

Napoléon Bonaparte

born in 1769 in Corsica
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

read the French philosophers
studied famous military campaigns
commissioned as a lieutenant in the French army
was not popular

became a captain at age 22
made a brigadier general at 24
by the Committee of Public Safety

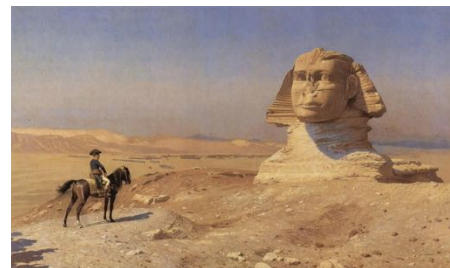
Napoléon's Rise to Power



A Whiff of Grapeshot - Felicien von Myrbach

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

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

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

Laws:

condensed the almost 300 different French legal systems into seven law codes called the Civil Code, or Napoléonic Code (1804)

preserved equality of all citizens (*except women*)
the right of the individual to choose a profession,
religious toleration, abolition of serfdom



Bonaparte, First Consul
by Jean Auguste Dominique Ingres



Napoleon Crossing the Alps
by Jacques-Louis David, 1805



Napoléon's Continental System



Napoléon's attempt to stop British goods from reaching the European continent failed: Allied states resented having their trade regulated by Napoléon

"Who shaved as well as any Man, almost not quite"
September 1806

Napoleon is the barber who shaves the powers of Europe in his shop. John Bull (England) looks in through a window.

A bill on the wall: 'Nap. Boney shaver general to most of the Sovereigns on the Continet [sic] - shaves expeditiously and clean a few Gashes excepted, is ready to undertake any new Customer who is willing to submit to the above.'



The Fall of Napoléon

rise of European nationalism:
countries conquered by Napoléon united in their hatred of Napoléon

Napoléon's army entered Russia in June 1812:
wanted to punish them for ignoring the Continental System

Russians retreated for hundreds of miles,
burning their own villages to keep Napoléon's army from finding food



The Moscow Fire unknown German artist

Moscow was ablaze when Napoléon's Grand Army arrived

in late October Napoléon led the "Great Retreat"

French soldiers starved and froze along the way
fewer than 40,000 of the 600,000 soldiers survived

*Napoleon's withdrawal
from Russia*
by Adolph Northen



other European states rose up against the crippled
French army and captured Paris in March 1814

Napoléon exiled to the island of Elba
Louis XVIII restored to the monarchy of France

The Return (and defeat) of Napoléon

Napoléon left Elba and slipped back into France



Napoleon returned from Elba, by Karl Stenben

opened his coat and told the troops sent
to capture him:

"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.

On March 20, 1815, Napoléon entered
Paris in triumph.

devoted veterans rallied from all over France to raise an army for Napoléon

June 18, 1815, Battle of Waterloo (Belgium)
Napoléon met a combined British and Prussian army
suffered a bloody defeat
exiled to island of St. Helena
remained in exile there until his death in 1821