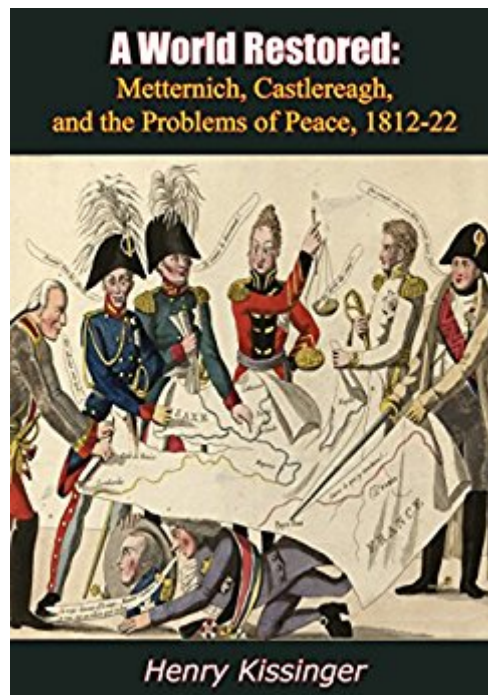




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A World Restored: Metternich, Castlereagh, And The Problems Of Peace, 1812-22



Synopsis

Originally published in 1957—years before he was Secretary of State and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize—, Henry Kissinger wrote *A World Restored*, to understand and explain one of history's most important and dramatic periods; a time when Europe went from political chaos to a balanced peace that lasted for almost a hundred years. After the fall of Napoleon, European diplomats gathered in a festive Vienna with the task of restoring stability following the French Revolution, the Napoleonic Wars, and the dissolution of the Holy Roman Empire. The central figures at the Congress of Vienna were the Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom, Viscount Castlereagh and the Foreign Minister of Austria Klemens Wenzel von Metternich. Castlereagh was primarily concerned with maintaining balanced powers, while Metternich based his diplomacy on the idea of legitimacy—that is, establishing and working with governments that citizens accept without force. The peace they brokered lasted until the outbreak of World War I. Through trenchant analysis of the history and forces that create stability, *A World Restored* gives insight into how to create long-lasting geopolitical peace—lessons that Kissinger saw as applicable to the period immediately following World War II, when he was writing this book. But the lessons don't stop there. Like all good insights, the book's wisdom transcends any single political period. Kissinger's understanding of coalitions and balance of power can be applied to personal and professional situations, such as dealing with a tyrannical boss or co-worker or formulating business or organizational tactics. Regardless of his ideology, Henry Kissinger has had an important impact on modern politics and few would dispute his brilliance as a strategist. For anyone interested in Western history, the tactics of diplomacy, or political strategy, this volume will provide deep understanding of a pivotal time.

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Customer Reviews

This is a classic, of course. Elegantly written, insightful, philosophically sophisticated, with a lot of insight for those who want to understand international relations. Castlereagh simply wanted to maintain a balance of power in Europe following the Napoleonic Wars in order to facilitate Britain's security. Metternich, representing an Austria that was in the center of Europe and could not simply seek a discrete balance, wanted a conservative social contract at a time when the forces of nationalism were ultimately destined to sunder the Austro-Hungarian Empire. They wanted the same thing for different reasons. Castlereagh, dealing with resistance from his own Parliament, wanted a realpolitical solution. Metternich, the ultimate practitioner of "Machtpolitik," understood nonetheless the importance of ideas and ideology. I bought and read the paperback edition of *A World Restored* more than thirty years ago. I bought the hardback so that I could read it again without having to physically hold the book together. A necessary read for those truly interested in international relations.

Henry Kissinger's *"A World Restored: Metternich, Castlereagh and the Problems of Peace 1812-22"* is not for just anyone interested in that period of history. I read about a fourth of Kissinger's *"White House Years"* ("W H Y"), and loved his writing and clear thinking in that book (the book was destroyed in a fire). But it was apparently written long after *"A World Restored"* was written, because the excellent writing in "W H Y" didn't exist in his earlier book. In "W H Y", I could just follow his thoughts and not have to re-order or evaluate them to fully understand (and appreciate them). BUT, in *"A World Restored"*, I had to constantly mull over sentences to get what he was trying to say. So this book is for very intelligent readers who already have a good grasp of the historical situation. Kissinger delves deeply here, but with inadequate writing skills, in my opinion. I'm reminded of what I decided was the difference between me and the truly brilliant students at Stanford. They could intuit what the professor was trying to say, but I could only get what he was actually saying.

All good

No puedo; no leÃ- el libro.

amazing the amount of research that has gone into this book.

I am still at the beginning of the lecture but am fascinated by the sharpness shown by Dr. Kissinger in analysing an important turning point of history where two fascinating personalities appear on the stage: Metternich and Castlereagh.

A masterpiece. A great thinker, a great writer, a great story. With some stuff by SE Morison, this is the best history I read this year.

The book was in excellent shape. One of the best cost/benefit relations in my life!

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