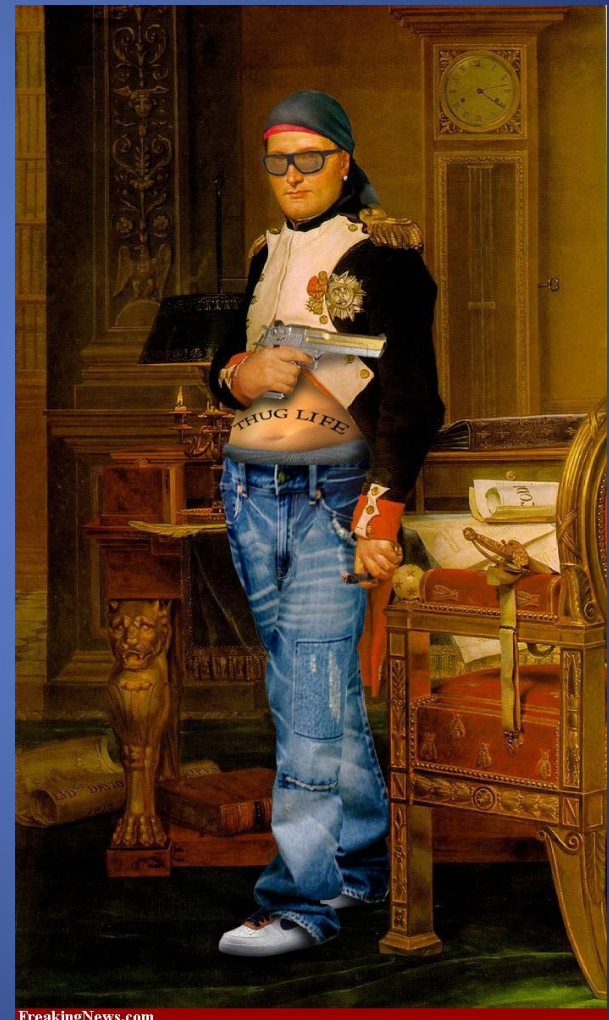


Napoleon Bonaparte



The Rise of Nappy B.

Napoleon dominated French and European history from 1799 to 1815. In a way he brought the end of the French Revolution in 1799, but was also a child of the revolution. The revolution made possible his rise in the military and then to supreme power in France.





Early Life of Nappy B

- Born in 1769 in Corsica only a few months after France had annexed the island.
- He was the son of a lawyer whose family came from Florentine nobility.
- He received a royal scholarship to study at a military school in France.
- He became a lieutenant in the French army in 1785. He was not well liked because he was short, spoke with an Italian accent, and had little money.
- Napoleon read the works of the philosophers and educated himself in military matters by studying the campaigns of great military leaders of the past.

Military Successes

- Napoleon rose quickly through the ranks. At age 24, he was made a brigadier general by the Committee of Public Safety in 1794
- In 1796, he was made commander of the French armies in Italy.
- He used speed, deception, and surprise to win a series of victories.
- Throughout his Italian campaigns, Napoleon won the confidence of his men with his energy, charm, and ability to make quick decisions. Along with his intelligence, ease with words, and his amazing confidence in himself, he was able to influence the people and win their firm support.

Consul and Emperor

- In 1799 Paris, Napoleon, who was only 30, took part in the coup d'état that overthrew the Directory. The new government was called the consulate. Theoretically it was a republic, but in fact Napoleon held absolute power.
- As first consul, Napoleon controlled the entire government. He appointed members of the bureaucracy, controlled the army, conducted foreign affairs, and influenced the legislature.
- In 1802, Napoleon was made consul for life. Two years later, he crowned himself Emperor Napoleon I.



Napoleon's Domestic Policies

Napoleon once claimed that he was “the preserver of the revolution” for the French people. Although, the ideal of republican liberty had been destroyed by Napoleon’s takeover of power.

Were the ideals of the French Revolution maintained in other ways?



Peace with the Church

- Even though Napoleon had no personal religious faith, one of his first moves was to establish peace with the oldest enemy of the revolution, the Catholic Church. He saw the need to restore stability to France and most of the French were Catholic.
- In 1801, Napoleon made an agreement with the Pope. He agreed to recognize Catholicism as the religion of a majority of the French people. In return, the pope agreed not to ask for the return of the church lands seized in the revolution.
- Because of this agreement the Catholic Church was no longer an enemy of the French government. At the same time, those who had bought church lands during the revolution became avid supporters of Napoleon.

Codification of the Laws

- Before the revolution, France had over 300 different legal systems.



- The Civil Code or Napoleonic Code preserved most of the gains of the revolution by recognizing the principle of the equality of all citizens before the law, the right of the individual to choose a profession, religious toleration, and the abolition of serfdom and feudalism. Property rights continued to be carefully protected, and the interests of employers were safe guarded by outlawing trade unions and strikes.

Godification of the Laws

- During the radical phase of the French Revolution, new laws had made divorce an easy process for both husbands and wives and also had allowed all children (including daughters) to inherit property equally. Napoleon's Civil Code undid these laws.
- Divorce was still allowed but the Civil Code made it more difficult for women to obtain divorces.
- Women were now "less equal than men". When they married, their property was brought under the control of their husbands. In lawsuits, they were treated as minors and their testimony was considered as less reliable than that of men.



A New Bureaucracy

- Promotions, whether in civil or military offices, were based not on rank or birth but on ability only. Opening government careers to individuals based on their ability was one change the middle class had wanted before the revolution.

- Napoleon created 3,263 nobles between 1808 and 1814. Nearly 60% were military. Only 22% came from nobility of the old regime. Almost 60% were from the middle class.



Preserver of the Revolution?

- Napoleon did preserve some aspects of the revolution. The Civil Code preserved the equality of all citizens before the law and opening government jobs to more of the people was also another gain retained from the revolution.



- Napoleon did however destroy some revolutionary ideals. Napoleon shut down 60 of France's 73 newspapers and all items were to be subjected to government scrutiny before being published. Even the mail was opened by government police.

Napoleon's Empire

A faded background image of Napoleon Bonaparte on a white horse, wearing a red cloak, set against a landscape. The image is semi-transparent, allowing the text to be overlaid.

Napoleon is known less for his domestic policies than for his military leadership. His conquests began soon after he rose to power.

Building the Empire



- When Napoleon became consul in 1799, France was at war with a European coalition of Russia, Great Britain, and Austria. He realized the need for a pause in the war in order to get France back in order.

- After achieving peace in 1802, he renewed war with Britain in 1803. Gradually, Britain was joined by Austria, Russia, Sweden, and Prussia. Napoleon's Grand Army defeated the Austrian, Prussian, and Russian armies.

Building the Empire

- From 1807 to 1812, Nappy B. was the master of Europe. His empire composed of three parts:

French Empire

- Inner core of Grand Empire
- Consisted of enlarged France extending to the Rhine

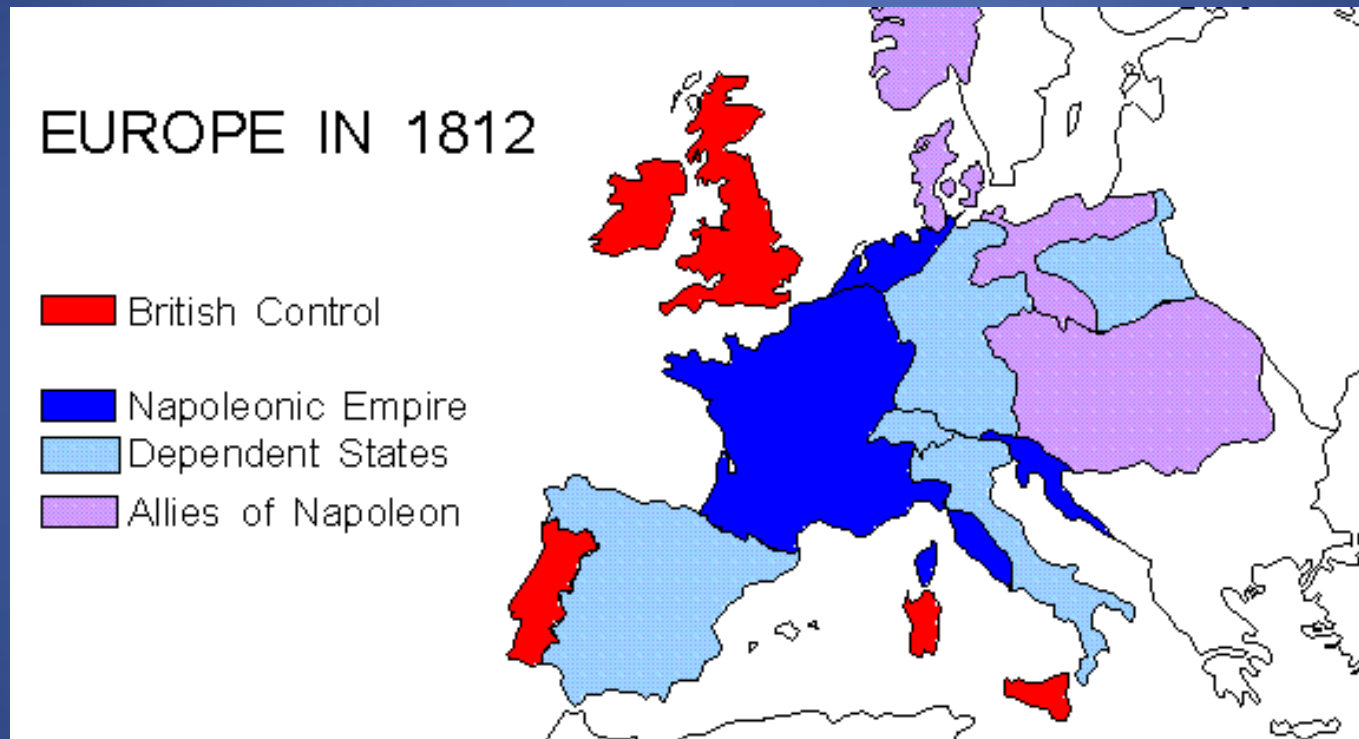
Dependent States

- Kingdoms under the rule of Napoleon's relatives
- Included Spain, Holland, kingdom of Italy, Swiss Republic, Grand Duchy of Warsaw, and the Confederation of the Rhine

Allied States

- States defeated by Napoleon and forced to join the struggle against Britain
- Included Prussia, Russia, and Sweden.

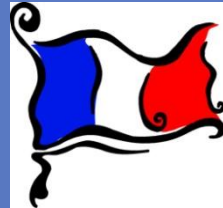
Building the Empire



[Napoleons Empire in 1812](#)

Spreading the Principles of the Revolution

- Within his empire Napoleon tried to spread some principles of the revolution including legal equality, religious toleration, and economic freedom.



- In the inner core and dependent states of his Grand Empire Napoleon tried to destroy the old order. The nobility and clergy in these areas lost their special privileges. He decreed equality before the law and religious toleration.

The European Response

Like Hitler, Napoleon hoped that his Grand Empire would last for centuries. Like Hitler's empire it collapsed almost as rapidly as it had been formed. Two major reasons were the survival of Great Britain and the force of nationalism.



Britain's Survival

- Britain's survival was due primarily to its sea power. As long as Britain ruled the waves it was almost invulnerable to military attack.
- Napoleon had hoped to invade Britain and collect ships. The British still held, defeating a combined French-Spanish fleet which destroyed any idea of an invasion.
- Napoleon then tried to destroy Britain economically by preventing goods from Britain to reach the main land of Europe. Britain responded by finding new markets in the Middle East and Latin America. They stayed as strong as ever.

Nationalism

Nationalism is the unique cultural identity of a people based on common language, religion, and national symbols. The spirit of French nationalism had made possible the mass armies of the revolutionary and Napoleonic eras.

Aroused
Nationalism
Created By
Napoleon
which backfired

France was hated as an oppressor. This hatred stirred the patriotism of others against the French.

The French showed the people of Europe what nationalism was and what a nation in arms could do.

The Fall of Nappy B.



Disaster in Russia

- The Russians were not following what Nappy B. was telling them to do, so he knew he had to invade Russia again. He knew it was a great risk to invade such a big country but he had no choice. If he allowed Russia to challenge the Continental System unopposed, then others would soon follow suit.
- In June of 1812, a Grand Army of over 600,000 men entered Russia. Napoleon's only hopes depended on a quick defeat. The Russians however refused to battle. They retreated hundreds of miles burning their own villages and countryside to keep Nappy's army from finding food.



Disaster in Russia

When the Russians finally decided to fight in Borodino, Napoleon's forces won an indecisive and costly victory.

When the remaining Grand Army arrived in Moscow, they found the city ablaze. With Napoleon's army lacking food and supplies, he abandoned Moscow in late October and began the "Great Retreat". Less than 40,000 managed to make it back to Poland in January of 1813.

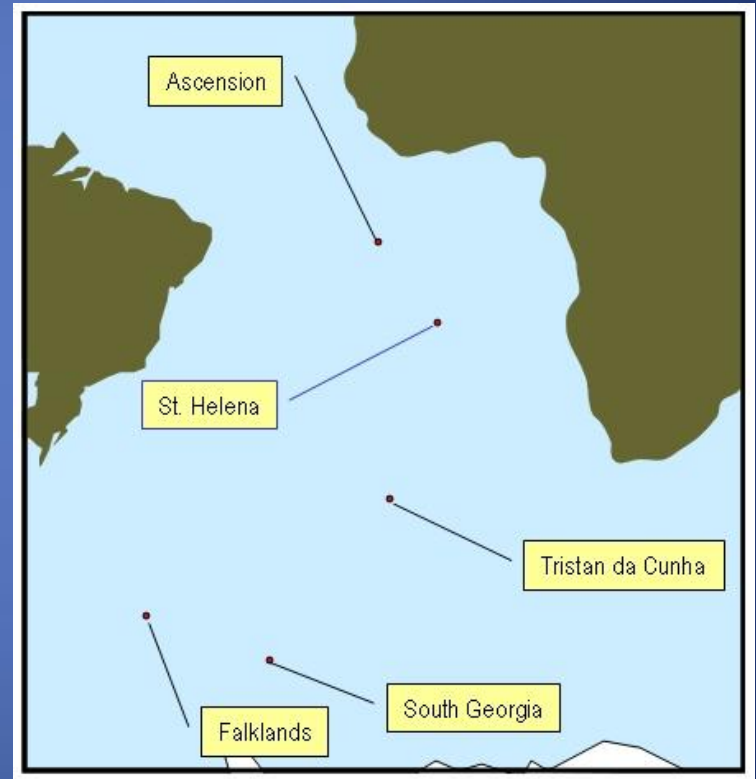
The military disaster led to other European states to rise up against the crippled French army and Paris was captured in March of 1814. Napoleon was sent into exile on the island of Elba, off the coast of Tuscany.

The Bourbon monarchy was restored to France in Louis XVIII, Louis XVI's brother.



The Final Defeat

- The new king had little support and Napoleon was bored on Elba. He slipped back into France and the troops that were sent to capture him instead sided with him. Napoleon entered back into Paris on March 20, 1815. The powers that defeated Napoleon before pledged to do so again calling him the “Enemy and Disturber of Tranquility of the World.”
- Napoleon raised an army and moved to attack forces in Belgium. At Waterloo in Belgium on June 18, 1815, Napoleon met British and Prussian armies and suffered a bloody defeat.
- This time Napoleon was exiled to St. Helena in the South Atlantic.



The End of Nappy B.



Napoleon died of stomach cancer on May 5,
1821.

Wives of Napoleon

Josephine

- Real name was Rose but Napoleon did not like it so he changed it.
- Her first husband died in the French Revolution.
- She had lovers while Napoleon was away and the British found out and published it in the papers.
- Napoleon chose to divorce her after she could not produce an heir

Marie Louise

- The great niece of Marie Antoinette.
- They were married until his death, but never saw each other again after he was exiled in Elba.
- They had one son together named Napoleon Francis Joseph Charles known from birth as King of Rome. He died at the age of 21.

He acknowledged two illegitimate children although it is said that he had up to eight.