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## The Berlin congress 1878, aims and effects or impacts

Questions to ponder

1. Why was the Berlin congress called in 1878? Or What led the calling of the Berlin conference in 1878?

(Explain the reasons for calling of the Berlin conference)

2. Assess the impacts/consequences of the Berlin Conference of 1878 or What was the effects of the Berlin conference called in 1878

(Explain the positive and negative effects of the Berlin conference.)

## Summary of the Berlin congress 1878

The **Congress of Berlin** (June 13 – July 13, 1878) was a diplomatic meeting aimed at reorganizing the states in the Balkan Peninsula following the **Russo-Turkish War of 1877-1878**. Here are some key points:

1. **Participants:** The congress included representatives from the **major European powers** (Russia, Great Britain, France, Austria-Hungary, Italy, and Germany), the **Ottoman Empire**, and the **Balkan states** (Greece, Serbia, Romania, and Montenegro).
2. **Leadership:** The congress was led by **German Chancellor Otto von Bismarck**, who sought to stabilize the Balkans and balance the interests of the major powers.
3. **Treaty of Berlin:** The congress resulted in the **Treaty of Berlin**, which replaced the preliminary Treaty of San Stefano. The treaty revised the borders and territories in the Balkans, granting independence or autonomy to several states.
4. **Key Outcomes:** Romania, Serbia, and Montenegro were recognized as independent states, while Bulgaria was made a semi-independent principality. The Ottoman Empire retained control over Macedonia but was required to implement reforms.
5. **Impact:** The congress aimed to reduce the role of the Ottoman Empire in the region and prevent Russian dominance, but it also left many issues unresolved, leading to future conflicts in the Balkans.

## Aims of the Berlin congress of 1878

The **Congress of Berlin** (1878) had several key aims:

1. **Stabilize the Balkans:** The primary goal was to stabilize the Balkan region following the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-1878.
2. **Balance of Power:** To maintain the balance of power in Europe by preventing any single nation from gaining too much influence in the region.
3. **Reduce Ottoman Influence:** To reduce the role of the Ottoman Empire in the Balkans and address the "Eastern Question" regarding the decline of Ottoman power.
4. **Address Russian Expansion:** To limit Russian expansion and influence in the Balkans, ensuring that no single power dominated the region.
5. **Protect Christian Minorities:** To address the rights and protection of Christian minorities within the Ottoman Empire.
6. **To settle territorial disputes among European powers**
7. To settle economical disputes among European powers like Russia and Britain.
8. Bismarck's desire to promote German supremacy.

## Positive effects of the Berlin congress of 1878

1. **Stabilization of the Balkans:** The congress aimed to stabilize the Balkan region by reorganizing its territories and reducing tensions among the various ethnic groups.
2. **Recognition of Independence:** It granted independence or autonomy to several Balkan states, including Romania, Serbia, and Montenegro, which helped to establish their national identities.
3. **Reduction of Russian Expansion:** The treaty limited Russian territorial gains, preventing it from dominating the region and maintaining a balance of power in Europe.
4. **Ottoman Reforms:** The congress required the Ottoman Empire to implement reforms, which aimed to modernize the empire and improve the conditions for its subjects.
5. **Diplomatic Cooperation:** The congress fostered diplomatic cooperation among the major European powers, which helped to maintain peace and stability in the region for a time.
6. France was given Tunisia in Northern Africa to compensate for her for losing Alsace and Lorraine during 1870-1871 Franco-russian war.
7. Berlin Congress force the Turkish Sultan to promise treatment of his Christian subjects
8. Bismarck was seen as a peace maker when Britain and Russia wanted to fight and German status was elevated by the Berlin congress in Europe.

## Negative effects of the Berlin congress of 1878

1. **Humiliation of Russia:** The treaty significantly reduced the territorial gains Russia had made under the Treaty of San Stefano, leading to a sense of humiliation and resentment.
2. **Berlin congress humiliated Italy by losing her territory of Tunisia in North Africa.**
3. **Unresolved Balkan Aspirations:** The congress failed to adequately address the aspirations of the Balkan peoples, laying the groundwork for future conflicts and instability in the region.
4. **Strained Relations:** The congress created a split in relations between Germany and Russia, which eventually contributed to the tensions leading up to World War I.
5. **Ottoman Vulnerability:** While the treaty aimed to maintain the Ottoman Empire, it left the empire weakened and vulnerable to future internal and external pressures.
6. **Austrian Expansion:** The treaty allowed Austria-Hungary to occupy Bosnia and Herzegovina, increasing its influence in the Balkans and contributing to regional tensions.

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