

## The First Treaty of Paris (1814)

**Forum:** Expert Committee

**Presidency:** Maartje van Lelyveld & Katie Millar

**Date:** May 30, 1814



## Napoleonic wars and what led to the Treaty

The Treaty of Paris (1814), or often referred to as the First Treaty of Paris since there was a second treaty made in 1815, made an end to a series of conflicts inside and outside of France. The Treaty restored peace between the French Empire and fellow European states such as the United Kingdom, Prussia, Austria and Russia. It also dealt with the complication of Napoleon the First and determined his faith to be exiled. Additionally, the Treaty recognised Switzerland and the Netherlands as independent states and decided on the faith of slavery in continental France. It goes without saying that the Treaty is an important part of European history and has many deeper laying layers, but what led to this Treaty?

### A brief overview of the Napoleonic Wars

In 1799 Napoleon seized France and created a military dictatorship. The real Napoleonic wars started with the Third Coalition against the First Republic of France. This coalition was made up by the United Kingdom, the Russian Empire, the Holy Roman Empire, Naples, Sicily and Sweden in order to restrain the French Empire after some acts of military expansion.

Then on March 25, 1802 the Treaty of Amiens was signed. This historical Treaty ended the ongoing conflicts between the United Kingdom and France temporarily. This marked the end of the War of the Second Coalition. This coalition was namely led by Britain, Austria and Russia, and included the Ottoman Empire, Portugal, Naples and various German monarchies. It marked the end of the French Revolutionary Wars. However, after a short period of peace it set the stage for the Napoleonic Wars.

Then, the United Kingdom ended the Treaty of Amiens and declared war on France in May 1803. They stated that Napoleon's changes to the international system in Western Europe, especially in Switzerland, Germany, Italy, and the Netherlands were the cause for this. Furthermore, Britain felt insulted when Napoleon stated that their country deserved no voice in European affairs, even though King George III was an elector of the Holy Roman Empire. For its part, Russia decided that the intervention in Switzerland indicated that Napoleon was not looking toward a peaceful resolution.

On 1804 December 2, Napoleon officially crowns himself emperor of the First French Republic, in the company of the Pope Pius VII. He proclaimed to be emperor of the senate earlier that year. Napoleon wanted to establish the legitimacy of his imperial reign, with its new dynasty and new nobility.

On 1805, Napoleon enters Vienna and then defeats an Austrian and Russian army at Austerlitz. This war is also referred to as the war of the three emperors and was the first engagement of the Third Coalition. This outstanding victory by Napoleon forced Austria to make peace with France (Treaty of Pressburg) and keeping Prussia temporarily out of the anti-French alliance.

Within months, Prussia actually did declared war, triggering the War of the Fourth Coalition. This war ended devastatingly for Prussia, defeated and occupied within 19 days of the beginning of the campaign. Napoleon subsequently defeated Russia at Friedland, creating powerful client states in Eastern Europe and ending the fourth coalition.

In 1809, Portugal and Spain refused to commit to the newly made Continental System leading to the Peninsular War and the outbreak of the War of the Fifth Coalition. After a fast occupation, Spain became part of the French Empire and Napoleon officially ended the alliance between the two states.

Napoleon oversaw the situation in Iberia, defeating the Spanish, and expelling the British from the Peninsula. Austria, eager to recover territory lost during the War of the Third Coalition, invaded France's client states in Eastern Europe. Napoleon defeated the Fifth Coalition at Wagram in 1809.

### The end of the Napoleonic Era

After years of many international conflicts and wars Napoleon decided to invade Russia in June 1812. Caused by grievances over the occupation of Poland, and Russia's refusal of the Continental System. This war was a milestone since Napoleon suffered from a major loss for the first time and this war started the



crumbling of the French Empire. Since Napoleon was focussed on his eastern conflicts, he lost his power over the Iberian Peninsula. With all this, the Sixth Coalition was formed, which would later defeat Napoleon. This coalition was originally formed by Austria, Prussia, Russia, the United Kingdom, Portugal, Sweden, Spain and a number of independent German States. The Coalition soon expanded: after the Armistice of Pläswitz, Austria and Bavaria joined the Coalition, after the Battle of Leipzig Baden, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands and Württemberg joined the Coalition and finally in January 1814 Denmark joined the Coalition.

After this strong Coalition was formed Napoleon suffered another major loss in the battle of Leipzig (1813). Here, the Coalition leaders fought against the French and Italian army. There were half a million soldiers in the Leipzig battle, making it the biggest battle prior to the First World War. After Leipzig the French and Italian army retrieves back to France to defend their borders from invasion. However, in November the Coalition members held their armies back from invading and Austrian Foreign Minister Klemens von Metternich offered peace terms. The Frankfurt Proposal (1813) would allow Napoleon to keep his throne, if he agreed to bring France back to its original frontiers. While this was the best offer he would likely get, Napoleon was too stubborn to accept.

The war went on. Napoleon's allies in the East were all gone, one of his last allies Denmark was invaded by the Swedish army and made to join the coalition and Hamburg was besieged. Not long after French troops retrieved from the Netherlands which declared its independence after 20 years of suppression. In Italy, Napoleon faced a new enemy: Joachim Murat, Napoleon's brother-in-law and the king of Naples. This new Coalition member was rapidly invading Northern Italy, which was part of the French Empire. Napoleon was in a serious crisis, which he unsuccessfully tried to resolve. He releases the Pope in order to regain Italian support, he agreed to release Fernando VII, the King of Spain, in order to take up his throne in exchange for peace between Spain and France and begged for mercy by several Coalition members. None of these methods were effective.

In January the Army of Sillesia (77,000 troops) and the Army of Bohemia (220,000 troops) crossed the Rhein and invaded France. Napoleon made a last attempt to save his kingdom defending himself with an army of 70,000 untrained and not prepared troops. After a tough lose Napoleon was defeated on the 6 April 1814. This led to the signing of the Treaty of Paris on the 30 May 1814 restoring the Bourbon Monarchy in France.

## Treaty contents

The principal Aim of the Expert Committee at HMUN 2022 is to renegotiate the agreed terms of the First Treaty of Paris of 1814. In order to do so thoroughly, it is key to understand contents of the original edition of the Treaty. Please keep in mind that the Excom session will be renegotiating on these topics and could therefore have a very different outcome than the original treaty. This chapter will provide a brief overview of each of the agenda points of the Excom and what the treaty outcome was in 1814.

1. What to do with the French state?
  - a. Internal organisation (Monarchy or a Republic?)
  - b. Reviewing the possibility of sanctions and punishment
2. Redistributing territories conquered by Napoleon on European soil
  - a. E.g. Avignon, Saarbrücken, Landau
  - b. Switzerland and the Netherlands.
3. Redistributing French colonial possessions conquered by Napoleon
  - a. E.g. Mauritius, Saint Lucia, and Guadalupe
4. Future of Europe
  - a. Question of slavery
  - b. Question of sustainable peace

### The future of the French state

The main point of discussion, after the defeat by the Sixth coalition is what post-Napoleonic France would look like. After the long series of wars that the European States had engaged in. Reserves were depleted and public sentiment had turned. The principal wish was peace and stability.

Keeping in mind the goal of peace and stability, the members of the coalition agreed to bring back the monarchy to France in the form of the House of Bourbon. Hence the direct period after the abdication is also referred to as the Bourbon restoration. This would mean that King Louis XVIII would take over power. Even though the people of France had used the revolution, which took place roughly a century earlier, to express their demand for a more equal distribution of power.

After the peace treaty was signed, many members of the French nobility which had fled during the war, returned to their estates. Their position of political and economic dominance would however never be restored to the pre-war state. Especially when the monarchy agreed to in May of 1814 was replaced by a constitutional monarchy in 1816.

Because of the wish for peace, the restoration of the monarchy in France was not combined with any sanctions or restoration payments. The rationale behind this was that it might lead to an economic deprivation which in turn could threaten the political stability in France.

### Geopolitical re-allocation within Europe

During the Napoleonic wars, France had conquered many territories of which some wished for independence after Napoleon's defeat and some had to be allocated to either France or the neighbouring countries. The parties to the Treaty agreed on the borders of France would be drawn as they originally were in 1792. This is the area depicted in yellow and brown on the map below.

With the re-allocation of these territories came some big geographic changes for a number of European countries which are listed below. Article VI of the Treaty recognises the independence of the United Kingdom of the Netherlands under the exclusive reign of William of Orange and descendants of the house of Orange. Additionally, the Treaty recognises the independence of Switzerland. Malta was recognised as part of the sovereign territory of the British crown.

### French colonial possessions

Similarly to what was decided on the territories on European soil, France retained all overseas territories and also those it had lost to Britain during the war. Sweden had been given the island of Guadeloupe by Britain when they had joined the coalition but Guadeloupe was returned to France by the Treaty. Sweden did receive a payment of 24 million francs in compensation.

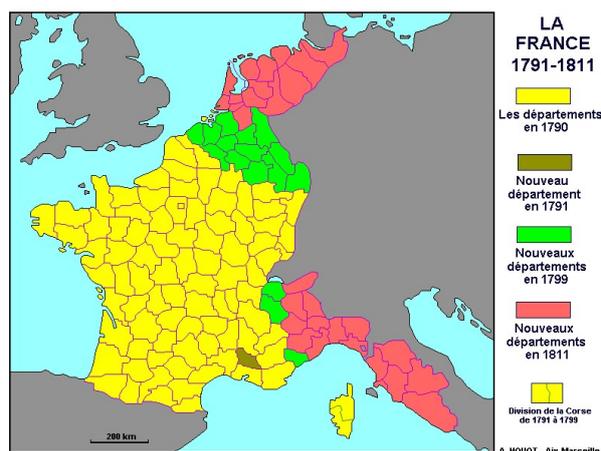
The countries of Tobago, St. Lucia, Seychelles and Mauritius were handed over to Britain. The territory of Santo Domingo was also returned to Spain by the Treaty.

Haiti, formerly known as Saint-Domingue, sought formal recognition of their claim of independence but did not receive any during the Treaty negotiations.

### Future of Europe

The first article of the Treaty explicitly agrees to ban the import and sale of slaves in France over a five-year period. The article does allude to some sort of universal ban but in the last sentence includes that the ban on slavery does not hold for any French territories on non-European soil. The motivation to abolish slavery came from the Christian idea that the inhumane treatment and commercialisation of people did not in any way fit in with the Christian spirit. Other monarchs were afraid that by agreeing to the abolishment of slavery, they would bind themselves to a similar abolishment on their own territory.

Although the first Treaty of Paris laid the groundwork for a lasting period of peace, the same year still showed unrest and even a brief return to power by Napoleon. It is therefore key for the Treaty to be effective in a way that supports and sustains a stable political situation in Europe.



## Parties to the Treaty

*Representatives:*

### FRANCE: Talleyrand (Minister of Foreign affairs)

FRANCE 1814: Paris has just been taken by the allied forces. Napoleon is deposed and France is riddled with geopolitical cleavages. It now faces the ultimate question – what will be done with the remnants of the Napoleonic Empire of France and what will the new future of France look like?

REPRESENTATIVE: Charles-Maurice de Talleyrand-Périgord is a French clergyman and leading diplomat. He has been Napoleon's chief diplomat during the years when French military victories brought state after state under French hegemony, however has consistently worked for peace so as to consolidate French gains. While Napoleon outright rejected any mention of peace, Talleyrand turned the tide by entering into secret peace talks with Tsar Alexander of Russia and Austrian Foreign Secretary Metternich. As a result, as the Treaty of Paris talks commence, Talleyrand now in fact stands in support of the restoration of the Bourbon monarchy with the objective of negotiating a favourable peace settlement for France as his primary objective.



OBJECTIVES: Going into peace talks, Talleyrand's objectives are to:

- Hold internal France together by restoring the Bourbon monarchy, the French constitution and preserving revolutionary reforms.
- Negotiate a favourable peace settlement for France, minimising future concessions.
- Minimise territorial losses.
- Re-join the international system.
- Reduce military threats to France from other states.
- Reintegrate France into Europe as an equal power.

### UK: Castlereagh (Foreign Secretary for Great Britain)

BRITAIN 1814: Great Britain is a prosperous, very powerful and very wealthy state. The British empire is in its prime. Britain is a parliamentary monarchy headed by King George IV, while Lord Liverpool governs the conservative/liberal Whig parliament. At the time of the Paris treaty, general British opinion is that future interventions of the British army in Europe would be bad for the Kingdom and instead Britain's future lies in the economic development of its colonies. The army has recently captured overseas colonies from France and needs time to develop them into business opportunities. Additionally, the British public feel exhausted by war. Effectively, Britain wants to disengage from Europe and to do so, must install a long-lasting system of peace.



REPRESENTATIVE: Robert Stewart, Viscount of Castlereagh, represents Great Britain as foreign secretary.

OBJECTIVES: In general, the Whig government calls for:

- Free trade
- Religious tolerance
- The expansion of political rights
- Anti-slavery measures (however Britain continues to participate in the business of slavery).

Going into the Treaty of Paris negotiations, the Viscount of Castlereagh will be primarily concerned with containing France so as to prevent future disturbance. He is also standing for:

- The Netherlands to be reformed and strengthened. This is because Britain saw the Netherlands as a direct ally on the continent and as a buffer for potential future expansion efforts by the French.
- The French to withdraw from Spain and the subsequent restoration of the Spanish monarchy.
- Draw a red line at the border of Italy as a 'no go zone' for the French.

### **RUSSIA: Count Razumovsky representing Tsar Alexander I**

RUSSIA 1814: Russia is a formidable power in the East of Europe; however, it is limited by its internal structure. Russia has weak institutions, weak governance and weak technology, which causes the Russian monarch, Tsar Alexander, to feel a great deal of insecurity in keeping up with the advances of other European states. However, following the defeat of Napoleon, Russia's confidence as increased as a result of feeling as though Russia led the defeat. This is because Tsar Alexander strove ahead of the other powers and took Paris first, ultimately being first to accept Napoleon's defeat.



REPRESENTATIVE: Count Razumovsky represents Tsar Alexander I at the Treaty of Paris discussions. The Tsar is well known for being unpredictable by the other states and in this case, his stance as the 'honourable monarch' may cause some turbulence in discussions over what to do with Napoleon. Count Razumovsky must support the wishes of the Tsar on the international stage.

OBJECTIVES: Going into the Treaty of Paris negotiations, Tsar Alexander holds that:

- Napoleon must be treated fairly and that the French government deserves respect.
- He wishes to grant Napoleon all the concessions which he requires.
- Napoleon must remain an Emperor of sorts for religious reasons.
- Louis XVII must not resume the French throne because he rarely makes alliances with Russia. Instead, Charles XIV John (King of Sweden) should resume the French throne.

### **AUSTRIA: Klemens von Metternich (Austrian Foreign Secretary)**

AUSTRIA 1814: With the dissolution of the Holy Roman Empire, Austria is at a crossroads. It is primarily concerned with the question of what it will do with its Empire. Austria holds a very diverse demographic, as it encompasses the 'now-known' regions of Austria, Hungary, Croatia and Bohemia.

REPRESENTATIVE: Austria is represented by Foreign Secretary Klemens von Metternich and ruled by Emperor Francis I.

OBJECTIVES: Going into the Treaty of Paris negotiations, Austria's priority was to erect enduring barriers against the possibility of future war. Metternich called for:

- Balance between the great powers as a theory for lasting peace.
- They are not concerned about territorial expansion, however did want to ensure that its borders were properly organised with Bavaria.
- Ensure that Napoleon suffers the due punishment for his actions.
- Concessions for countries who have suffered losses due to the war.
- Find a new balance of power between Austria and the Papacy in favour of Austria.
- Abolish slavery.



### **PRUSSIA: Hardenberg (Prime Minister of Prussia)**

PRUSSIA 1814: Prussia is the smaller power in Europe by population and land mass. It is a strong regional power but a weak great power. This has left it vulnerable to the actions of its neighbours, including Russia, who viewed Prussia as a potential opportunity. Prussia's function in Europe is to act as a stabiliser. It is backed by its strong military.



REPRESENTATIVE: Prussia is presented by Karl August von Hardenburg, the Prime minister. He represents the political branch of King Frederick William's government. Initially, if there was to be war, Hardenberg would have preferred a French alliance, however, Napoleon's violation of Prussian territory turned the tide and Prussia has now formed an alliance with Russia and the allied powers. Hardenburg personally feuded with Napoleon, who had previously demanded his resignation and felt a strong power struggle against Metternich, whose influence seemed to outweigh his own. Hardenberg is known for his successful liberal reform policies.

OBJECTIVES: Prussia's objectives going into the Treaty of Paris talks are centred around increasing Prussian security and power in order to defend itself against other powers. Hardenberg will try to establish Prussia as a true great power with global influence. It aims to do this by:

- Increasing Prussian population size, resources and expanding territory.
- Secure the annexation of Saxony to Prussia.
- Award concessions to territories who had significant losses due to Napoleon and make France pay. However, these concessions must be fair.

### **SWEDEN: Charles XIV/ Jean Baptise-Bernadotte (Former General to Napoleon, now Crown Prince of Sweden)**

SWEDEN 1814: By 1814, Sweden was an established, less controversial allied power who was looking to expand its influence on the international stage. It was looking to engage in a power expansion which would encompass Norway into Swedish territory.



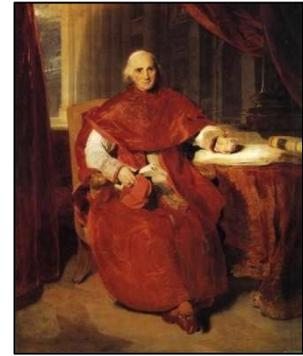
REPRESENTATIVE: King of Sweden Charles XIV John was formerly known as Jean Baptise-Bernadotte, Marshall of Napoleon's French Empire. From 1810, having been unexpectedly elected as Crown Prince of Sweden, Charles XIV John assumed de facto head of state powers. Although related to Napoleon through marriage, crown prince Charles John was instrumental in the creation of the Sixth coalition, allying with Russia and Britain to secure Napoleon's defeat at Leipzig.

OBJECTIVES: Going into the Treaty of Paris discussion, Sweden's priorities are as follows:

- Expand Swedish power.
- Territorial expansion to include Norway under the Kingdom of Sweden.
- Ensure that future threats to peace are protected against and a precedent is set against imperialism, while still being able to pursue its own plans of expansion.
- Maintain alliances.

## **PAPAL STATES: Ercole Consalvi (Cardinal & secretary of the Vatican State)**

THE PAPAL STATES 1814: The Papal states are a series of territories along the Italian peninsula which are under the sovereign rule of the Pope since 756AD. The origin of the papal states arose from the spread of Christianity throughout Italy and the rising influence of the Christian church. The Papal states were effectively Italy's most influential states. With the invasion of Napoleon's empire in 1808, the territory of the papal states was ceded to France. This left the sovereignty of the Papal states of Italy in a vulnerable position.



REPRESENTATIVE: Ercole Consalvi was the political arm of the Vatican and represented the international interests of the Pope, Pius VII. Consalvi is a leading Italian Cardinal and statesman, being a member of the Papacy since 1783. During the French occupation of Rome, he had been exiled, however was reinstated by Pope Pius VII in 1800. From this time onwards, his ambition has been to internally reform the Papal States to improve their power status both internally and on an international stage.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

- A modus vivendi between the principles arisen as a result of the French revolution and the traditions of the papacy.
- Protect the temporal authority of the Pope.
- Obtain a restitution of the Papal States of Italy.
- Ensure the protection of Italian states from future aggressions from other powers.
- Establish a lasting relationship in the favour of the Papacy with the Holy Roman Empire.

## **SPAIN: Cortez of Cadis represented by the Excellent Francisco de Paula Martinez de la Rosa**

SPAIN 1814: Spain was invaded by France in 1808. Napoleon forced the Spanish monarchy to abdicate and installed his brother, Joseph Napoleon, as the new king of Spain. Against Napoleon's prediction, the Spanish people chose loyalty to their deposed monarch Ferdinand VII and fought against Napoleon's army using guerrilla warfare techniques. In response to Napoleon's invasion, Spain established a temporary system of government, las Cortes de Cadiz, to act as the executive sovereign until the Spanish monarchy could be restored. This new government was dominated by liberals and ignited a liberal enlightenment across Spain, cementing these new values in the Spanish Constitution 1812. The constitution's main aim was to ensure that when the monarchy did return to power, that their power would be limited and their rule fair.

REPRESENTATIVE: The representative of the Cortez of Cadiz at this meeting will be Francisco de Paula Martinez de la Rosa. De la Rosa is a liberal minded lawyer, scholar and artist who aims to keep the liberal enlightenment of Spain alive.

*(HINT: research what happened in Spain the 5 years after the Paris Treaty to understand this character and his objectives more clearly).*

OBJECTIVES: The Cortes go into the Treaty of Paris discussions with the objectives of -

- Ensuring that a fair power balance is struck between the new liberal order and the potential return of Ferdinand VII. (Taking inspiration from the British system perhaps).
- Ensuring that the Spanish Constitution remains respected and in force.
- Retaining the presence of the Roman Catholic church, but limiting the Holy Office of the inquisition and the influence of the regular orders.
- Universal male suffrage.

### **PORTUGAL: John VI (Prince Regent of the United Kingdom of Portugal, Brazil and the Algarve).**

PORTUGAL 1814: During Napoleon's invasion of Portugal, the Portuguese crown resituated itself in the capital city of Portuguese colony, Brazil. The once colony became the home of the crown, leaving Portugal in colony status. The invasion of Napoleon was therefore met by a Portuguese army led by the British army. Like Spain, a liberal system of government was installed to administer the orders of the crown.



REPRESENTATIVE: Prince Regent John VI represented the political interests of the Portuguese empire in place of his mother who was unable to fulfil her duties as Queen of Portugal due to health reasons.

OBJECTIVES: The objectives of the Portuguese monarchy coming into the Treaty of Paris discussions were to seek answers for the following issues:

- Should the crown come back to Portugal or should it just remain a colony? (The royal family personally preferred to stay in Brazil).
- How can a liberal enlightenment in Portugal and subsequent crisis to the sovereignty of the monarchy be avoided/ mitigated?
- 1/3 of the Portuguese empire consists of slaves – the optimal functioning of the Portuguese empire depends on this.

### **SOVEREIGN PRINCIPALITY OF THE UNITED NETHERLANDS: William Frederik, Sovereign Prince.**

THE NETHERLANDS 1814: After the liberation of the Netherlands from the French by the Russian and Prussian troops in 1813, a provisional, liberal government headed by 3 Dutch noblemen took over the country. It was a foregone conclusion that any new government would have to be headed by William Frederik, the exiled monarch, because although he had been driven out by the liberals themselves 18 years earlier, the Dutch thought it would be better to invite him back themselves rather than have the monarchy imposed on them by the Allies. William Frederick therefore came back to the Netherlands and proclaimed himself 'Sovereign Prince'.



REPRESENTATIVE: William Frederick, sovereign prince of the Principality of the United Netherlands.

OBJECTIVES: The objectives of the Dutch representative are as follows:

- United the Netherlands into a kingdom under a constitution.
- Ensure the security of the monarchy and the power of monarchies across the powers.
- Protect the Netherlands from threats and aggressions by stronger neighbouring powers.
- Freedom of religion.

## **KINGDOM OF BAVARIA: Maximilian I Joseph King of Bavaria**

KINGDOM OF BAVARIA 1814: Bavaria has experienced a tumultuous couple of decades, often experiencing power exchanges and aggressions from its neighbours. In 1806 Bavaria ceded to the Holy Roman Empire, shortly being taken by Napoleon the same year. Bavaria faced aggressions from Austria consecutively until 1814, leading them to rely on the support of France. However, the humungous loss of life suffered by the Bavarian army with Napoleon's invasion of Russia spurred Bavaria to leave the Confederation of the Rhine and side with the allies in exchange for a guarantee of her continued sovereign and independent status.



REPRESENTATIVE: Bavaria is represented by Maximilian I Joseph, the King of Bavaria. Although his power has been compromised by other powers over the last decades, the King is determined to set an example for how smaller states can and should be protected from the influence of greater powers.

### OBJECTIVES:

- Expand territory, ideally entering a territory exchange with Austria.
- Solidify Bavaria's international status of sovereignty as a Kingdom.
- Protect Bavaria from the influence of neighbouring powers.
- Receive compensation for losses.
- Limit the influence of the Holy Roman Empire.

**Good luck and we hope to see you in April.**

-Maartje van Lelyveld & Katie Millard