

EXEMPLAR ESSAY (6/6)

501 Words

The most significant change in international relations within Europe between 1789 and 1815 was a shift from the shifting alliances of the balance of power system to cooperation between European powers with the Concert System. This change was largely caused by the French Revolution, which threatened peace and stability within Europe. Starting with the Thirty Years' War, European powers formed alliances based on their idea of what gave them the most advantage. When one power became too great, other powers formed alliances to preserve a balance of power in Europe. During the Thirty Years' War, France joined the Protestants because they were fighting the Habsburgs. The Catholic French monarchy chose to oppose the Habsburgs rather than fight on the Catholic side (this is known as *politique*). Alliances also formed against Louis XIV when he became a threat to the balance of power in Europe.

When French revolutionaries overthrew Louis XVI and proclaimed France to be a republic, European monarchies formed alliances against France. This began a series of wars with France on one side and Prussia, Austria, and Britain on the other. When Napoleon took power, he sought to control all of Europe with the Continental System. Before he invaded Russia, he had overpowered every great power in Europe (except for Britain because of their navy). After Napoleon invaded Russia, he was weakened, and the coalition that was formed by the other Great Powers overthrew him and sent him into exile twice. The threat to European peace was over, but the Great Powers had to get together to figure out how to preserve peace.

The Congress of Vienna was a meeting that started a period of cooperation between European powers. Klemens von Metternich, who was a nobleman from Austria, was a very powerful figure at the congress. Metternich believed in the Concert System, in which all European powers (Austria, Prussia, Russia, France, and Britain) would work together to guarantee peace and stability in Europe and contain threats from liberal and nationalist movements. It established a conservative order in Europe that lasted for several decades. Conservatives wanted stability in Europe so that there would be no wars or revolutions.

The system established by the Congress of Vienna had a lot of success, but it did not last forever. In 1830, the French overthrew their monarchy and created a new monarchy in the July Revolution. Delacroix's *Liberty Leading the People* was painted to celebrate this revolution and its liberal and nationalist values. In 1848, Europe experienced many revolutions that were known as the Revolutions of 1848. Most of these revolutions were unsuccessful. The Concert System fell apart finally when it was replaced by Bismarck's Alliance System. This system put the Great Powers against each other and eventually led to World War I.

The biggest change in foreign relations between 1789 and 1815 was a change from shifting alliances to the Concert System that promoted cooperation. This change was caused primarily by the French Revolution, which posed an unprecedented threat to conservative European monarchies.

ABOVE-AVERAGE ESSAY (4/6)

322 Words

The most important change in international relations in Europe between 1789 and 1815 was the French Revolution because it shifted alliances and caused several wars in Europe.

Before the French Revolution, France was allied with Austria and Britain was allied with Prussia. These alliances went back to the Seven Years' War. Marie Antoinette, an Austrian princess, married Louis XVI of France and became the Queen of France. During the French Revolution, the French people hated her because they believed that she was spending all of their money and telling them to eat cake (she didn't really say that, but they thought she did). Because of the French Revolution, Austria and Prussia put together an alliance against France. They were concerned about French liberalism and nationalism spreading to other countries. Britain and Russia also joined the anti-French alliance.

Especially after Napoleon took power, France found itself at war with nearly every nation in Europe. During the Napoleonic Wars, France fought with Austria, Prussia, Russia, and Britain. Admiral Lord Nelson defeated Napoleon's navy at Trafalgar, and Napoleon's land army was defeated by the Russian winter. By 1814, Napoleon had to admit defeat, and he went into his first exile. He came back for the "100 Days," but he was again defeated at Waterloo. Napoleon went into a second exile at St. Helena.

After Napoleon was defeated, the Congress of Vienna met in order to create the Concert System, where all nations would work together to create a conservative order in Europe. European powers began to work together rather than have shifting alliances based on the balance of power. Klemens von Metternich was a major figure at the Congress of Vienna.

The French Revolution brought about the most significant change in foreign relations between 1789 and 1815 because it caused all of the other Great Powers to align themselves against France. After the French Revolution, the Great Powers started working together with the Concert System.

CONTEXTUALIZATION	0	<i>This essay does not provide sufficient contextualizing evidence to earn the point.</i>
THESIS	1	<i>The thesis makes a historically-defensible claim supported by a line of reasoning.</i>
EVIDENCE I	1	<i>The essay includes multiple pieces of specific evidence relevant to the prompt.</i>
EVIDENCE II	1	<i>The evidence is clearly used to support claims in topic sentences.</i>
REASONING	1	<i>Changes in approaches to foreign relations and alliances are clearly explained.</i>
COMPLEXITY	0	<i>The essay does not demonstrate a complex understanding.</i>
TOTAL	4	<i>The essay could be improved with a thesis-driven approach.</i>

BELOW-AVERAGE ESSAY (2/6)

183 Words

The most significant change in international relations between 1789 and 1815 was the French Revolution. Before the French Revolution, France had an absolute monarchy. Louis XIV, who was known as the Sun King, built a palace at Versailles and ruled France as an absolute monarch. During Louis' reign in France, many wars were started, such as the War of the Spanish Succession. Louis wanted to rule France as "One King, One Law, one Faith." He made Catholicism the only legal religion in France.

The French Revolution overthrew the French absolute monarchy. The Jacobins executed Louis XVI and his wife, Marie Antoinette. They established France as a republic with equal rights for everyone with the Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen. During the Reign of Terror, the Jacobins outlawed Christianity as a religion (even though Napoleon restored Catholicism later with the Concordat). The French Revolution resulted in a lot of wars, such as the Napoleonic Wars, which saw France invade other European countries. Napoleon was defeated in Russia and was sent into exile. This ended the period of the French Revolution.

CONTEXTUALIZATION	1	<i>Details about Louis XIV's reign contribute relevant contextualizing background.</i>
THESIS	0	<i>The thesis identifies the French Revolution but includes no line of reasoning.</i>
EVIDENCE I	1	<i>The treatment of the French Revolution is relevant to the topic of the prompt.</i>
EVIDENCE II	0	<i>The evidence is not presented in any kind of coherent way.</i>
REASONING	0	<i>There is no discernable attempt at historical reasoning.</i>
COMPLEXITY	0	<i>The essay does not demonstrate a complex understanding.</i>
TOTAL	2	<i>The essay would benefit from the addition of specific evidence.</i>