



Call me Prince

Dear Students,

I am writing this letter, even though I usually wouldn't deign to do so, so you can understand me better because I have been wrongly maligned. I was the person who put Europe back together when the evil of the French Revolution that spread throughout the continent was finally defeated, thanks in large part to my efforts. I opposed all revolution tooth and nail—it is all dastardly evil! Despite our best efforts (mine and the rulers of Europe), the ideas of the French Revolution spread everywhere. As I explained in my memoirs: "...the revolutionary seed had penetrated into every country and spread more or less. It was greatly developed under the *régime* of the military despotism of Bonaparte. His conquests displaced a number of laws, institutions, and customs; broke through bonds sacred among all nations, strong enough to resist time itself; which is more than can be said of certain benefits conferred by these innovators. From these perturbations it followed that the revolutionary spirit could in Germany, Italy, and later on in Spain, easily hide itself under the veil of patriotism..."

It was a very difficult process to put Europe back together again after the French Revolution had been defeated, but I did it! If you think it was easy, read



one of your most famous diplomats, my friend, former Harvard Professor, German, and Richard Nixon's Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger. He wrote a book called [A World Restored](#), and he thinks I'm great (which I am). I tended not to write much because, as I said: "[The men who make history have not time to write it](#)" (Professors, for example, write history because they don't make it, except for Kissinger.)

Anyway, I took a broken and corrupt Europe ruined by the French and put it back together again. I enunciated important principles such as "Legitimacy" and "Compensation," which I applied to all the states of Europe (OK, maybe only to the big ones, like my own, Austria; no one is perfect). True, I didn't take the will of the "people" into consideration. Who cares about the people! It is only you moderns that take "the people" seriously! After all, what do the "people count," what should they count? You think they should have a say in what goes on? Why? They are ignorant and rulers know better than them, especially kings! There weren't so many atrocities when kings were around, except for that rascal the King of Naples who went back on his word and murdered the intellectual flower of his kingdom in 1799—but when I restored him in 1815, I told him not to do it again. Monarchs were monarchs in those days. So Francis II was an idiot—so what, he was a KING and deserved respect. After all, people need rules or else they will go wild and monarchy is the best form of government even though every once in a while you get a lousy one. I don't understand why you students—who need rules more than anyone—don't understand this. Look at the



revolutions that followed my greatest moment, when I ran the Congress of Vienna; we set up a great system, but did it bring peace? No! (That damned French Revolution!)

Eventually all those revolutions led to the revolution of 1848 in Vienna, and I had to escape dressed as a woman. That was more embarrassing in the 19th century than it is now. Do you see now where revolutions lead?

Listen to me; after all, I am the son of a count and married the daughter of a great statesman, so I should have some clout. As you read about the history of Europe after the French Revolution—about the Europe I made, after all—please forget about how I ran away from Vienna disguised as a woman and keep an open mind. My place in history is all I have.

Thanks,

Your Prince,

[Klemens Lothar Wenzel von Metternich](#)

Prince Klemens Lothar Wenzel von Metternich