



Kingdom of Prussia

Status: Great Power.

Monarch: His Majesty King Frederick William III (left).

Delegate: Prince Karl August von Hardenberg (right).

Background

Prussia's graduation from a regional power to a great power was, at this time, a fairly recent phenomenon. Although their territory was fairly small, Prussia's militaristic culture (descended from the Teutonic Knights) and cultural homogeneity (being almost exclusively German, unlike Austria) gave them a **disproportionately powerful army**.

From 1792 to 1812, Prussia received an increase in territory from the second partition of Poland (1793) but had this, and much of its western German territory, stripped away in the 1807 Treaty of Tilsit after being soundly defeated by France. Prussia responded with a ruthless campaign of internal military reform, introducing compulsory service for all men and playing a critical role in the War of the Sixth Coalition which led to France's defeat.

As the allied forces advanced westward, Prussia stationed forces across Germany, **occupying lands** which had been annexed by France or absorbed into the Confederation of the Rhine. This notably included Saxony, which, despite defecting to the allies during the Napoleon's last stand in Germany (the Battle of Leipzig), had their King imprisoned and territory occupied by the Prussian army.

Objectives

Prussia's top priority at the Congress of Vienna was **reclaiming and expanding its territory**, particularly in Germany. In addition to the territory it had lost during the wars, **Prussia had its eyes on Saxony**, which it was determined to punish for siding with Napoleon. The strength of the Prussian army, and its importance in Napoleon's downfall, gave them considerable influence at the Congress.