

Napoleon Bonaparte



I. Napoleon's rise to power.

A. Before the French Revolution only the high nobles received the top military positions. During the revolution, many of the nobles fled leaving the opportunity for junior officers Napoleon to rise to general.



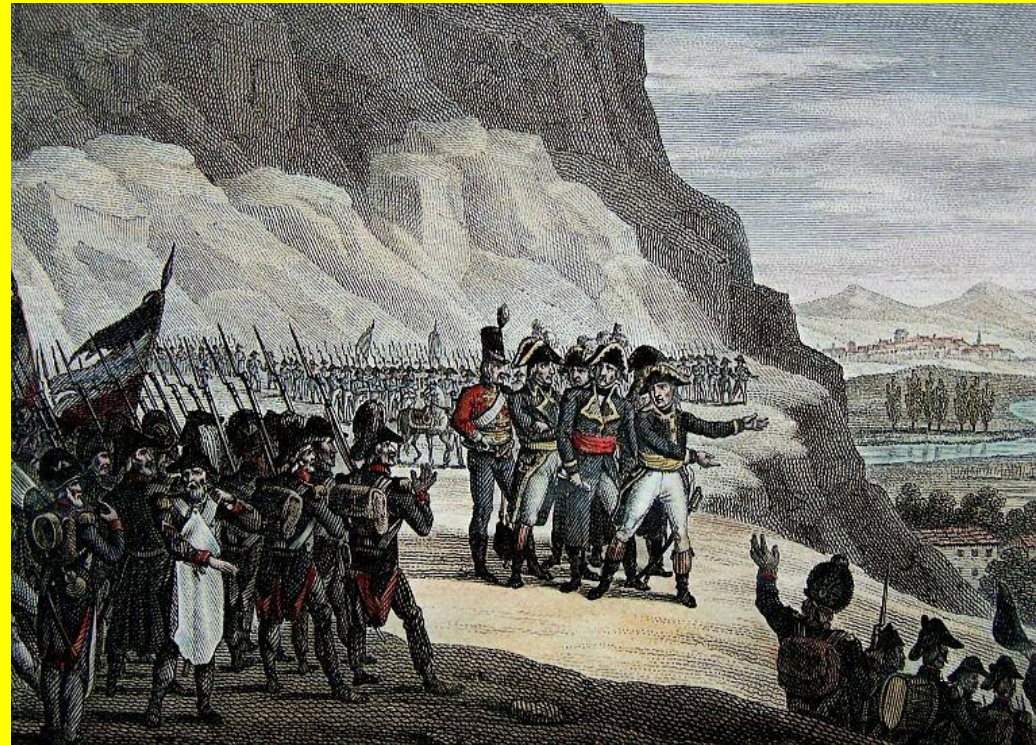
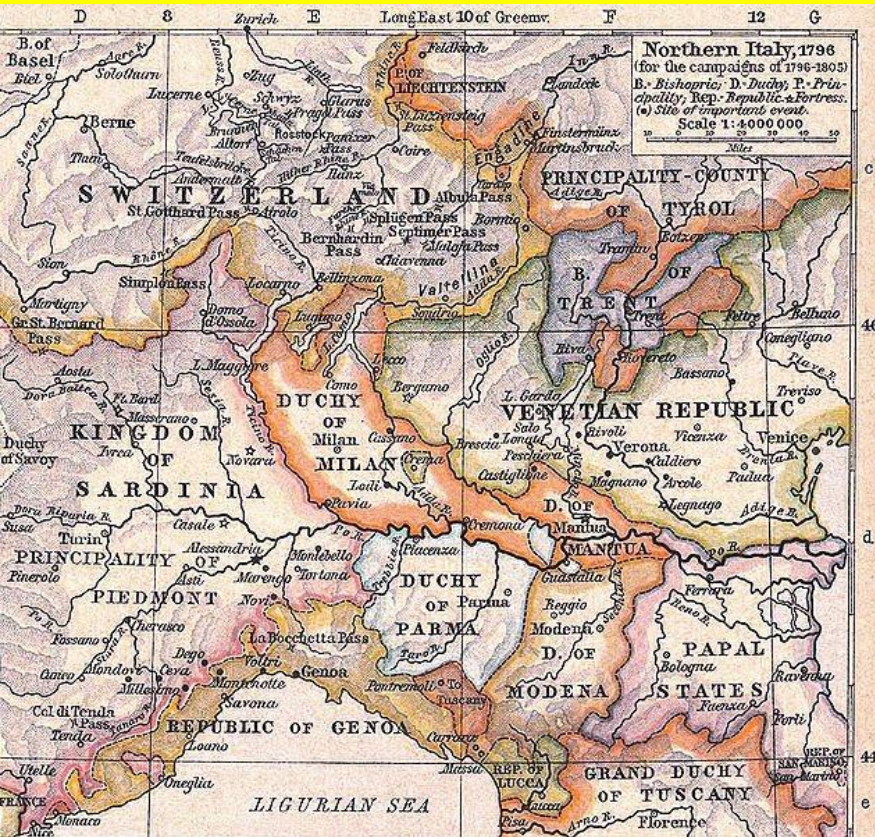
B. Napoleon became a hero for protecting the National Convention against the Parisian mob in October 1795.



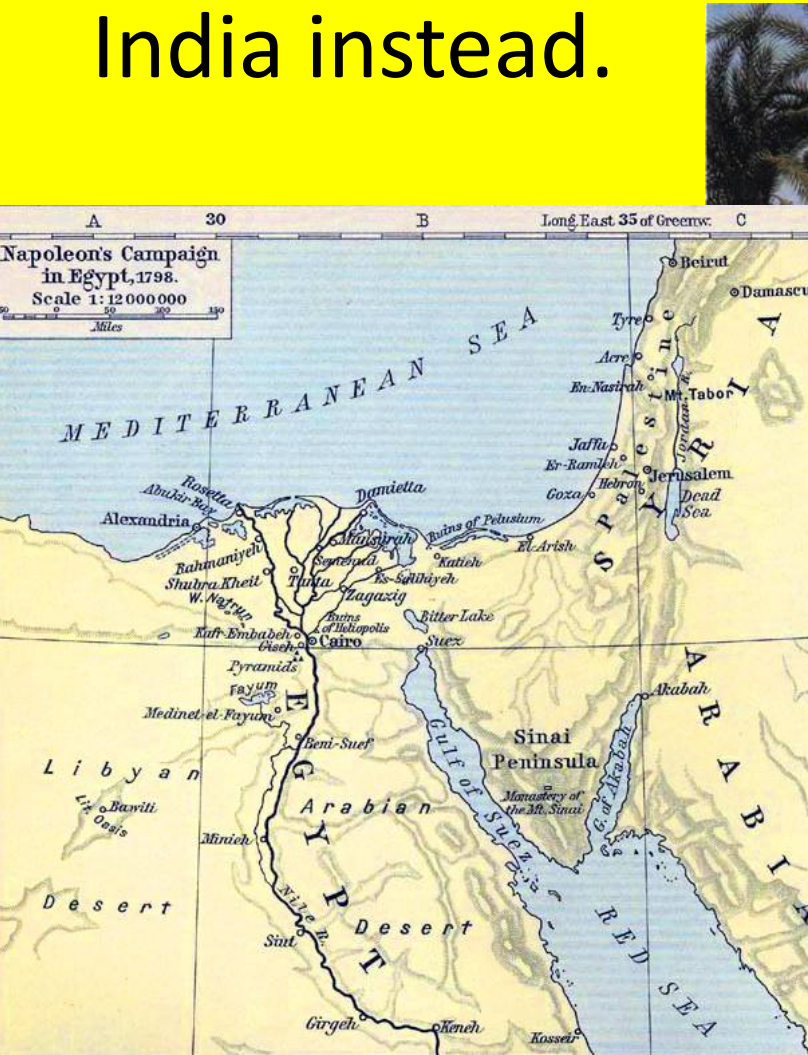
*Journée du XIII^e Vendémiaire, l'an II.
Côté St. Roch, rue Drouot.*

Paris des Batailles, rue Drouot, n° 100. (Maison de Napoléon Bonaparte)

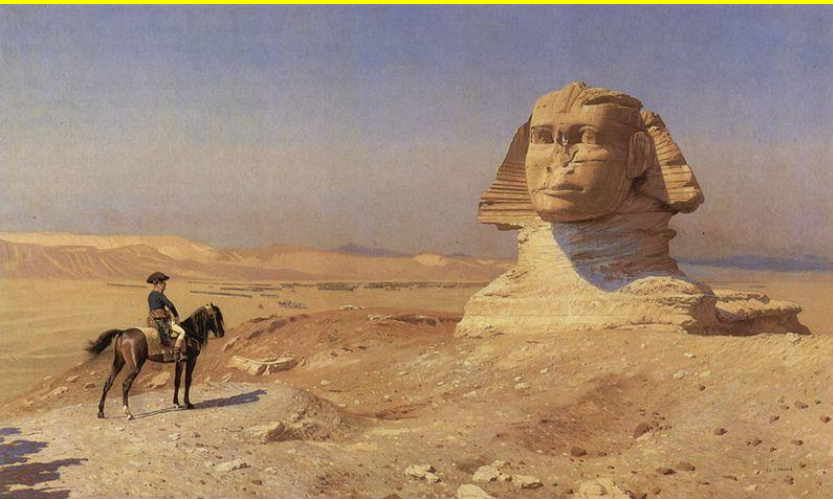
C. Napoleon turned a ill-disciplined army into an effective fighting force. Defeated the Austrians in the Italian campaign in 1796-1797.



D. France wants to invade Britain. Napoleon proposed invading Egypt and threatening India instead.



He failed in Egypt when Britain cut off the shipping lanes. He fled but remained a hero when the news was suppressed.



Francois-Louis-Joseph Watteau

E. The people were upset with corrupt and inefficient Directory, so Napoleon seized political power in a coup d'état in 1799.

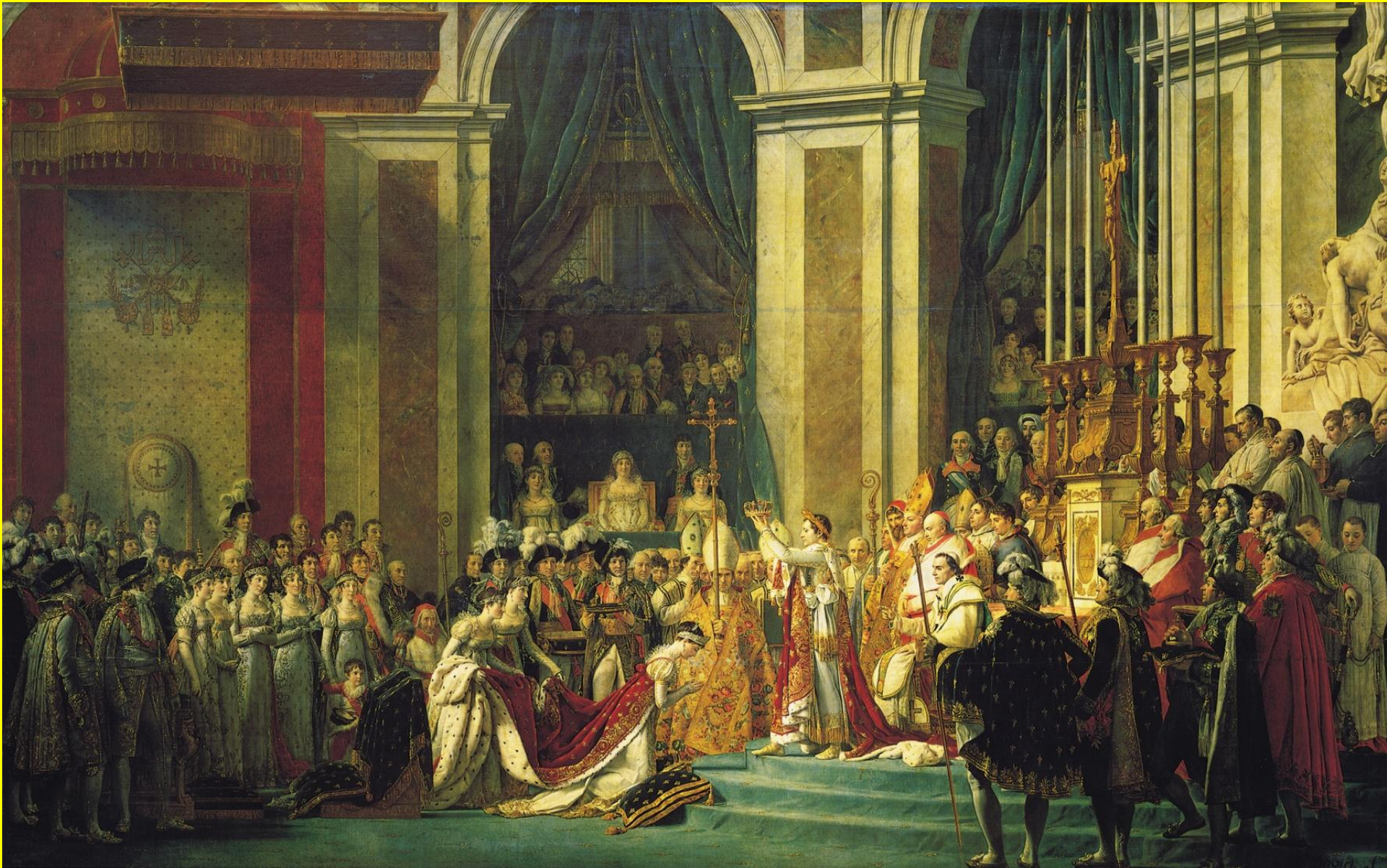
* 2 years earlier, Napoleon provided military assistance to the directory in suppressing a popular election that was trending toward restoration of royalists to power.



1. As First Consul he directly controlled the executive branch.
2. Overwhelming influence over the legislature (Legislative Corps), bureaucracy, army, and foreign affairs.
3. 1802 Consul for life
4. 1804 crowned himself Emperor
 - Use of plebiscites (approval of Emperorship?)



Why did he crown himself?



The Eroica Symphony and Napoleon Bonaparte

Originally the work was to be titled the “Bonaparte Symphony” (New Groves), as a tribute to Napoleon Bonaparte, the French Consul who had begun to radically reform Europe after conducting sweeping military campaigns across the continent. In 1804, Napoleon crowned himself emperor, a move which angered Beethoven. As legend has it, the composer ripped through the title page and later renamed the symphony the Eroica because he refused to dedicate one of his pieces to the man he now considered a “tyrant”. Nevertheless, he still allowed the published manuscript to carry the inscription, “composed to celebrate the memory of a great man,” despite dedicating the work to Lobkowitz. This has led historians and biographers to speculate on [Beethoven's](#) feelings towards Napoleon ever since.



II. Napoleon's Reforms

A. Overhauled existing bureaucracy of the National Assembly

Revolutionary Reforms

- Subdivision of France into 83 departments
- Replacement of provincial estates/nobles/royal intendants with self governing assemblies

Napoleonic Reforms

- Kept the departments, dumped the self-governing assemblies – replaced with prefects, centralized government agents – non-local

B. Systematic/Efficient taxation – collected by professional bureaucracy no exemptions or privileges.

- Industrial stimulation (public works, loans, tariffs *Continental System*
- Bank of France established
- Balanced budget in 1802



C. Creation of Meritocracy – Government jobs went to people on the basis of merit rather than family connections. This helped to end special privileges for the nobles and encouraged more equality for the average person.



New aristocracy based on merit in the state service. 3,263 nobles added between 1808 and 1814.

- 60% military officers
- 22% of Napoleon's aristocracy from old nobility
- 60% were of bourgeois origin



D. Educational Reform (for males) – elementary schools to be a function of local government; secondary education – priority for national government; post-secondary *lycées* – government scholarships awarded

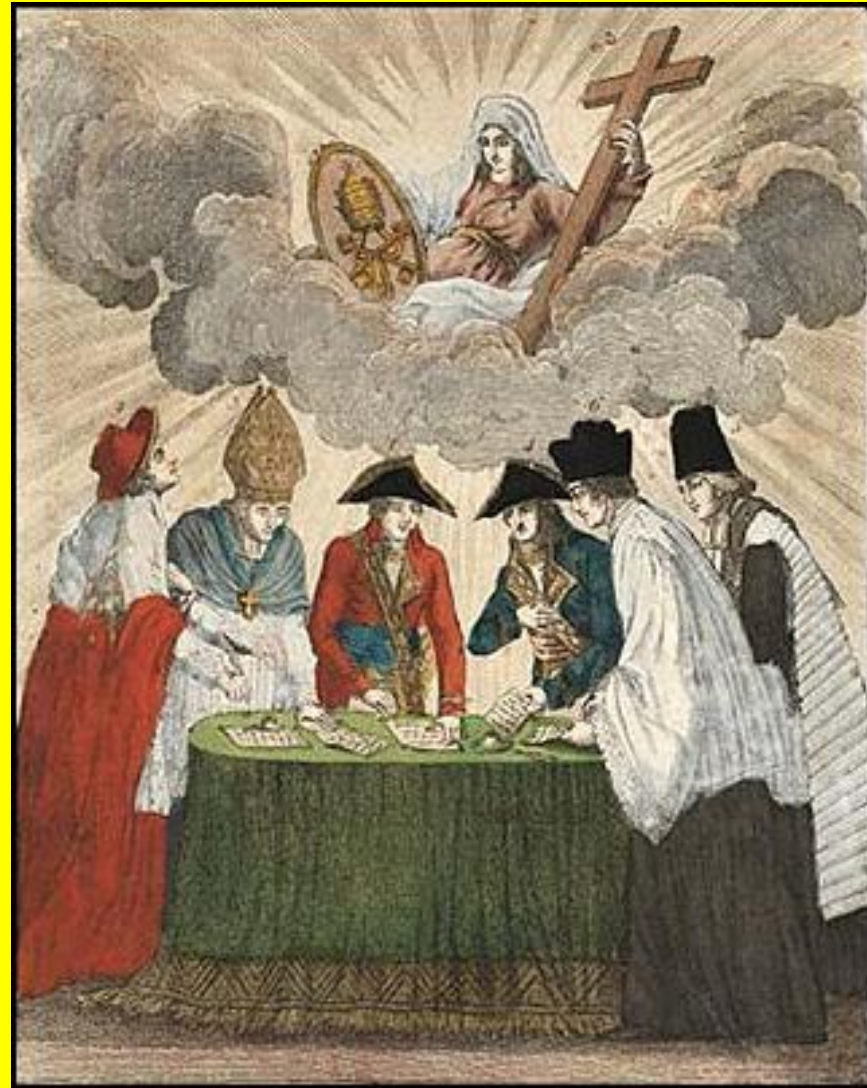


E. Napoleon wanted to make peace with the Catholic Church so he signed the Concordat with Pope Pius VII in 1801.



*Napoleon's views on religion?

1. Pope received right to depose French bishops, hold processions again, and reopen seminaries.
2. Pope recognizes Church's losses w/ revolution:
 - a. Church gave up right to confiscated land
 - b. Catholicism not state religion
 - c. State could still nominate bishops
 - d. Religious officials on church payroll (Catholic & Protestant)
3. Religious toleration
4. Catholic Church no longer an enemy of the state.



F. The *Code Napoléon* was instituted which gave the country a uniform set of laws and eliminated many injustices.

Civil Code

1. Equality of all citizens under the law
2. Freedom to choose profession
3. Religious toleration
4. Abolition of serfdom/feudalism
5. Property rights
6. Outlawing trade unions and strikes

In the spirit of the Revolution?

G. Steps back under Napoleon

During the Revolution – divorce easier for women, fathers lost absolute control over children, equal inheritance of property --- Napoleon rescinds...

1. Patriarchal Civil Code

- a. Divorce more difficult
- b. Wife's property becomes the husband's with marriage
- c. Adultery harsher on women
- d. Women legally minors – testimony less reliable



2. Strong protection accorded to property rights and use of conscription for the military make it clear that much equality had been lost.
3. Censorship of press/mail. Curtailed political liberty.

4. 1802 – reinstatement of slavery (capture and imprisonment of L'Ouverture)

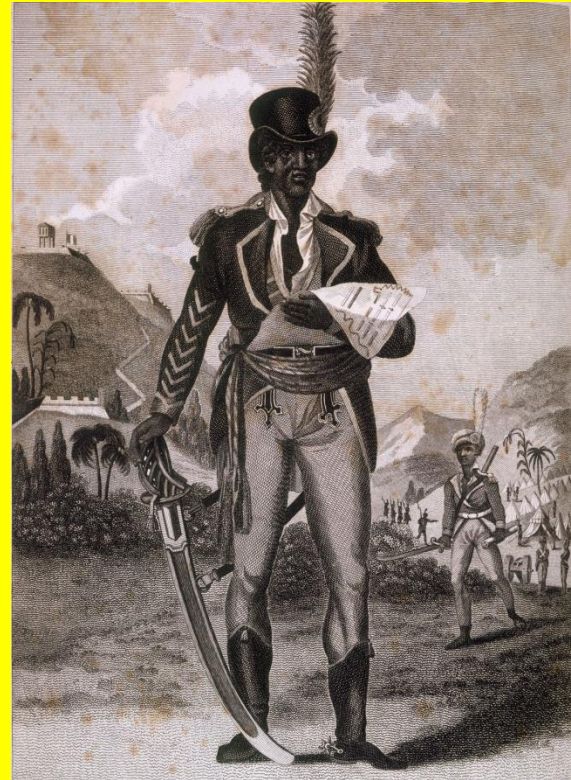


5. Imposition of military state – secret agents, arbitrary arrests, executions, propaganda campaigns

- **Question.** What are the duties of Christians toward those who govern them, and what in particular are our duties towards Napoleon I, our emperor?
- **Answer.** Christians owe to the princes who govern them, and we in particular owe to Napoleon I, our emperor, love, respect, obedience, fidelity, military service, and the taxes levied for the preservation and defense of the empire and of his throne. We also owe him fervent prayers for his safety and for the spiritual and temporal prosperity of the state.
- **Question.** Why are we subject to all these duties toward our emperor?
- **Answer.** First, because God, who has created empires and distributes them according to his will, has, by loading our emperor with gifts both in peace and in war, established him as our sovereign and made him the agent of his power and his image upon earth. To honor and serve our emperor is therefore to honor and serve God himself. Secondly, because our Lord Jesus Christ himself, both by his teaching and his example, has taught us what we owe to our sovereign. Even at his very birth he obeyed the edict of Cæsar Augustus; he paid the established tax; and while he commanded us to render to God those things which belong to God, he also commanded us to render unto Cæsar those things which are Cæsar's.
- **Question.** Are there not special motives which should attach us more closely to Napoleon I, our emperor?
- **Answer.** Yes, for it is he whom God has raised up in trying times to reestablish the public worship of the holy religion of our fathers and to be its protector; he has re-established and preserved public order by his profound and active wisdom; he defends the state by his mighty arm; he has become the anointed of the Lord by the consecration which he has received from the sovereign pontiff, head of the Church universal.
- **Question.** What must we think of those who are wanting in their duties toward our emperor?
- **Answer.** According to the apostle Paul, they are resisting the order established by God himself and render themselves worthy of eternal damnation.

III. Napoleon Creates an Empire

A. He gave up his goals of building an American empire after the Haitian revolt.



Toussaint Louverture

B. Instead he sold the Louisiana Territory to the US to gain money and hurt the English.



C. France defeated Austria, Prussia, and Russia between 1799 and 1802. Peace of Amiens in March 1802 (Temporary peace w/ Britain).



- D. 1803 – war against Third Coalition of Britain, Austria, Prussia and Russia.
1. 1805 – defeats Austria (Battle of Ulm)
 2. 1806 – defeats Prussia (Battle of Jena and Auerstadt)
 3. 1807 – defeats Russia (Battle of Eylau and Friedland)
 4. 1807 – Treaty of Tilsit (Mastery of Europe)



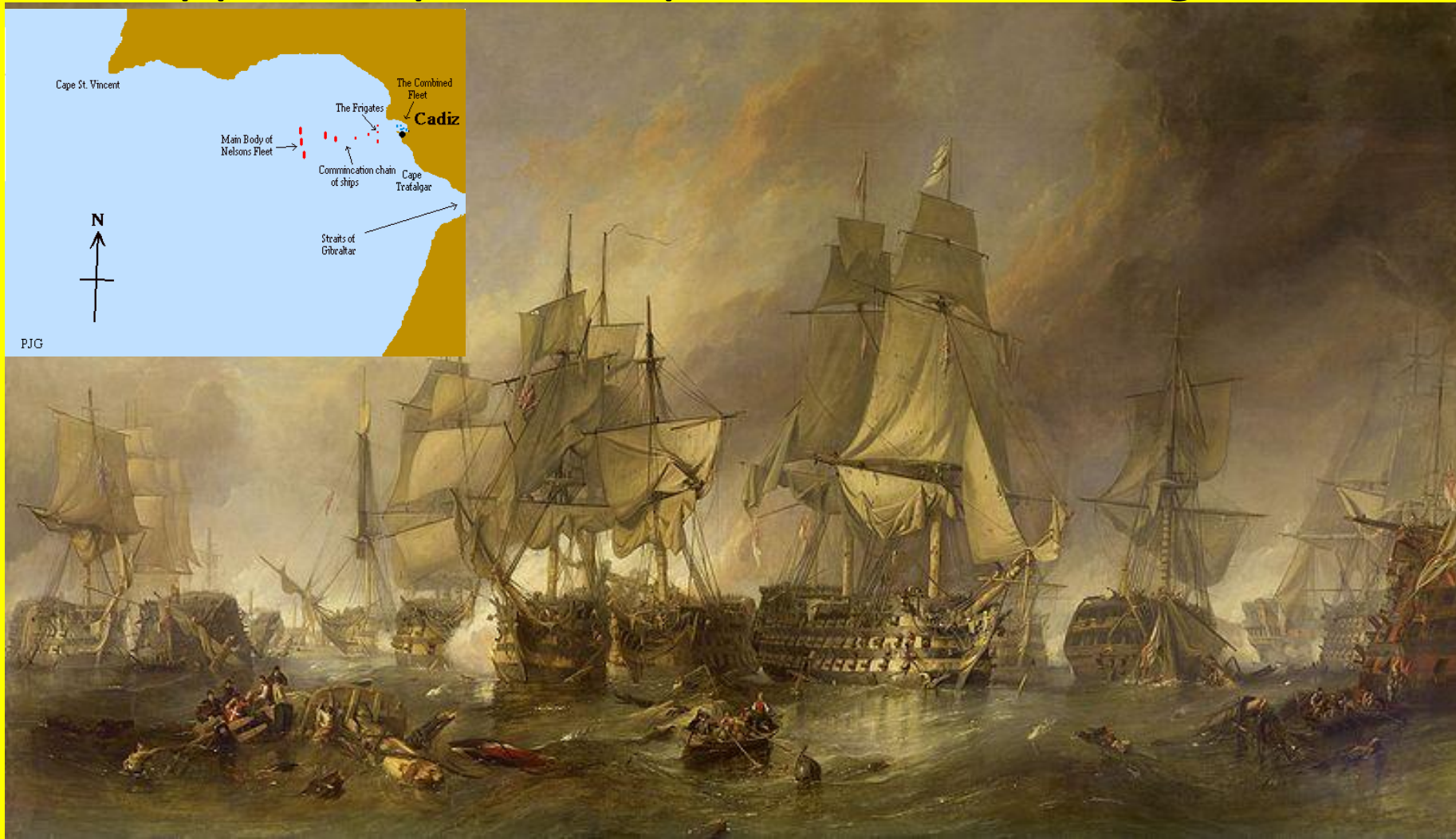
Napoleon's Grand Empire

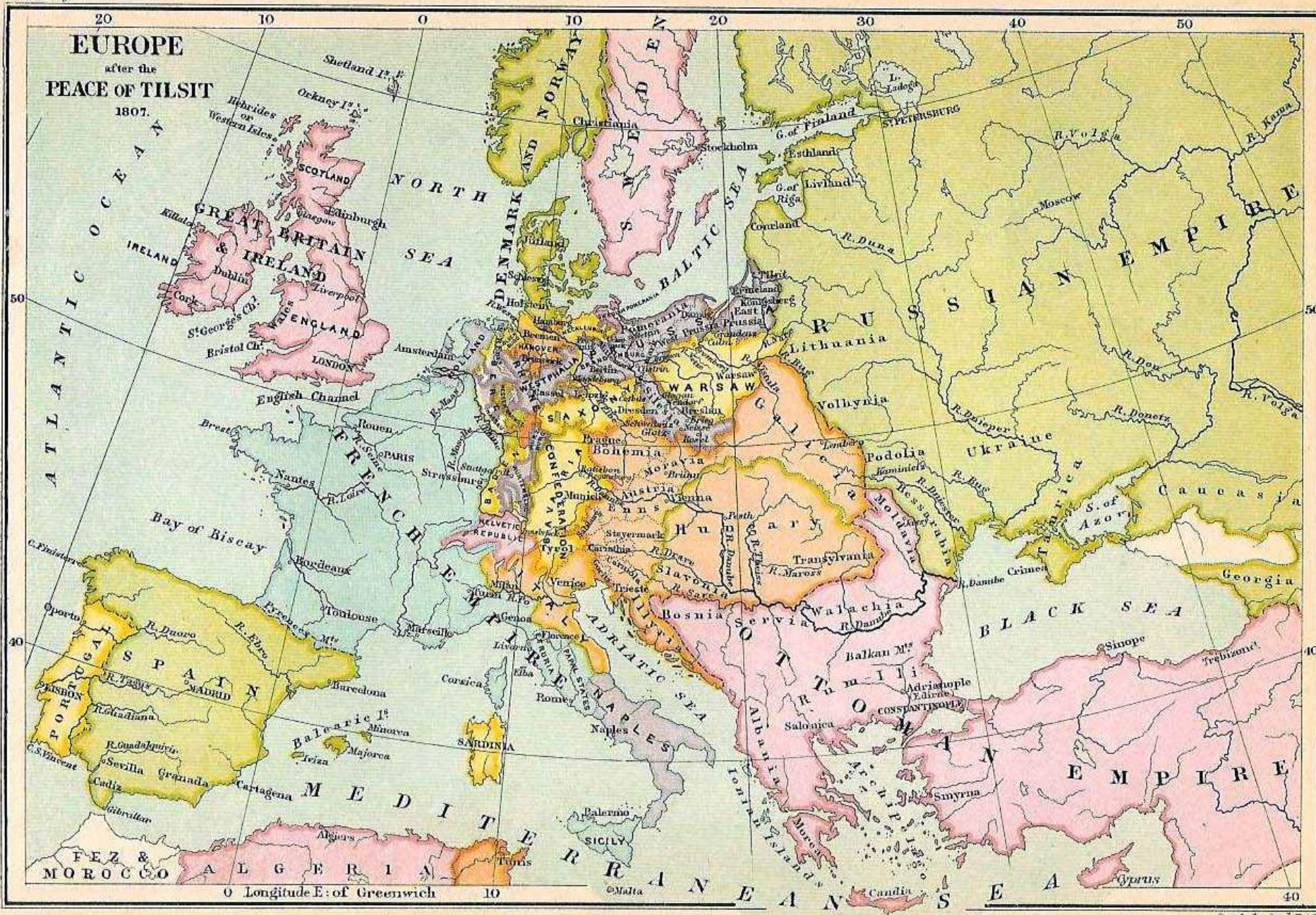


- E. Napoleon's Grand Empire (p. 597 Napoleon's view of himself?)
1. Spread revolutionary principles: legal equality, religious toleration, and economic freedom
 2. Destroyed feudalism/the old order privileges of nobles and clergy.
 3. Equality of opportunity
 4. Est. of Republics (Italy, Switzerland, Low Countries) – Nepotism



F. France's naval defeat at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805 ensured Britain's mastery of the sea and stopped Napoleon's plans to invade England.





EUROPE

after the
PEACE OF TILSIT
1807.

IV. Napoleon's loses the Empire.

French hegemony met resistance via

(1) Opposition from Great Britain & (2) Nationalism

A. To destroy England's economy, Napoleon set up the Continental System in 1806 which was an economic embargo on the island nation of England.



B. Allies resented growing French control and broke the embargo AND England countered with an embargo of mainland Europe which will lead to a war with the US in 1812.



C. French idea of nationalism (unique cultural identity of a people based on a common language, religion and national symbols) spread

1. Aroused patriotism in opposition to French nationalism
2. Showing Europe what nationalism was and what a nation in arms could do

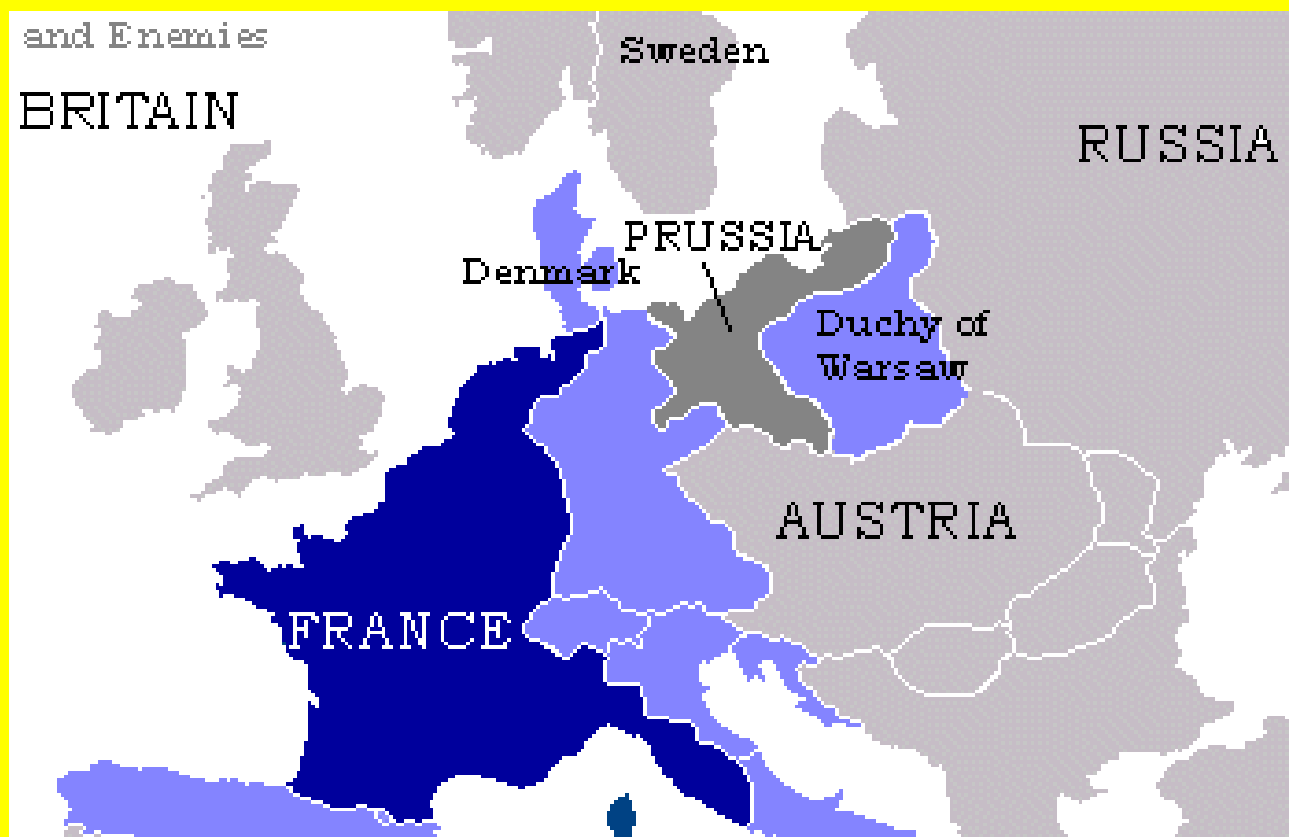
3. Example of nationalism against the French: The Peninsular War from 1808 - 1813 was a costly war in Spain which squandered military resources (lives, treasury).



Francisco Goya, *The Third of May 1808*.







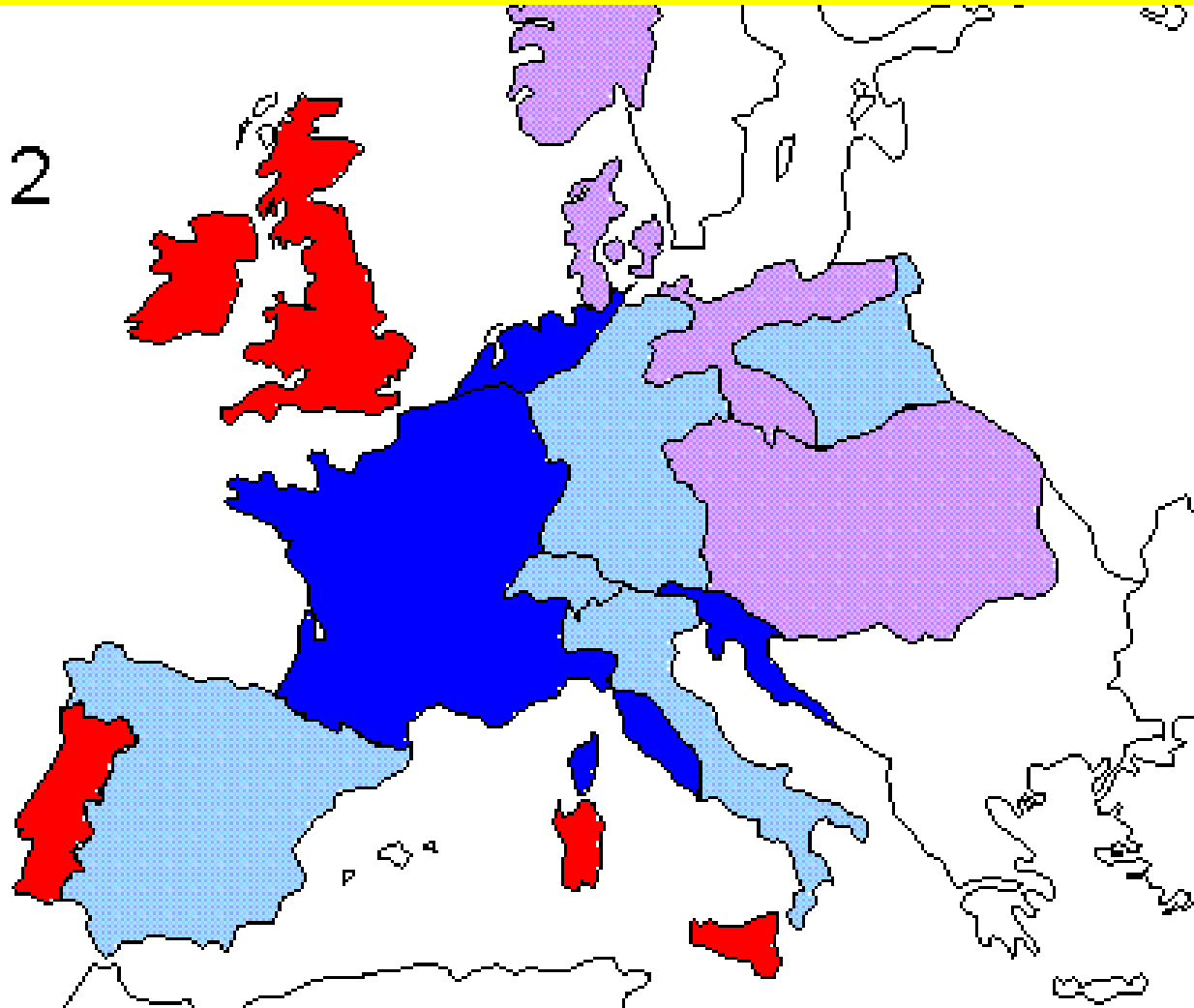
4. Johann Gottlieb Fichte promoted German nationalism. To respond to Napoleon, Prussia undertook political and military reforms. (abolished serfdom, election city councils, and larger standing army)



D. Russia opened trade with Britain so
Napoleon invaded Russia in 1812 with
600,000 men in his Grand Armee.

EUROPE IN 1812

-  British Control
-  Napoleonic Empire
-  Dependent States
-  Allies of Napoleon



Carte Figurative des pertes successives en hommes de l'Armée Française dans la campagne de Russie 1812-1813.

Dressée par M. Mimarid, Inspecteur Général des Ponts et Chaussées en retraite Paris, le 20 Novembre 1869.

Les nombres d'hommes présents sont représentés par les largeurs des zones colorées à raison d'un millimètre pour dix mille hommes; ils sont de plus écrits en travers des zones. Le rouge désigne les hommes qui entrent en Russie, le noir ceux qui en sortent. Les renseignements qui ont servi à dresser la carte ont été puisés dans les ouvrages de M. M. Chiers, de Féguir, de Fezensac, de Chambray et le journal inédit de Jacob, pharmacien de l'Armée depuis le 28 Octobre.

Pour mieux faire juger à l'œil la diminution de l'armée, j'ai supposé que les corps du Prince Jérôme et du Maréchal Davout qui avaiem-été détachés sur Minsk et Mohilow en ont rejoint vers Orscha et Witebsk, avaiem-toujours marché avec l'armée.

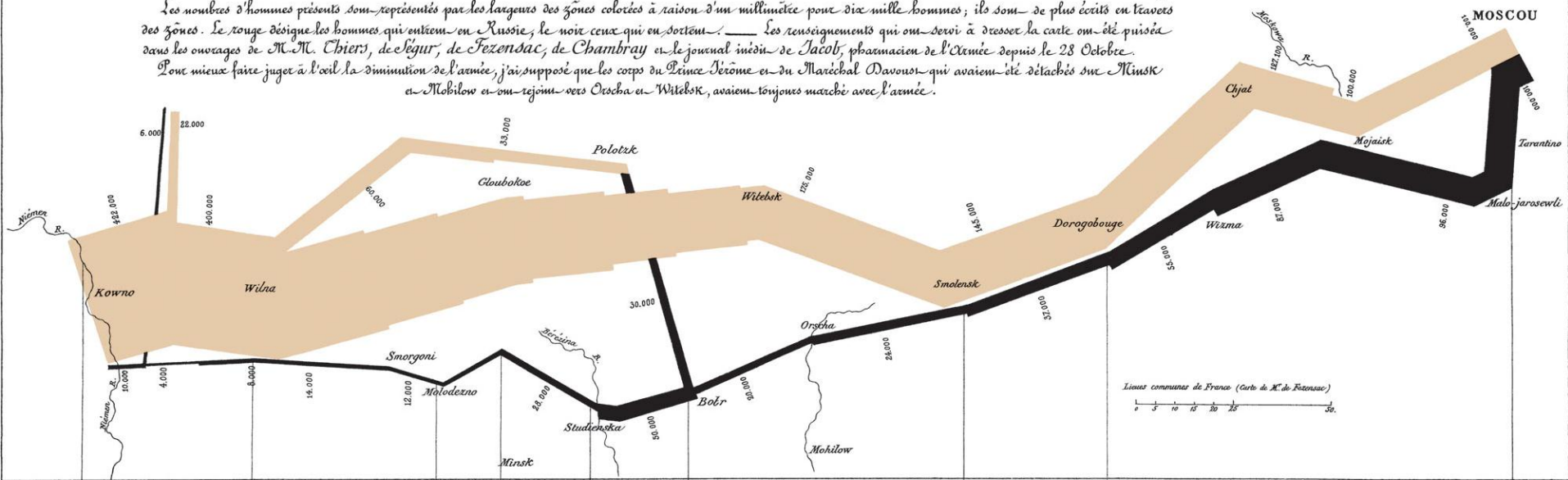
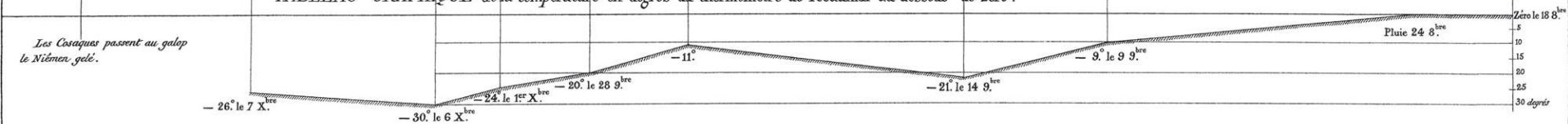


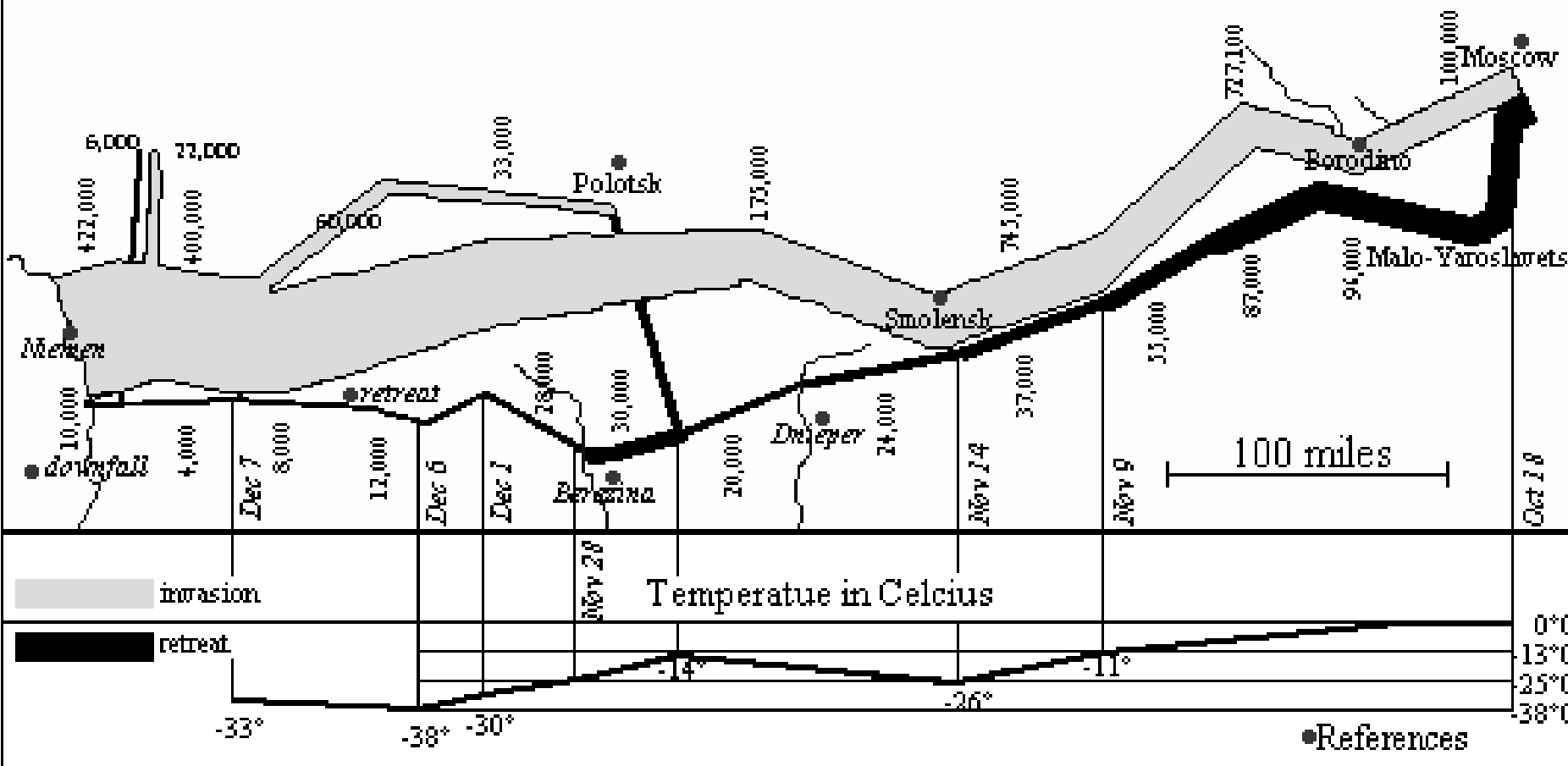
TABLEAU GRAPHIQUE de la température en degrés du thermomètre de Réaumur au dessous de zéro.



Napoleon's 1812 Russian Campaign

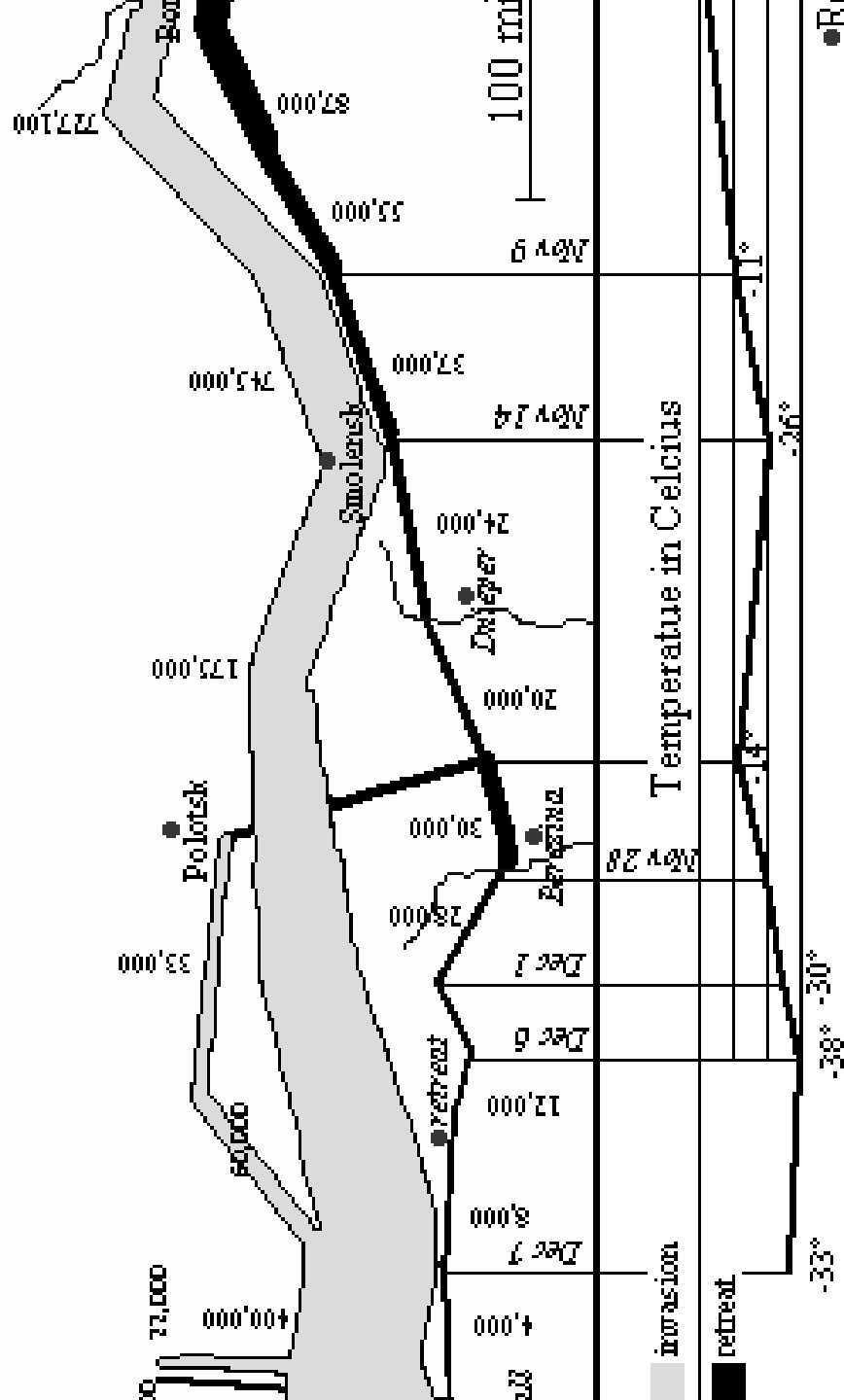
- cruises
- preparations

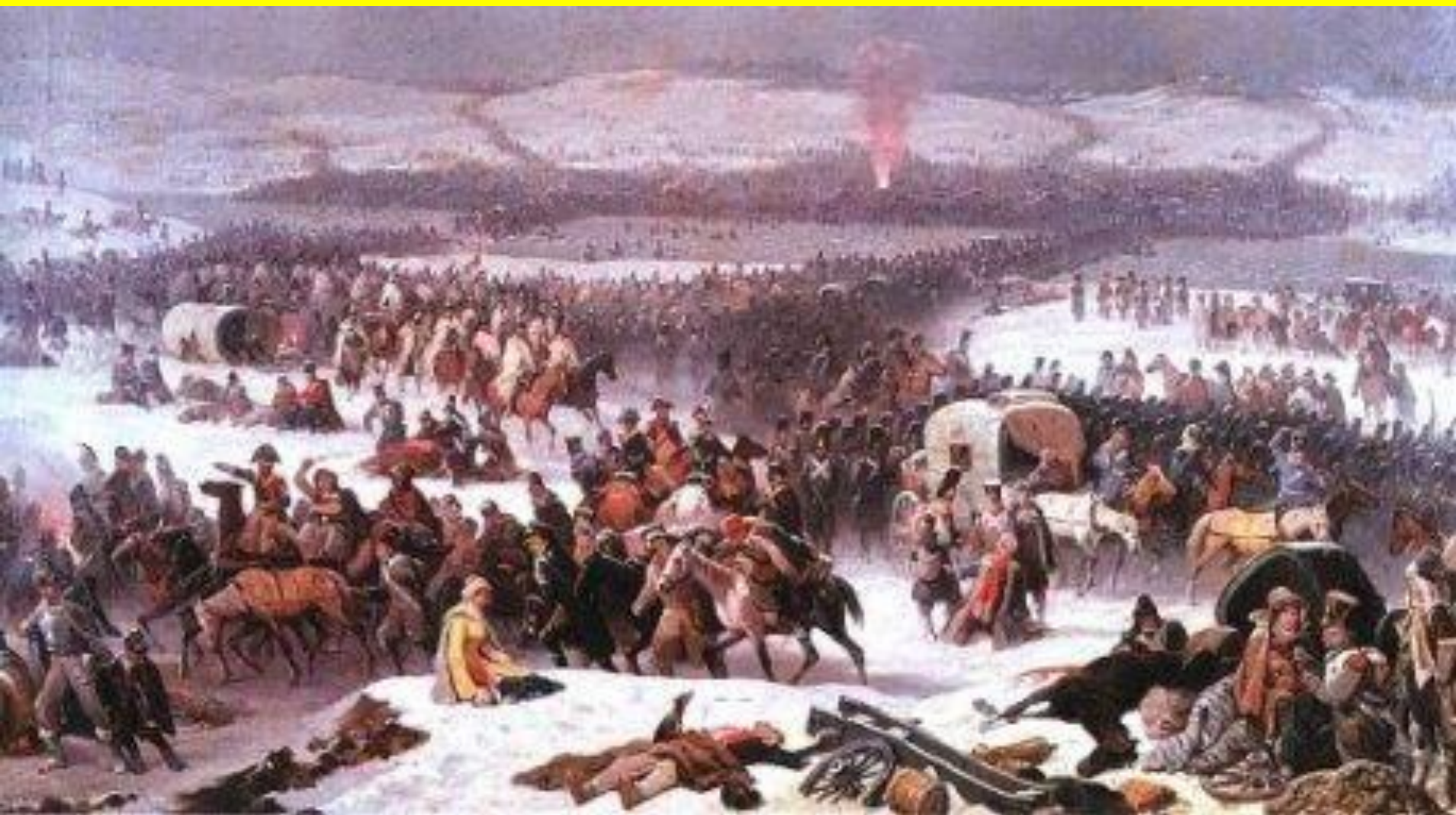
?



Napoleon's 1812 Russian Campaign

invasions





Because of Russia's scorched earth policy, guerrilla war tactics, and winter weather, only 10,000 troops returned to France.



- Napoleon fearing that his position at home was precarious left the French army and hurried back to France. After arriving at the banks of the River Neman, he supposedly inquired of the ferryman whether many deserters had come through that way.
- “No” replied the ferryman, “you are the first.”



Music Connection

- **1812 Overture – Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)**
- Napoleon's unsuccessful invasion of Russia was the inspiration Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture.
- Part of a new spirit of Russian culture – Western vs. Eastern European
- Falls on the Western side of cultural movement in Russia

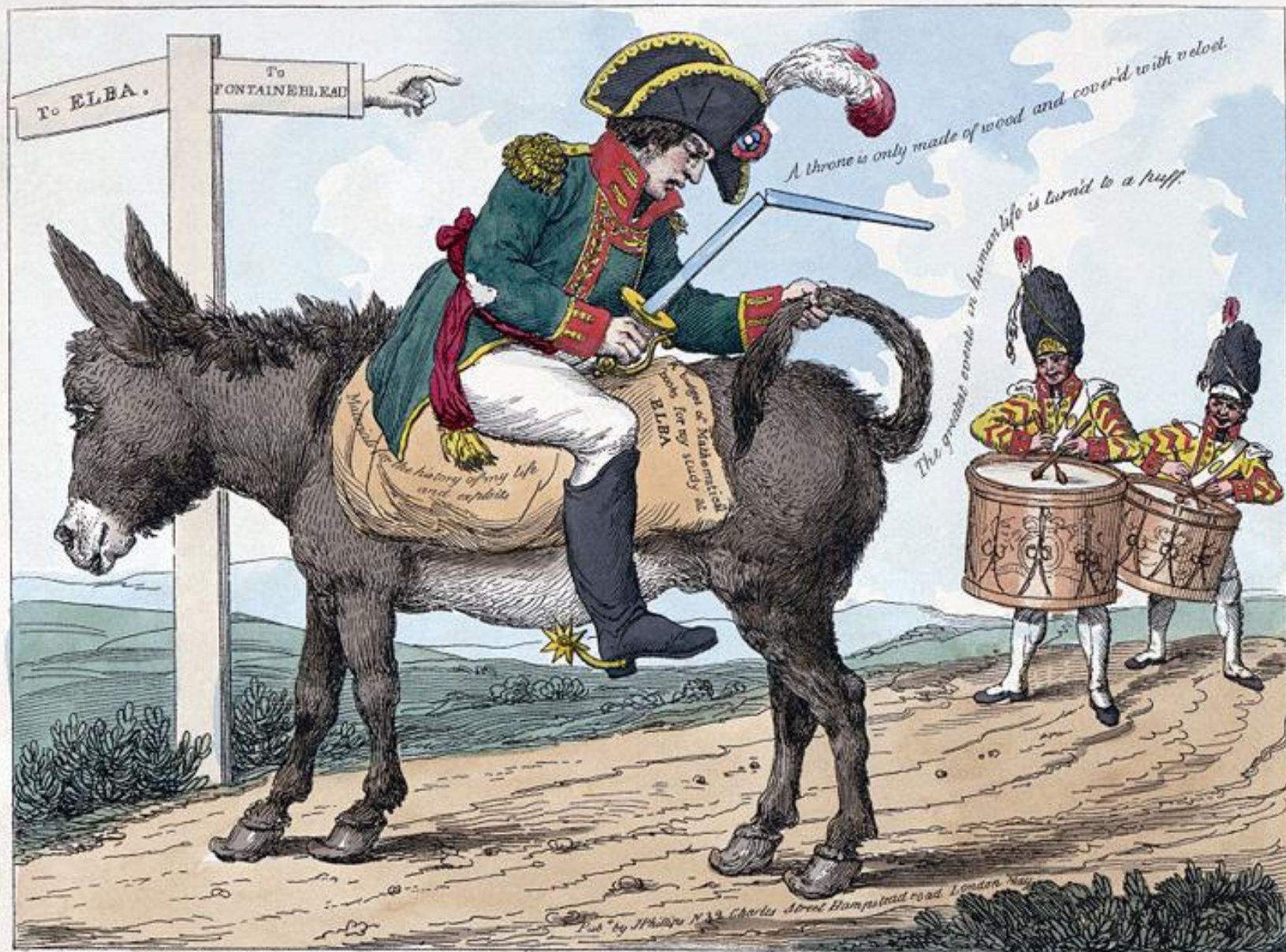


E. Britain, Russia, Prussia, and Sweden joined to defeat Napoleon at the Battle of Leipzig. (October 1813)



F. Napoleon was forced to surrender and go into exile to the island of Elba in 1814.





Farewell my brave soldiers, my eagles adieu;
 Slung with my ambition, o'er the world ye flew.
 But deeds of disaster so sad to rehearse,
 I have lived—fatal truth for to know the reverse.
 From Moscow, from Lipsic, the case it is clear
 I was sent back to France, with a flea in my ear.

The Journey of a modern Hero to the Island of ELBA

A lesson to mortals, regarding my fall;
 He grasps at a shadow, by grasping at all.
 My course it is finish'd my race it is run,
 My career it is ended just where it begun.
 The Empire of France no more it is mine,
 Because I can't keep it I freely resign.

Pub'd by J. Phillips N° 13, Charles Street Hampstead road, London, N.W.

G. Louis XVIII was an unpopular king of France. Napoleon escaped the island of Elba and returned to become emperor in 1815.



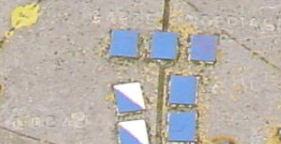
H. Prussia and Britain defeat Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo.







NAPOLÉON



PRUSSIENS
CONTINGENTS ALLIÉS
HOLLANDAIS - BELGES
ALLIÉS
NAPOLÉON



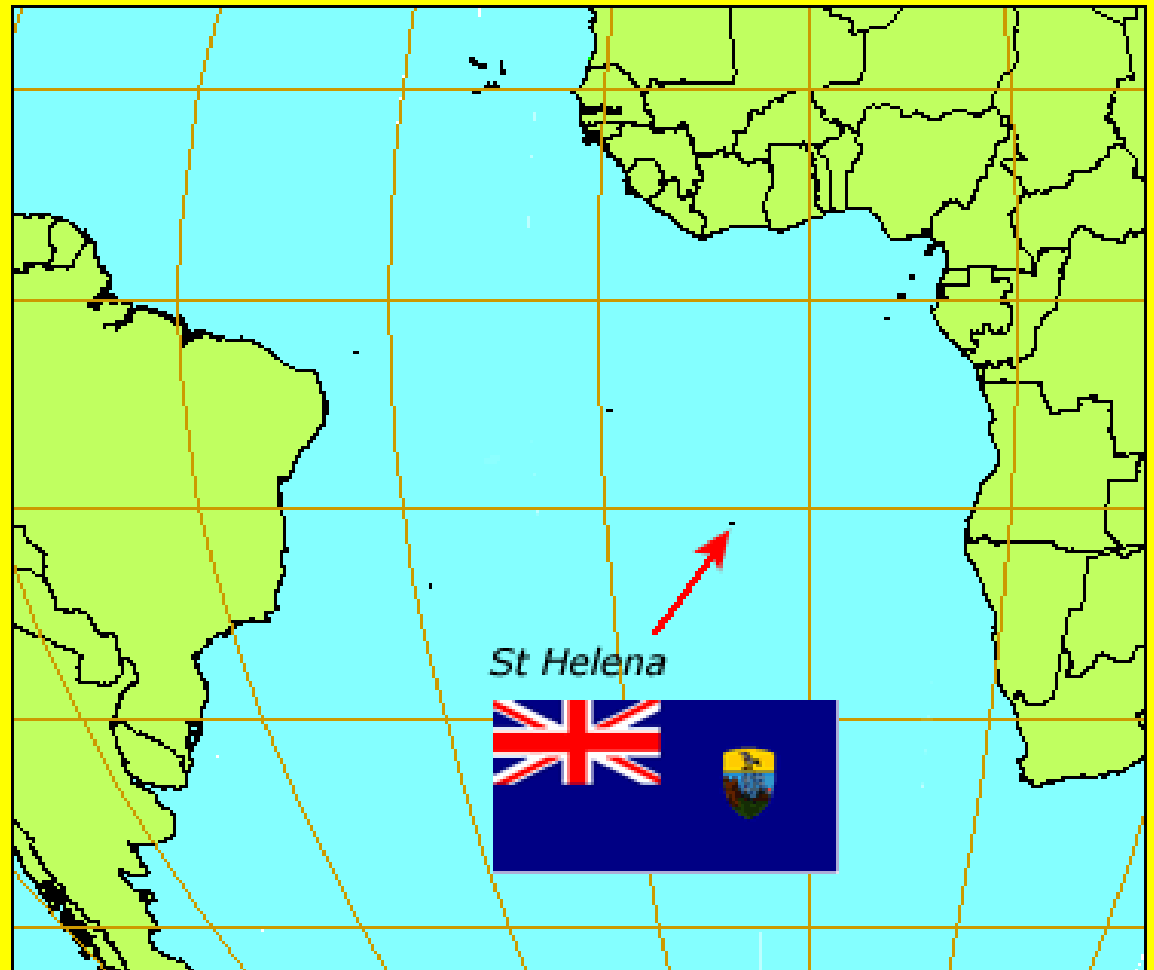




Napoleon's Modern Warfare

- Offensive Movement – quick direct strikes at enemies' weak areas vs. maneuvering to conserve manpower
- Defying Tradition – Sundays, winter, night, living off the countryside
- Use of Propaganda – presentation as liberator – ending aristocratic privilege (republican gov'ts)
- Professionalized Citizen Army – vs. paid mercenaries

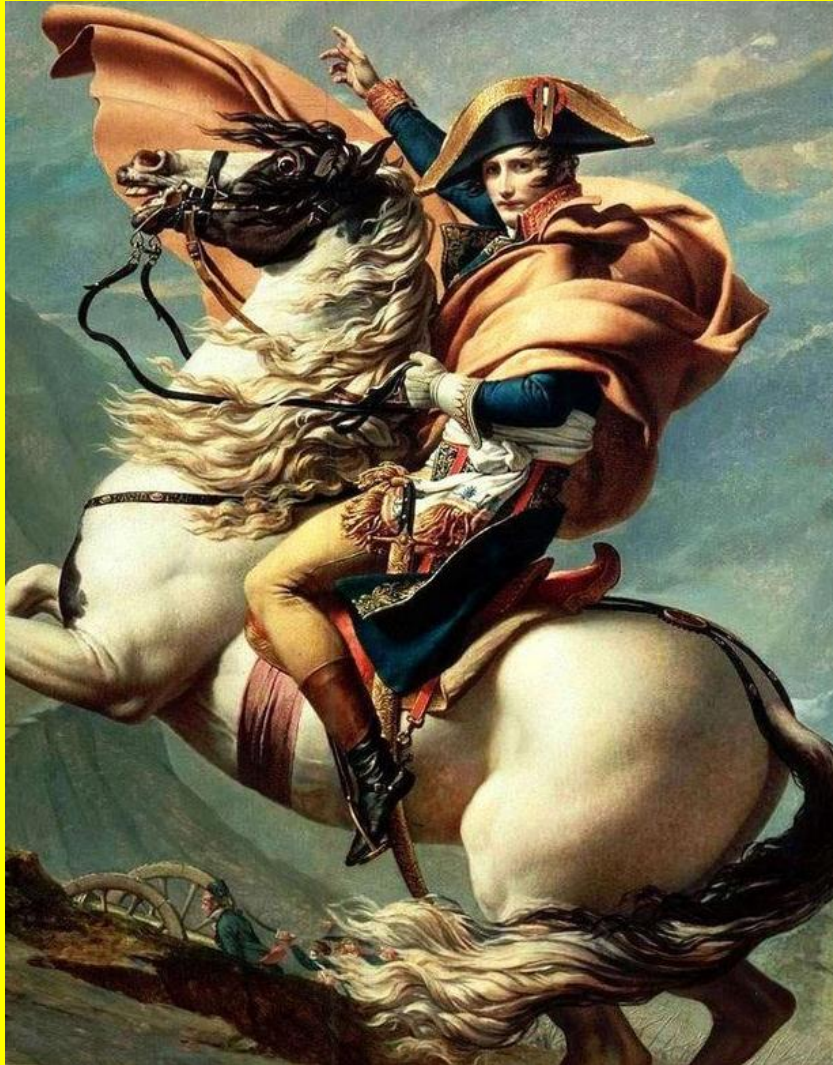
I. Prussia and Britain defeat Napoleon at Waterloo and exile him to the remote island of St. Helena until he died in 1821.



CHRONOLOGY The Napoleonic Era, 1799–1815

Napoleon as first consul	1799–1804
Concordat with Catholic Church	1801
Peace of Amiens	1802
Emperor Napoleon I	1804–1815
Battle of Ulm (defeat of Austria)	1805
Battle of Austerlitz (defeat of Russia)	1805
Battle of Trafalgar (naval defeat of Napoleon's forces)	1805
Battles of Jena and Auerstadt (defeat of Prussia)	1806
Continental System established	1806
Battles of Eylau and Friedland (defeat of Russia)	1807
Invasion of Russia	1812
War of liberation	1813–1814
Exile to Elba	1814
Battle of Waterloo; exile to Saint Helena	1815
Death of Napoleon	1821

Napoleon Bonaparte



- Recall: French Revolution more of a *social* revolution
- To what extent is the following statement true? “Napoleon embodied the principles of the Enlightenment.”