

# The Congress of Vienna Convenes

**Essential Question:** How does the Congress of Vienna create a lasting peace in Europe?

- **Metternich Restores Stability**
- **Political Changes Beyond Vienna**

# Metternich Restores Stability

- After **Napoleon**, the heads of governments in Europe were looking for long lasting peace and stability.
- As a result they called for a series of meetings in Vienna, (**Congress of Vienna**) it was called to set up policies to achieve this goal.

# Metternich Restores Stability

- Most of the decisions were made in **secret** among representatives of the five “great” powers, Prussia, Austria, Russia, Britain and France.
- However none of these people were as **influential as Prince Klemens von Metternich** (Austria) who **distrusted democratic ideals** and felt Napoleon’s expansion was the result of the ideals of the French Revolution.

# Metternich Restores Stability

- He had **3 goals** at the Congress of Vienna
  - 1<sup>st</sup> **prevent further French aggression** by surrounding France with strong countries
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> restore a **balance of power** so that no country would be a **threat to others**
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> **restore Europe's royal families** to the thrones they had before Napoleon's conquests.

# Metternich Restores Stability

- Although it was forced to give back all the territories Napoleon had taken, **France is kept intact but contained, and a balance of power is set in Europe**
- The great powers affirmed the **principle of legitimacy**, agreeing that **rulers whom Napoleon had driven from their thrones should be returned to power.**
- Rulers disposed by Napoleon are restored to power, including Louis XVIII, **Louis XVI** brother in France

# Metternich Restores Stability

- The Congress of Vienna was a **political triumph** in many ways, because its **settlements were fair enough for no country to be left bearing a grudge.**
- Overall the **Congress of Vienna was more successful** than many other peace settlements in future wars and **produces a lasting peace.**
- The situation in Europe after the Congress of Vienna is a **victory for conservatives.**

# Political Changes Beyond Vienna

- The rulers of Europe were still **very jittery about** the legacy of the French Revolution and the **ideals of liberty, equality and fraternity.**
- In 1815 **Czar Alexander** of Russia, **Emperor Francis I** of Austria and **King Frederick William III** of Prussia entered a league called the **Holy Alliance** to help guard against **revolts.**
- Next Metternich devised a series of alliances (**Concert of Europe**) which allowed nations to help one another in case of internal revolution.

# Political Changes Beyond Vienna

- Despite their efforts to undo the French Revolution, **the leaders could not turn back the clock** and many people in the lower classes throughout Europe remained **committed to its ideals**.
- The actions of the Congress of Vienna had consequences beyond Europe when **revolts broke out in many areas of Latin America**.
- Mexico successfully threw off Spanish rule and Brazilians took advantage of a liberalist revolt in Portugal to gain independence as well.
- **The Congress of Vienna left a legacy that would influence politics for the next 100 years.**
- **Nationalism continued to grow**, and although France's experiment with democracy failed, **it set new political ideas in motion in Europe**.