiwick of Wandersleben, belonging to the County of Unter-gleichen;
The Principality of Paderborn, with the Prussian part of the Bailiwicks of Schallenberg, Oldenburg, and Stoppelberg, and the jurisdictions (Gerichte) of Hagendorn and Odenhausen, situated in the territory of Lippe;
The County of Mark, with the part of Lipstadt belonging to it;
The County of Werden;
The County of Essen;
The part of the Duchy of Cleves on the right bank of the Rhine, with the town and fortress of Wesel; the part of the Duchy; situated on the left bank, specified in Article XXV;
The secularized Chapter of Elten;
The Principality of Munster, that is to say, the Prussian part of the former Bishopric of Munster, with the exception of that part which has been ceded to His Britannic Majesty, King of Hanover, in virtue of Article XXVII;
The secularized Provostship of Cappenburg;
The County of Tecklenburg;
The County of Lingen, with the exception of that part ceded to the kingdom of Hanover by Article XXVII;
The Principality of Minden;
The County of Ravensburg;
The secularized Chapter of Herford;
The Principality of Neufchatel, with the County of Valengin, such as their Frontiers are regulated by the Treaty of Paris, and by Article LXXVI of this General Treaty.
The same disposition extends to the rights of Sovereignty and suzerainete over the County of Wernigerode, to that of high protection over the County of Hohen-Limbourg, and to all the other rights or pretensions whatsoever which His Prussian Majesty possessed and exercised, before the Peace of Tilsit, and which he has not renounced by other Treaties, Acts, or Conventions.

The German Confederation was established by Articles 53–64, which provide a virtual constitution for the body:

ARTICLE LIII
The Sovereign Princes and Free Towns of Germany, under which denomination, for the present purpose, are comprehended their Majesties the Emperor of Austria, the Kings of Prussia, of Denmark, and of the Netherlands; that is to say:—
The Emperor of Austria and the King of Prussia, for all their possessions which anciantly belonged to the German Empire;
The King of Denmark, for the Duchy of Holstein;
And the King of the Netherlands, for the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg; establish among themselves a perpetual Confederation, which shall be called 'The Germanic Confederation.'

ARTICLE LIV
The object of this Confederation is the maintenance of the external and internal safety of Germany, and of the Independence and Inviolability of the Confederated States.

ARTICLE LV
The Members of the Confederation, as such, are equal with regard to their rights; and they all equally engage to maintain the Act which constitutes their union.

ARTICLE LVI
The affairs of the Confederation shall be confided to a Federative Diet, in which all the Members shall vote by their Plenipotentiaries, either individually or collectively, in the following manner, without prejudice to their rank:—

1. Austria 1 Vote
2. Prussia 1 Vote
3. Bavaria 1 Vote
4. Saxony 1 Vote
5. Hanover 1 Vote
6. Wurtemberg 1 Vote
7. Baden 1 Vote
8. Electoral Hessell 1 Vote
9. Grand Duchy of Hesse 1 Vote
10. Denmark, for Holstein 1 Vote
11. The Netherlands, for Luxembourg
12. Grand-Ducal and Ducal House of Saxony
13. Brunswick and assau
14. Mecklenburg-Schwerin and Strelitz
15. Holstein-Oldenburg, Anhalt and Schwartburg
17. The Free Towns of Lubeck, Frankfort, Bremen and Hamburgh

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<tr>
<th>States</th>
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<td>Hohenzollern-Heckingen</td>
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<td>Liechtenstein</td>
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<td>Waldeck</td>
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<td>Reuss (Younger Branch)</td>
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<td>Reuss (Elder Branch)</td>
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<td>The Free Town of Frankfort</td>
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<td>The Free Town of Bremen</td>
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<td>The Free Town of Hamburgh</td>
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<td>Total 69 Votes.</td>
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The Diet in deliberating on the organic laws of the Confederation shall consider whether any collective votes ought to be granted to the ancient Mediatised State of the Empire.

ARTICLE LVII
Austria shall preside at the Federative Diet. Each State of the Confederation has the right of making propositions, and the presiding State shall bring them under deliberation within a definite time.

ARTICLE LVIII
Whenever fundamental laws are to be enacted, changes made in the fundamental laws of the Confederation, measures adopted relative to the Federative Act itself, and organic institutions or other arrangements made for the common interest, the Diet shall form itself into a General Assembly, and, in that case, the distribution of votes shall be as follows, calculated according to the respective extent of the individual States:

- Austria shall have 4 Votes
- Prussia 4 Votes
- Saxony 4 Votes
- Bavaria 4 Votes
- Hanover 4 Votes
- Wurtemberg 4 Votes
- Baden 3 Votes
- Electoral Hesse 3 Votes
- Grand Duchy of Hesse 3 Votes
- Holstein 3 Votes
- Luxembourg 3 Votes
- Brunswick 2 Votes
- Mecklenburg-Schwerin 2 Votes
- Nassau 2 Votes
- Saxe-Weimar 1 Vote
- Saxe-Gotha 1 Vote
- Saxe-Coburg 1 Vote
- Saxe-Meiningen 1 Vote
- Saxe-Hildburghausen 1 Vote
- Mecklenburg-Strelitz 1 Vote
- Holstein-Oldenburg 1 Vote
- Anhalt-Dessau 1 Vote
- Anhalt-Bernburg 1 Vote
- Anhalt-Kothen 1 Vote
- Schwartzburg-Sondershausen 1 Vote
- Schwartzburg-Rudolstadt 1 Vote
- Hohenzollern-Heckingen 1 Vote
- Liechtenstein 1 Vote
- Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen 1 Vote
- Waldeck 1 Vote
- Reuss (Elder Branch) 1 Vote

With respect to the order in which the members of the Confederation shall vote, it is agreed, that while the Diet shall be occupied in framing organic laws, there shall be no fixed regulation; and whatever may be the order observed on such an occasion, it shall neither prejudice any of the members, nor establish a precedent for the future. After framing the organic laws, the Diet will deliberate upon the manner of arranging this matter by a permanent regulation, for which purpose it will depart as little as possible from those which have been observed in the ancient Diet, and more particularly according to the Reces of the Deputation of the Empire in 1803. The order to be adopted shall in
no way affect the rank and precedence of the members of the Confederation except in as far as they concern the Diet.

ARTICLE LXI
The Diet shall assemble at Frankfort on the Maine. Its first meeting is fixed for the 1st of September, 1815.

ARTICLE LXII
The first object to be considered by the Diet after its opening shall be the framing of the fundamental laws of the Confederation, and of its organic institutions, with respect to its exterior, military, and interior relations.

ARTICLE LXIII
The States of the Confederation engage to defend not only the whole of Germany, but each individual State of the Union, in case it should be attacked, and they mutually guarantee to each other such of their possessions as are comprised in this Union.

When war shall be declared by the Confederation, no member can open a separate negotiation with the enemy, nor make peace, nor conclude an armistice, without the consent of the other members.

The Confederated States engage, in the same manner, not to make war against each other, on any pretext, nor to pursue their differences by force of arms, but to submit them to the Diet, which will attempt a mediation by means of a Commission. If this should not succeed, and a juridical sentence becomes necessary, recourse shall be had to a well organized Austrogal Court (Austrogalinstanz), to the decision of which the contending parties are to submit without appeal.

ARTICLE LXIV
The Articles comprised under the title of Particular Arrangements, in the Act of the Germanic Confederation, as annexed to the present General Treaty, both in original and in a French translation, shall have the same force and validity as if they were textually inserted herein.

Annexed to the June 9 document was a series of 17 treaties, declarations, and protocols designed to enact the provisions of the Congress of Vienna. An "Epitome of the Seventeen Documents" outlined the relationship between the treaties among various powers and particular articles in the Congress treaty of June 9. The "Epitome" gives some idea of the extent and complexity of the issues the Congress of Vienna managed to resolve:

Epitome of the Seventeen Documents
Annexed to the Congress Treaty of Vienna

ANNEX I
Treaty between Austria and Russia respecting Poland. Signed at Vienna April 21 / May 3, 1815.

Articles 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 were embodied in the principal Treaty as, respectively, 5, 3, 4, 6, and 1. They had reference to the new Austro-Russian frontiers, &c. Article 6 enabled inhabitants to leave the country on its transfer. Articles 7, 8, 9 were embodied in the principal Treaty as Articles 11, 12, and 1, general amnesty and sequestrations. Articles 10 to 23, property of proprietors having estates on both sides of boundary lines. Articles 24 to 29, navigation of rivers in Poland, tariffs, &c. (see Article 14 of principal Treaty). Articles 30 and 40 related to loans and debts, surrender of documents, evacuation of territories, &c.

ANNEX II
Treaty between Russia and Prussia relating to Poland, signed at Vienna April 21 / May 3, 1815.

Articles 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 are embodied in substance in the principal Treaty as Articles 2, 6, 11, 12, 13 respectively. The remaining provisions of the Treaty are very similar to those of the Austro-Russian Treaty (see Annex I).

ANNEX III
Additional Treaty between Austria, Prussia, and Russia relating to Cracow. Signed at Vienna April 21 / May 3, 1815.

Articles 1, 2, 3, 6, embodied in principal Treaty as Articles 6, 7, 8, 9. This Treaty constituted Cracow a free, neutral, independent town under the protection of Austria, Prussia, and Russia, with consequent conditions and privileges. [By a treaty between the same Powers dated November 6, 1846, the above additional Treaty was abrogated, the independency of Cracow was put an end to, and the territory incorporated with Austria in the Act of the Germanic Confederation. The British and French Governments protested against this infraction of the Treaty of Vienna. The constitution of Cracow, which was appended to this Annex, disappeared with the Treaty which created it.]

ANNEX IV
Treaty between Prussia and Saxony (also between Austria and Saxony and between Russia and Saxony) on the subject of territorial reconstruction. Signed at Vienna May 18, 1815.

Articles 2, 4, 13, 16, 21, were incorporated in the principal Treaty as Articles 15, 16, 20, 21, and 22. They related to territorial changes, religious property, amnesty, emigration, &c. Article 17 concerned the navigation of the Elbe. Article 15 supplied in that case of salt from Prussia duty free. Article 22, recognition by Saxony of sovereign rights of Austria, Prussia, and Russia in portions of Poland, &c. [Great Britain acceded to this Treaty.]

ANNEX V
Declaration of King of Saxony on Rights of House of Schonburg on the subject of territorial reconstruction. Signed at Vienna May 18, 1815. Act of Acceptation by the five Powers May 29, 1815.

ANNEX VI
Treaty (territorial), Prussia and Hanover. Vienna, May 29, 1815.

Articles 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 embodied in the principal Treaty as Articles 27, 28, 29, 30, 31. Reciprocal cessions. Prussia Hanover, Brunswick, Oldenburg, navigation of the Ems, debts &c.

ANNEX VII
Convention (territorial), Prussia and Saxe-Weimar. Vienna June 1, 1815.

Article 3 was embodied in the principal Treaty as Article 39.
ANNEX VIII
Convention (territorial), Prussia and Nassau. Vienna, May 31, 1815.

This convention contains a stipulation (Article 5) relating to the fortress of Ehrenbreitstein, enabling Prussia to erect military works within a certain radius of the fortress 'even in those communes which may remain under the Sovereignty of the House of Nassau.'

ANNEX IX
Act concerning the Federative Constitution of Germany. Vienna, June 8, 1815.

Articles 1 to 11, first paragraph, are embodied in the principal Treaty as Articles 53 to 63. This Act established a Confederation of the Sovereign Princes and Free Towns of Germany (17 in number), including Denmark for the Duchy of Holstein and the Netherlands for the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, forming together the Germanic Confederation for the maintenance of the safety of Germany and the independence of the confederated States. Austria was also a member of this Confederation. A Federative Diet was formed to sit at Frankfort, each of the 17 members having one vote, and a General Assembly in which the number of votes to each member was apportioned according to the respective extent of the individual States. The Act further contained stipulations on various matters bearing on the regulation of affairs.

ANNEX X

Union of the Netherlands and Belgium, cessions of territory, Luxembourg, boundaries, &c. Articles 1 to 8 were embodied in the principal Treaty as Articles 65 to 73. Appended to the Treaty is an Act of the Netherlands Government of July 21, 1814, accepting the sovereignty of the Belgian Provinces.

ANNEX XIA
Declaration (8 Powers) respecting Helvetic Confederacy. Vienna, March 20, 1815.

Articles 1 to 8 are, with certain omissions, embodied in the principal Treaty as Articles 74, 75, 76, 77, 79, 81, 82, 83. They deal with the integrity of the Cantons, the addition of 3 new Cantons, and stipulations for regrouping of territory, military roads and other internal arrangements.

ANNEX XIB
Act of Acceptance by Switzerland of the above Declaration. Zurich, May 27, 1815.

ANNEX XII


ANNEX XIII
Treaty, Austria and Sardinia (also Great Britain, Russia, Prussia, and France). Vienna, May 20, 1815.

Articles 1 to 8 embodied in principal Treaty as Articles 85 to 92. Boundaries of Sardinia, union of Genoa, fortifications, cessions to Geneva, neutrality of Chablais and Faucigny, passage of troops, &c. Appended to this Annex are the conditions respecting the government of Genoa, Geneva, &c.

ANNEX XIV
Conditions attaching to union of Genoa with Sardinia.

ANNEX XV
Declaration (8 Powers). Vienna, February 8, 1815.

Proposed universal abolition of the Slave Trade; to be a subject for separate negotiations between the Powers.

ANNEX XVI
Regulations. Vienna, March 1815.


ANNEX XVII
Regulations. Vienna, March 19, 1815.

Concerning the Rank and Precedence of Diplomatic Agents.

The above epitome gives roughly the purport of the 17 annexes to the Vienna Congress Treaty of June 9, 1815.

Consequences

The Congress of Vienna created a European settlement that endured for some 40 years, establishing a relatively stable balance of power. Yet it was shortsighted to the extent that it ignored nationalist yearnings, leaving the nations of Europe open to internal revolt, which culminated in the revolutions of 1848.