

Assignment: Response to 2 Questions

Name

Course

Instructor

Institutional Affiliation

Date

## Question One

The Western political traditions of conservatism, liberalism, and nationalism that were witnessed in the period between 1815 and 1848 during both the restoration and revolt paved the way for the societies to look at the aspects of governance, the rule of law, and the enforcement of human rights among other obligations from different perspectives. The thinkers and writers would assess these political/cultural developments of the period as being both progressive and retrogressive based on the prevailing circumstances and the exact case studies in question.

Analysis of liberalism indicates that it is an ideology that is centered on the principle of social, political, and economic freedom. It is based on the belief in limiting government function to the protection of these same rights. When it comes to the political agenda of the liberals, it is evident that three basic aims characterize it. First, liberals were determined to establish and protect civil liberties within society. Second, they focused on extending the right to vote to the middle class while rejecting the vote associated with people without property. The third feature of liberalism was the promotion of free trade based on the ideas and concepts of Adam Smith<sup>1</sup>.

When it comes to conservatism, the emphasis was laid on the preservation of the established order. It emerged in the aftermath of the Enlightenment and the French Revolution's excesses, where the leading theorist was Edmund Burke. There was a rejection of equality and natural rights<sup>2</sup>. The leading conservative governments of Europe in 1815 led to the formation of

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Kelly, Paul. "Liberalism and nationalism". In: Wall, Steven, (ed.) *The Cambridge Companion to Liberalism. Cambridge Companions to Philosophy*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK, 2015).

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Crouch, Colin. *Neoliberalism, Nationalism and the Decline of Political Traditions. The Political Quarterly*, Vol. 88, No. 2, (2017), p.222.

the Concert of Europe to maintain the peace settlement of the same year for the sake of avoiding yet another revolution. Nationalism, on its part, is an ideology that first emerged during the French Revolution. The line of argument that was nationalities had the right to self-determination, and the main objective was to establish nation-states.

This was a major political development that occurred in the fall of 1814, known as the Congress of Vienna hosted by Austrian emperor Francis I. Hundreds of foreigners began to converge on Vienna, serving as the Austrian Empire's capital city. Most of those foreigners consisted of the European royalty members that included kings, princes, archdukes, and their wives, who were also accompanied by their political advisors and numerous servants. These people who had converged in Vienna were the representatives of all the states that had fought Napoleon. Their main objective was to ensure the final peace settlement arrangement after being at war for nearly ten years.

The Congress of Vienna was meant to find a comprehensive way of undoing the changes brought about by the French Revolution and Napoleon. However, it emerged that the new forces of change had managed to become too powerful to be contained. There was a serious call for political revolutions that were going to shake Europe for many years to come. It was evident that the French Revolution had managed to launch forces of liberalism and nationalism to the extent where it evoked the conservative reaction against them. It is the interaction between such forces that defined the contours of nineteenth-century politics<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> Steiman Lionel.B. *“The Nineteenth Century: Liberalism, Nationalism, Racism. In: Paths to Genocide”*. Palgrave Macmillan, London, 1998).

Thinkers and writers in these traditions of liberalism, conservatism, and nationalism would assess the political developments of this period by first of all delving into what transpired in the early nineteenth century when the modern concept of nationalism was introduced across various European countries. It is a concept that became generally accepted in social and political contexts. The French Revolution became the greatest manifestation of the nationalism ideology that had derived most of its ideas and concepts from the Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778).

It thus becomes apparent to the thinkers that the general cooperation of everyone when it comes to the sovereignty of the people, as well as the aspects related to the formation of the national will, are quite important. Most thinkers will be made to believe that the first liberal thinker who managed to delve into the aspects of defending nationalism was Rousseau. In his analysis, he focused on the defense of the principle of association of individual freedoms with the people's general will. In the context of the nationalism espoused by the French Revolution, it can be analyzed that there was a vigorous expression of the rational belief that concentrated on humanity and liberal progress.

The prominent motto associated with liberty, equality, and fraternity were applied beyond the French nation, and so was the Declaration of the Rights of the Man and the Citizen. It becomes apparent that nationalism paved the way for the emergence and prominence of values like all humans' quality, individual freedom, and brotherhood of all peoples. During the first half of the nineteenth century, Europe was characterized by the liberal nationalists determined to maintain the ideas of universal sisterhood and brotherhood, moral reciprocity, human fellowship, sympathetic understanding, and commitment. It was believed that the fight concerning freedom and independence of any given country was a common cause.

Europe made lots of progress under the nationalism political language championed by Napoleon and the French Revolution. However, there was an emerging resistance that made it clear that there was a need for change. It was a group that was opposed to the liberalism and nationalism of the French Revolution. The Congress of Vienna was convened for the sake of ensuring that there was no room for another Napoleon figure that would conquer Europe again. There was a need to ensure that liberalism and nationalism are blocked since the ideologies had opened the door for Napoleon.

The emphasis moving forward was laid on adopting the new political language in the form of conservatism. Thinkers and writers would assess the new ideology as one that was meant to indicate the rejection of liberalism and radical democracy in favor of the traditional governments like the case of absolute monarchies for the sake of preserving the status quo. Aspects like peace, stability, and order had to be attained by the balance of power, as advocated by Edmund Burke and Prince Metternich. It will be noted that the peacemakers of 1815 had been men who were backward-looking and conservative. It is a situation that makes writers and thinkers have the conviction that liberalism was responsible for the generation of war, untold bloodshed, and suffering across Europe.

The period ended with the Revolutions of 1848 that became the widespread uprising across Europe meant to respond to the social and economic hardships that had been facilitated by the Enlightenment and the Industrial Revolution<sup>4</sup>. It emerged that the conservative monarchs throughout Europe had been threatened after the middle class and the working class people attempted to establish new governments that were meant to allow the common people to have

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*Horne, John. "1848 and the Language of Politics." Saothar 25 (2000): 68.*

their voices in the government<sup>5</sup>. The fact that Europe had already explored liberalism, nationalism, and conservatism political ideologies without settling on any of them can make thinkers and writers believe that the period between 1815 and 1848 was quite instrumental in assessing what works and what needed change as Europe entered the second half of the nineteenth century.

### Question Two

Quick measures were put into place to plan for the postwar world after the four major European powers that included Austria, Britain, Prussia, and Russia that were opposed to the French Revolution ensured the end of Napoleon's power in 1814. There was the treaty of Chaumont of March 1814 that was meant to reaffirm the decisions that were eventually ratified during the Congress of Vienna of 1814-15<sup>6</sup>. It will be noted that the Congress of Vienna became the first of numerous international meetings that became part of Europe's Concert. They were meant to ensure the restoration and maintenance of the peaceful balance of power in Europe.

The Congress of Vienna has been hailed for serving as the model for later organizations like the League of Nations in 1919 and, eventually, the United Nations in 1945. It ensured the dissolution of the Napoleonic world. Also, it focused on the aspect of restoring the monarchies that had been overthrown by Napoleon, thus ushering in the era of reaction. It will be noted that it also managed to set up the system meant to preserve the peace under Metternich of Austria and

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Hill, Jonathan, R. *"The Revolutions of 1848 in Germany, Italy, and France"*. (Eastern Michigan University, 2004), p.3.

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Stojanovska-Stefanova, Aneta. *"200 years of the Congress of Vienna: Switzerland's Way to Modern Democracy"*

Lord Castlereagh of Britain as the leaders<sup>7</sup>. The ultimate goal was not just to concentrate on the restoration of the old boundaries but also to ensure the resizing of the main powers to ensure that they remain in peace after balancing each other.

It became evident that leaders were conservatives who had little regard for republicanism or revolution that had threatened the status quo across Europe. The ultimate plan hatched by the Congress of Vienna was to ensure the collective manner of managing European affairs and ensuring peace promotion. Courtesy of the Congress, there was the resolution to the Polish-Saxon crisis and the Greek independence aspect at Laibach. It became the first occasion in history where national representatives met to formulating treaties as opposed to relying on the messages between various capitals.

Some various principles and mechanisms were put in place for the sake of securing the peace post-1815 Europe. There was a principle related to the acknowledgment by the great powers that they had to operate in unison when it came to establishing, defending, and redefining as necessary the political and territorial status quo on the continent. The implication was that there was no way any unilateral territorial changes would be made without the permission or even consulting with the great powers. There was an understanding that the great powers were determined to negotiate peace with France in unison and not as single countries.

The principle set the stage where countries had to act in the group's best interests and not as individuals as had been established by Napoleon. The implication in this regard was that whenever European countries had territorial problems that could lead to wars and conflicts, they

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*Curtis D. Nathan. "Castlereagh at the Congress of Vienna: Maintaining the Peace, Political Realism, and the Encirclement of France." (Liberty University, 2014), p. 23.*

had to seek the guidance and audience from the greater powers, which had to work as a team in trying to establish the common grounds. It will be noted that the Congress of Vienna also led to the drafting of the Vienna Final Act (June 1815) that became the agreement that was hailed for ensuring the packaging of all the smaller territorial settlements negotiations at the Congress into what became a single larger treaty<sup>8</sup>.

It led to the situation where each agreement reached during the Congress had to be given the additional endorsement for being a fraction of the overall plan that was meant to focus on the upholding of the continental peace and stability. In that regard, the Final Act meant that European stability was going to be indivisible where it was made the responsibility of all the signatories. Each signatory in that arrangement had the individual and collective responsibility of ensuring that it acts in the best ways possible to follow the provisions of the Act. The most powerful nations in that regard could not interfere with their less powerful counterparts' affairs in ways that could compromise the European peace and stability.

The second principle and mechanism that was put in place to secure the peace of post-1815 Europe was having the loose mechanism for consultations and dispute resolution via what was regarded as the periodic great-power meetings. The framework was drawn from the understanding that great powers had realized that acknowledging their responsibility when it comes to acting in concert was just but the beginning. There was the need to ensure perpetual stability on the continent that called for better ways of handling situations at any given moment.

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*Lascurettes, Kyle. "The Concert of Europe and Great-Power Governance Today: What can the order of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Europe teach policymakers about international order in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?" p. 6.*

The mechanism was thus meant to ensure the consolidation of the connections, which had to unite the four greatest nations at that moment for the sake of ensuring sustained peace<sup>9</sup>. It was observed that the high contracting parties had already agreed to ensure that meetings are held at fixed periods for the sake of strengthening their ties moving forward. The main objective of such meetings was to ensure the consultations upon the common interests and the measures that had to be put in place to maintain peace across Europe.

The great powers under this principle were given the mandate to ensure that whenever conflicts arose, they had to meet and ensure the negotiations among themselves for the sake of reaching the common grounds. They had the option of resorting to force based on the mutual agreements and only if it was regarded as being the necessary mechanism of containing what would be regarded as the larger disruptions to the status quo. The implication is that the greater nations understood that there would be situations where conflicts would be experienced on the continent and took it upon themselves to ensure that they become at the forefront of finding ways of restoring peace, order, and tranquility.

It has thus been revealed by the two principles and mechanisms that have been covered in this context that the Congress of Vienna was determined to secure peace of post-1815 Europe. The greater nations owing to their power and influence across the continent, were given the mandate to intervene and ensure the restoration of peace and redress to any conflicts among them and those that involve the other countries on the continent<sup>10</sup>. The Congress thus made serious

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*Branislav, L. Slantachev. "Territory and commitment: The concert of Europe as self-enforcing equilibrium". Security Studies (2005), p.21*

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strides to restore Europe's lost glory that had been at war for nearly ten years by concentrating on the avoidance of conflicts and solutions to the ones that have erupted in such ways that were meant to ensure that peace prevailed at any given moment.

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