

# The Napoleonic Era 1799-1815



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# Napoleon's Background

- Born in Corsica in 1769
- Military education
- Favored Jacobins and republicanism
- Military hero
  - Drove British forces from port of Toulon in 1793
  - Captured northern Italy and forced Austrian Hapsburgs to make peace
  - 1798 – Egyptian expedition

# Napoleonic Campaign in Egypt: 1798-1801

- Napoleon's attempt to seize Egypt and undermine Britain's access to India
  - Napoleon took control of Egypt on land
  - Brought along scientists
    - Studied the pyramids, etc.
    - Discovered the Rosetta stone
    - British took control of Egypt and all discoveries following the defeat of the French forces in Egypt
- Battle of the Nile – August 1-3, 1798
  - Britain's **Horatio Nelson** defeated French naval forces
  - Napoleon and his troops became stranded in Egypt
  - August, 1799 – Napoleon snuck past the British blockade in the Mediterranean and returned to Paris



# Napoleon in Egypt, 1798



NAPOLÉON IN EGYPT, 1798

# Napoleon's Rise to Power

- 1799
  - Snuck past British blockade in Mediterranean
  - Took control of the Directory by *coup d'état*
  - Set up three-man Consulate
    - With himself as First Consul
- 1802
  - Consul for life
- 1804
  - Crowned himself emperor
- **Plebiscite**
  - Popular vote done by ballot
  - Napoleon always held plebiscites
  - Everyone always voted for his policies
- **Democratic despotism**
  - He had absolute power regardless of the fact that he held plebiscites





TRIUMPHAL ARCH (CARROUSEL), PARIS

Arc de Triomphe in Paris, which was erected in 1806 to honor the soldiers of Napoleon. Its nationalistic style set the tone for public monuments until World War I.



# Napoleon's Reforms

## Class System

- Émigrés could return if swore loyalty to new French gov't.
- Peasants kept lands they'd bought from Church and nobles
- New nobility established through a meritocracy (e.g., Legion of Honor)

## Economy

- Controlled prices
- Encouraged industrial growth
- Strengthened the nation's infrastructure

## Education

- Nationally-controlled public schools

## Government

- Strengthened the national government
- Ran an efficient bureaucracy

## Laws – Napoleonic Code

- Equality before the law
- Religious tolerance
- End to feudalism
- But women lost many of their rights

## Religion – Concordat of 1801

- Church under government control
- Religious freedom

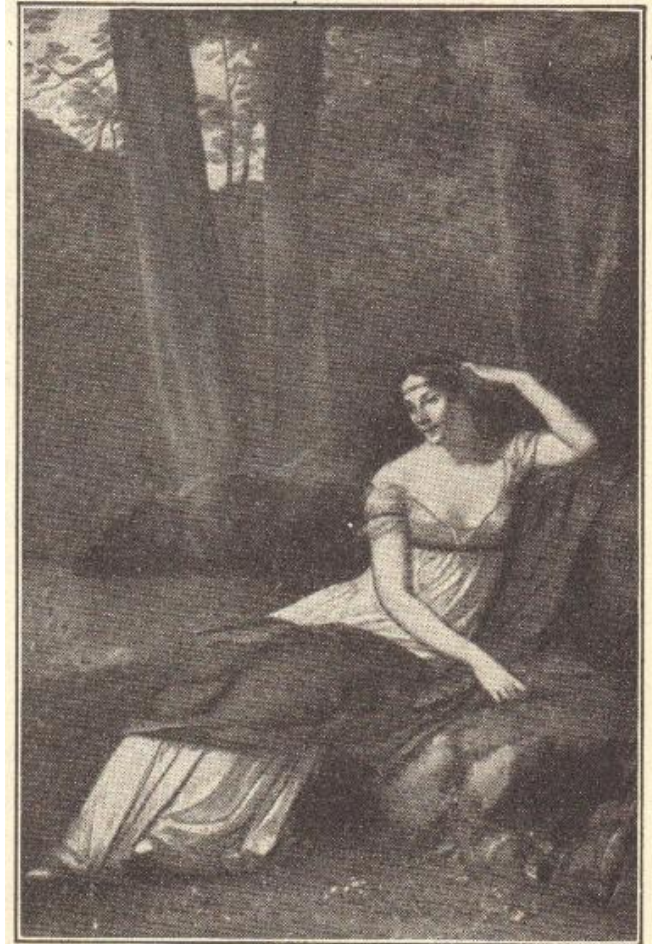
# Napoleon's Empire

- 1804-1812: Military successes due to leadership skills, large armies, and surprise tactics
- Annexed parts of Germany and Italy as well as Belgium and the Netherlands
- Replaced Holy Roman Empire with French-controlled Federation of the Rhine
- Cut off half of Prussia to form Grand Duchy of Warsaw (historical Poland)
- Placed puppet rulers on conquered thrones (e.g., Joseph Bonaparte as king of Spain)
- Formed alliances
  - Including divorcing Josephine de Beauharnais to marry Marie Louise of Austria
- Nationalism grew with Napoleon's successes
  - Both in France and in the areas he conquered



# Empress Josephine

Napoleon's first wife, Josephine de Beauharnais, aided her husband's career through her interpersonal skills and political connections.



JOSEPHINE, WIFE OF NAPOLEON

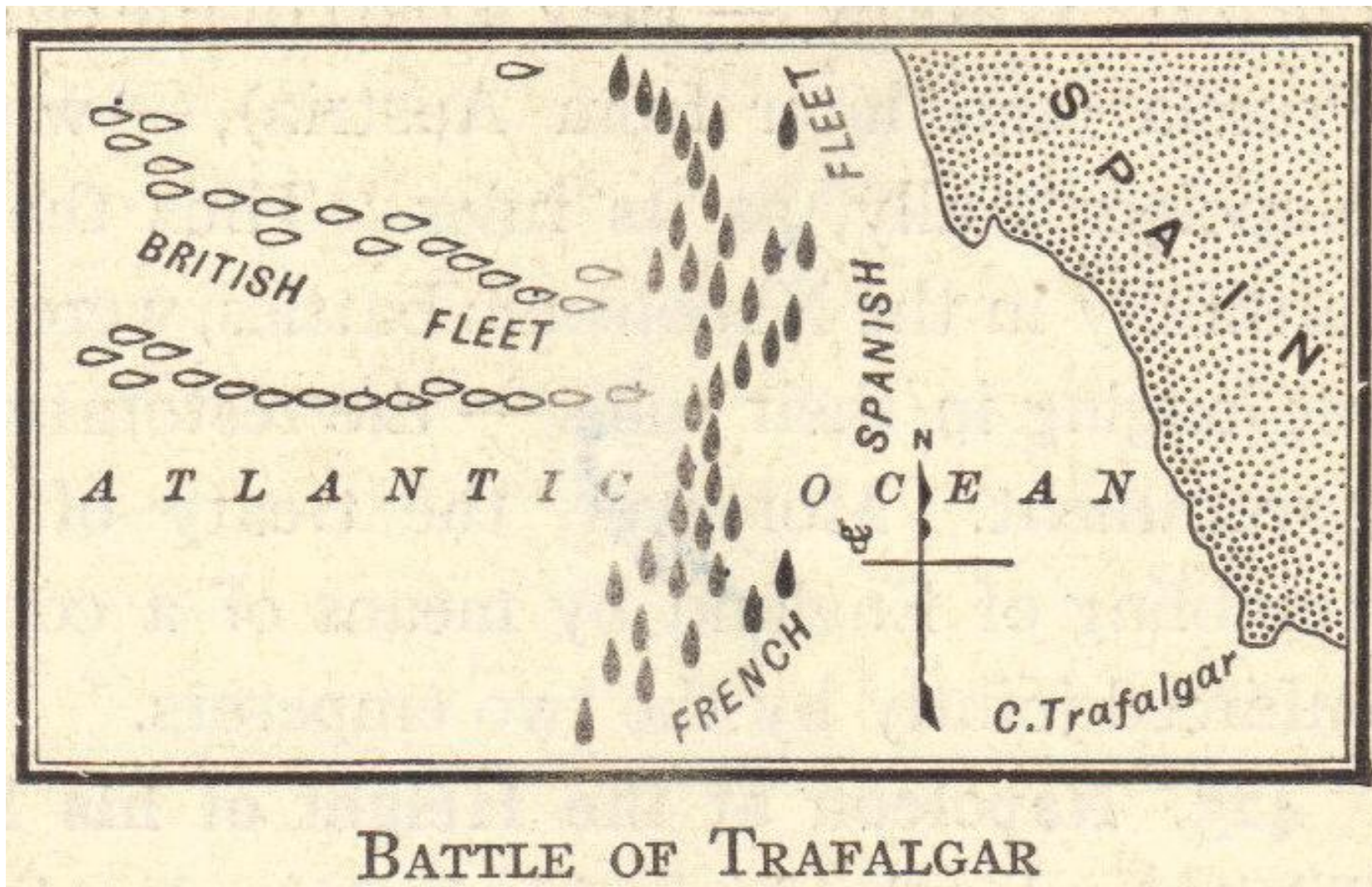
From a painting by Prudhon. At the time of his marriage, Napoleon was about to start on his Italian campaign. Josephine was a general favorite, and her husband once acknowledged her helpful tact with the remark, "I win battles, but Josephine wins hearts." In later years, however, after he became emperor, he divorced Josephine and married an Austrian princess.

# British Opposition to Napoleon

- 1805
  - France tried to invade Great Britain
  - Admiral **Horatio Nelson** defeated him at the **Battle of Trafalgar**
    - Nelson was killed in this naval battle
- Napoleon struck back with the **Continental System**
  - No trade between the European continent and Great Britain
- Great Britain responded with **blockades**
  - British attacks on American ships still trading with France helped spark the **War of 1812** in the U.S.
- Continental system failed because European countries wanted and needed trade



# Battle of Trafalgar: October 21, 1805





# Battle of Trafalgar: October 21, 1805

## *Death of Horatio Lord Nelson*



# Review Questions

1. What were the results of France's Egyptian Campaign?
2. How did Napoleon come to power in France?
3. Describe Napoleon's reforms.
4. Why did nationalism spread throughout Europe during the Napoleonic era?
5. Who was Nelson and what role did he play in the eventual defeat of Napoleon?

# Napoleon Spreads Revolution

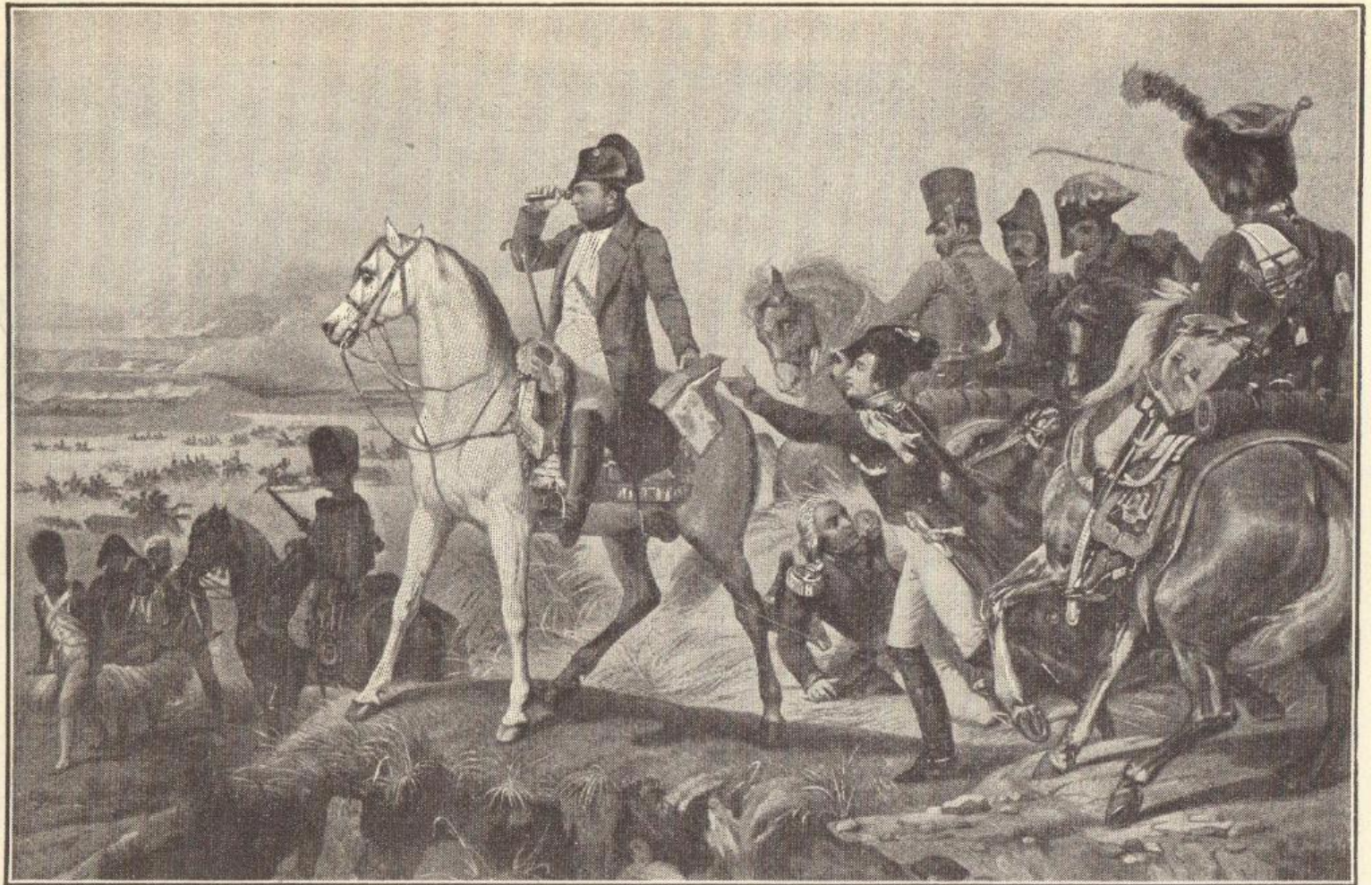
- Napoleon spread revolution with his *Grande Armée*
- Supported liberal reforms in conquered lands
- Abolished nobility and feudalism
- Set up meritocracies
- Ended Church privileges
- Napoleonic Code spread even to areas beyond the French empire
  - Such as the Spanish and Portuguese colonies in Latin America



# Decline of Napoleon's Empire

- Europeans hated the Continental System
- Revolutionary ideals of self-government spurred nationalism in conquered states
- **Peninsular War** in Spain and Portugal
  - People of Iberian Peninsula pledged loyalty to Church and king
    - Aided by the British
  - Local rulers formed **juntas** to maintain power
    - Did not actually want to give up all of their power to a returning Spanish or Portuguese king
    - Wanted to keep many elements of republicanism
  - Guerrilla warfare against French rule of Joseph Bonaparte
- War with Austria
  - 1805 – Battle of Austerlitz – French won
  - 1809 – Battle of Wagram – French won
  - But the Austrian opposition illustrated the commitment to end French domination in Europe

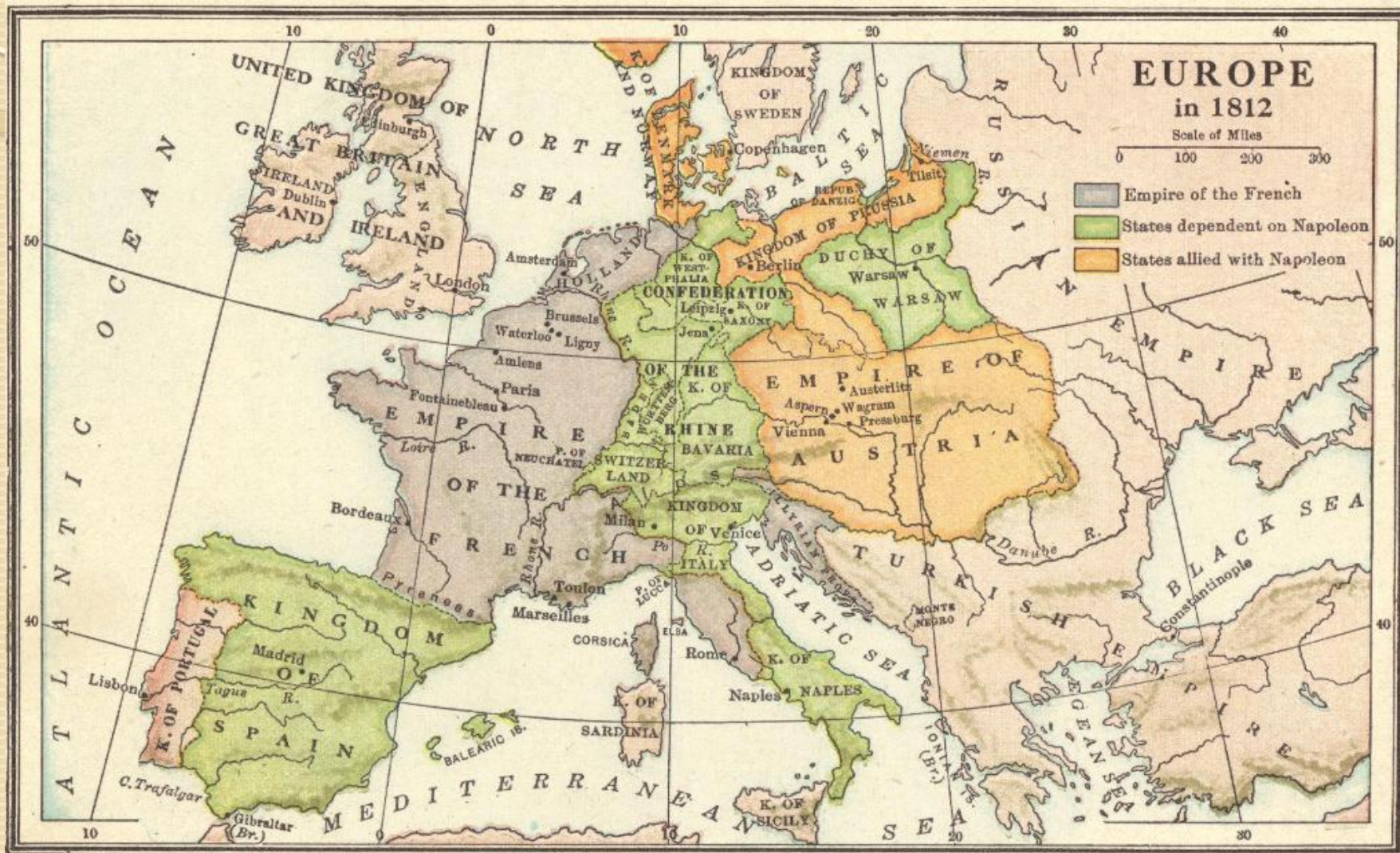
# Battle of Wagram, 1809



NAPOLEON AT THE BATTLE OF WAGRAM, 1809.



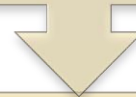
## A decorative graphic on the right side of the page. It features several overlapping circles in shades of beige and cream, set against a background of a fine, light-colored checkered pattern. In the bottom right corner, there is a small, partially visible framed picture with a dark frame and a light-colored interior.



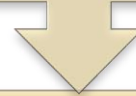


# Napoleon's Invasion of Russia

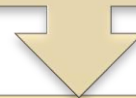
Tsar Alexander I withdrew from the French alliance because of the unpopularity of the Continental System and Grand Duchy of Warsaw.



Napoleon assembled the *Grande Armée* from 20 nations (almost 600,000 soldiers) to invade Russia in 1812.



Russians abandoned Moscow and used the **scorched-earth** policy when retreating to starve the *Grande Armée*.



It worked. Napoleon pulled out in October, 1812.



Of Napoleon's original nearly 600,000 soldiers, only 20,000 survived the cold, hungry trek back across Eastern Europe (the rest died or deserted).

# Napoleon's Abdication

1813 – Quadruple Alliance of Austria, Great Britain, Prussia, and Russia defeated Napoleon at the Battle of the Nations in Leipzig.

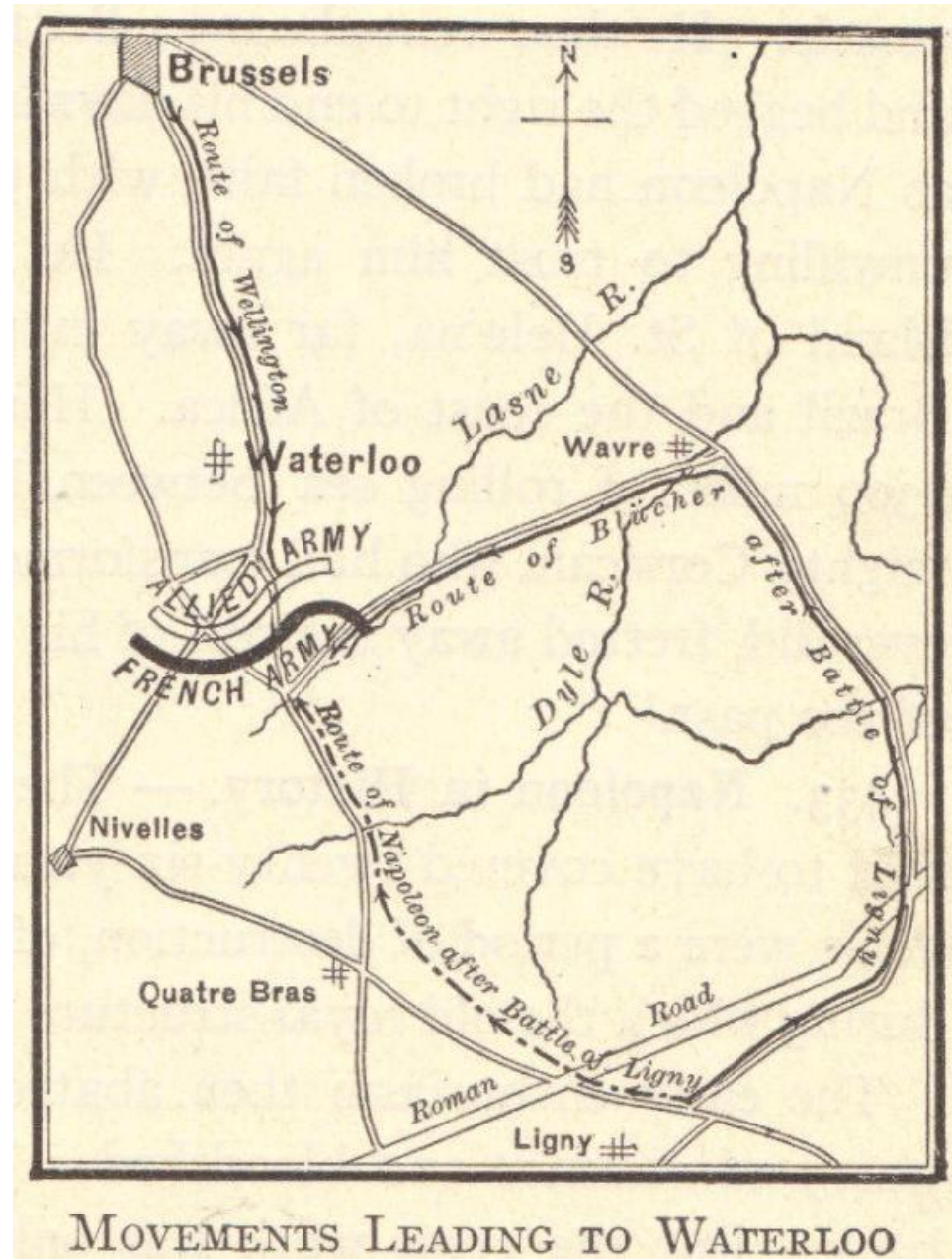
1814 – Napoleon abdicated and was exiled to Elba in the Mediterranean.

Louis XVIII, brother of the guillotined Louis XVI, was made king of France. Louis XVIII was disliked, and the returning *émigrés* were distrusted.

During the peace conference in Vienna, Napoleon escaped from Elba and Louis XVIII fled.

# The Hundred Days

- March 20, 1815
  - Napoleon marched triumphantly into Paris
- June 18, 1815
  - Battle of Waterloo (in Belgium)
- Napoleon was defeated
  - Exiled to St. Helena in the South Pacific





# Battle of Waterloo, 1815



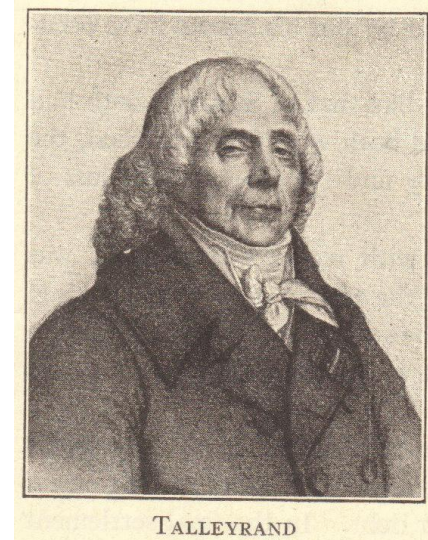
# Napoleon's Legacy

- Died in 1821 on St. Helena
- Controversial historical figure
  - Pros
    - Established meritocracy
    - Held plebiscites
    - Spread revolutionary ideals
  - Cons
    - Absolute ruler
    - Ruled an empire with puppet kings
    - Took away many rights of women
- International legacy
  - Destruction of the Holy Roman Empire led to the creation of Germany
  - 1803 – Sold the Louisiana Territory to the United States
  - Created nationalistic fervor throughout the world



# Congress of Vienna

- September, 1814, through June, 1815
- Austria, Great Britain, Prussia, and Russia sought to:
  - Restore the Old Regime
  - Establish a balance of power



# Important Leaders at the Congress of Vienna

Prince Clemens von **Metternich** of Austria — wanted to roll back the clock to 1792

Lord Robert **Castlereagh** of Great Britain — wanted to end the French military threat

Tsar **Alexander I** of Russia — wanted to set up a “holy alliance” of Christian rulers who would unite to suppress future revolutions

Prince Charles Maurice de **Talleyrand** of France — shrewdly played these leaders off of one another to get a good deal for France



# Results of the Congress of Vienna

Redrew the European map to surround France with strong countries

**Principle of legitimacy** – restored the hereditary (“legitimate”) monarchies

**Concert of Europe** – European leaders would meet to address their concerns

For the most part, large-scale war was avoided for 100 years (until World War I in 1914)

Failure to realize the power of nationalism

# EUROPE

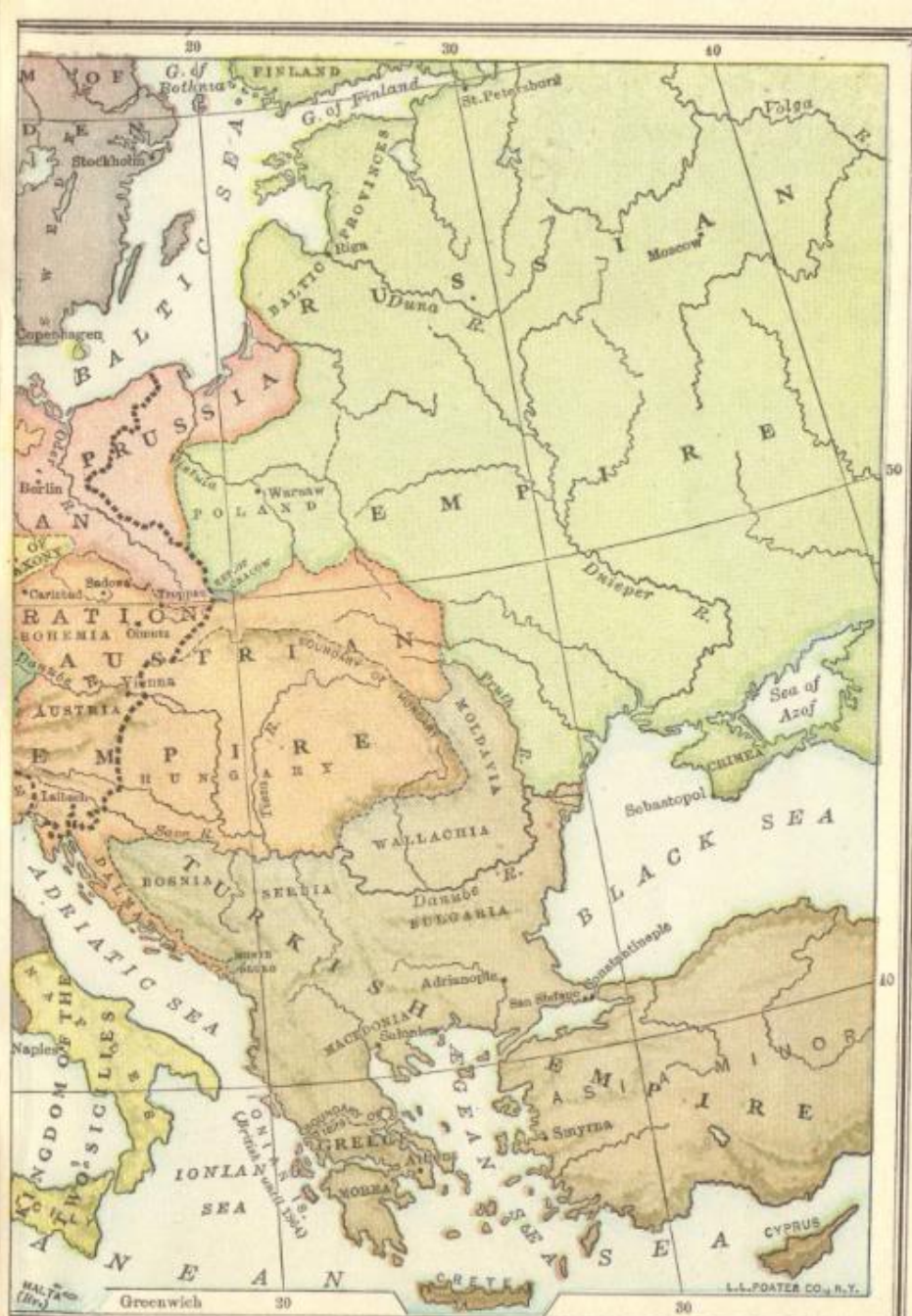
In 1815

Scale of Miles

0 50 100 150 200 250 300

..... Boundary of Belgium in 1830

----- Boundary of the German Confederation





# Review Questions

1. What political and social reforms did Napoleon make in the lands he conquered?
2. Describe the events of the Peninsular War.
3. Describe the map of Europe in 1812.
4. What events brought about Napoleon's abdication?
5. At what battle was Napoleon finally defeated?
6. Was Napoleon a good leader? Why or why not? Look at this question from the perspectives of a French peasant, French *émigré*, Spanish peasant, and Spanish noble.