

Chapter Twenty Three Terms

Balance of Power:

The balance of power is a policy in Europe during the eighteenth century that was used as a preventative measure to stop one state from acquiring too much power. Major European states acted together against the more powerful nation when this occurred, as the Quadruple Alliance did. This policy was used against France after the defeat of Napoleon and the Congress of Vienna convened in the early nineteenth century. At this time, the Concert of Europe represented the peace that ensued for nearly one century in Europe. To Klemens von Metternich and Robert Castlereagh, as well as Charles Talleyrand, the balance of power meant an international equilibrium of political and military forces that would discourage aggression or the domination of Europe by a single state. The balance of power principle was used to settle disputes at the Congress of Vienna. The Balance of Power Principle is important because it led to a peace that lasted nearly a century and it prevented the unification of Germany and Italy, as larger powers took control of these areas.

Quadruple Alliance:

The Quadruple Alliance was a treaty signed in Paris in 1815 by the United Kingdom, Austria, Prussia, and Russia. It renewed the alliance first agreed to in 1813 and it shifted the goals of the alliance from defeating Napoleon to continuing settlement after the Napoleonic Wars. After France's admission in 1818 it became the Concert of Europe, although it became less effective in the mid-1820s. This alliance was a symbol of the balance of power instilled in Europe that occurred after the meetings of the Congress of Vienna. Klemens von Metternich, Robert Castlereagh, and well as Charles Talleyrand were present at the Congress of Vienna and were part of this alliance. The Quadruple Alliance is important because of its defeat of Napoleon and for the establishment of the Balance of Power Principle at the Congress of Vienna.

Corn Laws:

The Corn Laws were measures including bounties and tariffs on imported grain in the nineteenth century designed to keep grain prices high to favor producers in Great Britain. The laws were mainly supported by landowners and opposed by Whig industrialists and workers. Urban groups did protest after the aristocracy brought changes through Parliament and in 1817 the Tory government temporarily suspended the rights of assembly and habeas corpus. This led to the mass protest known as the Battle of Peterloo in Manchester. Eventually, in 1832, the House of Lords reluctantly passed the Reform Bill of 1832 after the House of Commons threatened to create more peers in order to ruin the "club" of the House of Lords. The Reform Bill allowed for another fifty percent of people to vote- now up to twelve percent of men in Britain. A major reform had been achieved peacefully. The corn Laws are important because they symbolized the aristocratic power at the expense of the lower classes and also for the peaceful reform reached with the Reform Act of 1832.

Communist Manifesto:

The Communist Manifesto was co-written by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels in 1848 during the time that the 1848 revolutions were occurring in Europe. The book laid out the foundations for the Communist League and was a blueprint for Marxist Socialism. Despite being written by those of German descent, the book was first published in England by political refugees. The *Communist Manifesto* discussed the class struggle, especially that between the proletariat and bourgeoisie, and how the working class would rise to control the government. Seen as one of the most influential political manuscripts, the *Communist Manifesto* is important because of its blueprint for Marxist socialism that was directed against the bourgeoisie. It also caused problems later on, as it had a slight effect on the 1848 Revolutions and had a larger impact during the Cold War era.