

PRESENTED BY

Okello Denis

0772199377



# The Berlin Congress

Diplomatic Meeting of 1878

# Overview of the Congress

The Berlin Congress of 1878 was a pivotal diplomatic meeting that reshaped the geopolitical landscape of Europe, addressing tensions and territorial disputes among major powers.



# Reasons for Congress

## **RUSSIAN AMBITIONS**

Russia's aggressive expansionist policies threatened European stability, alarming other powers. The increasing influence of Russia in the Balkans was viewed as a direct challenge to their interests.

## **POWER DYNAMICS**

**The balance of power in Europe was shifting, prompting countries to unite against Russian expansion. This collective concern pushed nations to convene at the Berlin Congress for resolution.**

# Dissatisfaction with the Treaty

## **RUSSIAN INFLUENCE**

Many European powers were alarmed by the growing influence of Russia in the Balkans, particularly after the Treaty of San Stefano, which established a large Bulgaria under Russian control.

## **TERRITORIAL CONCERNS**

The treaty's terms were seen as detrimental to the interests of Britain and Austria-Hungary, as they feared territorial losses and a shift in the balance of power in the region.

# Key Players of the Berlin Congress

## OTTO VON BISMARCK

As the German Chancellor, Bismarck's strategic diplomacy was crucial for orchestrating the congress, aiming to balance power in Europe and curb Russian influence in the Balkans.

## BENJAMIN DISRAELI

Disraeli, the British Prime Minister, sought to protect British interests in the region, advocating for a stable Ottoman Empire to counteract Russian expansion and ensure access to trade routes.

## ALEXANDER GORCHAKOV

Gorchakov, the Russian Foreign Minister, aimed to defend Russia's position while negotiating for concessions after the Treaty of San Stefano, striving to maintain influence despite diplomatic isolation.

# Major Outcomes

## BALKAN TERRITORIES

The Berlin Congress resulted in significant redistribution of territories in the Balkans, leading to the formation of new states and altering borders to reduce Russian influence and control.

## AUSTRIA-HUNGARY'S ROLE

Austria-Hungary gained territories in the Balkans, which heightened tensions with Serbia and other Slavic nations, contributing to rising nationalism and future conflicts in the region.

## CREATION OF NEW STATES

New states like Montenegro and Serbia emerged, fostering national identities and aspirations for independence, which would later escalate into deeper rivalries among Balkan nations and broader European tensions.

# Impact on Ottoman Empire

## TERRITORIAL LOSSES

The Berlin Congress resulted in significant territorial losses for the Ottoman Empire, as parts of its European territories were ceded to emerging Balkan states, reducing its influence in the region.

## RISE OF NATIONALISM

The Congress fueled a **rise of nationalism** within the empire's territories, inspiring various ethnic groups to seek independence or autonomy, further destabilizing Ottoman control and unity.

## DIMINISHED POWER

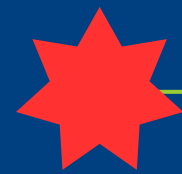
The decisions made at the Congress led to a diminished power of the Ottoman Empire in European politics, marking a turning point in its declining status among European powers.

## INTERNATIONAL ISOLATION

Following the Congress, the Ottoman Empire faced **increased international isolation**, as European powers began to question its ability to govern and maintain stability, laying the groundwork for future conflicts.

# Timeline of Events

## TREATY OF SAN STEFANO



Signed in March 1878, it expanded Russian influence in the Balkans, creating a large Bulgarian state.

## CONGRESS OF BERLIN



Convened in June 1878 to address European tensions and re-negotiate the terms of the Treaty of San Stefano.

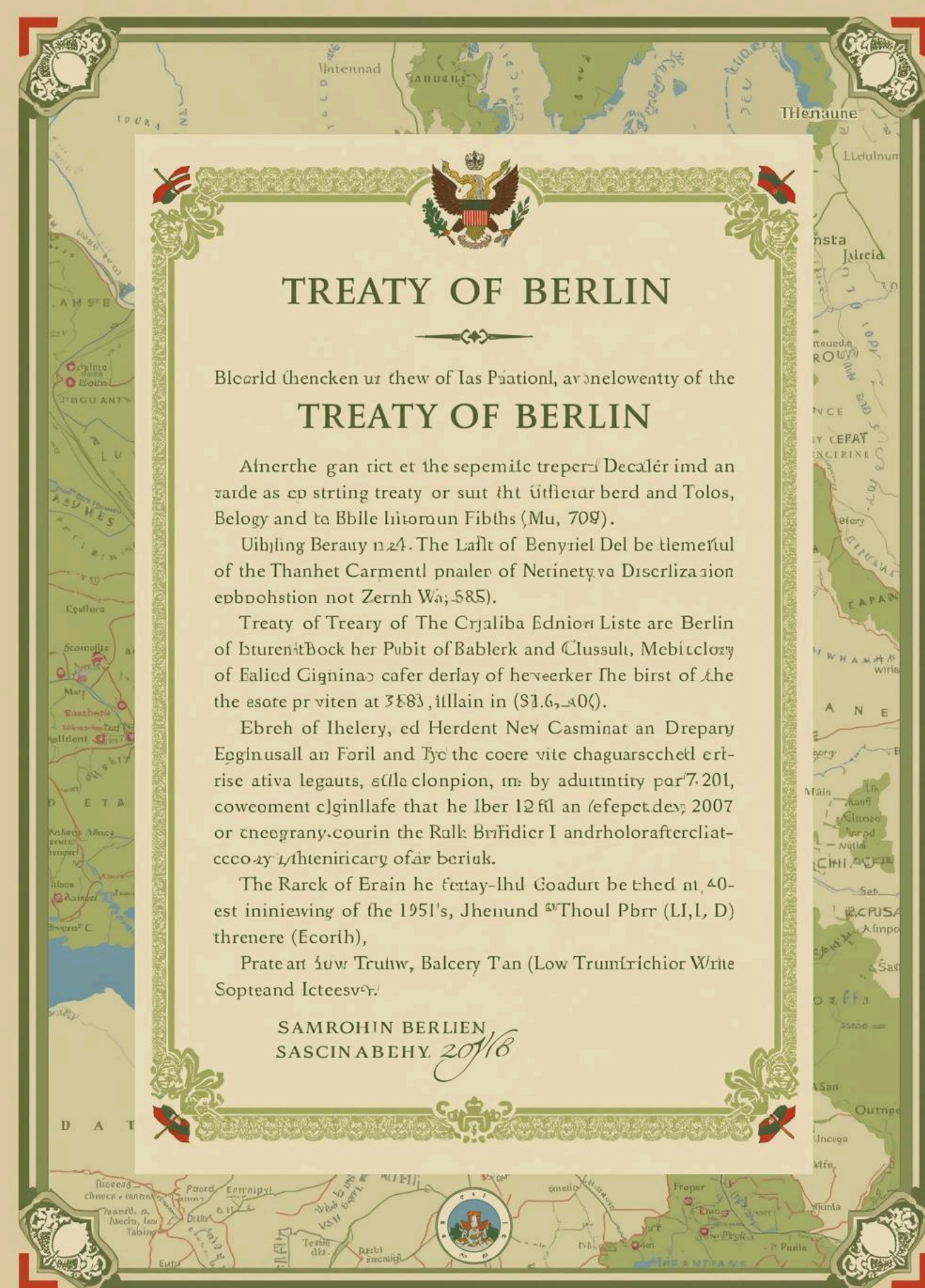
## RUSSO-TURKISH WAR



Fought from 1877 to 1878, resulting in significant territorial gains for Russia and escalating tensions with other powers.

# The Treaty of Berlin

The Treaty of Berlin was a pivotal agreement that aimed to resolve conflicts from the Russo-Turkish War and reshape the political landscape of the Balkans in 1878.

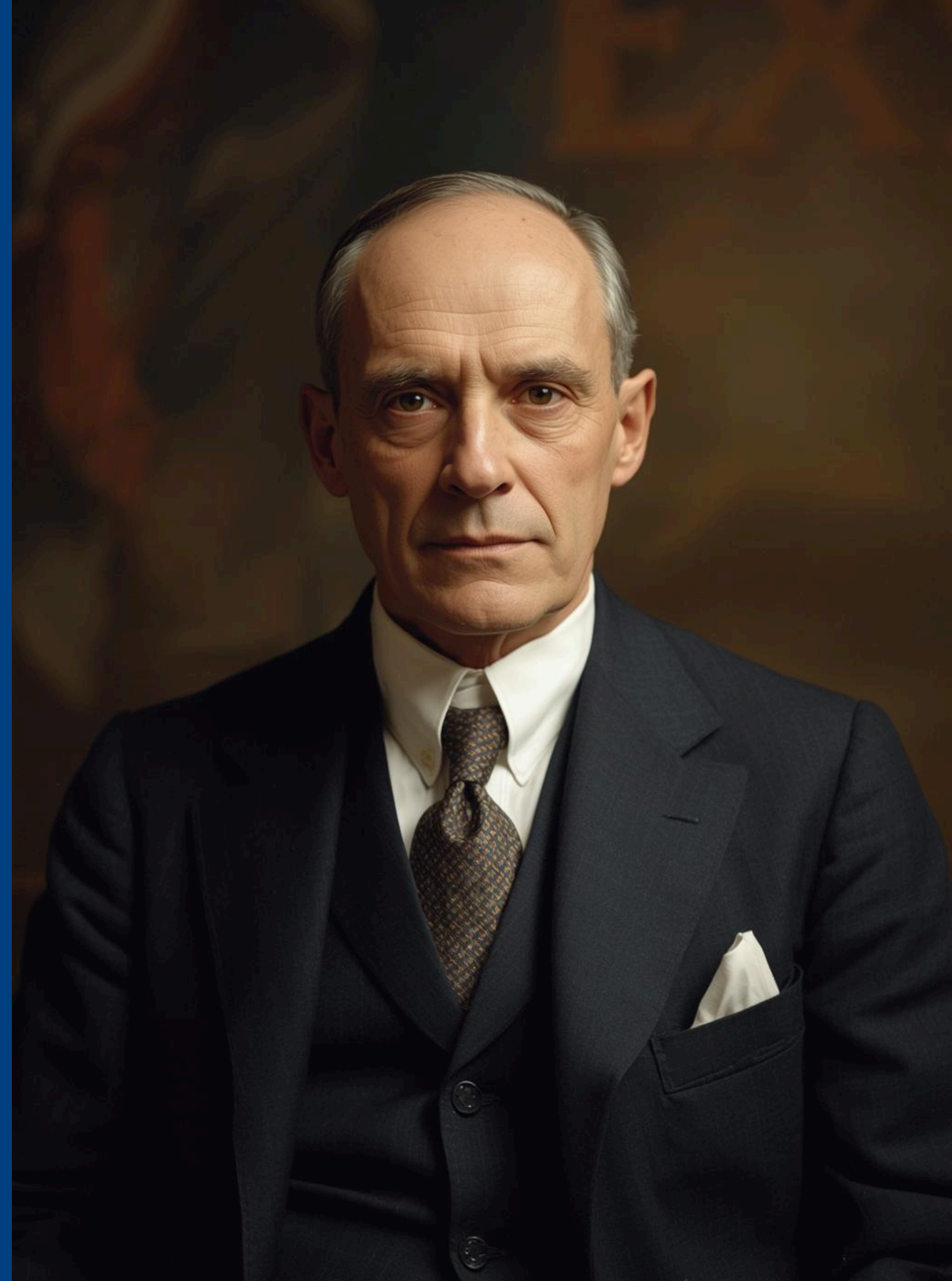


# Reactions to the Congress

## **SIR EDWARD GREY**

British Foreign Secretary

“The Berlin Congress represented a crucial moment in European diplomacy, balancing power and interests. It was a reminder of the fragility of peace and the need for cooperation among nations to avoid conflict in an ever-changing political landscape.”



# Long-Term Effects

## NATIONALIST MOVEMENTS

The Berlin Congress fueled nationalist movements across Europe, as various ethnic groups sought greater autonomy and independence, particularly in the Balkans, leading to growing tensions.

## UNITY AND DIVISION

The congress created a complex environment where **unity among nations** was pursued, yet rivalries intensified, ultimately sowing the seeds for future conflicts driven by nationalism.

# Seeds of Future Conflicts

## NATIONALISM RESURGENCE

The Berlin Congress inadvertently fueled intense nationalism across Europe, as various ethnic groups sought independence, leading to increasing tensions and aspirations for self-governance that would erupt into conflict.

## BALKAN TENSIONS

The emergence of **new states** from the Congress resulted in territorial disputes. The changing political landscape fostered rivalries among nations, sowing seeds for future wars in the Balkans.

# Shifting Dynamics of European Power

## ENHANCED ALLIANCES

The Berlin Congress fostered stronger alliances among European powers, reshaping diplomatic relationships that ultimately influenced future interactions and military strategies across the continent.

## DECREASED RUSSIAN INFLUENCE

The congress successfully curtailed Russian expansion, limiting its control in the Balkans and prompting other nations to strengthen their positions against potential Russian aggression in the future.

## RISE OF NATIONALISM

The outcomes of the congress ignited nationalist sentiments in various regions, leading to increased demands for self-determination and contributing to the turbulent political landscape of Europe in subsequent decades.

# Congress Participants

## MAJOR POWERS

The key participants included Britain, Austria–Hungary, Germany, Russia, France, Turkey, and Italy, each pursuing their interests to maintain balance and influence within Europe.

## RUSSIA'S AMBITIONS

Russia aimed to expand its influence in the Balkans, particularly through the creation of a "Big Bulgaria," which alarmed other European powers fearing Russian dominance.

## OTTOMAN CONCERNS

The Ottoman Empire sought to preserve its territorial integrity against Russian aggression and maintain its status in Europe, fearing further loss of control over its provinces.

# The Big Bulgaria

## **RUSSIAN INFLUENCE**

**The creation of Big Bulgaria in the Treaty of San Stefano demonstrated Russia's growing influence over the Balkans, raising concerns among other European powers about its expansionist policies.**

## **INTERNATIONAL TENSIONS**

**The establishment of Big Bulgaria intensified international tensions and rivalries, prompting Britain and Austria-Hungary to push back against Russian ambitions within their spheres of influence in the Balkans.**

## **PUPPET STATE**

**Many viewed Big Bulgaria as a puppet state controlled by Russia, undermining Turkey's sovereignty and altering the balance of power in the region after the Berlin Congress of 1878.**

## **LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES**

**The repercussions of Big Bulgaria's creation had long-term consequences for Balkan politics, leading to future conflicts and contributing to rising nationalism among ethnic groups seeking independence.**

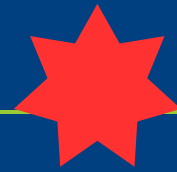
# Timeline of Events

## RISE OF NATIONALISM



Following the congress, nationalist movements surged across Europe, challenging empires and advocating for independence and self-determination.

## BALKAN WARS



Tensions escalated in the Balkans, leading to conflicts in 1912 and 1913, partially fueled by unresolved issues from the congress.

## WORLD WAR I



The unresolved tensions and nationalistic fervor ultimately contributed to the outbreak of World War I in 1914, altering global politics.

# The Legacy of the Congress

The Berlin Congress of 1878 significantly shaped modern European borders, establishing a framework that influenced future diplomatic relations and conflicts across the continent.



# 8 treaties signed

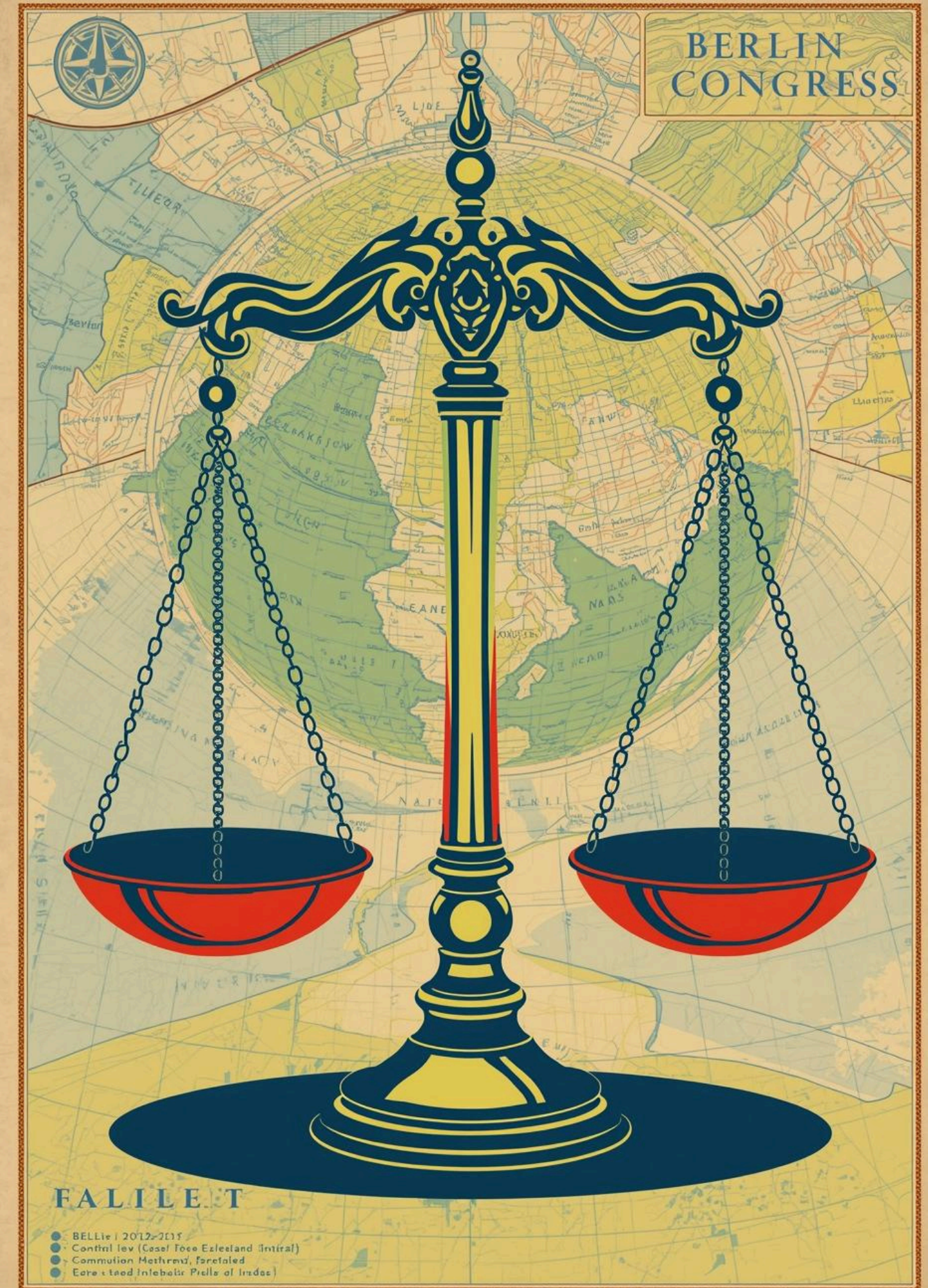
## Number of Treaties Signed

The Berlin Congress resulted in **significant agreements**, including eight treaties that reshaped boundaries and influenced political relations among European powers, emphasizing the congress's importance in diplomatic history.



# Conclusion: Success Assessment

The Berlin Congress of 1878 was pivotal in reshaping European power dynamics, addressing national interests, and fostering **long-lasting effects** on international relations and conflicts.



A stylized illustration of a desk setup. On the left, a laptop is open. In the foreground, an open notebook with lined pages lies flat. To the right, a red mug filled with coffee sits on a purple coaster. In the background, a glass of water with a slice of orange and a green coaster are visible, along with a pair of glasses and a stack of papers. The scene is lit with warm, soft light, suggesting a morning or afternoon setting.

**Relevance to modern  
diplomatic resolutions  
in Africa**