The Social Sciences 11 (6): 965-972, 2016

ISSN: 1818-5800

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Concert of Europe and the Prevalence of Rationality in International Relation Theories

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Abstract: The Concert of Europe in 19th century was developed to adjust a balance of power system and prevent the Napoleonic ambitions to spread in Europe. The main objective of the concert was the unity of all states under the leadership of major powers, legitimizing the kingdom, regulating different matters and suppress the opposition who were inspired by the ideas of French Revolution. With the passage of the time and the establishment of various theories in international relations, the dominant atmosphere of the Concert of Europe twisted towards rationalistic discourses. In this study, in addition to examining the Concert of Europe and the related atmosphere, we want to explain its role in the prevalence of discourse of rationalism in theories of international relations. This study shows that the concert with all the power to create international diplomatic order has failed to maintain its attitude toward cooperation and integration against rationalistic ideas concerning national competition and conflict in theories of international relations. However, it has influenced the idea of creating and maintaining the nation-state as a key player in international relations. Hence, with all the ups and downs during different periods in international relations, Concert of Europe has been successful to affect the issues such as balance of power and nation-state system by its fundamental views.

Key words: Nation-state, rationalism, theory, international relations, Concert of Europe

INTRODUCTION

Concert of Europe or the agreement and harmony refers to the agreements between Russia, Austria, Prussia and Great Britain that was made after the defeat of Napoleon in the presence of representatives of European countries following the Congress of Vienna (1814-1815). The agreement states: since, the purposes of Congress of Vienna, i.e., the elimination of the risk of Napoleon have been met, Great Britain emperor excellencies, king of Austria, king of Prussia and emperor of Russia consider the Europe's prosperity on the power of kings and basic rules. The most important Concert of Europe feature was the monopoly of power in the hands of countries that did not let the poor countries to enter the unity and used the title of "Great Powers" for the 1st time. Thus, these countries obtained higher rights and advantages in Europe. Concert of Europe which was based on the priority of powerful countries was then used as a model for the executive body of the international organizations, especially the UN Security Council. So, that now the great powers have privileges such as the right to veto in the Security Council.

In contrast, nation-state conceptual model is a form of the state (government) which receives its legitimacy in the law and international relations from exercising sovereignty in a particular territory has found a chance to rise in the area of international relations. Many influential ideas are formed based on the structure of such institution in international relations that in many aspects are inconsistent with the idea of the Concert of Europe.

We want to discuss the prevalence of rational discourse in the international settings based on various aspects of Concert of Europe and important role of the nation-state in international relations. For this purpose, first through analyzing the concept of nation-state and then by discussing the discourse of reason we want to achieve our purpose.

THE SOCIAL AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT FOR THE APPEARANCE OF NATION-STATE

Government has appeared since human beings are gathered together and one of them ruled them and its form has change over time and its functions are increased. Over time, we have seen state towns followed by the imperial states. In Europe, beginning with the rise of the church and Church government, we have seen State Christian Church. Then, new states empires which were different from the earlier ones appeared and the difference was the change of subjects of the king into people. Then, the people seeking citizenship and nationalism gradually regrouped and developed new nation-state.

It seems that the term state has been fixed over the centuries. Sometimes, state-city was the issue and through the development that has been made in this way, we have reached nation-state. This evolution is mainly conducted through the changes caused by the population as the constituent of states. This means that depending on the nature of the relationship between people and rulers, these changes and developments have been possible in the field of government.

One of the factors that created and strengthened the state was the war. The critical role of war is that the in the preparation for the war, the government obtains the power and by being engaged in the war the state obtains power against its own people increasingly. Unlike, the older states that had limited ability to guide the life of its citizens, the states of the modern territories have increased their ability to regulate (if not control) most aspects of society such as the economy and relationships governing the families (Baylis and Steve, 2013).

Governments have been the main actors over the centuries. Many of the decisions are taken and implemented by the states. These actors have increased their strength and integrity and evolved over the centuries. Thus, many of the ideas in international relations have developed over this major player on the global system.

In fact, the states are the pillars of the international system whether due to the rules of Westphalian peace (It is a convention that was made after the end of 30 years of religious wars in Europe (1618-1648) between the European countries in 1648 AD. All European countries except Great Britain and Poland participated in this convention. Westphalian was the first multilateral peace treaty after the Renaissance in Europe. The treaty would similar major treaties between countries that eventually led to international law. Peace of Westphalia was the model of the League of Nations and the UN) in 1648 or due to their exclusive control over the means of coercion (Fox et al., 2004).

The pope and the church: Church headed by the pope had power and wealth in Europe for a 1000 years. As the pope and the church became so busy with worldly affairs that not only they participated in war, conquest and accumulation of wealth but also abused the spiritual and moral function of the church to obtain worldly matters and forgot their moral duty.

The period of a 1000 years of Church mastery known as the middle ages started since, the 4th century. In the fourth century, Christianity became the official religion of the empire. During the middle ages, it was ultimately the religion that provided identity for Europe (Simbar and

Ghorbani, 2010). However, the church moved toward materialism. Even in an era that two popes ripped the church into two parts and caused a deep damage to Christian Church that undermined the sanctity of the papacy and the church the credibility of this structure was questioned. It even caused people to become more aware of the transference of spiritual Christian Church into power and wealth Church.

Renaissance and religious reform movement: Renaissance represents a new era in the thoughts and feelings of the people and it was based on this effect that Europe and European facilities were changed. For the 1st time in Italy in the 15th century, a secular ideology arose and as it was described since then no system has the worldly aspect more than Renaissance Church (Palmer et al., 2007).

Renaissance can be known as to be associated with the asdvent of the protestants who opposed the principles of the church. On the one hand Catholic Church reform movement that was aware of deviations and people getting away the church tried to enforce domestic reforms and on the other hand protestants who were against the principles of the Catholic Church blamed the materialistic structure.

The following factors are the causes of the appearance of Renaissance and reform: moral and economic decline and increasing corruption of church fathers. The emergence of universities and the fact that teachers and students were able to put everything into question was completed by the financial autonomy of universities. Crusades caused the popes to engage with the world more and more and lose their religious and spiritual nature. Division of the church by two popes that indicated the secularism of the church officials caused the separation of religion (church) from the state and strengthened the kings versus the weakness of the church (Palmer *et al.*, 2007).

Moral and financial corruption in the pope and the church that were obliged to address spiritual matters was obvious to everyone. Everyone was aware that the church was more involved in worldly affairs until, they were immersed in corruption. They even ignored the principles of the church was laid by themselves. With the advent of the Renaissance religious-spiritual issues were isolated from the secular and the government and eventually led to the separation of state-king system from the Christian Church and pope and confirmed that the political and religious integration leads to the banality of religion and abuse of power to achieve wealth and power. The religion and devices related to it must be remote from the worldly matters and remain pure and clean and concern around

their main function which is to establish the relationship between man and the Creator. The set of these considerations brought the separation of religion and politics under the terms such as laicism and secularism (A belief based on the separation of the institutions of government and those who sit on the seat of government form religious institutions and religious authorities. The general thinking is rooted in the enlightenment in Europe. Concepts such as the separation of religion from politics, separation of church and state in America and laicism in France are based on secularism).

Westphalian and 30 year religious wars: Europe tired of the 1000 years rule of the church was engaged with conflicts associated with conflict with renaissance and religious reforms which led protestant act against catholic traditions. The conflicts between catholicism and protestantism are the clash between tradition and modernity which finally decided to get rid of the yoke of the Church and modern ideas were successful. The church wanted to maintain the status quo by implementing reforms in the church. But, Protestants wanted to change the status quo and bring out the power of the church and replace it by centralized royal government. Protestants even undermined the feudal and local commanders that even fragmented the power and considered the integrated power for the king the reason of which might be the hatred from the dispute over the power and killing and the destruction of Europeans and Europe.

Under these conditions the religious wars that engaged Catholic and Protestant countries within 1618-1648 for 30 years were ended with the treaty of Westphalia. In the wars the religious groups of the Roman empire beyond the territory of feudal and aristocrats limited from the inside. Treaty of Westphalia was made in 1648 after ending 30 years of war in the cities of Muenster and Osnabrueck with the agreements of Muenster and Osnabrueck. After the peace treaty and the return of peace between Catholics and Protestants who wanted to overthrow each other, the boundaries in the period were known as boundaries of an accepted country and Europe were removed from unity and state-nation format was completed (Palmer et al., 2007).

After concluding treaty of Westphalia and strengthened state-king system, Europe was divided according to geographical boundaries since the treaty of Westphalia. Accordingly the Europe lost its integrity. However, these divisions were changed later on the basis of nationalism and the power divided between the king, authorities, feudal and church leaders was now evident only for the king.

some Westphalian had results Westphalian treaty as a basis for evaluating the performance of the countries in later international conferences and recognition of the independence of France, Spain, Portugal, Netherlands, the confederation of Switzerland and Germany 350 geographical units, transfer of full domestic and Foreign sovereignty to the country in the mantle of the king to regulate all religious and political affairs in the domestic and the international scene, the removal of country's dependence on the pope and the promotion of equality and religious freedom and balance of power between small and large units of Europe to deal with any Foreign aggression (Hossein, 2006).

Language and race: Language is often thought to have been attached to national identity. A language expresses the specific experience of persons forming a state-nation. Words and structures have been created by people and they form state-nation in turn. A language includes templates and cultural ideas presenting national identity. For example, we will consider the united kingdom. It is difficult to consider english identity apart from the effect of language through literature, especially shakespeare and dickens work. In the 19th century, English as a language of community development was developed in the island of Great Britain. This led to the detriment of the Welsh, Scottish and Irish language and humiliated them. In fact, the restoration and preservation of the languages of Welsh, Scottish and Irish was the reason for nationalists fighting a battle against British imperialism. With this status, English remains the dominant language in these countries and Welsh. Scottish and Irish have used english language for the effect of the expression of their national identity. Nevertheless, while the language indicates cultural identity of a nation, it cannot express the same thing the nation is. English has millions of speakers in many countries. They may participate in the language but they do not claim to have the english national identity. In fact, English (with languages such as Spanish, Portuguese and other European languages that are now spoken in all corners of the world as a result of European colonial expansion) have developed words and terms that reflect experiences of new nations. Many of the state nations are in fact multi-lingual. Belgium includes small state nation that is deeply split from each other in terms of language and culture however, the Belgians do not know themselves French or German. Swiss residents have a strong sense of national identity while they have three independent languages in their country. Nation-state in India has dozens of languages and this is a factor for social conflict but there is strong feeling of national identity in India (Yousefi and Mohammad, 1999).

National citizen: Citizenship as the name suggests is derived from city. Citizenship is the advanced form of "residing in city". According to some experts when the residents observe the rights of each other and perform their responsibilities against city and community have become "citizens" (Sariolghalam, 2011).

The scientific study of citizenship and culture is formed since the 19th century. In the field of citizenship culture, citizenship includes "acceptance of urban responsibility, law abiding citizens and accepting the citizenship models", Ibn Khaldun in the form of "Civil knowledge" refers to citizenship phenomenon and cultural formation; Hobbes is one of the first political theorists who have pointed to the citizenship culture and expansion of the citizenship participation theories who had a pessimistic view. In Marshal's view on citizenship culture, three types of rights (civil, political, social) are addressed and in Turner views four fundamental sources (identity, rights, economic, cultural and political sources and population) are defined. Parsons in the area of citizenship gave focused on preservation of democracy in the USA as well as preservation of rooted cultural values and their continuation in the area of social life. Popper has focused on civil identity under the concept of citizenship culture. In forming citizenship culture and identity a series of cultural institutions such as media, political parties, etc. are effective in the city based on their goals and applications.

In the definition of national citizen it can be said that a national citizen is someone who is aware of his individual rights and defends it, he is aware of the law and abides it and claims it and he has certain rights. He is aware of someone else's presence and defending his right means defending his own right and the person who participates in the city. So, not only does the national citizen mean living in a country for a certain period but also means awareness of the rights of the individual and the community (Kazemi, 2001).

Elements such as national identity, social and cultural interests and political participation are among the important element in the concepts of national citizenship but in a civil society individual rights are "fundamental rights, meaning the rights of the citizens' fundamental rights, political rights meaning participation in the political processes, social rights including economic rights as well as minimum standards of living in the facilities of the community (Clark, 2003).

NATION-STATE AND INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM IN THE CONCERT OF EUROPE

States are the primary actors in the international system that the interaction of states provides a network

of communications forming the international system and its orders. But, according to reality these relationships are stressful the source of which is known as the gained strength in the access to restricted sources producing power. The constant struggle to obtain these unlimited valuable resources always exists among the states. The states consider other governments as their potential enemies in this chaos and this lack of trust and fear creates a security dilemma and this means that there is no central authority to necessitate rules and norms or protect the interests of the larger world and the structure of this system is the main determining factor in behavior of the actors (Baylis and Steve, 2013). Also in this case, the management of Foreign policy depends on international binding structure that limits selecting the leaders (Jackson and Sorenson, 2006). For this reason, the majority of realism theorists both traditional and contemporary, say the states are the only players in the international system because only the state structures (military, economic, etc.) have the capacity to maintain in the anarchic environment and the government, based on the principle of wisdom, can choose wisely that based on the limited resources, the best decision-making practices is rational decision-making. As frederick Mayenc refers to the wisdom of the states, John Mearsheimer believes that the governments live in a world that is full of threats and units that tend to maximize their strength to survive: "The main goal of any government is to maximize its share of world power which means obtaining power which is detrimental to others (Moshirzadeh, 2012).

Between the late 15th century and the late 17th century, most European countries witnessed focused political and military power under the rule of King which was associated with increased power and creating new methods to determine and gather state taxes and ruled a much more complicated and organized system (Kennedy, 2003).

Of course, to analyze the phenomena the conditions and time circumstances and the origin must be considered generally. We mentioned that state is not specific to after the treaty of westphalia. In other words, we have witnessed the periods of state-city, state-empire based on vassal imperial, state-Church, state-empire based on citizenship and the transference of nationality from the king to territory and during state-church although, the kings were the rulers but the power was in the hands of the church, feudal and local commanders. After 1500 AD and especially in 1648, concurrent with Westphalian treaty until the French Revolution in 1789, we witnessed king-nation the difference of which with state-empire was discussed before and since the history

of the French Revolution we have been witnessing state-nation. Perhaps, the most innovative and most evolved form of state is state-nation that talks forming a state the population of which is of one race, language, culture and history who form government and the state.

State-nations are rooted in society's fear, fatigue and aging due to war. War can be one of the causes of forming state-nation. Therefore, state-nations always keep up the possibility of war and use this situation to increase their own power. People terrified of war consider the state as the only structure for self-defense and the state is prepared to fight against any threats. No wonder that the state-nations introduce the international system which consists of the same state-nations as an anarchic system. An anarchic system means the lack of a dominating power and arbitrary states in which there is a high possibility of war.

War and battle results urgent and constant pressure to form nationalization and military power gave the possibility to many European royal dynasties to exceed the power of authorities and provide coherence and political authority. On the other hand, the military factors or rather strategic-geographic factors helped the formation of the territorial boundaries of the state-nations (Kennedy, 2003).

We said that war that is one of the important reasons for the emergence of modern states because the only existing structure in order to fight and defend against attackers is modern states. Of course, this ability was available in the past but has not been so widespread and planned. After the states discovered, the importance of regular army and armed forces, they formed armies and equipped them as far as possible through taxes. The greater armies led to increased cost of administration. Military enlargement and equipment were also affected by other states. That is to what extent they are considered as military power so that other states would strengthen their armies up to that minimum so that power vacancy would not shape and war would be prevented. Finally, this system was known as the balance of power.

In addition to the state of war in creating and maintaining states, economic issues were also effective. Although, considering economic issues as a cause of governments demands another study, economic issues are important factors to maintain government as players in the international system. Especially, since governments with the development of science, succeeded in long trips, especially cruises and had a chance to discover the unknown land which often had considerable wealth and on the other hand the competition of power led to greeter armies with greater expenses which made the states to use these expensive armies to open the ways of business for their own businessmen in other countries. Since, the

development of science had led to the increase in production higher than the internal needs and they could keep their armies busy so that they would not cause a threat for their own states. The costs of these armies were met by themselves. Finally, the internal economy facing saturation found new markets for its goods. In fact, the economic development had an intercourse with naked military power and made the military power as a factor for the development and increased economic power. In fact, the higher economic power provided possibility of long-term war and plunders to the states to strengthen the economy.

States by obtaining economic and military power and their leadership created the security and welfare that was absent previously. With enhanced security and welfare, the population increased rapidly and states in order to respond this huge population turned into a large and rooted service structure. Qualitative and quantitative growth of population made the state face with another risk. The new risk was the product of the fast security and welfare caused by economic and military management of the governments and they had to ensure loyalty and participation of the population. The most important question was whether the population would support their governments in the event of war?

Countries involved in the war wanted to be sure of the participation of their citizens in the battles. They wanted to strengthen a strong sense of national loyalty and French Revolution was a turning point in this modern history that created "the reformed country" based on the idea of universal military service (Baylis and Steve, 2013).

With the development of nationality, rulers tried to change loyalty into an inseparable relationship themselves and nations. But, with the growing awareness that was growing, people found that their intention must be involved in the government and with French Revolution associated with Rousseau and Montesquieu viewpoints this fact reached its climax.

People in Europe transferred their obedience of the emperor into the land government and by the development of the enlightenment era in Europe loyalty to the land government took a new shape. This means that during this period the belief was increasingly based on the fact that political legitimacy should be based on the rights of people rather than the right of the king to control the territory. The term people transferred a continuous and consistent community which means that people have the competence of the administration of their own affairs in a country that preserves them from aggression by others and provides security for them. In this way, the enlightenment world view presented an international political system composed of nations who were politically organized within their own territory (Mir-Heydar, 1993).

THE DISCOURSE OF RATIONALITY AND ITS DOMINATION OVER INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS:

Realism: Realism is the oldest international relations theory the analysis of which is presented based on the facts available and it has been the dominant theory in international relations. Realism has been the dominant theory of politics since the beginning of the formation of international relations (Baylis and Steve, 2013). Realism is focused on what really exists rather than what should exist. Thus, realism avoids thinking of dreams and accepts the conflicting aspects of life (Jackson and Sorenson, 2006).

Imperialism: Imperialism is among the theories relying on the state and after the success that was achieved after the 15th and 16th centuries, most European countries entered the economic competition to accumulate wealth. This competition to obtain new land or market led to the fights among European competitors. The certain thing is the relationship between geopolitical shifts in the Europe and formation of the state-nation along with endless thirst for wealth that led to strong national economy and increased political and military power which finally, led to higher profits based on wealth and or anything else.

Respective countries of the imperialist forces mixed imperialism and nationalism directing and keeping the homogeneity of the forces. Saeei (2009) writes the idea of nationalism is the strongest driving force of imperialism in one country. This means than imperialism was based on emotions and considers it as the psychological structure of the new Europe.

In fact, imperialism was the product of strong European tendencies in commercial, industrial, financial, scientific, political and intellectual fields and this is the story of all white race civilizations which is exported with a lot of pressure and it was first believed that this enlightened and civilized life should be awarded to others as well. Imperialism after the entry into other mainly African, Asian and American countries started to build railroads, towns, agricultural land and but with the passage of time and the increased influence they considered themselves as the owners of those lands and governed those lands (Palmer *et al.*, 2007).

In fact, the most important feature of the modern economic system is capitalism. Capitalism is a specific set of economic relations the main feature of which is private ownership of property, labor costs and market trade. According to some theorists the world capitalist system existed since the 16th century. Imperialism wants to focus development on specific areas called centers and they are

characterized with advanced industrialization, rapid technological development, the high rate of wages and high standards of living. The surrounding areas which geographically form the majority of the world's economy are characterized by limited industrialization, low technical innovation and relatively low standard of living (Lairson and Skidmore, 2008).

Nationalism: Nationalism is one of the main pillars of the new state-nation based on the shares culture, race and has established a nation by gathering people who have a common connection or common history in terms of history and culture and has used nationalism as a tool for consistency and integrity of the nation as it was used to gather a nation. Samuel (1994) argued ideology and nationalism could jointly hold the regimes.

Nationalism suggests a common sense and a sense of fate which has a political dimension. Since, nationalism as the basis of common authorization, it requires human aspirations to achieve glory. This authorizing attitude identifies traditional weak and powerless human enslaved in industry. The former identities can be quickly replaced by this form of identity. The reason elevation of nationalist movements is that they are based on political powers. This power -oriented attitude in nationalism may appear in two forms: either constructive or destructive (Hossein, 2006).

Anthony Smith, one of the most important nationalist analysts believes that humans are naturally divided into nations and each nation has a specific characteristic, the source of political power is nation and if the nation is considered as a whole, humans in order to achieve their freedom and realization of their demands must be in the form of a nation, a nation is realized in the form of country and loyalty and dependence on the country are prior to other factors and the first condition of global freedom is to strengthen state-nations (Baylis and Steve, 2013).

In the new era, the totalitarianism is justified by ideology and nationalism. Nationalism is also a national force and it is capable of legitimizing authoritarian democratic governance (Samuel, 1994). Accordingly the justifications that state- nations provide to maintain their integrity and prevent fragmentation are in fact justification of their authoritarianism.

Certainly, extreme nationalism as grew rapidly in European countries after 1870 was a major factor in the ideology of imperialism and this factor was completed by increasing economic and industrial facilities. If there was no support of nationalists from the foreign policy based on power which was against bourgeoisie and to some

extent the masses, they could not make the states to follow the policy of imperialist in such a large scale (Saeei, 2009).

Mercantilism: At the end of the fifteenth century and at the beginning of the sixteenth century, the discovery of America and access to India through Africa presented extensive facilities. First spanish and portuguese followed the path of seas and the oceans to use the expensive trophies of newfound territories (Al-Rahman, 2005).

Reforms that took place in Europe in the 15th and 16th centuries were the results of rapid growth of science that provided the necessary technology for expeditions out of which mercantilism was born. With the reform of the internal structures and the introduction of state-nations and the importance of wealth in managing this structure, state-nations turned into mercantilism to meet their expenses. Another reason for state-nations turning into mercantilism was engaging the nations with economic affairs using the experience gained from expeditions or trade wars with other European countries. Therefore, the Europeans were after opening trade route and gaining the destination countries' wealth with the gun power. Therefore, mercantilism is the philosophy of original wealth (Palmer et al., 2007).

Mercantilists have shared assumption with realists in international relations. Mercantilists assume that the global economy is the sphere of competition between governments who are after increased and relative power. Simply put, international system is like a forest in which each state must do whatever is necessary to provide for its own survival. For this reason, the goal of any government is to increase wealth and independence (Baylis and Steve, 2013).

State-nations and mercantilism reinforce each other. So, the strong state economically has the power to provide more military budget and the potential for the war and as the economic power gets higher, the military power will expand in terms of quality and quantity. Military power with stronger military power and weapons can make other countries follow its rules which are unilateral and in favor of the greater power has the power to open the markets of other state-nations with naked military power to the businessmen and ultimately the benefit of its own state-nation.

CONCLUSION

After spending more than a decade of accelerated globalization and arrival of the 21st century, a good view of the role of state-nation in the modern era is achieved.

In this era, the state has maintained its dominant position as a major player but some changes have occurred in its nature and level position which have had a major effect on international relations knowledge.

"Over recent years some of the domains in the theories of state-nation have experienced a fundamental revision that refer to the permeability of the nature of the territorial state-nation. These revisions question the ideas such as the existence of the national economy (in international political economy course) the reliability and efficiency of the state-nation as a provider of security (in the form of security studies), ethical identity of state-nation (in the normative theory of the international relationship) and sustainability of democratic institutions on the state-nation territory (in theory of politics)". In the era of globalization as the world instances circle has grown wider, the national instances circle has become more and more limited. In the present era, global security, justice, democracy, citizenship and even the global state have become very important.

Globalization undermines the idea that the state-nation has a fixed identity historically and has changed the "traditional concepts of sovereignty, nationhood and ideological borders" and has provided the context to transfer some of the functions and powers to other actors but the state-nation has still survived strongly and will not leave the scene easily. The big events at the beginning of the century confirm the fact that state-nations will use any new opportunity to restore their position and maintain their centrality.

Knowledge of international relations in the era of globalization has changed and after the third debate on the international relations the result of which was the challenge and the withdrawal of the intellectual frame works and rational and positivism theories against critical thinking and ultra-positivism models, it entered as new phase which is called "Renaissance".

According to the principles governing the Concert of Europe and the realities of modern international relations it is found that the emerging rational discourses have overcome all practical, technical and theoretical aspects of international stage and have removed the domination of the Concert of Europe doctrines. Of course, the nations' welcoming these transitions of this discourses have been very effective in their mastery.

However, it should be noted that the Concert of Europe has had its desired impact greatly on the state-nations' international scenes. For example, there is a UN security council and the creation of a right to veto in making critical decisions in this organization.

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