

Summary

NAPOLEON AND THE NAPOLEONIC EMPIRE

Contradictory position: follower of the Revolution but concentrated an almost absolute power.

- 1800, First Consul.
- 1802, Consul for life.
- 1804, crowned himself emperor.

Little less than a dictator:

- Centralized the power of the State.
- Formal existence of representative bodies, but the emperor could take political decisions without the participation of elective institutions.
- Controlled local administration.
- Limited certain rights as the freedom of speech.
- Eradicated political opposition through a secret police.

A great politician and organizer

- Reorganized France under effectiveness and moderation.
- Created the Bank of France to organize the State financial system.
- The Code of 1804 confirmed the right to private property and so to economic security.
- A new educational system was developed with new lycées.
- Scientific research was encouraged.
- Merit-based system for social and political promotion.

A great general

- His strategic talent defeated several coalitions of European powers.
- Austerlitz against Austria (1805),
- Jena against Prussia (1806),
- Friedland against Russia (1807).
- The Empire reached then its greatest extension.
- Except Great Britain, nobody could resist the French army; British naval superiority kept the island safe.

Defeat

- Trafalgar in 1805 was the beginning of the British world naval supremacy.
- In 1812 a "Grand Army" of 500.000 men invaded Russia. Winter forced Napoleon to retreat. He lost 250.000 soldiers, and 100.000 were taken prisoners.
- Leipzig (1813) a new coalition between Great Britain, Austria, Russia and Prussia defeated Napoleon.
- The emperor abdicated and was exiled to the island of Elba,
- He escaped in 1815.
- He was definitely defeated at Waterloo.
- Banished to the island of St. Helena, where he died.

COLLABORATIVE LEARNING - WRITING AN ESSAY (2/3 STUDENTS)

It is said that the composer Ludwig van Beethoven admired the ideals of the French Revolution. He dedicated his 3rd Symphony, the Eroica, to Napoleon. Nevertheless, when he knew that Bonaparte had crowned himself as French emperor, he considered him a tyrant and eliminated his name. Write an essay of about 500 words, about Napoleon and the contradictory role he played with respect to the principles of the French Revolution. Assess the positive and negative aspects of his reign. Try to use your own words where possible. Each student will be responsible for a part of the writing and might have to read and defend it aloud in class.

**Vocabulary. Explain/define the following concepts/ persons/ institutions.
Use your own words**

- Austerlitz
- Friedland
- Jérôme Bonaparte
- The Grand Army
- The Hundred Days
- St. Helena
- Jena
- Joseph Bonaparte
- Continental System
- The Battle of the Nations of Leipzig
- Waterloo

MAPS

Identify the different territories under the rule of Napoleon

