

ЄВРОПЕЙСЬКА ДИПЛОМАТІЯ В ЕПОХУ ВІДЕНСЬКОЇ СИСТЕМИ МІЖНАРОДНИХ ВІДНОСИН

Стаття присвячена висвітленню особливостей розвитку європейської дипломатії в епоху Віденської системи міжнародних відносин. Особлива увага зосереджена на питаннях становлення дипломатичного інструментарію, інституцій, а також на специфіці переговорного процесу між європейськими державами у рамках Віденського конгресу (1814-1815).

Ключові слова: зовнішня політика, дипломатія, інституціоналізація, політико-дипломатична система, Віденська система міжнародних відносин, Віденський конгрес (1814–1815 рр.).

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EUROPEAN DIPLOMACY IN THE ERA OF THE VIENNA SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The article is devoted to highlighting the peculiarities of the development of European diplomacy during the era of the Vienna system of international relations. Particular attention is focused on the formation of diplomatic instruments and institutions, as well as on the specifics of the negotiation process between European states within the framework of the Congress of Vienna (1814–1815).

Key words: foreign policy, diplomacy, institutionalisation, political and diplomatic system, Vienna system of international relations, Congress of Vienna (1814–1815).

Diplomacy is a key instrument for implementing a state's foreign policy. This concept is deeply connected with how contemporaries assess various forms of government, models of diplomacy and its instruments, as well as how they perceive political reality and form their vision of ideal inter-state relations. It was in the early modern period that the foundations of modern diplomacy were laid: new institutions were created, effective mechanisms for inter-state relations were developed, and negotiation techniques were refined, receiving both theoretical justification and practical implementation.

The purpose of this article is to reveal the peculiarities of the development of European diplomacy in the era of the Vienna system of international relations.

The Italian Wars (1494-1559) marked the beginning of the formation of the political and diplomatic system of Europe, which laid the foundations for European international relations. It was then that the

foundations were laid for the institutional development of permanent diplomatic missions in Europe, their political and legal status was defined, and the practice of negotiations, diplomatic etiquette, ceremony and elements of protocol were formed.

The next important stage in the strengthening of inter-state relations was the Westphalian system of international relations, which emerged after the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648) and the Peace of Westphalia (1648). This treaty provided the legal basis for the consolidation of new principles and institutions of international law. It also contributed to the formation and transformation of existing permanent diplomatic missions, the definition of the regime of foreigners, and the transition to the era of bourgeois international law.

The need to establish new international political and political-diplomatic rules arose at the end of the 18th century. The Westphalian international order, which had existed until then and ensured the balance of power in Europe through continuous diplomatic, political and military struggle, was destabilised by the activities of Napoleon Bonaparte. However, his attempt to impose French hegemony by military means failed in 1812-1814. In response, the Congress of Vienna was convened to develop a new system of international relations, bringing together representatives of all European countries except Turkey [2, p.270].

The Congress of Vienna initiated the practice of regularly convening international conferences of major powers. This gave them the opportunity to discuss and find effective ways to solve international problems.

In the early stages of the 'European concert,' mainly pan-European issues were discussed. Later, states convened their representatives to resolve specific international problems, such as the Congress of Paris in 1856, which summed up the results of the Crimean War.

It is important to note that the decisions of the congresses were generally respected until new ones were adopted. For example, the territorial division established by the Congress of Vienna was abolished in relation to Italy and Germany, but this was done with the open or tacit consent of the great powers.

The Congress of Vienna lasted from 1 November 1814 to 8 June 1815. More than 200 states participated in this process. Formally, they were all recognised as equal. However, in reality, the future of Europe was decided by the so-called great powers - Russia, Austria, England, Prussia and France.

Despite the fact that the Congress of Vienna was not officially opened and did not hold general meetings of all diplomats, it was here that the future fate of Europe was decided. All work was concentrated in the then Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Ballhausplatz. The most important issues were discussed in specially created committees and commissions[1, p.184].

During the congress, the participants signed numerous treaties on state borders, adopted declarations and resolutions, a significant part of which was included in the Final Act of the Congress of Vienna and its annexes. Thus, for the first time in history, the whole of Europe was covered by a single system of general treaties.

The Viennese court developed a unique logistics system to receive numerous high-ranking guests. To avoid traffic jams, dignitaries arriving in Vienna in large carriages transferred to smaller vehicles on the outskirts of the city. Thus, in essence, the prototypes of state VIP transport and 'interception parking lots' appeared.

Hundreds of luxurious carriages were built to transport guests and their entourages, and exquisite sleighs were made for entertainment. All of this transport was available for call around the clock. It is important to note that all the carriages had an identical appearance, which allows us to consider the Viennese court the inventor of the concept of 'corporate identity' – a unified style for the princely fleet of carriages. Some of these elegant carriages have survived to this day and are on display at the Wagenburg Museum in Austria.

At the Congress of Vienna, all decisions were made by the 'Committee of Four', which included representatives of the victorious countries: Great Britain, Russia, Austria and Prussia. These states insisted on 'legitimacy' (the restoration of monarchical power), a balance of power and rewards for the victors. The final act of the Congress (1814-1815) was signed in the State Chancellery, where all the meetings were held [1, p.227].

The main tasks of the Congress of Vienna were to redraw the borders of Europe in favour of the victorious states, restore monarchical power, and prevent Napoleon's possible return. The catastrophic expansion of France's borders during the reign of Napoleon Bonaparte forced European politicians and diplomats to abandon their usual models of inter-state relations. They were forced to soberly assess the new threats posed by France, which had become a powerful international player. Therefore, the defeat of the Napoleonic Empire and the formation of a political and diplomatic quartet of states (Russia, Austria, Prussia, England) gave rise to hopes for 'mutual understanding' within the framework of traditional multi-move diplomacy, filled with court intrigues. It was in Vienna that the consequences of the redrawing of Europe in the early 19th century were being considered. At the beginning of its meetings, this quartet confidently directed Europe.

Austrian Emperor Franz I, the host of the Congress, hardly interfered in affairs. His main desire was to take revenge for the defeats and humiliation inflicted by Napoleon. He entrusted all problems to his talented, pragmatic and energetic chancellor K. von Metternich [4].

Prussian King Frederick William III also did not concern himself with the affairs of the Congress, indulging in entertainment and giving his chancellor K. A. Gartenberg complete freedom of action.

The Russian delegation was headed by Emperor Alexander I. His influence and authority were enormous, as were Russia's military forces. At the Congress, the Russian emperor was very active and flexible, while remaining steadfast in defending the national interests of his state. Among his entourage was a diplomat of Ukrainian origin, Andriy Rozumovsky, the second son of Hetman Kirill Rozumovsky.

The English delegation was led by Foreign Minister Lord Castlereagh. He was distinguished by his cold politeness, restraint and correctness. Castlereagh was said to be the most 'European' of all English ministers and remained calm in all circumstances.

The French delegation, which arrived in Vienna shortly before the opening of the Congress, was headed by Charles-Marie Talleyrand. His unprincipledness and cynicism knew no bounds: he served the Jacobins, Napoleon and Louis XVIII, always betraying them for his own interests and wealth. He is rightly considered one of the most outstanding diplomats of his time and a master of diplomatic intrigue. He arrived in Vienna to defend the interests of the new France in the face of the monarchs of old Europe, and he carried out his diplomatic work with great skill. Talleyrand managed to quarrel the allies, as a result of which France, England and Austria united against Russia and Prussia. Thanks to this, Talleyrand won the most significant diplomatic victory: France was included in the negotiation process as an equal state.

The decisions of the Congress of Vienna had a huge impact on the geopolitical landscape of Europe. Thanks to diplomatic agreements, a system of pentarchy, or five powers, was formed. This system provided for the emergence of five major European powers, whose strength was almost equal. Their mutual agreement ensured peace in Europe for the next 40 years [4].

The Congress of Vienna can be considered a prototype for future diplomatic summits and forums, as well as a model for a united Europe. It was at this congress that Russia first fully declared itself a European power in all respects: political, diplomatic, cultural and philosophical.

Looking back at the past, we must clearly see the landmarks for the future. History teaches even those who do not want to learn, but it teaches them a lesson. Since 1815, the world has seen many congresses, conferences and summits, but interest in the Congress of Vienna continues to this day. In academic circles and journalism, there is ongoing debate about the effectiveness of the Vienna system of inter-state relations and its 'secret,' which ensured lasting peace in Europe for much of the 19th century. There is also discussion about whether this system could serve as an example for modern agreements that would ensure stability on the planet, and whether it is possible to create a new

institutional entity in the modern world, such as a 'global concert' or 'planetary concert' of states.

The Congress of Vienna, the 'Battle of Diplomats' (1814-1815), was a unique political and diplomatic phenomenon for its time, which resulted in the development of principles of intergovernmental dialogue, the use of institutions of official diplomacy and informal (backroom) diplomacy, elements and norms of diplomatic protocol, etiquette and ceremony, which formed the basis of diplomatic practice throughout the world, not just in Europe. At the political, legal and diplomatic levels, the Congress of Vienna introduced into political circulation or legally enshrined such fundamental terms of geopolitics as equilibrium and balance of power, great powers, dominant powers, coalition of states, new borders and territories, bridgeheads, etc. The Vienna system laid the foundations for the geopolitical era, based on the imperial principle of control over geographical space [2, p.272].

The Congress of Vienna consolidated the status quo of European borders, which remained unchanged in this configuration until the mid-19th century, developed for the first time a system of peaceful settlement of international relations, and attempted to create effective new mechanisms for relations between monarchs and their peoples.

An important milestone in the history of the Congress of Vienna was the adoption of the 'Regulations concerning diplomatic agents', known as the Vienna Regulations (1815). This document, which became Appendix 17 to the Final Act, is the first multilateral act of international law and the first unified classification of diplomatic ranks.

According to the 1815 regulations, ambassadors and nuncios were of the highest, first class, while envoys belonged to the second class and chargés d'affaires to the third. Only ambassadors, legates and nuncios were considered to directly represent their monarchs or the Pope (Article 11 of the Regulations). Today, this rule applies only to protocol, as the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations establishes that there is no legal difference between heads of missions of different classes, except for that determined by rules of seniority and etiquette. Over time, the Vienna Regulations were adopted by most states, acquiring legally recognised status [4].

The diplomatic mechanisms of the Vienna System, based on the principles of 'legitimacy,' balance of power, and rewarding the victors, gradually lost their effectiveness. They were designed for a world of monarchies and empires, not for growing national movements and changes in the European political landscape. This became particularly evident during the unification processes in Italy and Germany, which the system was unable to either predict or effectively regulate. Its role in maintaining peace and borders, having fulfilled its original mission, came to naught, and by 1914, the diplomacy of the Vienna system proved powerless in the face of the threat of a pan-European war.

The First World War and the emergence of the United States as a new powerful international force finally destroyed the system of 'European harmony' and 'European understanding'. The diplomatic arena needed new approaches that would take into account broader interests and a wider range of actors. This led to the search for new forms of international cooperation, which would later institutionalise 'world understanding' and 'world agreement' in the 20th century [3, p.195].

The results of the Congress of Vienna served as a catalyst for further socio-economic, security, political and diplomatic development of the European continent. The practical achievements of the Congress of Vienna and the empirical experience gained by European diplomacy at the turn of the 18th and 19th centuries determined the institutional vector of development of world diplomacy and international law, remaining relevant in modern conditions.

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