



Kingdom of Naples



Joachim Murat: Napoleon's cavalry commander, brother-in-law, and King of Naples.

Status: Minor nation.

Description: Large Italian state covering the southern end of the peninsula.

Monarch: His Majesty King Joachim-Napoleon, formerly known as Joachim Murat.

Delegate: Ottavio Mormile, Duke of Campochiaro.

Background

While he was beating the continent into submission, Napoleon appointed various marshals, siblings, and in-laws as rulers of captured territories. Naples was no exception, and in 1808 Napoleon chose Joachim Murat – a loyal cavalry commander who had married Napoleon's sister Caroline – to replace the defeated King Ferdinand IV.

The old Neapolitan king – Ferdinand IV¹ – had also been King of Sicily², and fled to the island in 1806, refusing to surrender his claim to Naples. Murat, in turn, claimed Sicily, but the protection of the Royal Navy on one side and French Army on the other meant that neither king had any means of displacing the other, despite several attempts.

When Napoleon started losing in 1813, Murat approached the allies, and negotiated the secret **Treaty of Naples** in which he promised to switch sides in return for being allowed to keep Naples. Although Austria agreed, this deal was **highly controversial**, particularly among the British who staunchly supported the claims of Ferdinand IV.

Objectives

Murat hoped to use the congress to persuade the allied powers that **letting him keep Naples** was a good idea, and that restoring King Ferdinand was a bad idea. Murat was particularly keen to get **Ferdinand to formally renounce his claim** to the Neapolitan throne, which Austria had secretly promised to help him with in 1814.

¹ Ferdinand was a member of the House of Bourbon, the same royal family which had ruled Spain and France.

² Naples and Sicily were historically sister kingdoms, Naples being confusingly known as 'the Kingdom of Sicily this side of the lighthouse' with Sicily being 'the other side of the lighthouse'. Both had been ruled by the same monarch since 1720.