

I. Napoleon Forges an Empire

A. Napoleon Seizes Power

- 1. The Directory, which led France after the Reign of Terror, appointed Napoleon Bonaparte to lead the French Army against Austrian and Sardinian forces in 1796.*
- 2. By 1799, Napoleon's troops drove out members of the national legislature. Remaining members dissolved the Directory. Napoleon assumed the powers of a dictator and seized France.*
- 3. Austria, Britain, and Russia wanted to drive Napoleon from power, but Napoleon led his troops against them. By 1802, Europe was at peace.*

B. Napoleon Rules France

- 1. Napoleon received almost total power through a constitution the people voted for. He soon created an efficient tax collecting system, national bank, and lycées***
- 2. Napoleon signed a concordat, agreement, with Pope Pius VII, restoring the position of the Church in France and gaining allies for himself.***
- 3. Napoleon created the Napoleonic Code which gave France a uniform set of laws but limited liberty and promoted order and authority over individual rights.***

B. Napoleon Rules France

4. In 1804, Napoleon crowned himself as an emperor at the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris.

5. Crowning himself instead of the pope crowning him was a sign of his power.

C. Napoleon Creates an Empire

- 1. In 1801, Napoleon unsuccessfully attempted to reclaim the colony in Saint Domingue. He sold the Louisiana Territory to President Jefferson in the U.S. for \$15 million in 1803.*
- 2. Napoleon focused on building an empire in Europe. After a series of successes against enemies, he built the largest European empire since Rome.*

C. Napoleon Creates an Empire

3. Napoleon only lost the Battle of Trafalgar against Britain in 1805. This British victory established its naval dominance and caused Napoleon to give up his plans to invade Britain.

4. By 1812, Napoleon controlled nearly all of Europe. Even countries directly not under France's control were easily manipulated through alliances.

II. Napoleon's Empire Collapses

A. Napoleon's Costly Mistakes

1a. Napoleon established the Continental System in 1806, which created a blockade to prevent trade between Britain and other European nations.

1b. Napoleon's allies disregarded the blockade. Britain created its own blockade, leading to the U.S. declaring war on Britain in the War of 1812.

A. Napoleon's Costly Mistakes

2a. In 1808, Napoleon sent an invasion force through Spain to get Portugal to support the Continental System. Napoleon placed his brother, Joseph, on the Spanish throne.

2b. Napoleon lost about 300,000 in the guerrilla warfare of the Peninsular War against Spain, who were aided by British troops.

A. Napoleon's Costly Mistakes

3a. After a fallout with the Russian czar, Alexander I, Napoleon decided to invade Russia in 1812 with his grand army of 420,000 soldiers.

3b. The Russians practiced a scorched-earth policy, wiping out food supplies. During a freezing winter, Russian soldiers attacked. Only 10,000 French soldiers survived.

B. Napoleon's Downfall

1. After Allied victories against Napoleon's troops, Napoleon was exiled to Elba. Soon after, Louis XVI's brother assumed the throne as Louis XVIII.

2a. Louis XVIII became unpopular, and Napoleon was again the emperor in 1815. Napoleon's last bid for power was the Hundred Days.

2b. The British army, led by the Duke of Wellington, fought against Napoleon in the Battle of Waterloo. The British victory marked the end of Napoleon's bid for power. He was sent to a remote island and died in 1821.

C. The Congress of Vienna (1814-1815)

1. **Metternich led the Congress of Vienna to promote peace and stability in Europe.**
2. **Metternich's goals included containing France, having a balance of power in Europe, and restoring monarchies.**