



Ch. 19 – The Age of Napoleon

Focus Question: Which aspects of the French Revolution did Napoleon preserve, and which did he destroy?

The Rise of Napoleon



- Son of an Italian lawyer from the Florentine nobility
- Studied in the French town of Autun, where he learned to speak French.
- Read the works of the philosophes, especially Rousseau.
- Studied Alexander the Great, Charlemagne, and Frederick the Great.

Napoleon's Military Career



- Saved the National Convention in October of 1795 from a Parisian mob and was promoted to the rank of major general.
- Charismatic leader that saw himself as a military genius.
- Attempted to take Egypt from the British, only to abandon his defeated army and return to participate in the coup d'etat in 1799.

Napoleon in Control



- Constitution of the coup established a bicameral legislative assembly elected indirectly to limit elections.
- Article 42 – “the decision of the First Consul shall suffice.” This gave Napoleon control over the entire executive authority of the government.
- 1802 – Napoleon named consul for life. 1804 – France returned to monarchy with Emperor Napoleon I.
- Brought stability to France but also far more tyrannical rule than before the old order.

The Domestic Policies of Emperor Napoleon



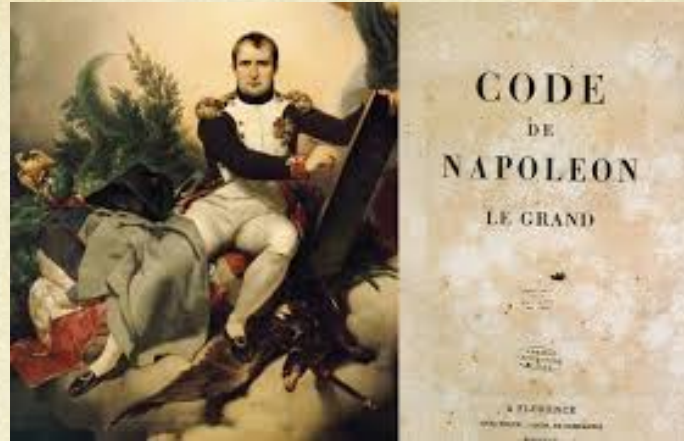
- Napoleon often claimed that he preserved the gains of the Revolution for the French people. **True or false?**

Napoleon and the Catholic Church



- 1801 – Napoleon reached an agreement (Concordat) with the Catholic Church, recognizing it as the majority religion in France.
- Napoleon was not very religious. More of a rationalist. “Muslim in Egypt, Catholic in France”
- The Pope agreed not to raise the issue of confiscated land/property.

A New Code of Laws



- Civil Code known as the Code Napoleon preserved most of the revolutionary gains such as:
 - equality of all citizens before the law
 - right of individuals to choose their profession
 - religious toleration
 - abolition of serfdom and feudalism
- Women's rights however, were limited. Divorce, patriarchy, and property.

The French Bureaucracy



- Napoleon eliminated the locally elected assemblies that were created during the Revolution.
- Prefects were used to supervise local governments.
- Tax collection became much more efficient.
Aristocracy was now based more on merit and less on family.



Long-Term Causes	Immediate Causes
<p>Corrupt, inconsistent, and insensitive leadership</p> <p>Prosperous members of Third Estate resent privileges of First and Second estates</p> <p>Spread of Enlightenment ideas</p>	<p>Huge government debt</p> <p>Poor harvests and rising price of bread</p> <p>Failure of Louis XVI to accept financial reforms</p> <p>Formation of National Assembly</p> <p>Storming of Bastille</p>
Immediate Effects	Long-Term Effects
<p>Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen adopted</p> <p>France adopts its first written constitution</p> <p>Monarchy abolished</p> <p>Revolutionary France fights coalition of European powers</p> <p>Reign of Terror</p>	<p>Napoleon gains power</p> <p>Napoleonic Code established</p> <p>French public schools set up</p> <p>French conquests spread nationalism</p> <p>Revolutions occur in Europe and Latin America</p>