After Napoleon

Nationalism, power, and the settlement of Europe

MWH.C.4.3 "Describe the legacy of the Napoleonic Wars including an accelerated rise of nationalism across Europe, Britain's role in maintaining a balance-of-power, and how the Congress of Vienna attempted to establish a new political order in Europe."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two causes or signs of growing nationalism. Circle two measures meant to prevent one country from dominating Europe, then number two decisions at Vienna that favored stability over national self-rule.

A New Order for Europe

1. In 1815, Europe's rulers faced a problem Napoleon had helped create. His armies had marched across much of the continent, replacing governments and spreading reforms such as legal equality for men under the Napoleonic Code. French authorities also collected taxes and drafted soldiers, which angered many people under their rule. Resistance encouraged people to imagine themselves as members of a nation with a shared language, history, or political future. In the German lands and Italian states, opposition to French control fed hopes of unity. Napoleon's defeat ended his empire, but it did not erase these stronger national loyalties.

2. Britain had fought Napoleon with armies, money, and its powerful navy. After his defeat, British leaders wanted a balance of power: no single country should become strong enough to control Europe. Britain backed cooperation among the major powers and supported a stronger Kingdom of the Netherlands, which included present-day Belgium, as a buffer north of France. It also supported giving Prussia territory along France's eastern frontier. These arrangements were meant to make another French expansion harder, not to strengthen France's own defenses. Britain did not want its allies, including Russia or Prussia, to replace France as Europe's dominant power.

3. At the Congress of Vienna in 1814 and 1815, diplomats from the major powers tried to build a lasting political order. They restored the Bourbon monarchy in France and redrew borders to contain future aggression. They created a German Confederation of 39 states rather than a single German nation; Austria held a leading position within it. The negotiators valued stable rulers and cooperation among states more than national self-rule. For many Germans and Italians who wanted unity, this settlement left a basic question unanswered: who should decide a people's political future, monarchs meeting at a conference or the people themselves?

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did French rule help nationalism grow in the German lands and Italian states, even after Napoleon was defeated?

2. Why did Britain support both a stronger Kingdom of the Netherlands and Prussian territory along France's eastern frontier?

3. How did restoring the Bourbon monarchy and creating the German Confederation serve the Congress of Vienna's preferred political order?

4. Why might Germans who hoped for unity have been dissatisfied with the Congress of Vienna's settlement?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you are advising the diplomats at Vienna. Write a six- to eight-sentence memo proposing one step to prevent a country from dominating Europe and one step to recognize national demands. Explain how each responds to a legacy of Napoleon, and identify a conflict between your two goals. Use at least two specific details from the passage.

After Napoleon

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two causes or signs of growing nationalism. Circle two measures meant to prevent one country from dominating Europe, then number two decisions at Vienna that favored stability over national self-rule. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did French rule help nationalism grow in the German lands and Italian states, even after Napoleon was defeated?	**Taxes, military drafts, and French control fueled resistance. In the German lands and Italian states, that resistance fed hopes of national unity that outlasted Napoleon.**
2	Why did Britain support both a stronger Kingdom of the Netherlands and Prussian territory along France's eastern frontier?	**Both arrangements made another French expansion harder. They supported Britain's goal of preventing any one country from dominating Europe.**
3	How did restoring the Bourbon monarchy and creating the German Confederation serve the Congress of Vienna's preferred political order?	**Restoring the Bourbons returned a ruling family to France. The German Confederation organized 39 states without unifying them, favoring stable rulers and cooperation over national self-rule.**
4	Why might Germans who hoped for unity have been dissatisfied with the Congress of Vienna's settlement?	**The settlement kept the German lands in 39 states rather than creating a single German nation.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Diplomats should keep the Kingdom of the Netherlands strong as a buffer north of France. Napoleon's conquests showed why neighboring states need protection against another expansion. The diplomats should also let delegates from the 39 German states meet and advise the German Confederation. Opposition to French control helped Germans develop hopes of unity, and a shared council would give those hopes a political voice. These goals could clash if a united German state became powerful enough to threaten its neighbors. A council would recognize national demands without immediately creating another dominant power.

Accept other passage-supported explanations of nationalism, balance of power, and the Vienna settlement. For the memo, accept historically plausible proposals that address both security and national demands and explain a tension between them.