Chapter 18 Section 3 Age of Napoleon

- The Age of Napoleon
  o His role in revolution is complex
    ▪ He brought it to an end by becoming emperor in 1799
    ▪ He also would have never come to power without the revolutionary ideals

- Early life of Napoleon
  o Napoleon was born in 1769 in Corsica (tiny island in Mediterranean) He had a modest life
    ▪ Received military scholarship to famous military school
    ▪ When finished he was commissioned lieutenant of French Army
    ▪ Great general and loved by his soldier but early on few would have guessed he became mighty emperor. (He had a Italian accent and other officers disliked him)

- Military Successes
  o Napoleon rose through ranks quickly
    ▪ 1792 Captain, 1794 @ 24 Brigadier General
    ▪ 1796 Commander of the French Army in Italy
    ▪ In Italy he won battles in a style that made him famous
      • Speed, Surprise, and decisive action
    ▪ Napoleon defeated Papal States and their Austrian allies
    ▪ Through his Italian campaign his victories earned him loyalty, devotion, from his troops
    ▪ His confidence, intelligence, oratory skills allowed him to win support of others around him
    ▪ 1797 he returned to France as a hero and was given control of Army that was training to invade Britain.
      • Napoleon suggested to invade Britain indirectly by taking Egypt
      • Egypt was important to GB cause of trade location
      • GB was too great of a Naval Power to allow France to win. Napoleon abandoned plans and went back to Paris.

- Consul and Emperor
  o Consul and Emperor
    ▪ While in Paris in 1799 Napoleon was part of coup d’état that overthrew Directory and set up new system of government know as consulate
    ▪ In theory it was supposed to be a republic but in actuality Napoleon held absolute power
    ▪ He appointed officials, controlled the army, conducted foreign affairs and influenced legislature
    ▪ 1802 Napoleon was made consul for life
    ▪ 1804 crowned himself Emperor Napoleon I
- **Napoleon’s Domestic Policies**
  - He claimed he had preserved French Revolution’s goals when he became France’s leader
  - He made peace with Church especially since most of France was Catholic. Did so as a political move not as a devout/spiritual move.
    - Agreement with pope in 1801
      - Made Catholic official religion of France
      - Church doesn’t ask for lands back
      - Makes church happy and Napoleon gains more supporters. People who were devout Catholics happy and people who didn’t have to give church lands back happy

- **Codification of the Law**
  - Made a single code of Law for all of France
    - Before Napoleon was emperor there was 300 difference legal systems
    - 7 Law codes created but most important was civil code
    - Napoleonic code was passed in 1804. It preserved many principles the revolutionaries fought for.
      - Equality of all citizens before law
      - Right of individuals to choose profession
      - Religious toleration
      - Abolition of serfdom
      - For women this was a step back compared to radical revolution (they went recognized under the code as having rights)

- **New Bureaucracy**
  - Strong centralized administration
  - Developed bureaucracy of capable officials. Earned rank through talent and merit not through birth.
    - Middle class wanted this pre-revolution
  - Napoleon created a lot of new nobles and most were plain civil people

- **Preserver of the revolution**
  - All citizens equal in front of the law
  - He did however control press and banned certain books
  - Printed materials that had to be read and scrutinized before they could be published

- **Napoleon’s Empire**
  - As his spread his empire and nationalistic ideas he had even more resistance
Building the Empire

- When Napoleon became consul in 1799 France was at war with a coalition of forces from Russia, GB, and Austria
- He wanted Revolution to continue but realized he needed peace to preserve revolution
  - 1802 peace treaty signed but war broke out again in 1803
  - From 1805-1807 in a series of Battles @ Ulm, Austerlitz, Jena, and Eylau Napoleon’s Grand Army defeated Austrian, Russia, and Great Britain.
  - From 1807-1812 Napoleon controlled much of Europe. His Grand Empire was composed of 3 major empires. French Empire, Dependent States, and Allied States

Spreading the Principles of Revolution

- Within his empire Napoleon sought to spread principles of French Revolution including legal equality, religious toleration, and economic freedom.
  - In inner core and dependent states Napoleon tried to destroy old order
  - The nobility and clergy in these states lost their special privileges
  - Wanted to spread idea of merit based jobs in areas he controlled
  - Napoleon hoped his empire would last for centuries

British Resistance

- Napoleon was never able to conquer GB because of its sea power
- Napoleon couldn’t invade Britain due to sea power
  - Napoleon turned to continental system to defeat Great Britain
    - Aim of this system was to stop GB’s goods from reaching mainland European Continent
    - By weakening GB economy Napoleon would destroy its ability to wage war
    - Continental system also failed. Allied states resented being told they couldn’t buy GB goods. Also GB expanded markets into Middle East and Latin America so even if Napoleon’s empire didn’t buy from GB they sold enough goods elsewhere.

Nationalism

- Another factor that led to Napoleon’s eventual defeat was Nationalism
- Nationalism was a sense of unique identity of a people based on a common language, religion, and national symbols.
  - Napoleon marched his armies through Germanies, Spain, Italy, and Poland arousing new ideas of Nationalism in two ways.
    - 1st the conquered peoples became united in hatred of invaders
    - 2nd conquered peoples saw power and strength in a national feeling
- The fall of Napoleon
  - Disaster in Russia
    - Russians refused to remain in Continental system, Napoleon had to invade
      - Understand risks of invading such a large country but had to punish Russia so other nations didn’t act out
      - In June 1812 a grand army of more than 600,000 men entered Russia
        - Russian troops refused to engage and retreated, while retreating he burned own crops and villages so Grand Army couldn’t use those goods.
      - When Grand Army did reach Moscow city was ablaze. Lacking food and supplies Napoleon started the Great Retreat
        - During retreat and winter setting in thousands of soldiers starved and froze to death
        - Fewer than 40,000 of 600,000 made it back to Poland in January of 1813
    - Disaster of Russia led other Nation’s to rise up against crippled French Army
      - Paris captured in 1814 and Napoleon sent into exile Elba an Island off coast of Italy
  - The Final Defeat
    - He escaped Elba and slipped back into France
      - New King of France sent soldiers to capture Napoleon
        - He said this is your emperor kill me if you want
        - They rejoiced he raised and army and Russia, GB, Prussia, and Austria vowed to defeat him.
        - At waterloo in Belgium in June 1815. Napoleon was defeated sent into exile until he died.