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# HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

## *DEAR DELEGATE*

Welcome to the historical committee! We are delighted to be your chairs of the year. We are in a hurry to meet you, but for now let us introduce ourselves. We are going to be 3 chairs : Lili, Emma and Emel. Lili and Emma are 16 and are currently year 12 OIB students and Emel and Eleni are 17 and are in year 13 of OIB (ES and S).

## *WHAT IS THE HISTORICAL COMMITTEE?*

A Historical Committee is a committee focused on historical events, which occurred in past times. For this reason, throughout the conference, delegates will have to pretend they are taking a step back into the past. The events discussed will be real crises. These crises occurred in different years and, during the debate, they will be discussed following their chronological order. **Each delegate will not represent a country in general**, as it happens in other MUN committees, **but a character**. Delegates will have to imitate the behaviour of that person and to operate always keeping in mind the real decisions taken by their countries in a precise occasion. Delegates have to follow the reality of facts that occurred and their speeches and actions must reflect the policy of their countries in those years. This is why delegate must have a perfect knowledge of the time period to avoid rewriting history.

## *TOPIC A : The Vienna Congress of 1815 (Lili and Emma)*

*Issue:* The Congress of Vienna in 1814-1815

### **Introduction**

The year 1815 is the end of a quarter-century of warfare in Europe. Emperor Napoleon was defeated in May 1814. The victorious Great Powers, which were Austria, Prussia, Russia, and Great Britain, invited the other states of Europe to join in Vienna for a peace conference. Those four powerful states were known as the Quadruple Alliance. Emperors, kings, princes, and representatives of the different countries went to the city.

### **Key terms**

- Balance of power: A theory in international relations that suggests that national security is enhanced when military capability is distributed so that no one state is strong enough to dominate all others. If one state becomes much stronger than others, the theory predicts it will take advantage of its strength and attack weaker neighbours, thereby providing an incentive for those threatened to unite in a defensive coalition.
- Great Powers: A sovereign state recognized as having the ability and expertise to exert its influence on a global scale. They characteristically possess military and economic strength, as well as diplomatic and soft power influence, which may cause middle or small powers to consider the Great Powers' opinions before taking actions of their own.
- Concert of Europe nations: Also known as the Congress System or the Vienna System after the Congress of Vienna, a system of dispute resolution adopted by the major conservative powers of Europe to maintain their power, oppose revolutionary movements, weaken the forces of nationalism, and uphold the balance of power.

## Timeline

- March 9, 1814: an alliance between Great Britain, Russia, Prussia and Austria with the Treaty of Chaumont is created
- April 1814: Napoleon's first abdication
- May 30, 1814: subsequent treaties of Peace are signed by the 'four', Sweden, Portugal, and Spain
- September 1814: the beginning of the Congress
- September 22, 1814: it is decided that the 'four' would decide of the future of the conquered countries
- between January 7 and February 13, 1815: the frontiers of all the north of the Alps are settled
- June 1815 : Waterloo
- June 1815: 'Final Act' is completed

## Participating countries and their roles in the Congress

### Major countries

- The Four Great Powers :

*Britain* was first represented by Viscount Castlereagh, its Foreign Minister, then by The Duke of Wellington, after Viscount Castlereagh returned to England in February 1815. Because of Napoleon's return from exile, The Duke of Wellington had to face him and leave the congress. The earl of Clancarty took his place to represent Britain.

*The Russian delegation* was officially led by Count Karl Robert Nesselrode, the Foreign minister, but was actually controlled by Tsar Alexander I.

Prussia was represented by its Chancellor Karl August van Hardenberg and the scholar and diplomat Wilhelm von Humboldt. The king Frederick William III of Prussia was also present in the city but not genuinely in the congress.

Prince Metternich (Foreign minister) and its deputy baron Johann Von Wessenberg represented the host country of the congress, *Austria*. The Emperor of the country, Emperor Francis was regularly informed of what happened during the congress.

Even though Prussia, Russia, Great Britain, and Austria are part of an alliance, their goals for the congress are different.

- The "Fifth" Power

France was represented by the Minister, the Duke of Dalberg and the Foreign Minister Talleyrand. Even though Talleyrand had negotiated at the congress of Paris for King Louis XVIII, the King didn't trust him so he corresponded with Metternich (Austria) to make negotiations.

## Minor countries

Spain, Portugal, and Sweden were also part of the Congress but did not have the same power over the decision making. The 'four' indeed that they would decide on the future of the conquered countries. Moreover, their representatives had a moderate ability to represent them.

## The congress' objectives

The problems the Congress had to deal with were extremely complex since the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars had totally modified the structure of Europe. The main goal of the Congress of Vienna was to solve the issues linked to territories: a new configuration of German states, the reorganization of central Europe, the borders of central Italy and territorial transfers in Scandinavia. They also wanted to re-establish order, stability, and peace in Europe.

They did not want the international relations to be shaped by individual countries looking endlessly for advantage but were looking for a framework of peace and stability beyond them. The main goal was to avoid all repetitions of the chaos of conflict of the preceding two decades.



This is a map of Europe with new boundaries created by The Congress Of Vienna.

### Tensions between the allies

By the end of 1814, the allies started to have some conflicts, making the meetings far from peaceful. The session of 30<sup>th</sup> saw bitter divisions for instance. England and Austria were opposed to concessions to Russia and Prussia. Prussia threatened war if no territories were granted to her, and Russia was implacably hostile to opening the Congress to French participation.

### The end of the Congress

The negotiations were not finished until the execution of the Final Act on 9<sup>th</sup> June 1815. But there were still some difficulties. Spain did not sign, parts of the material had to be backdated and, as the leaders of the powers dispersed against the background of likely military action against Napoleon in the Low Countries and elsewhere, it was difficult to obtain signatures. Russia did not sign until 27<sup>th</sup> June.

However, the triumph of the Congress was a long-term one, keeping security for the next century in Europe.

### Bloc Positions :

CHARACTERS	COUNTRY
Prince Metternich	Austria
Baron Johann von Wessenberg	Austria
Viscount Castlereagh	Britain
Duke of Wellington	Britain
Karl Robert Nesselrode	Russia
Tsar Alexander I	Russia
Prince Karl August von Hardenberg	Prussia
Wilhelm von Humboldt	Prussia
Talleyrand	France
Pedro Gomez de Labrador	Spain
Pedro de Soussa Holstein	Portugal
Carl Löwenhielm	Sweden
Niels Rosenkrantz	Denmark
Charles Pictet de Rochemont	Switzerland
Maximilian Graf	Bavaria

**Questions a Resolution must answer :**

**How to prevent France from confronting other countries in the future ?**

**How to restore Europe's Royal families in their thrones after the Napoleonic Wars ?**

**How to restore a balance of power within Europe ?**

**How to restore Peace between European countries after the Napoleonic Wars ?**

## *TOPIC B : Rebuilding the world after WWII (Emel)*

### *I. Introduction to the topic*

On September the 2nd 1945, the Second World War (WW2) armistice has been signed. However, getting out of war is a long and complex process, that is not limited to the ratification of the armistice, this only marked the end of the fights. After the ratification of an armistice start the post war period. During this postwar period, world leaders have to face several issues while ensuring peace back. Indeed, it is a period of material, economic, political and intellectual recovery, but also a mourning period for the people. It is hard to define when this post war period ended. If the end of the post war period is marked by a new war, then the post WW2 period would end with beginning of the cold war in 1947 and the decolonisation process. However, it could be more interesting to define the end of the post WW2 period at the beginning of the 1950s : in 1951 with the Paris treaty and the creation of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) ratified by six European countries in the goal of avoiding a new war. Finally, this post WW2 period is definitely over with the death of Stalin in 1953, that was believing that a third world war would happen and that it would be a nuclear war. Then, one might ask how did world leaders succeed to rebuilt the world after WW2.

### *II. History of the topic*

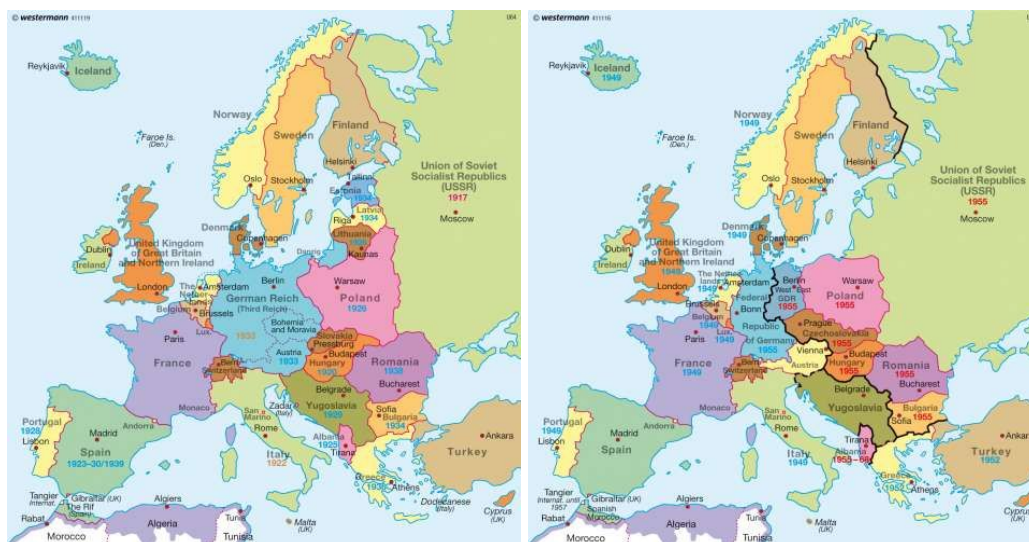
Getting out of the war has been considered early during WW2, from 1941 by Roosevelt and Churchill with the ratification of the Charter of the Atlantic. Europe started thinking about it in 1943 with the Tehran conference and in 1945 with the Yalta conference (each of the country your character is from might have thought of getting out of the war such as in France on the 15 March 1944 when the National Council of Resistance signed the post war policy, so do check ! ).

The conferences :

- Tehran Conference, (November 28 – December 1, 1943) with Churchill, Roosevelt, Stalin
- Bretton Woods conference, (July 1 – 15, 1944) with representatives of 44 nations
- Yalta Conference, (February 4 – 11, 1945) with Churchill, Roosevelt, Stalin
- United Nations Conference on International Organization (April 25 – June 26, 1945) with representatives of 50 nations
- Potsdam conference (July 17-August 2, 1945) with Truman, Atlee, Stalin

Issue of getting out of the war :

- human casualties : about 50 million of dead (civilians and soldiers). 18% of the Polish population and 14% of the Soviet population died. 52% of the dead were civilians. Those human casualties are an issue for countries as a huge part of the working age population died : less workers and a demographic lost.
- questioning the moral values of the society : mass death, huge violence. soldier suffer from post-traumatic stress
- rebuilt cities : during WW2 some Soviet cities have been totally destroyed, such as Nagasaki, Hiroshima, Le Havre, Dresden.
- restore institutional order : restore the *Weimarer Republik* (German political system from 1918 to 1933) from the German Empire, restore the French Republic from the Vichy Regime, restore Japan. Different ways to restore are used : German is split into 4 parts ruled by France, Usa, USSR and the UK. De Gaulle takes control over France to recover the Republic order, Japan is ruled by AMGOT (Allied Military Government of Occupied Territories, an institution led by the USA )
- punish the responsables/ guilty people : After WW2 individuals have been judged (and not an entire people such after WW1) during the Nuremberg trials (November 1945-October 1946) and the Tokyo trial ( known as the International Military Tribunal for the Far East, May 1946-November 1948)
- reach a world peace : the San Francisco Conference (25 and 26 April 1945) was a convention of delegates from 50 Allied nations that result in the creation of the United Nations in order to encourage resolution of international conflicts without war and to form policies on international issues.
- create a new map of the world



before WW2

after WW2

- create a new economic system : a war has a large economic cost. After WW2, state intervene more and became Welfare State (in France and in England)

△ After the armistice there were still tensions : between 1946 and 1949 a civil war in Greece between Royalists (supported by the US and the UK) and Communists (supported by



USSR) burst. It is the beginning of the Cold War that oppose the two blocs. European powers also face conflicts during the decolonisation process

### III. Bloc positions

Joukov (general of the army) USSR Joseph Stalin USSR Josip Tito YUGOSLAVIA Anders Wladyslav (general of the army) POLAND Hirohito JAPAN Alcide de Gasperi ITALY Viatcheslav Molotov USSR	Charles de Gaulle FR Winston Churchill UK Harry Truman USA Ismet İnönü TURKEY Atlee UK Eisenhower (general of the army) USA Chang Kai-shek CHINA
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### IV. Questions a resolution must answer

- Economy :

How to recover the world economy?

How to found new workers (migration, women work, child work... )?

Do the collaborationist industry have to be punished? (→ if yes how? nationalisation, sale it on the market...)

What economical strategy should be used ( laissez-faire, welfare state, quinquennial plan...)?

- State :

How to rebuild destroyed city (financement)?

Which country have to pay to rebuild destroyed city?

How to recover the political system/ institutions ?

- International relation :

How to ensure good relations between ex-enemies?

How to define the new border?

How avoid a third world war?

- Law :

How should the Nazis be judged?

How to catch nazis that have left europe?

How to punish individuals and not a whole people?