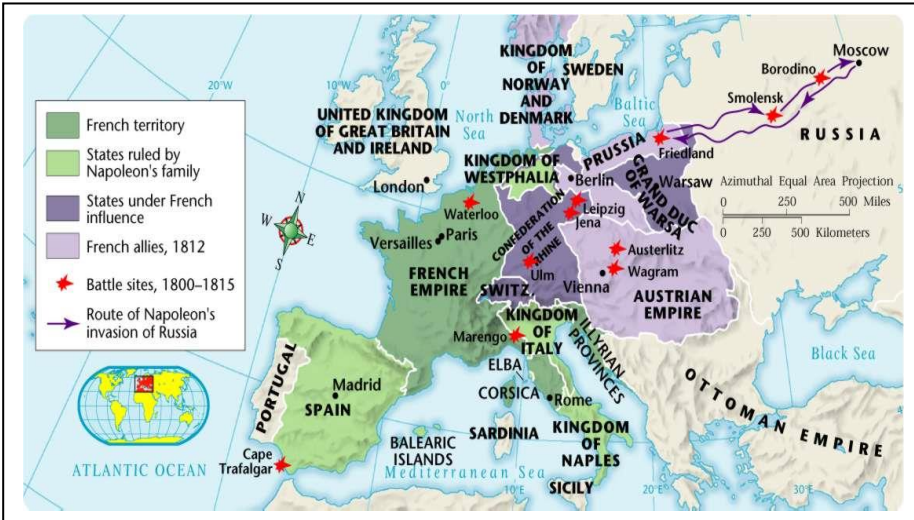


# Aim #7: How does Napoleon rise to power & fall and how did he influence Europe & the World?



## Mini Lecture

- In reaction to the Terror, the Revolution entered the third phase- a five-man **Directory**. However, discontent grew because of corrupt & inefficient leaders- they could not solve the country's serious financial issues. Also, war continued with France's neighbors. The future looked dark.
- Politicians planned to use **Napoleon Bonaparte**, a popular military hero, to advance their goals of stability.
- The final phase of the Revolution is known as the Age of Napoleon. In 1799, Napoleon overthrew the Directory. By 1804, he had acquired enough power to assume the title Emperor, ending the Republic.
- At each step of his rise, Napoleon held a **plebiscite**. However, he still had absolute power, although he was elected. He strengthened the central government and made economic & social reforms that won support across classes. The **Napoleonic Code** was his most lasting reform- a new code of laws which embodied Enlightenment principles of equality, religious tolerance, & the abolition of feudalism.
- From 1804 to 1812, Napoleon battled the European powers (the Napoleonic Wars) and created a massive **Grand Empire**- he rarely lost.
- Britain, however, remained outside Napoleon's grasp. His attempt to wage economic warfare through the **Continental System** failed. Growing nationalism led to resistance against French influence. In Spain, patriots waged **guerrilla warfare** against the French.
- In 1812, Napoleon invaded Russia with 600,000 soldiers. To avoid battles with Napoleon, the Russians retreated, burning crops & villages as they went- this **scorched-earth policy** left the French cold & hungry. Fewer than 20,000 soldiers survived due to this policy & Russia's size & cold winters. The retreat from Moscow shattered Napoleon's reputation for success.
- In 1815, Napoleon was forced to abdicate following the loss at the **Battle of Waterloo**.
- After Waterloo, European diplomats met at the **Congress of Vienna** to restore stability & the old order after years of revolution & war. The Congress strived to create a lasting peace by maintaining a balance of power. Leaders also met periodically in the **Concert of Europe** to discuss problems that threatened peace.
- By 1799, the French Revolution had dramatically changed France. It had dislodged the old social order, overthrown the monarchy, & spread **nationalism** throughout France.
- Napoleon spread Enlightenment ideas & nationalism across Europe & the world.

Long-Term Causes	Immediate Causes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Corrupt, inconsistent, and insensitive leadership</li> <li>Prosperous members of Third Estate resent privileges of First and Second estates</li> <li>Spread of Enlightenment ideas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Huge government debt</li> <li>Poor harvests and rising price of bread</li> <li>Failure of Louis XVI to accept financial reforms</li> <li>Formation of National Assembly</li> <li>Storming of Bastille</li> </ul>
Immediate Effects	Long-Term Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen adopted</li> <li>France adopts its first written constitution</li> <li>Monarchy abolished</li> <li>Revolutionary France fights coalition of European powers</li> <li>Reign of Terror</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Napoleon gains power</li> <li>Napoleonic Code established</li> <li>French public schools set up</li> <li>French conquests spread nationalism</li> <li>Revolutions occur in Europe and Latin America</li> </ul>

## Napoleon's Reforms

<b>Economy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Builds parks, roads &amp; canals</li> <li>Controls prices to restore prosperity (through a Central Bank)</li> <li>Encourages new industry</li> </ul>	<b>Education</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creates a public school system under government control (secondary schools)</li> </ul>	<b>Religion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concordat of 1801 – peace with the Catholic Church</li> </ul>
<b>Laws</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Napoleonic Code</b></li> <li>New uniform law code (efficiency)</li> <li>Embodied Enlightenment ideas</li> <li>Civil Code ensured equality for all &amp; abolished feudalism</li> <li>Basis of modern French law</li> <li>Took away women's newly gained rights</li> </ul>	<b>Government</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Central government strengthened</li> <li>"Order, Security and Efficiency"</li> <li><b>Meritocracy</b> (based on talent/skill)</li> </ul>	<b>Nationalism</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourages émigrés to return to France and take an oath of loyalty</li> <li>builds French empire</li> </ul>



## Review Questions:

- Why did the French support Napoleon as an Emperor (king)?
- What reforms did Napoleon make?
- What led to Napoleon's downfall?
- How did Napoleon impact Europe & the rest of the world?

## Age of Napoleon Stage Timeline: 1799-1815

**Directions:** Using the images and text below, respond to the questions.

### November 1795-1799: The Directory

After Robespierre's execution in 1794, a new constitution was created called the **Constitution of 1795**. The new constitution attempted to separate powers and limit the power of any one man. Through the constitution, they created the **Directory**. The Directory was a five-member group that replaced the Committee for Public Safety. The Directory functioned as the head of the government, but it was weak and poorly funded and struggled to enforce government policies, often having to rely on the military to maintain order. The Directory also struggled with rampant **corruption** and repeated **coups d'état** [attempts at overthrowing someone in power]. In addition to these internal problems, France was still engaged in wars with neighboring European countries.

1. What issues caused by the Reign of Terror did the Constitution of 1795 and the Directory attempt to address?
2. What made the Directory a weak ruling body?

### November 1799: Napoleon overthrows the government and declares himself First Consul of France

In 1799, Napoleon Bonaparte was a French military leader. Early in the revolution, he sided with the revolutionary extremists, the Jacobins, who were led by Maximilien Robespierre and controlled the government until 1795. During that time he was promoted in the military for devising successful battle plans and for his support of the revolution. After Robespierre's execution, the country fell into civil war. Counter-revolutionaries who supported the monarchy attacked the National Convention, the group of representatives who ran the government. Napoleon was tasked with defending the National Convention in Paris and was successful in pushing back the royalists. With the trust of the new ruling body, the Directory, Napoleon was given command of military campaigns in Italy, Austria, the Netherlands, Egypt, Syria, and other places where French forces fought against countries led by monarchs who threatened the revolution.

While commanding French troops, General Bonaparte gained popularity in France. To many of the French people he was the successful leader who defeated armies threatening their country and who enriched the French by bringing the riches of other regions home.

3. How did Napoleon gain popularity and power in France?

### 1803: Start of the Napoleonic Wars

The Napoleonic Wars (1803-1815) were a continuation of wars that started in 1792 when European monarchs outside of France who were nervous about the revolution spreading to their countries threatened French borders, so the revolutionary government declared war on them. Since the start of the revolution, different coalitions of European forces made up of forces from Austria, Prussia, Great Britain, Russia, and other countries fought against French troops. Napoleon attempted to end these wars by conquering all of Europe and bringing it under French control.

4. Was Napoleon successful in the Napoleonic Wars from 1803-1812? Cite evidence to support your claim.

### December 1804: Napoleon declared himself Emperor of France and reinstated hereditary rule

In January 1804, Napoleon's police uncovered an **assassination** plot against him, led by the House of Bourbon (Louis XVI's family). In response, he recreated the hereditary monarchy and divine right in France. He crowned himself emperor on December 2, 1804, at Notre Dame de Paris.

5. Why was Napoleon's crowning as emperor of France a significant event of the French Revolution?

### 1814-1815: Napoleon Defeated During Napoleonic Wars

In 1814 Napoleon and his army were defeated. Napoleon was exiled to an island in the Mediterranean Sea called Elba. During his exile, a monarchy was restored in France, but Napoleon escaped and reclaimed power in 1815. He raised another army and attempted to retake Europe. However, he was again defeated at Waterloo, Belgium in 1815 by a coalition of European forces. He was exiled once again, but this time to the island of Saint Helena in the Atlantic Ocean where he remained until his death.

6. What led to Napoleon's fall from power?

### November 1814-June 1815: At the Congress of Vienna European Powers Redraw European Map

The Congress of Vienna was a meeting of representatives of European states. The purpose of the Congress of Vienna was to address the conflict and instability in Europe caused by the French Revolution and Napoleonic Wars. During the Congress of Vienna, ambassadors sought to create a peace plan that would create long-term stability for Europe.

One result of the Congress of Vienna was the restoration of the old boundaries of Europe before the Napoleonic Wars. Another result was that larger powers were resized to establish a balance of power that will prevent future wars.

7. What was the purpose and outcomes of the Congress of Vienna?



# HERO OR VILLAIN?

## Napoleon Bonaparte

August 15, 1769 – May 5, 1821

Brought stability and order to France after the revolution and expanded French influence

"The true character of man ever displays itself in great events."

Influenced the development of new technologies and improved economic conditions in France

"Everything tells me I shall succeed. Will you prevent me from doing so...?"



His military campaigns over 17 years resulted in millions of deaths and ultimately bankrupted France

"I am a monarch of God's creation, and you reptiles of the earth dare not oppose me."

Used propaganda to inflate his accomplishments, influencing art, music, theater, books, and the press for his own benefit

"History is the version of past events that people have decided to agree upon."

### Feats:

- ★ Despite a modest background, he rose quickly through the ranks to become a general in the French army by age 24
- ★ Used his popularity after a few military victories to gain widespread public support and become emperor of France
- ★ Expanded French territory with a series of sweeping victories over Italian, Russian, and Prussian armies, using military strategies still studied to this day
- ★ Established the Napoleonic Code, which changed the government and has derivatives still found in many governments today
- ★ Influenced other European countries to ultimately rise up against local aristocracies and establish democratic governments

### Failures:

- ★ Practiced favoritism and nepotism, using his authority to appoint family members and friends to key positions in France and in conquered states, regardless of their merit
- ★ Crumbled the French economy with war debt, causing increases in unemployment and inflation
- ★ Forced to retreat from his Russian invasion at the cost of tens of thousands of soldiers' lives
- ★ Pressured to abdicate his throne after disappointing losses and banished to the island of Elba
- ★ Briefly escaped exile and regained the throne, but ultimately was defeated again at the Battle of Waterloo and exiled again, signaling the end of French domination in Europe



**YOU Be the Judge!**



