



# NAPOLEON BONAPARTE

CHILD OF THE REVOLUTION  
OR  
TRAITOR TO THE REVOLUTION

# AN EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNT

- Count Mole's, a Councilor of State, Minister, and peer of France, remarks on Napoleon, early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

...The more I saw of him, the more I observed him, the more firmly I was persuaded that, always under the sway of the moment, he thought of nothing but his own gratification, of magnifying himself and his power without limit and without rest. Irritated by the least obstacle, sacrificing everything to overcome it, and seeking only to establish at every juncture that nothing could resist his might and his will, when he had to choose between present and future he would choose the present, as being more certain and more subject to his control. In short, he was much less concerned to leave behind him a "race," a dynasty, than a name which should have no equal and glory, that could not be surpassed....

"The impossible," he said to me one day, "is a word of purely relative meaning. Every man has his 'impossible,' according to how much or how little he can do. The impossible," he added with a smile, "is the ghost of the diffident and the refuge of the fainthearted. On the lips of power, believe me, it is only a declaration of impotence."

# WHO WAS NAPOLEON BONAPARTE?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V4QsRYVMuU0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9l21Mbhnguk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UbkQ9ZFR6nM>



# FRANCE AFTER THE REIGN OF TERROR

- From 1794 –1799 New Government: **The Directory**
  - Bi-Cameral (Two House) Legislature
    - 5 Person Executive Branch (Weak)
  - Supposed to protect from Reign of Terror
- Both royalists and radicals attack the Directory (too moderate).

# NAPOLEON SAVES THE DAY (TWICE)

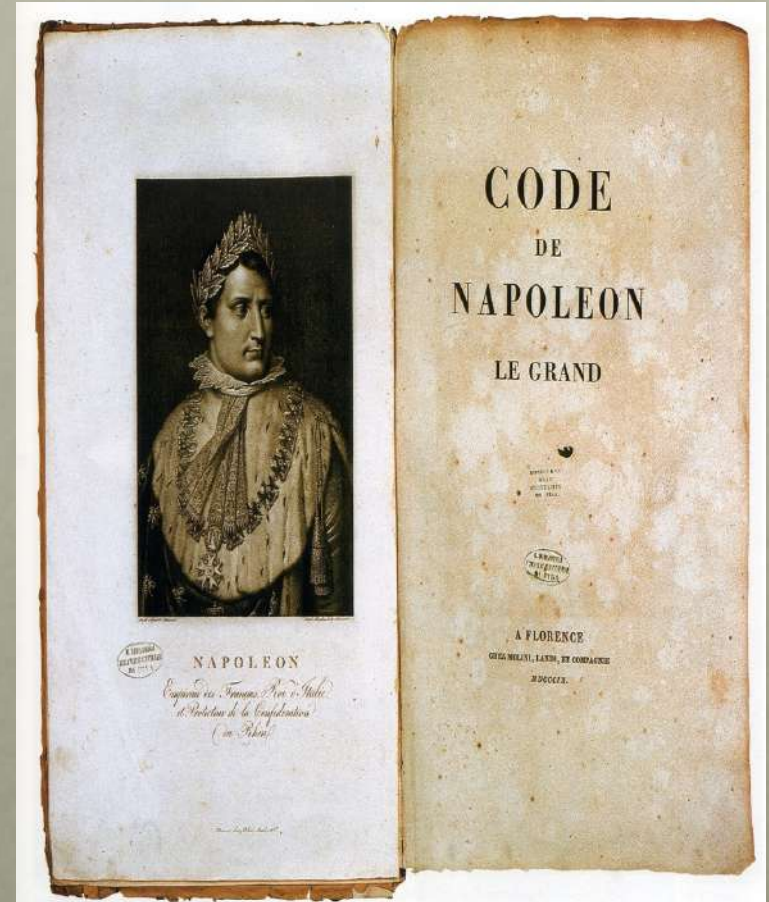
- In 1793, the British, Spanish and French Royalists attack to bring down the Directory. Napoleon defeats the group.
- In 1795, Royalists again attempt to take over the Directory and once again Napoleon saves the day.
- **Napoleon's popularity is at an all time high!**
- Napoleon leads France to victory over Austria and expands France's territory.
- In 1799 Napoleon Bonaparte overthrows the Directory in a Coup d' Etat.

# REVOLUTION RECAP



# NAPOLEONIC CODE

- The Napoleonic Code was not based on earlier French laws but instead it followed Justinian's *Corpus Juris Civilis* in dividing civil law into:
  - the law of persons;
  - the law of property;
  - acquisition of property.
- Napoleon set out to reform the French legal system in accordance with the ideas of the French Revolution because the old feudal and royal laws seemed confusing and contradictory to the people. Before the Code, France did not have a single set of laws; laws depended on local customs, and often on exemptions, privileges and special charters granted by the kings or other feudal lords. During the Revolution, the last vestiges of feudalism were abolished. Specifically, the many different legal systems used in different parts of France were to be replaced by a single legal code.



# THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY

- All citizens equal before the law.
- Religious freedom guaranteed. (Concordat of 1801)
- Limited freedom of speech & press.
- Ends special treatment based on birth – Merit System established. (Civil Service)
- Created the National Bank of France
- Took away rights women had gained under the revolution.
- Made the “State” more important than the individual.
- Set up a school system. (Lycees)
- Re-established slavery in French colonies. (1802)



# NAPOLEON'S EMPIRE

1802-1812



- **1804 – Napoleon declares himself emperor.**
- Napoleon's diary entry on December 30, 1802:

“My power proceeds from my reputation, and my reputation from the victories I have won. My power would fail if I were not to support it with more glory and more victories. Conquest has made me what I am; only conquest can maintain me. Friendship is only a word; I love nobody; no, not even my brothers...As for me, you don't suppose I care; I know perfectly well I have no real friends. As long as I remain what I am, I shall have as many as I need so far as the appearance goes...”

# CONQUEST



Letter written to Jerome  
Napoleon, King of Westphalia, by  
Napoleon on November 15, 1807

Napoleon's Imperial Decree at  
Madrid, December 4, 1808

- I am concerned for the happiness of your subjects, not only as it affects your reputation, and my own, but also for its influence on the whole European situation...Your throne will never be firmly established except upon the trust and affection of the common people. What German opinion impatiently demands is that men of no rank, but of marked ability, shall have an equal claim upon your favor and your employment, and that every trace of serfdom, or of a feudal hierarchy between the sovereign and the lowest class of his subjects, shall be done away. The benefits of the Code Napoleon, public trial, and the introduction of juries, will be the leading features of your government. And to tell you the truth...I want your subjects to enjoy a higher degree of liberty, equality, and prosperity hitherto unknown to the German people. I want this liberal regime to produce, one way or another, changes which will be of the utmost benefit to the system of the Confederation, and to strengthen your monarchy. Such a method of government will be a strong barrier between you and Prussia than the Elbe [River], the fortress, and the protection of France. What people will want to return to under the arbitrary Prussian rule, once it has tasted the benefits of a wise and liberal administration? In Germany, as in France, Italy, and Spain, people long for equality and liberalism.
- To date from the publication of the present decree, feudal rights are abolished in Spain. All personal obligations, all exclusive fishing rights and other rights of similar nature on the coast or on the rivers and streams, all feudal monopolies of ovens, mills and inns are suppressed. It shall be free to everyone who shall conform to the laws to develop his industry without restraint. The tribunal of the Inquisition is abolished, as inconsistent with the civil sovereignty and authority. The property of the Inquisition shall be sequestered and fall to the Spanish state, to serve as security for the bonded debt.

# WAR IN EUROPE

- “Guerrilla Warfare”  
Guerrilla = Spanish for little war. (Hit and run attacks, ambushes, night raids.)
- Battle of Trafalgar 1805  
(British Navy wins)
- Blocking the British.
- Invading Russia 1812.  
(Scorched Earth Policy)
- Battle of Nations (1813)



# GLOBAL EFFECT

## Louisiana Purchase



## Haitian Revolution (1804)



# NAPOLEON EXILED

Elba



St. Helena



# YOU DECIDE...

- Napoleon claims to be a child of the French Revolution, but did he uphold or betray the ideals of the revolution?
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8aq\\_gRfmjgY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8aq_gRfmjgY)
- Write one paragraph defending your claim!