



Kingdom of Sicily

Status: Minor nation.

Description: Italian kingdom on the island of Sicily, previously ruled from Naples.

Monarch: His Majesty King Ferdinand III (left).

Delegate: Luigi de Medici (right).

Background

Before the French revolution, Ferdinand held the **largest state in Italy**, ruling the Kingdom of Sicily as Ferdinand III and the Kingdom of Naples (technically also called Sicily¹) as Ferdinand IV. Historically under the Spanish crown, the ‘two Sicilies’ were given to a younger son of the Spanish king in 1738. When this son unexpectedly inherited the Spanish throne, the Sicilies went to his younger brother – Ferdinand.

This made Sicily a **Bourbon monarchy**, and a natural enemy of the revolutionary France which had executed their own Bourbon king. France invaded in 1806, capturing Naples, but was unable to take Sicily thanks to the defence of the Royal Navy. The rest of the Napoleonic Wars were largely a stalemate in which **Joachim Murat** – the French cavalry commander appointed King of Naples – and Ferdinand – who refused to make peace – tried in vain to depose one another.

When Napoleon was finally defeated in 1814, Ferdinand hoped to be restored to Naples, but found out that Murat had made a last-minute deal with the Austrians to switch sides in exchange for keeping his kingdom.

Objectives

Ferdinand was an absolute monarch, whose primary objective at the Congress was to be restored to his Neapolitan throne (which he had never formally renounced). In this, his interests were aligned with most of the great powers who professed an interest in restoring legitimate monarchs and the *status quo*, and also Spain, whose goals were to restore and expand Bourbon monarchies.

¹ For historical reasons, the Kingdom of Naples was formally called ‘the Kingdom of Sicily this side of the lighthouse’, with Sicily itself being ‘the other side of the lighthouse’.