

# Pre-Cold War International Relations

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## Treaty of Westphalia, 1648

- Peace Treaty between the Holy Roman Emperor and the King of France and their respective Allies
- Treaty of Westphalia initiated the modern fashion of diplomacy as it marked the beginning of the modern system of nation-states. Subsequent wars were not about issues of religion, but rather revolved around issues of state. This allowed Catholic and Protestant Powers to ally, leading to a number of major realignments.
- Main outcomes of the Treaty included the independence of The Netherlands from Spain, the expansion of Sweden, the decline of the power of the Roman Empire, and numerous other territorial adjustments.



## The Congress of Vienna, 1815

- Gathering of ambassadors to redraw the continent's political map after the defeat of Napoleonic France the previous spring.
- Respected by many historians for its accomplishments, including former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, whose doctoral dissertation was on the Congress of Vienna.
- Main actions of the Congress included the enlargement of Russia and Prussia, the consolidation of Germany, and some boundary adjustments in Scandinavia and Italy.



## The Concert of Europe

- Concert of Europe was the broad co-operation between Europe's great powers after 1815. Its purpose was to maintain the peace settlement concluded at the Congress of Vienna.
- Division existing between the continental powers (Austria, Prussia, and Russia) and Great Britain.
- Main actions of the Concert included securing the independence of Greece (1830) and Belgium (1831), and ending Egypt's eight-year occupation of Syria.

## The Hague Conferences, 1899 and 1907

- The Hague Conferences were the first international peace conferences, attempting to reduce armaments. This did not occur, but the first rules for war were established and agreed upon, including the protection of noncombatants.
- Also created was the Permanent Court of Arbitration, popularly called the Hague Tribunal. At the second conference, the United States pushed strongly to upgrade this to the first world court, and might have succeeded if the third conference in 1916 had not been cancelled by the onset of World War I.
- These were the first establishments of international law, and set the stage for the work of the League of Nations and the United Nations.

## The League of Nations

- Created after World War I with the goals of disarmament, preventing war through collective security, settling disputes between countries through negotiation and diplomacy, and improving global welfare. The League was largely unsuccessful, but did prevent numerous wars from breaking out between nations in Europe and the Middle East.
- The main downfalls of the League was the lack of universal membership, and the outbreak of World War II. In 1946, the League dissolved itself and transferred its services, mandates, and properties to the United Nations. The League's headquarters in Geneva is now the United Nations European Headquarters.

