# Peace on Trial

Assess a settlement designed to keep Europe at peace.

**9-12.WC.48** "Evaluate the significance of the Congress of Vienna and the Concert of Europe in reshaping Europe after the Napoleonic Wars."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline two decisions meant to protect peace, circle two costs or limits of those decisions, and write 1 beside a later event that tested the settlement. Use your marks to weigh what the settlement achieved against what it could not resolve.

### A Settlement That Had to Last

1. In 1814, diplomats gathered in Vienna while Europe was still recovering from Napoleon's wars. After his final defeat in 1815, their settlement took effect. Austria, Britain, Prussia, and Russia sought a balance of power: no one state should be able to dominate the continent as France had. They restored the Bourbon monarchy in France but did not break France apart. They strengthened the Netherlands by joining it with the former Austrian Netherlands, later Belgium, and gave Prussia territory along France's eastern border. These choices aimed to contain France without creating a lasting reason for another French war.

2. The settlement offered rulers security, but it did not ask most people how they wanted to be governed. Austria gained control of Lombardy and Venetia in northern Italy, while Russia gained control of most of the former Duchy of Warsaw as the Kingdom of Poland. German states formed a loose confederation rather than a united nation. These arrangements made a renewed conquest by France harder and helped the major powers watch one another. Yet many Italians, Poles, and Germans wanted self-rule or national unity. The same borders that supported peace among rulers could fuel demands for change among the governed.

3. After Vienna, the leading powers began meeting to manage disputes, an approach called the Concert of Europe. France eventually joined these consultations. Meetings gave rivals a way to negotiate instead of going straight to war, helping prevent a continent-wide war among the great powers for decades. But the powers did not always agree. In 1830, Belgium broke away from the Netherlands, reversing part of Vienna's settlement; the powers accepted Belgian independence rather than fight to restore the old border. The Concert could adjust a border to preserve peace, yet it could not permanently silence demands for national independence.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why did the diplomats both strengthen the Netherlands and avoid breaking France apart? Evaluate how these choices served their goal of peace.

2. How did the settlement's treatment of northern Italy and Poland reveal a limit to its vision of peace?

3. Did the Concert's response to Belgian independence protect or weaken the Vienna settlement's larger goal? Explain using the passage.

4. Which mattered more to Europe's peace after Napoleon: the borders set at Vienna or the Concert's way of handling disputes? Make a judgment and support it with evidence from both parts of the passage.

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you advise the diplomats in 1815. Write a 70 to 95 word memo proposing one change to the Vienna settlement or its future meetings. Explain how your change might protect peace, address a group's demands, and create a risk for the balance of power.

ANSWER KEY

# Peace on Trial

HIGH SCHOOL · 9-12.WC.48

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two decisions meant to protect peace, circle two costs or limits of those decisions, and write 1 beside a later event that tested the settlement. Use your marks to weigh what the settlement achieved against what it could not resolve. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Why did the diplomats both strengthen the Netherlands and avoid breaking France apart? Evaluate how these choices served their goal of peace. | **A stronger Netherlands could help contain France, while leaving France intact reduced the chance of another French war. Together, the choices sought a balance of power rather than revenge.** |
| 2 | How did the settlement's treatment of northern Italy and Poland reveal a limit to its vision of peace? | **Giving Austria control of Lombardy and Venetia and Russia control of much of the former Duchy of Warsaw supported the major powers' security, but many Italians and Poles wanted self-rule. Peace among rulers did not settle those demands.** |
| 3 | Did the Concert's response to Belgian independence protect or weaken the Vienna settlement's larger goal? Explain using the passage. | **It reversed the decision to join Belgium to the Netherlands, but accepting independence rather than fighting over the border protected the larger goal of peace among the powers.** |
| 4 | Which mattered more to Europe's peace after Napoleon: the borders set at Vienna or the Concert's way of handling disputes? Make a judgment and support it with evidence from both parts of the passage. | **Accept either judgment if supported by both parts. For example, the Concert mattered more because Vienna's stronger Netherlands was meant to contain France, but when Belgium broke away, negotiation let the powers change that border without fighting over it.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Diplomats, I recommend allowing representatives from Lombardy and Venetia to negotiate a measure of local self-government under Austrian rule. People who have a voice in local laws may be less likely to rebel, reducing the chance that unrest will draw other powers into war. Austria would still hold the territory, so its role in the balance of power would remain. Yet Austria might see any limits on its authority as a loss of strength, and other rulers might resist similar demands.

Accept different supported judgments in question 4 and historically plausible proposals in Part 3. Responses should weigh peace among powers against demands that the settlement left unresolved.