


Slide 1

The Napoleonic Era
1799-1815



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Napoleon's Background

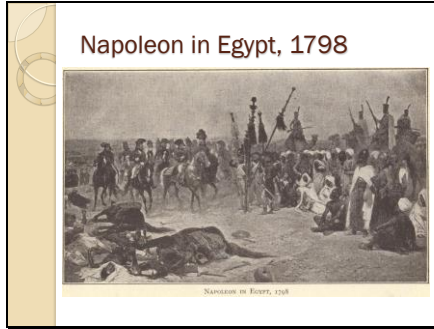
- Born in Corsica in 1769
- Military education
- Favored Jacobins and republicanism
- Military hero
 - Drove British forces from port of Toulon in 1793
 - Captured northern Italy and forced Austrian Hapsburgs to make peace
 - 1798 – Egyptian expedition

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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

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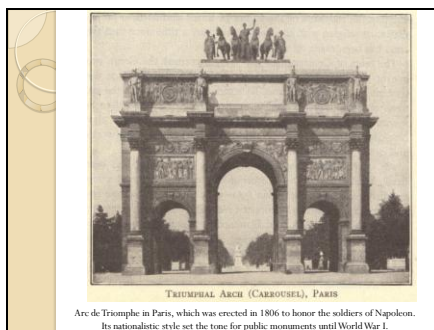


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Napoleon's Rise to Power

- 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

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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?

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Napoleon Spreads Revolution

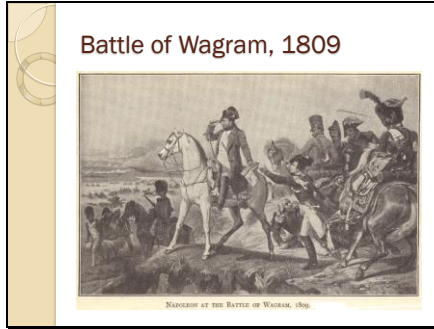
- Napoleon spread revolution with his *Grande Armée*
- Supported liberal reforms in conquered lands
- Abolished nobility and feudalism
- Set up meritocracies
- Ended Church privileges
- Napoleonic Code spread even to areas beyond the French empire
 - Such as the Spanish and Portuguese colonies in Latin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

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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

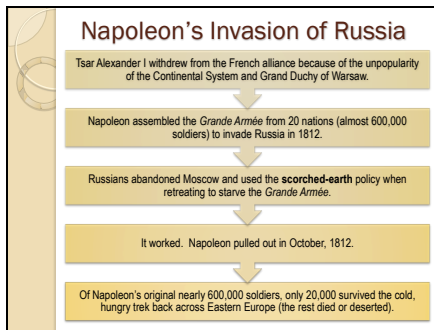
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Results of the Congress of Vienna

- 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

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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.
