

Napoléon Bonaparte

early life

born in 1769 in Corsica to a upper-middle class family
won a scholarship to a military school



Napoleon's father, Carlo Buonaparte, was Corsica's representative to the court of Louis XVI of France.



Napoleon Bonaparte at the Royal Artillery School in Auxonne
François Flameng



Napoleon Bonaparte, aged 23, Lieutenant-Colonel of a battalion of Corsican Republican volunteers

was commissioned as a lieutenant in the French army
he was not popular with his fellow officers.

studied French philosophers and famous military campaigns
the Committee of Public Safety made him a brigadier general in 1792 when he was 24

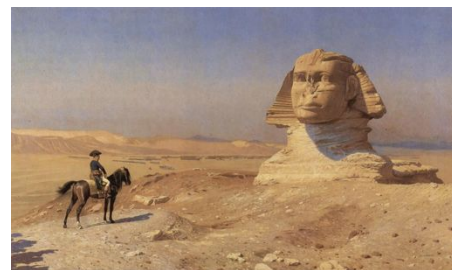
Napoléon's Rise to Power

Napoléon was jailed during the Thermidorian Reaction of 1794
once released he protected the Directory from mob violence
the so-called "Whiff of Grapeshot"
he was appointed to command the Army of Italy



A Whiff of Grapeshot - Felicien von Myrbach

returned to France in 1797 as a military hero
suggested striking indirectly at Britain by taking Egypt
the British defeated the French naval forces supporting
Napoléon's army in Egypt
sensing defeat, Napoléon returned to Paris
took part in an overthrow of the Directory



Napoleon Bonaparte Before the Sphinx
by Jean-Léon Gérôme

Napoléon named "First Consul"
could now appoint officials, control the army, conduct foreign affairs, and influence the legislature
named "Consul For Life" in 1802
crowned himself "Emperor Napoléon I" in 1804

Napoléon's Domestic Policies



Bonaparte, First Consul
by Jean Auguste Dominique Ingres



Napoleon Crossing the Alps
by Jacques-Louis David, 1805

Religion:

Catholicism was recognized as the majority religion

the pope agreed that church lands seized in the revolution would not have to be returned

Education:

placed the French educational system under the control of the federal government

created lycees, universities, and technical schools.

Economy:

created the Bank of France

required every French citizen to pay taxes

created the Continental System:

forbid British goods from reaching the European continent
(it eventually failed)

Laws:

in 1804 Napoléon condensed the almost 300 different French legal systems into seven law codes

called the Civil Code, or Napoléonic Code

preserved equality of all citizens

the right of the individual to choose a profession religious toleration

abolition of serfdom

Napoléon Builds An Empire



The Coronation of Napoleon by Jacques-Louis David

Napoleonic Wars

when he became consul in 1799, France was already at war with a European coalition

he signed a peace treaty in 1802, but war broke out with Britain again in 1803

Britain was soon joined by Austria, Russia, Sweden, and Prussia

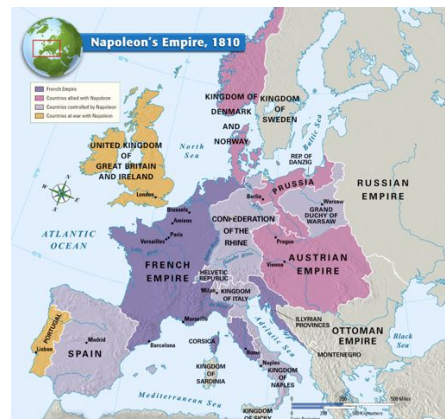
Napoléon's Grand Army defeated the Austrian, Prussian, and Russian armies

Napoléon's Grand Empire was composed of three major parts:

from France to the Rhine in the east including the western half of Italy north of Rome

dependent states in Spain, Holland, Italy, the Swiss Republic, the Grand Duchy of Warsaw, and several German states

allied states, or countries defeated by Napoléon and then forced to join his side in the wars





The Moscow Fire

The Fall of Napoléon

the Russians ignored the Continental System and imported goods from Britain

Napoléon had to punish them so that other nations would not ignore it as well

he invaded Russia in June of 1812

the Russians retreated for hundreds of miles

burned their own villages to keep Napoléon's army from finding food

Moscow was ablaze when the Napoleon's army arrived

with no food or supplies, Napoléon fled in late October in what became known as the "Great Retreat"

thousands of soldiers starved and froze along the way

fewer than 40,000 of the original 600,000 soldiers survived

Napoleon's withdrawal from Russia
by Adolph Northen

other countries began to attack the crippled French army after one day of fighting, the Sixth Coalition - consisting of Russia, Austria, and Prussia - won The Battle of Paris

the French surrendered on on March 31, 1814, ending the War of the Sixth Coalition and forcing

Emperor Napoleon was forced to abdicate and go into exile on the island of Elba

Louis XVIII to the monarchy to Fra



The Return (and Defeat) of Napoléon

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Louis XVIII to the monarchy to France

Napoléon soon escaped the island and slipped back into France

when captured by French troops he opened his coat and said:

"Soldiers of the 5th regiment...

if there is a man among you [who] would kill his Emperor, here I am!"

Shouting "Long live the Emperor!" the troops took his side - Napoléon entered Paris in triumph



Napoleon returned from Elba, by Karl Stenben

devoted veterans from all over France rallied around Napoléon

Napoléon met a combined British and Prussian army at The Battle of Waterloo in Belgium on June 18, 1815

he suffered a bloody defeat

the victorious allies exiled him to St. Helena

he remained there in exile until his death in 1821