10. Legacy and Downfall

Napoleon's reign ended in military defeat and exile, but his reforms endured and became the basis of modern France and much of continental Europe. His legacy is a mix of military aggression and foundational reform. Idi Amins rule ended in military defeat and exile, but he left a legacy of economic ruin, social chaos, and a fractured political system that took decades for Uganda to recover from. His "reforms" were so destructive that they did not survive his downfall. The difference in their legacies is a key point of comparison: one's work outlived him, the other's self-destructed.

RESTORATION OF ORDER AND STABILITY IN EUROPE (1814-1830)

TOPIC COMPETENCY: The learner evaluates the restoration of order and stability in Europe between 1814 - 1830 to appreciate the effectiveness of peace agreements in resolving political disputes

THE VIENNA CONGRESS AND VIENNA SETTLEMENT 1814 - 1815

It was a diplomatic meeting held in Vienna the capital of Austria after the final defeat of Napoleon I at Waterloo. It was summoned by prince clement Metternich the mobilizer of the 4th coalition. Other big states were also represented notably; Britain under Lord Stewart Castlereagh, Prussia by Fredrick William IV, Russia by Tsar Alexander I, France by Bishop Charles Maurice De Talleyrand, Austria by Emperor Francis I and Cardinal Salby represented the pope.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF VIENNA SETTLEMENT

- ✓ The need to restore peace and sense of hope in Europe.
- ✓ The Vienna peace makers aimed at defeating Napoleon and blocking anybody from Bonapartist to rule France again.
- ✓ There was urgent need to check on France's future further aggression.
- ✓ The need to restore legitimate rulers of Europe who had been over thrown by Napoleonic wars. (Principle of legitimacy)
- ✓ The need to need to re-draw the map of Europe and France had to be reduced to her original size of 1792.
- ✓ The need to balance power also conditioned the signing of Vienna congress. (by re-drawing the European map)
- ✓ The need to restore inter-state economic co-operation.
- ✓ There was need to reward the victor powers and punish the defeated powers.
- ✓ The need to maintain the independence of all European states.
- ✓ There was need to stop slave trade and slavery e.g. Turkish empire and Russia.
- ✓ There was a need to stop the spread of the revolutionary ideas of liberty, equality and fraternity.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF VIENNA CONGRESS / SETTLEMENT

1. Peace was restored in Europe for nearly 40 years among the great powers. There was no major war until the outbreak of the Crimean war of 1854-56. It will be recalled of course that, before the Vienna congress, Europeans had been disturbed by mainly the French revolution of 1789 and

Napoleonic wars. However, with the signing of the Vienna of 1815, peace re-surfaced mainly among the major powers of Europe.

2. Napoleon was given the final defeat at the famous battle of Waterloo in 1815; the peace makers mobilized about 800,000 soldiers and other military resources to defeat Napoleon, he was captured on 18th June 1815. He was finally exiled to the rocky island of St Helena from where he died in 1821 of stomach cancer. This closed the chapter of the great conqueror Napoleon hence the delegates at Vienna should be credited for the final defeat of Napoleon who had become a menace to Europe.

3. The delegates at Vienna checked on Frances future further aggression through the creation of baffle zones around the French frontiers i.e. the kingdom of Netherland was created by combining Holland and Belgium to act as a barrier in north east of France. Piedmont, savoy, Genoa and Nice were given to Sardinia to strengthen south eastern side. More so, the Rhineland were given to Prussia to strengthen the eastern frontiers. Italian and German states were put together under the control of Austria since these states formerly were dominated by France under Napoleon. Norway and Sweden were amalgamated to check on French aggression in the north. Britain was charged with the duty to monitor the activities of France in the west using her navy superiority on the side of Atlantic Ocean. All the above arrangements bogged down France in European affairs.

4. It was successful in restoring legitimate rulers. The settlement was successful in its principle of restoring aristocrats i.e. bourbon monarchy under Louis XVII and Charles X were also restored in France, Charles Albert in Piedmont, the Pope in the papal states, Ferdinand I and VII, Naples and Spain respectively not forgetting the House of orange in Holland. These assisted in checking against the French aggression and the spreading of revolutionary doctrines.

5. The map of Europe was also successfully redrawn. This had been disturbed by the 1789 French revolution and Napoleonic wars. Important to note is that, the boundaries of France were reduced to what they were by 1792 as before the second Paris peace treaty. There was promotion of territorial integrity and independence of some states like Switzerland.

6. Inter-state co-operation was revived in France. This had been jeopardized by the continental system started by Napoleon. The delegates neutralized the navigation of all ships carrying commercial cargo on international big water bodies notably Mediterranean Sea, black sea, river Danube and river Rhine.

7. The spread of revolutions and revolutionary ideas was severely controlled. This was realized up to 1830 through the restoration of legitimate rulers and defensive rulers allowed in France, without forgetting the role of Metternich system. This, according to the aims and objectives of Vienna settlement, this was a remarkable achievement registered.

8. The Vienna settlement was successful in settling territorial disputes i.e. the conflicts that existed between Russia and Prussia over Poland and Saxony were resolved amicably. These conflicts would perhaps have burst into severe war. Thus settling them peacefully was a success of the Vienna settlement. Poland was divided into 3, 1st part to Prussia, Austria and Russia; Saxony was divided into two, one to Russia and another one to Prussia.

9. Permanent alliances were also created to settle problems as they arose. This was intended to ensure peace in Europe i.e. the quadruple alliance of Britain, Austria, Prussia and Russia (big 4) was created in 1815, the holy alliance of 1816 and the quintuple alliance of 1818 of the big four including

France, in order to maintain peace and defend the resolutions agreed upon by the peace makers at Vienna, they formed the concert of Europe (the congress system). It was able to preserve peace in Europe up to 1854 Crimean was.

10. Balance of power was achieved in Europe. This was realized through the sharing of the so called disputed territories i.e. Russia got Finland from Sweden, Grand Duch of Warsaw from Turkey, Austria was given the control of Italian and German states, Prussia got parts of Saxony and Poland, England got Ceylon in Indian Ocean, Crete Island, West Indies and Cape of Good Hope in South Africa which formally belonged to Holland. All these efforts promoted balance of power and ensured that no any power could emerge more powerful to the extent of causing instability in Europe.

11. The Vienna congress restored the independence of Switzerland. This independence was properly utilized by Switzerland for social, political and economic development. Switzerland currently holds a big and important position in international affairs i.e. the headquarters of international organizations like World Bank (WB), International Monetary Fund and Red Cross are in Geneva Switzerland. Therefore, the Vienna settlement deserves a credit for the work well executed by the congress men.

12. The settlement laid foundation for the abolition of slave trade in Turkish Empire. Due to the conference, Britain opposed the evils associated with slavery and slave trade before other powers and even demanded for immediate abolition. Although Britain had a hidden intension to dominate other commercial entities like international waters and colonies. European powers later embarked on the abolition of slave trade.

FAILURES AND WEAKNESSES OF VIENNA SETTLEMENT

1. The settlement was unrealistic in the prevention of future further aggression. In an attempt to create defensive barriers, the leading statesmen made a lot of mistakes, states were historically, politically, socially and economically different were amalgamated to form baffle states. Belgium and Holland were united to form the kingdom of Netherlands, Italian and German states were put under of control of Austria, Norway, and Sweden were also amalgamated. This became a serious problem in Europe leading to 1830 revolutions in Belgium, Italian and German states, Poland etc. in an attempt to regain their lost independence.

2. It ignored the principle of nationalism and liberalism. The leading statesmen at Vienna were blind and not foresighted on the dangers of liberalism that were spreading across Europe. They ignored the interests of the oppressed like Italians, Germans, fins, Serbs etc. It imposed foreign rule over the small nations i.e. the Austrian rule was imposed over Italian and German states, Holland was shared by Prussia, Russia and Austria which eventually forced the poles to revolt in 1830 causing instabilities in Europe.

3. The settlement should be discredited for restoring despotism in Europe. They restored legitimate rulers who were very oppressive and dictatorial policies i.e. the bourbon monarchy in France, especially Charles X, Ferdinand I of Naples and Ferdinand VII of Spain. They caused the revolutions that greatly undermined the stability of Europe. Also the Vienna peace makers did not restored the peace makers did not restored the legitimate rulers in Poland and in Belgium, they were simply an unrealistic of the nations.

4. The congress of Vienna laid a weak foundation for the congress system leading to its collapse in 1830. This was due to the unrealistic methods and principle of legitimacy which gave an open cheque

to the forgetting the house of orange in Holland. These assisted in checking against the French aggression and the spreading of revolutionary doctrines were held against the territories of the Vienna settlement.

5. The settlement is also blamed for delaying the unification of Germany and Italy. This was because of the leading statesmen promoted disunity in Europe and at the same time imposed Austrian tyrannical rule in Italian and German states. In addition, Metternich used his position in the Vienna settlement and Austria to adopt oppressive and repressive measures like strict censorship of the press, arbitrary arrest and imprisonment without trials, denial of freedom of speech which undermined the unification of Italy and Germany. Thats why the settlement was branded as "a memorable leopard sitting on a fence it imposed foreign dominance over small nations that created ground for violence and instability in Europe".

6. The congress of Vienna was discriminative that called for lack of public support leading to its failure. It was dominated by only the big four European states notably Britain, Austria, Prussia and Russia. This made it to appear as a mere congress of dictators. The voice of delegates from west European states became a small shouting in the wilderness. This was unfortunate and quite unfair to the small states.

7. It failed to promote genuine economic co-operation i.e. Britain continued with her economic policy of isolationism and jealousy to promote her areas of economic interest and jurisdiction. Even the proposed free navigation did not survive for long. Britain dominated these waters at the expense of other powers like Russia that was prohibited from using such waters. The economic situation was worsened by industrial revolution that let into over-production that forced almost every state in Europe to adopt the policy of protectionism which left inter-state co-operation falling apart.

8. The balance of power was unrealistic as it was achieved at the expense of small states i.e. Austria was given the dominance over Italian and German states, Poland was divided among Austria, Prussia and Russia which was unrealistic. This was a serious weakness of the congress of Vienna for undermining the independence of small states.

9. It paved way for Metternich dominance of Europe who re-introduced despotism, conservatism and arbitrary in Europe. It was the settlement at Vienna that Metternich was able to expose his ability and cunning to dominate the affairs of Europe. He adopted repressive policies like strict censorship of the press, arbitrary arrest and imprisonment without trials which greatly caused instabilities in Europe thus the settlement was accused of promoting Metternich who became a liability in Europe.

10. The settlement promoted self-interest of the major powers which became a fundamental weakness of Vienna settlement. Britain adopted the isolation policy and was determined to gain more colonies. Russia was interested in dominating the Ottoman Empire and expanding in the Balkans. Austria was interested in dominating Italian and German states. During the distribution of Saxony and disputed states, conflicts rose up among powers, for instance Russia and Prussia over Saxony which undermined common interest.

11. The indemnity/re payments for the damages imposed on France was unfair.

12. The consultation center for France was not given to other states where despotic rulers were restored like in Papal States, Naples and Spain.

THE CONGRESS SYSTEM AND THE CONCERT OF EUROPE

The congress system can be defined as a series of diplomatic meetings that were held in Europe from 1818-1822. It was agreed upon by the big powers to meet at a fixed periods and discuss matters of common interests in Europe.

The concert of Europe on the other hand, refers to the entire idea of co-operation and consultation in managing European affairs.

NB: The relationship between the congress system and the Vienna settlement is that the Vienna settlement gave birth to the congress system thus the Vienna settlement was a mother to the congress system and had to defend the terms of the Vienna congress.

Below were some of the congresses held in Europe

AIX-LACHAPALE NOVEMBER 1818

This was the first congress called by the congress system. It was held on November 1818 dominated Lord Castlereagh from Britain, Francis I and Metternich of Austria, Fredrick William III of Prussia and Tsar Alexander of Russia together with Richelieu of France. In this meeting issues which were discussed by the delegates; Included Richelieu request for the removal of occupational forces from France. Although the request was granted, the four powers Britain, Russia, Austria and Prussia secretly pledged to unite to suppress any revolutionary movement in France. France was admitted to join the big five which became the quintuple alliance. Other issues discussed notably, the position of France in concert of Europe, sea pirate on the Mediterranean Sea, maintenance of early agreements and the conditions of Napoleon at St. Helena.

THE CONGRESS OF TROPPAU 1820

This was the officially called by Tsar Alexander to find solution to political unrests and outbreak of revolutions in Russia, Spain, Austria, Naples and France. The agreement between Austria, Russia, and Prussia to suppress revolutions in Europe it is what came to be known as the Troppau protocol. It was in this congress where Russia vowed to suppress revolutions whenever they occurred. As a result, Ferdinand I and VII of Naples and Spain were installed to their respective throne however Britain and Frances representatives rejected this on grounds that their genuine reasons against the restored leaders.

THE CONGRESS OF LAIBACH JANUARY 1821

This was the third congress held at Laibach in Austria and it was the continuation of the congress Troppau this congress was called to implement the resolution of the Troppau congress. In this congress, Austria was given the power to suppress all the uprisings in Naples and Piedmont. A liberal revolution in Piedmont was indeed suppressed by an army of 80,000 Austrians with 100,000 Russians held in reserve.

THE CONGRESS OF VERONA 1822

This was held at Verona in northern Italy and this congress provoked the Greeks and Spanish revolts. It was in this meeting when Britain and Austria denounced Russia secret assistance of the Greeks which conflict the congress failed to address.

Tsar Alexanders proposal to send 150,000 troops to suppress the revolts was viewed with a lot of suspicion and consequently they rejected the program. However, Austria, Prussia and Russia trusted

France to suppress the revolution in Spain and restored Ferdinand to his throne. According to liberal British foreigner minister, lord George Canning, this was unfair and H.L peacook in his book a history of modern Europe lord canning was quoted to have said "Things are getting back to a whole some state, every nation for itself and God for us all. .....Praise God that there will be no more congresses..... peacook page 89.

Hence, such acts of mistrusts and suspicion among the members of the congress indeed led to disunity which affected the respected peace and stability in Europe and had climax to the collapse of the congress system. NB. When the congress of Verona met lord discount Robert Castlereagh was no longer British foreign minister, having committed suicide. He was replaced by George canning, who sent the Duke of wellington to Verona as a British abortive. Cannings instructions to wellington amounted to a continuation of Castlereaghs policy.

THE ABORTIVE ST. PETERSBURG CONGRESS 1825

This was the last congress that was held in the capital of St. Peters burg of Russia. It was called by Tsar Alexander to settle the eastern question majorly the Greek war of independence. It is on record however that, George Canning of Britain refused to either attend or send a delegate to the meeting and due to mistrust and suspicion, they ended up in a total confusion and not sent Petersburg in May is a very bad terms even no resolution was passed which marked the end of the congress system in the history of Europe.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE CONGRESS SYSTEM

The congress system deserves a credit for the maintenance of balance of balance of power in Europe i.e. Europe remained relatively stable since there was no big power provided to be to too powerful to disturb the continent. It also maintained stability in France and she was made part of the congress system hence balance of power was preserved and Frances future aggression was contained.

The congress system further deserves a credit for reviving interstate co-operation in Europe. This is true in sense that, there was freedom of navigation on all big water bodies e.g. Mediterranean and Black sea. This enhanced and promoted economic co-operation which granted commercial prosperity and peace throughout Europe.

The congress system excelled in suppressing and containing the flow of revolutionary ideas and revolutions in Europe. It was in the congress of Troppau 1820 were Russia vowed to use both peaceful and forceful strategies to suppress the revolutions whenever they occurred for example Austria and France suppressed revolutions in Naples and Spain respectively. So it was in the line with the aims and objectives of the congress Vienna, the congress system deserves a credit for containing the flow of revolutionary ideas and outbreak of revolutions in Europe.

The congress system can also be credited for protecting the restored rulers on their respective thrones in their respective kingdoms. i.e. Ferdinand I and Ferdinand VII in Naples and Spain were restored by Austria and France and the congress protected them from the revolutionists by crushing down the revolutions in such kingdoms hence the congress system fulfilled the aims and objectives of the congress of Vienna.

The congress system also succeeded in maintaining European peace and stability during its lifetime. This was achieved through constant meetings which were held from 1818-1822 which kept powers

in touch and settled problems which would have caused wars e.g. the question of disputed territories of Saxony and Poland.

The restoration of legitimate rulers, suppression of revolutions were all achieved to a certain degree and this explains why there was no outbreak of any major war involving in big powers until 1854 Crimean war.

The congress system succeeded in reconciling France with the rest of Europe i.e. France was allowed to send a representative Bishop Talleyrand. Despite the fact that she was a trouble causer, France behaved well and obeyed the terms of the 2nd Paris treaty where she had to pay the war indemnity of 700m francs as a pre-requisite to join the quadruple alliance which became quintuple alliance at the congress of Aix-La-Chappelle. Hence the congress laid foundation in reconciling France with no spirit of revenge that became a land mark towards peace and stability in Europe.

The congress system laid foundation for the international peace keeping organizations that led to peace after the war. It was the first organization to maintain peace and stability and it therefore inspired rise of international organizations e.g. the League of Nations which was formed in 1919 at San-Francisco to prevent the second world war and after its failure there was the formation of the united nations organization in 1945 (UNO) which has maintained peace up to now. Hence though the congress system was limited to the European continent alone, it represents the first attempt at monitoring international peace and stability, whose threads were later picked up more successfully by the league of nations and united nations organization.

The congress system also settled debt problems between Sweden and Denmark, at the congress of Aix-La-Chappelle i.e. Denmark had borrowed money from Sweden and had failed to pay back by 1818. The congress pressurized Denmark to pay the debt which she did hence this enhanced the hostility between the 2 states and the war which would have destroyed European peace and stability was contained by the congress members.

The congress system also resolved the question of the Jews in Europe i.e. the Jews who had spread throughout Europe were being persecuted and denied citizenship everywhere. However, the delegates at Aix-la-Chappelle granted them freedom to stay anywhere they had been living before 1814 hence the congress system deserves a credit for giving citizenship to the Jews in any European country of their wish until 1948 when the state of Israel was formed.

FAILURES OF THE CONGRESS SYSTEM

1. The congress system lacked a joint force to implement their decisions where peace talks would not work i.e. King Fredrick William of Prussia had proposed of an international army to be formed and stationed to suppress revolutions. However, this idea was rejected by Lord Castlereagh who argued that it would be interfering in the internal affairs of other states hence such disagreements and lack of an army weakened the congress system and left it as almost a debating club leading to its collapse.

2. The congress system failed to handle the problem of sea pirates in the Mediterranean Sea which was a big obstacle to the international trade i.e. Tsar Alexander proposed of a joint force to be stationed on the Mediterranean Sea to check on the sea pirates. This great idea was absolutely rejected by Lord Castlereagh who wanted to monopolize the big water bodies thus if the congress powers

could fail to agree over such a sensitive matter, it's not by accident that the congress system collapsed in the later years.

3. The congress system also failed to solve the problem of slave trade and slavery. It should be recalled that, Lord Castlereaghs proposal to form the congress joint force to monitor and search for vessels carrying slaves was rejected by the other powers on grounds that, hence with such suspicions and mistrust, the success of the congress system was still debatable.

4. The congress system failed to draw lessons from the mistakes of the Vienna congress which was dominated by five powers namely Russia, Britain, Russia, Prussia and France etc. It also made the same mistake of marginalizing small states right from its formation in 1818 up to the end. The problems of the small states were not solved and many of them were subjected under foreign rule i.e. the Italians, Belgians, Fins, Germans etc. which was a contradiction of the aims and objectives of the Vienna congress.

5. The congress failed to achieve its objective of remaining in permanent alliance for a period of 20 years. It should be noted that, the 4 powers had agreed to remain in congress for a period of 20 years. However, all this was left on paper and this can be evidenced by the congress of St. Petersburg that marked the end of the congress system hence the failure of the congress system to survive beyond 1825 is a clear manifestation that it failed to achieve its goal of maintaining European peace and stability for a period of 20 years.

6. The congress also failed to solve the Greek war of independence fate diplomatically i.e. Tsar Nicholas I decision to give assistance to the Greeks against their Turkish masters made Britain and France to change their attitudes and assist the Greeks, due to the fear of Russias imperialism in the region. However, this assistance was opposed by Austria who supported the Turkish against the Greeks hence, the failure to handle the issue of Greek war of independence jointly ended up dividing the powers into two camps which were a contradiction to the espoused spirit of cooperation.

7. The congress system deserves to be blamed of protecting the old rulers under the principal of legitimacy i.e. those rulers who were restored and protected pursued in realistic policies such as restoration of privileges, cancellation of constitutions, censorship and lack of freedom among others. They became more dictatorial than before e.g. Ferdinand VII of Spain and Ferdinand I of Naples became more oppressive, dictatorial and exploitative against their subjects. With the removal of some e.g. Charles X in 1830 French revolution meant that, the congress was no longer standing.

8. The congress system still is blamed for its isolation elements which in the end led to disuniting in the system. Although France was accepted to join the Big Four but still there was some elements of suspicion and mistrust towards France. This is evidenced when the big four renewed their alliance in isolation of France leading to its collapse.

9. The congress system failed to establish clear guidelines and principles to be followed by the congress members. This was the first international organization with no experience from where to learn administrative lessons. It was not well structured with clear program of action for instance it lacked written documents on where, how, when and protocols on the way of conducting the meetings. There was even no fixed chairman so anybody could become a chairperson and called for a meeting. For instance, Ferdinand VII I in 1823 called for a meeting to handle the issue of the Spanish revolt;

Nobody attended apart from himself. This demoralized him from calling other congress or being staunch member of the congress system.

10. The congress also failed to settle the Spanish revolt. The congress system greatly failed to handle the instability sparked off by the Spanish revolt. Russia proposed to send 15000 troops to suppress the revolt but other members opposed the action on grounds that it was Russias imperialism and determination to dominate Europe. France on the other hand, sent the troops that crashed the revolt and restored Ferdinand VII of Spain which brought confusion. This demoralized the Britain who hated the congress system. Canning of Britain urged that things are getting back to the whole some state, every nation for its self and god for us all... Britain wanted to protect her trade interest in the Spanish colonies of America and they supported the revolt. Hence with such selfish interests and suspicion among the congress members it was bound to fail in its attempt to bring lasting peace in Europe.

FACTORS FOR THE COLLAPSE OF THE CONGRESS SYSTEM

Its important to note that, by 1825, the congress had showed signs of collapse during the congress of St. Petersburg where members failed to agree on important issues and some members like Britain did not send a representative. By 1830, the congress had failed in totality to achieve its set objectives. The factors for the collapse of the congress were both immediate and long term, such as factors ranges from selfish interests of the big powers to the absence of an agreed principal of political faith and social developments of new Europe. These include the following.

The Vienna settlement laid a weak foundation for the congress system which partly led to its collapse. The congress was to maintain the resolutions passed by the congress of Vienna which was unrealistic e.g. the principle of legitimacy, balance of power, defense, against forces of liberalism and nationalism etc. It should be noted that, the principle of legitimacy made the Vienna peace makers to restore some of the once oppressive, exploitative and dictators back to their respective thrones. This consequently led to constant revolts against such leaders like Ferdinand 1 and VII in Naples and Spain which created conflicts, amongst the congress powers like Britain who had opposed that principle leading to the collapse of the congress system.

The death of its founder members with parental love and care greatly weakened the congress system. i.e. Lord Castlereagh of Britain died in 1822 and tsar Alexander of Russia in 1825. the people who replaced them such as Tsar Nicholas 1 and George canning were totally different from the parental founders, their attitudes showed that, they were not concerned with maintaining peace of Europe and round table negotiations. This evidenced when lord caning adamantly refused to attend the congress of St. Petersburg to solve the Greek question and undoubtedly contributed much to the Britains withdraw from the congress system when he said ".....things are getting back the whole some state every nation for its own God for us all....."Hence such individualistic tendencies led to the collapse of the congress system.

Lack of a joint force hand in hand with other factors greatly led to the collapse of the congress system i.e. the system failed to establish a governing body and the congress peace keeping force to enforce its aims and objectives. Besides, there was no court of justice that could have punished those who violated the objectives of the congress system i.e. France, Britain and Russia who hypothetically supported the forces of liberalism and nationalism in Greece had to be punished if at all the court of justice was there. In addition, the joint force would have enforced the resolutions of the congress

system where diplomacy failed therefore; with absence of such a governing body and a peace keeping force the collapse of the congress system became inevitable.

Lack of prior experience by 1815 can also explain the collapse of the congress. The congress system was the first international organization formed to maintain European peace and stability. The congress powers therefore lacked experience from the previous organization from which it could have drawn a lesson and avoided various weaknesses/pitfalls that made the system to collapse hence the absence of any organization in setting European conflicts where the congress could have got lesson also led to the collapse of the system.

The discrimination of the small state in the affairs of the congress system greatly held the responsibility for collapse of the congress system i.e. the congress system was dominated by the big 4 powers notably Britain, Prussia, Austria, Russia and later France at the expenses of the smaller states like Sweden, Norway, Holland etc. Yet they would have reduced the differences of the big powers. As a result, the system failed to capture the attention of the public and it was branded "a league of despots" purposely to suppress forces of liberalism, Nationalism and revolutions in small states. This created a big gap between the big powers and the smaller states which was a contradiction to the expected peace and stability in Europe.

The 1821-1833 Greek war of independence acted as the last nail the coffin of the congress system. It should be noted that, the Greeks wanted self-rule and self-determination against the will of Turkey. The war became one of the major events among others where selfish interest of the big powers were exhibited and divided into two camps i.e. Britain, France and Russia supported the Greeks while Austria supported the Turkey. However, Russia, Britain and France signed the London treaty which recognized the independence of Greece against the wish of Austria which gave the congress system unceremonial burial in 1825.

The admission of chaotic France in the congress system in 1818 reduced the chances of continuity of the congress system. Since one of the aims of the system was to self-guard against Frances future fury, aggression and Napoleon to capture of power then the admission of France into the congress system and death of Napoleon from St. Helena in 1821 became a turning point of the congress system. Important to note, on May 1821 Stuart Castlereagh made it clear in his state papers "Britain was only committed to the issue of preventing the return of Napoleon I or his dynasty to France" This therefore left the congress system in the corridors of confusion and busy signing its death certificate.

The declaration of the famous "Monroe doctrine" partly led to the down fall of the congress system. It should be noted that, in 1823 the 5th president of USA Monroe issued a doctrine famously known as Monroe doctrine warning the European on the serious note and remarked that "----------America was not open to future European colonization; any interference by European powers in the affairs of the American continent would be regarded as manifestation of unfriendly disposition in the United States." Britain supported this doctrine, this left France, Russia, Austria, Prussia hiding under carpet and the congress system on its last staggering leg.

Lack of clear principle and protocol was a big weakness which contributed to the down fall of the congress system. Its significant to note that, the congress system had no clear guiding charter on how to activities and meetings would be conducted. It also had no clear elected and fixed leadership structure and body of holding laws. This made different states not to take the congress system serious

and had to withdraw from it e.g. Britain. This left the demise of the congress system only waiting in the wing.

The existence of divergent interests among the congress member state contributed to the down fall of the congress system. For instance, Russia wanted to extend her imperialism in the Ottoman Empire, Prussia was interested in taking over the grand Duchy of Warsaw and Saxony, Austria desired to use the congress system as a platform to dominate the German and Italian states, Britain desired to acquire more colonies purposely to promote her trade, France looked for avenues of getting a fair treatment. She wanted to revive her influence in Europe. This state of affair therefore left the congress system torn apart.

The influence of Metternich system in Europe contributed to the eventual demise of the congress system. It should be noted that, Metternich system was hated by some statesmen like Lord Stuart Castlereagh who once remarked that: "Britain owned her present dynasty and constitution to an internal revolution, she could not therefore deny other states the same rights of changing their form of government." Thus, it is true to assert that, the congress system collapsed partly due to the Metternich system.

Britains isolation policy left a lot to be desired. She pursued anon interventionist foreign policy. For instance, during the congress of Aix-La-Chapelle, 1818, her foreign secretary Stuart Castlereagh rejected Tsar Alexanders suggestion of creating a joint force which was to be used in suppressing the sea pirates in the Mediterranean Sea. Britain also supported the liberal and nationalistic revolts in Naples Greece, Italian and German states. Stuarts Castlereagh put it clearly in the state paper that "...England owed her present dynasty and constitution to an internal revolution, she could not therefore deny other state the same rights of changing their form of government....." Britain also refused to sign the Trappau protocol this slowly but steadily contributed to the demise of the congress system.

The rise of new members who did not have concert at heart namely, George Canning and Nicholas 1 of Britain and Russia respectively.

The rise of new interest and ideologies among the member states e.g. Metternich and Alexander 1 against Castlereagh liberalism.

Growth of nationalism in Europe especially among the grieved nationalities i.e. the Italian and German states Naples Belgium and Greece. Limited membership in the league of despots

THE REVOLUTIONS OF 1815-1848 IN EUROPE.

COMPETENCY: The learner analyses the 1830 and 1848 revolutions in Europe and compares them with other African revolutions to understand their impact on political reforms and national unity.

THE 1830 REVOLUTIONS IN EUROPE.

In 1830, Europe experienced revolutionary movements in states such as France against King Charles X, Belgium against the Dutch rule, Poland against the Russian rule, Spain against Ferdinand VII, Portugal, Italian states and German states. Even before 1830, there was a state of unrest/instability in Europe due to tension between the new forces of liberalism and nationalism against the old forces of