The Rise & Fall of Napoleon
(1769-1821)

Not this Napoleon!
I. Napoleon Bonaparte’s Rise To Power

A. Born in Corsica, sent to a French military school at age 9

Napoleon’s birthplace

Carlo Buonaparte (1746-1785)

Letizia Buonaparte (1750-1836)
B. In 1795 he protected the Directory from royalist (monarchy) supporters

“...a whiff of
Young Napoleon’s Goals: Gain glory and power for himself and France through military victory.
C. Married Josephine Beauharnais and became a general in 1796
1. Crossed the Alps and defeats the Austrians in Italy (1796-1797), expanded French territory, became a national hero

Napoleon defeated Austrian forces at the battle of Rivoli in 1797
The Coup d’Etat (koo-day-ta) in 1799

D. The Coup d’Etat—despite a failed Egyptian campaign, Napoleon gained power over the army, and created a new government, with himself as 1st Consul (1799) with 99% voter approval (Napoleon’s Consulate)
E. Crowned himself emperor in 1804 (Napoleon I), again with 99% voter approval
Napoleon combines elements of the LEFT & RIGHT

- Allows people (some) to vote
- All are = under the law
- Supports schools/education
- Makes himself a king
- Restores the Catholic Church
- Controls the newspapers
II. Napoleon’s Reforms as Emperor

A. Created the **Napoleonic Code**—unified legal system that guaranteed equal rights to all men (spread throughout Europe)
B. Napoleon created a **national** bank, set up a fair **tax** code, saved the **economy**, built roads, canals, schools and universities.
III. Building & Controlling an Empire (1805-1812)

A. Fearful of Napoleon’s power, Britain, Austria, and Russia united against France

In an effort to raise money quickly, Napoleon sold the Louisiana territory to the United States for $15 million.
Britain vs. Napoleonic France

B. Napoleon built a large navy to invade and conquer Great Britain
Battle of Trafalgar (October 21st, 1805)

**HMS Victory**
(British flagship)
- 227 ft. long
- 205 ft. high
- Hull: 2 ft. thick (oak)
- Guns: 104
- Crew: 850
The Opposing Fleets at Noon
21st October 1805

British Fleet

French and Spanish Fleet
1. In 1805, the British fleet led by Admiral Horatio Nelson destroyed the French fleet at Trafalgar (Oct. 1805)
C. Napoleon forced Austria and Russia to surrender after the battle of Austerlitz (Dec. 1805), Napoleon’s greatest victory.
“My soldiers….for the rest of your lives all you must say is, ‘I was at Austerlitz’ and the people will say, ‘there is a brave man!’”

Total Casualties:

**French**: 9,000

**Austrian & Russian**: 27,000

Battle of Austerlitz
“I brought order out of chaos. I rewarded talent and fostered equality regardless of birth or wealth or religion. I fought all the decrepit monarchies of Europe because the only alternative was the destruction of all I had achieved.”
D. In 1806 Napoleon dissolved the Holy Roman Empire, created a weak puppet state, the **Confederation of the Rhine**.
Napoleon Captures Berlin (Prussia’s capital) in 1806

1. Prussia resisted and was crushed at Jena, its capital Berlin captured

“Gentlemen, if he was still alive, we would not be here right now.”

Napoleon visits the tomb of his boyhood hero, Prussia’s Frederick the Great
E. Napoleon built an empire and replaced monarchs with his own family.

1. Napoleon’s brother, Joseph, became the king of Spain - ignited a Spanish revolt, called the Peninsular War (1808-1814).
The Napoleonic Empire (1812)

- Jerome (Westphalia)
- Louis (Netherlands)
- Joseph (Spain)
- Caroline (Naples)
- Elisa (Italian States)
- Lucien
- Pauline (Italian States)
Napoleon Divorces Josephine & Marries Marie-Louise (Habsburg) in 1810

Marie-Louise Habsburg Bonaparte (1791-1847)

Napoleon II (1811-1832)
F. Nations begin to hate French rule, beginnings of **nationalism** - intense patriotism, national pride, desire to fight for your country

1. Napoleon imposed high **taxes** on conquered nations, and forced millions to serve his French **armies**
F. The **Continental System** - Napoleon forced continental Europe to cease **trade** with Great Britain, policy was too hard to enforce.
1. Great Britain began to seize any ship trading with France (led to the War of 1812 with the US)
2. **Russia** resumed trade with Great Britain, Napoleon prepared a massive invasion of Russia with **600,000** soldiers
IV. The French Empire Collapses (1812-1815)

A. Russian Invasion—Russians retreated and burned their own land ("scorched earth")

1. Napoleon reached Moscow in October, it was empty and freezing
The Retreat (1812-1813)

2. Napoleon forced to *retreat* to France (out of supplies) as thousands of his men *starved, froze*, or were killed.
Battle of Leipzig (Battle of Nations) October, 1813

French, Italian, Polish forces: 195,000 (68,000 casualties)

Vs.

Russian, Prussian, Austrian, Swedish forces: 350,000 (54,000 casualties)

Despite the disaster in Russia, Napoleon was able to create a new army in 1813. But now he was opposed by the combined might of Russia, Prussia, Austria and Sweden. Napoleon’s forces were surrounded and crushed in what was the largest battle ever fought in Europe before the World Wars.
Napoleon’s Fall (1812-1814)
B. Austria, Prussia, Russia, and Britain, send armies to invade France, Napoleon defeated & Paris was conquered in March, 1814

Russian forces march through Paris
“Emperor! I’ll never let you go!”
Napoleon’s Exile Treaty
1. Napoleon forced to abdicate (give up throne) & is exiled to Mediterranean island of Elba
C. Monarchy under Louis XVIII returns, but was chaotic, Napoleon returned in March 1815, and assembled a new army.
Napoleon Escapes!
Battle of Waterloo: 1815
Waterloo (June 18th, 1815)
# Battle of Waterloo

**June 18, 1815**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Opposing Forces:</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>British, Dutch,</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>German</strong></td>
<td>67,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Prussian</strong></td>
<td>60,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>French</strong></td>
<td>73,000</td>
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Desperate Struggle At Waterloo

Total Casualties (killed/wounded):

- British: 15,000
- French: 33,000
- Prussian: 7,000

Imperial Guard soldier
D. Battle of **Waterloo** (June, 1815)- British / Dutch/German force (led by Britain’s Duke of **Wellington**) and a Prussian army defeat Napoleon and his Imperial Guard

1. Napoleon **exiled** to the South Atlantic, and died in 1821
Napoleon Exiled To St. Helena
“I should have conquered the world.”
V. Overall Results

A. Leaders of Britain, Prussia, Austria, Russia, re-draw map of Europe at the **Congress of Vienna** (1814-1815)

1. **France** weakened and reduced to pre-revolution boundaries

2. Victors (Prussia, Britain, Austria, Russia) increased their **land/power**

3. Old **monarchies** returned to Europe, worked to suppress revolutions & maintain peace in Europe (balance of power)
Europe In 1812

(Before Napoleon’s Invasion of Russia)
Europe In 1815
(After the battle of Waterloo)
B. Long-Term Effects of the French Revolution & Napoleon:

1. **Liberty, equality, and democracy** strengthened as most countries developed a limited monarchy with an **elected** assembly and legal systems based on the Napoleonic Code (bourgeoisie, or middle class, became more powerful)
2. Age of absolute monarchy destroyed and the Catholic Church weakened and placed under government control
3. **Nationalism** burned throughout Europe (led to more Revolutions, formation of Italy and Germany, and the World Wars)