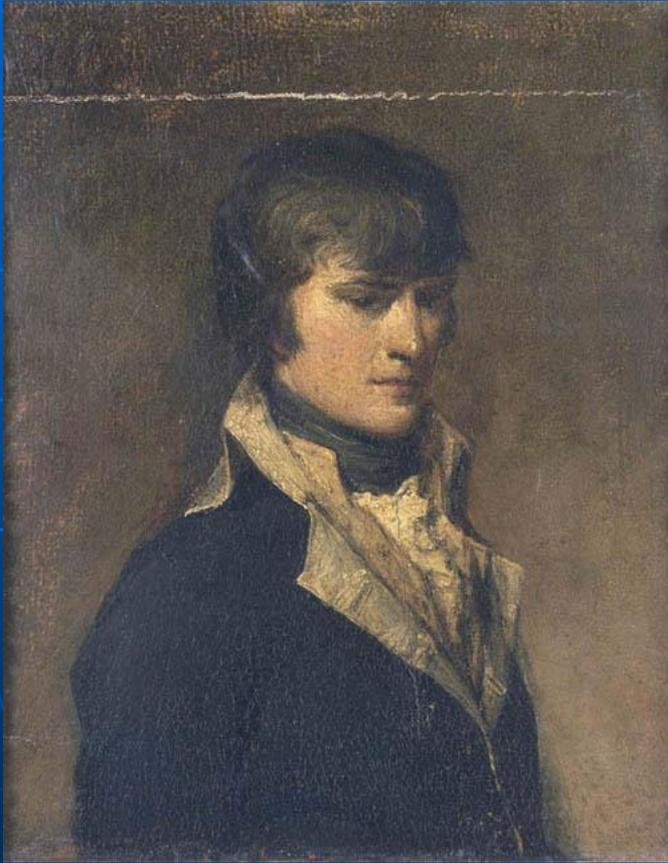


# NAPOLÉON BONAPARTE



- Napoleon was born **Napoleone Buonaparte** (in Corsican *Nabolione* or *Nabulione*) in the city of Ajaccio on Corsica on August 15th 1769. This was only one year after the island was transferred to France by the Republic of Genoa. He later adopted the more French-sounding *Napoléon Bonaparte*.
- His family were minor Italian nobility living in Corsica. His father, Carlo Buonaparte, an attorney, was named Corsica's representative to the court of Louis XVI of France in 1778, where he remained for a number of years. The dominant influence of Napoleon's childhood was his mother, Maria Letizia Ramolino. Her firm discipline helped restrain the rambunctious Napoleon as a boy, nicknamed *Rabullione* (the "meddler" or "disrupter").
- At age nine, Napoleon was admitted to a French military school at Brienne-le-Château, a small town near Troyes, on May 15th 1779.

# NAPOLÉON BONAPARTE



- He had to learn to speak French before entering the school, but he spoke with a marked Italian accent throughout his life and never learned to spell properly. He earned high marks in mathematics and geography, and passable grades in other subjects.
- Upon graduation from Brienne in 1784, Bonaparte was admitted to the elite Ecole Royale Militaire in Paris, where he completed the two year course of study in only one year. Although he had initially sought a naval assignment, he studied artillery at the Ecole Militaire. Upon graduation in September, 1785, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant of artillery, and took up his new duties in January 1786, at the age of 16.

# NAPOLÉON BONAPARTE



- Napoleon served on garrison duty in Valence and Auxonne until after the outbreak of the Revolution in 1789. He spent most of the next several years on Corsica, where a complex three-way struggle was played out among royalists, revolutionaries, and Corsican nationalists. Bonaparte supported the Jacobin faction, and gained the position of lieutenant-colonel of a regiment of volunteers. After coming into conflict with the increasingly conservative nationalist leader Napoleon and his family were forced to flee to France in June 1793.
- Through the help of fellow Corsican Saliceti, he was appointed as artillery commander in the French forces besieging Toulon, which had risen in revolt against the Reign of Terror and was occupied by British troops. He formulated a successful plan: he placed guns at Point l'Equillete, threatening the British ships in the harbour with destruction, thereby forcing them to evacuate. A successful assault of the position, during which Bonaparte was wounded in the thigh, led to the recapture of the city and a promotion to brigadier-general. His actions brought him to the attention of the Committee of Public Safety, and he became a close associate of Augustin Robespierre, younger brother of the Revolutionary leader Maximillian Robespierre.

# NAPOLÉON BONAPARTE

## Battle of Toulon



# NAPOLÉON BONAPARTE

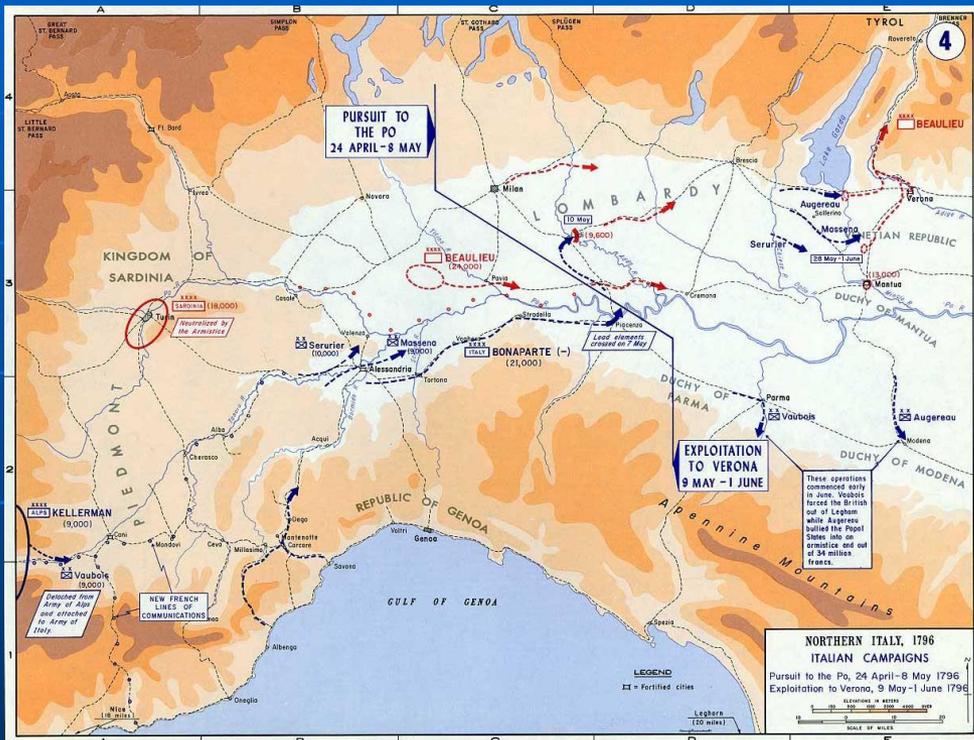


- In 1795, Bonaparte was serving in Paris when royalists and counter-revolutionaries organized an armed protest against the National Convention on October 3rd. Bonaparte was given command of the improvised forces defending the Convention in the Tuileries Palace. He seized artillery pieces with the aid of a young cavalry officer, Joachim Murat, who later became his brother-in-law. He utilized the artillery the following day to repel the attackers. He later boasted that he had cleared the streets with a "whiff of grapeshot" (small pellets fired out of a cannon), although the fighting had been vicious throughout Paris. This triumph earned him sudden fame, wealth, and the patronage of the new Directory, particularly that of its leader, Barras. Within weeks he was romantically attached to Barras's former mistress, Josephine de Beauharnais, whom he married March 9th, 1796.

# NAPOLÉON BONAPARTE

## THE ITALIAN CAMPAIGN...

- Days after his marriage, Bonaparte took command of the French "Army of Italy", leading it on a successful invasion of Italy. At the Lodi, he gained the nickname of "The Little Corporal" (*le petit caporal*), a term reflecting his camaraderie with his soldiers, all of whom he knew by name. He drove the Austrians out of Lombardy and defeated the army of the Papal States. Because Pope Pius VI had protested the execution of Louis XVI, France retaliated by annexing two small papal territories. Bonaparte ignored the Directory's order to march on Rome and dethrone the Pope. It was not until the next year that General Berthier captured Rome and took Pius VI prisoner. The pope died of illness while in captivity. In early 1797, Bonaparte led his army into Austria and forced that power to sue for peace. The resulting **Treaty of Campo Formio** gave France control of most of northern Italy, along with the Low Countries and Rhineland, but a secret clause promised Venice to Austria. Bonaparte then marched on Venice and forced its surrender, ending over 1,000 years of independence. Later in 1797, Bonaparte organized many of the French dominated territories in Italy into the Cisalpine Republic.



# NAPOLÉON BONAPARTE

## Chappe Semaphore Line...



- His remarkable series of military triumphs were a result of his ability to apply his encyclopedic knowledge of conventional military thought to real-world situations, as demonstrated by his creative use of artillery tactics, using it as a mobile force to support his infantry. As he described it: "I have fought sixty battles and I have learned nothing which I did not know at the beginning." Contemporary paintings of his headquarters during the Italian campaign depict his use of the world's first telecommunications system, the **Chappe semaphore line**, first implemented in 1792. He was also a master of both intelligence and deception and had an uncanny sense of when to strike. He often won battles by concentrating his forces on an unsuspecting enemy by using spies to gather information about opposing forces and by concealing his own troop deployments. In this campaign, often considered his greatest, Napoleon's army captured 160,000 prisoners, 2,000 cannon, and 170 standards. A year of campaigning had witnessed major breaks with the traditional norms of 18th century warfare and marked a new era in military history.

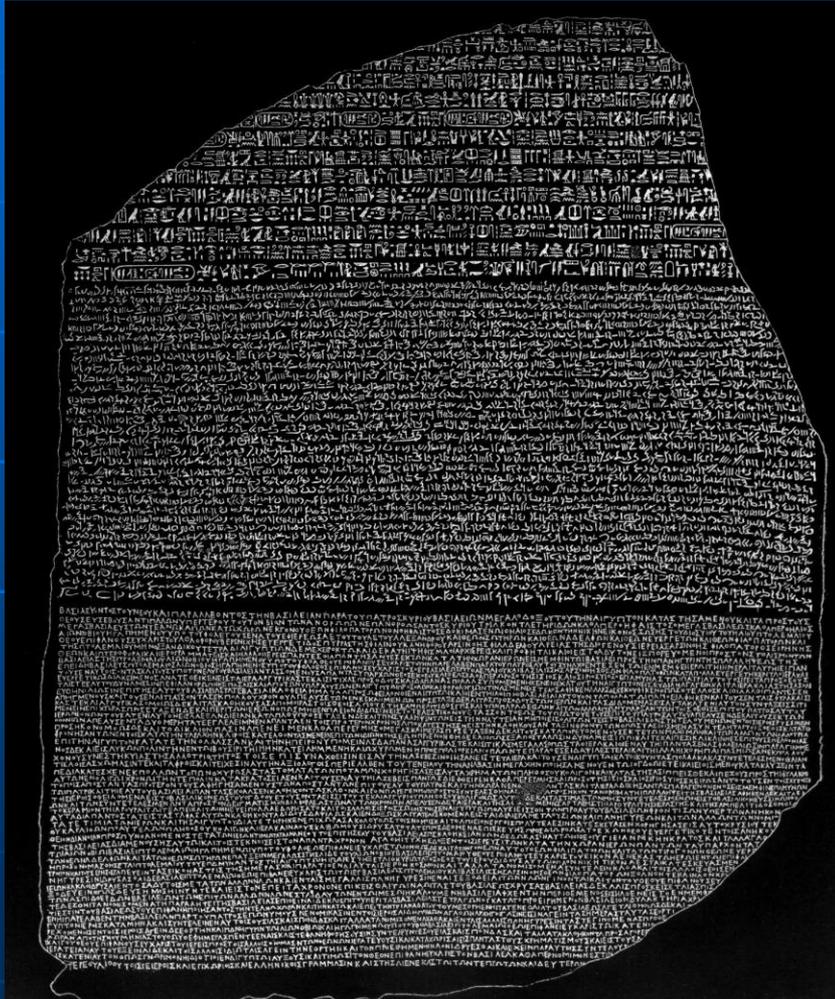
# NAPOLÉON BONAPARTE



- While campaigning in Italy, General Bonaparte became increasingly influential in French politics. He published two newspapers, ostensibly for the troops in his army, but widely circulated within France as well. In May 1797 he founded a third newspaper, published in Paris, entitled *Le Journal de Bonaparte et des hommes vertueux*. Elections in mid-1797 gave the royalist party increased power, alarming Barras and his allies on the Directory. The royalists, in turn, began attacking Bonaparte for looting Italy and overstepping his authority in dealings with the Austrians. Bonaparte sent General Augereau to Paris to lead a coup d'état and purge the royalists on September 4th (18 Fructidor). This left Barras and his Republican allies in firm control again, but dependent on Bonaparte's military command to stay there. Bonaparte himself proceeded to the peace negotiations with Austria, then returned to Paris in December as **the conquering hero** and the dominant force in government, far more popular than any of the Directors.



# NAPOLÉON BONAPARTE



## Rosetta Stone

- **Description:** Resin block in black with trilingual inscription in three bands: hieroglyphic, demotic and Greek script. 93.5 cm by 76 cm.
- **Provenance:** The original stela was made of black basalt. It was discovered by Napoleon's army at Rashid on the Nile delta in 1798.
- The Rosetta stone is the surviving part of a great basalt monument or stela bearing an inscription dated to the 9th year (196 B.C.) of Ptolemy V Epiphanes (210-180 B.C.). The decree, voted by the priests of Egypt at Memphis, is repeated in two languages-- Egyptian (in both hieroglyphic and demotic scripts) and Greek--and records the good deeds of Ptolemy and the honors proposed for the twelve year old King. Copies of the decree were to have been erected in many of the temples of Egypt. The Stone was discovered by Napoleon's army in 1799 at Râshid (called Rosetta by Europeans) on the Nile Delta. Through the Rosetta Stone and other similar bilingual inscriptions scholars were able to decipher the hieroglyphs of ancient Egypt. The Ptolemaic rulers of Egypt, of whom Cleopatra was the last (died 30 B.C.), were of Macedonian origin, and spoke Greek.

# NAPOLÉON BONAPARTE



- After landing on the coast of Egypt, the first battle to take place was against the Mamelukes, an old power in the Middle East, approximately 4 miles from the pyramids. This battle would wipe out their power altogether. Napoleon's forces were greatly outnumbered by the advanced cavalry, about 25,000 to 100,000, and the battle was quick. Napoleon came out on top, mainly due to his strategy; men formed hollow squares, each side facing out. This made it possible to keep cannons and supplies safely on the inside, while the soldiers could fire in every direction on the outside. This made a very strong defense, but left it possible for many soldiers to escape to fight again. In all only 300 French were killed, while approximately 6,000 native Egyptians were killed.
- In early 1799 he led the army into the Ottoman province of Syria, now modern Israel, and defeated numerically superior Ottoman forces in several battles, but his army was weakened by disease and poor supplies. He was unable to reduce the fortress of Acre, and was forced to retreat to Egypt in May. On July 25th, he defeated an Ottoman amphibious invasion at Abukir. Eventually Bonaparte was forced to withdraw from Egypt in 1799, leaving his troops behind, under constant British and Ottoman attacks. The remaining troops eventually surrendered to British forces but not before one out of every three men had died.

# NAPOLÉON BONAPARTE

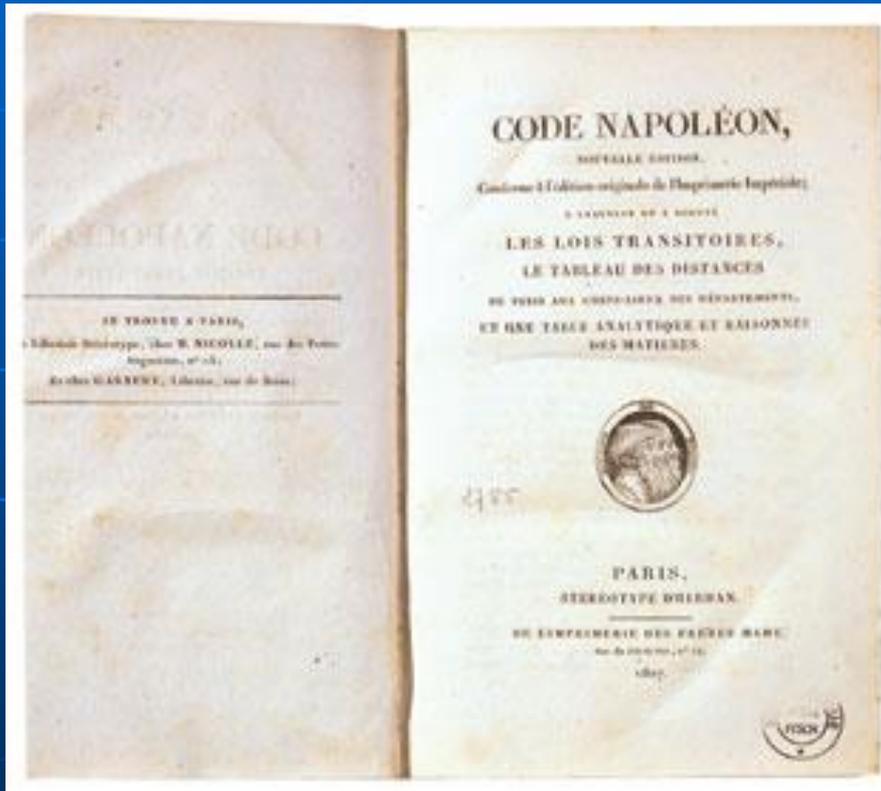
## The *coup* of 18 Brumaire



- While in Egypt, Bonaparte had kept a close eye on European affairs, relying largely on newspapers and dispatches that arrived only irregularly. On August 23rd 1799, he abruptly set sail for France, taking advantage of the temporary departure of British ships blockading French coastal ports.
- Although he was later accused by political opponents of abandoning his troops, his departure actually had been authorized by the Directory, which had suffered a series of military defeats to the forces of the Second Coalition, and feared an invasion.
- By the time he returned to Paris in October, the military situation had improved thanks to several French victories. The Republic was bankrupt, however, and the corrupt and inefficient Directory was more unpopular with the French public than ever.
- Bonaparte was approached by one of the Directors, Sieyès, seeking his support for a *coup* to overthrow the constitution. The plot included Bonaparte's brother Lucien, then serving as speaker of the Council of Five Hundred, Roger Ducos, another Director, and Talleyrand. On November 9th (18 Brumaire), and the following day, troops led by Bonaparte seized control and dispersed the legislative councils, leaving a rump to name Bonaparte, Sieyès, and Ducos as provisional Consuls to administer the government. Although Sieyès expected to dominate the new regime, he was outmaneuvered by Bonaparte, who drafted the Constitution of the Year VIII and secured his own election as First Consul. This made him the most powerful person in France, a power that was increased by the Constitution of the Year X, which made him First Consul for life.

# NAPOLÉON BONAPARTE

## CODE NAPOLÉON – CODE CIVIL



- Bonaparte instituted several lasting reforms including centralized administration of the départements, higher education, a tax system, a central bank, law codes, and road and sewer systems. He negotiated the Concordat of 1801 with the Catholic Church, seeking to reconcile the mostly Catholic population with his regime. His set of civil laws, the Napoleonic Code or Civil Code, has importance to this day in many countries. The Code was prepared by committees of legal experts under the supervision of Jean Jacques Régis de Cambacérès, who held the office Second Consul from 1799 to 1804; Bonaparte, however, participated actively in the sessions of the Council of State that revised the drafts. Other codes were commissioned by Bonaparte to codify criminal and commerce law. In 1808, a Code of Criminal Instruction was published, which enacted precise rules of judicial procedure. Although contemporary standards may consider these procedures as favoring the prosecution, when enacted they sought to preserve personal freedoms and to remedy the prosecutorial abuses commonplace in European courts.

# NAPOLÉON BONAPARTE

## LOUISIANA PURCHASE 1803



- In 1800, Bonaparte returned to Italy, which the Austrians had reconquered during his absence in Egypt. He and his troops crossed the Alps in spring (although he actually rode a mule, not the white charger on which David famously depicted him). While the campaign began badly, the Austrians were eventually routed in June at Marengo, leading to an armistice. After some resistance the Treaty of Lunéville was signed in February 1801, under which the French gains of the Treaty of Campo Formio were reaffirmed and increased; the British signed the Treaty of Amiens in March 1802, which set terms for peace, including the division of several colonial territories.
- The peace between France and Britain was uneasy and short-lived. The "legitimate" monarchies of Europe were reluctant to recognize a republic, fearing that the ideas of the revolution might be exported to them.
- In 1803, Bonaparte faced a major setback when an army he sent to reconquer Haiti and establish a base was destroyed by a combination of yellow fever and fierce resistance led by Toussaint L'Ouverture. Recognizing that the French possessions on the mainland of North America would now be indefensible, and facing imminent war with Britain, he sold them to the United States — the Louisiana Purchase — for less than three cents per acre ( $\$7.40/\text{km}^2$ ). The dispute over Malta provided the pretext for Britain to declare war on France in 1803 to support French royalists.

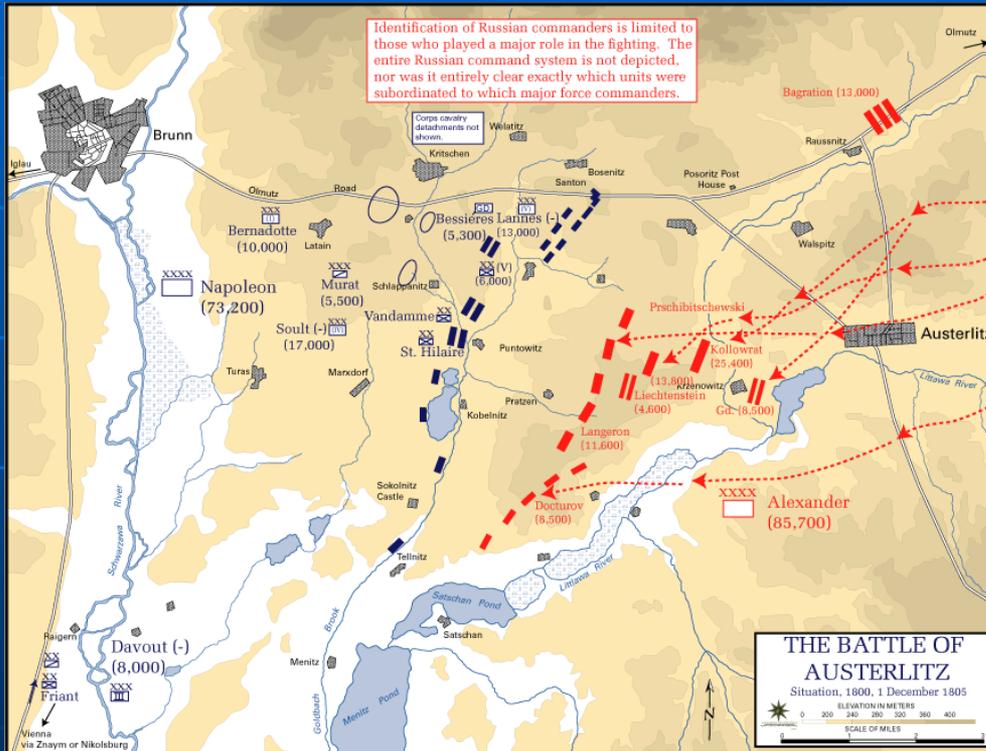
# NAPOLÉON BONAPARTE



- In January 1804, Bonaparte's police uncovered an assassination plot against him, ostensibly sponsored by the Bourbons. Bonaparte used this incident to justify the re-creation of a hereditary monarchy in France, with himself as Emperor, on the theory that a Bourbon restoration would be impossible once the Bonapartist succession was entrenched in the constitution.
- Napoleon crowned himself Emperor on December 2nd 1804 at Notre-Dame Cathedral. After the Imperial regalia had been blessed by the Pope, Napoleon crowned himself before crowning his wife Joséphine as Empress (the moment depicted in David's famous painting). It is said that he playfully placed the crown atop her head, lifted it, then finally placed it. Then at Milan's cathedral on May 26th 1805, Napoleon was crowned King of Italy with the Iron Crown of Lombardy.

# NAPOLÉON BONAPARTE

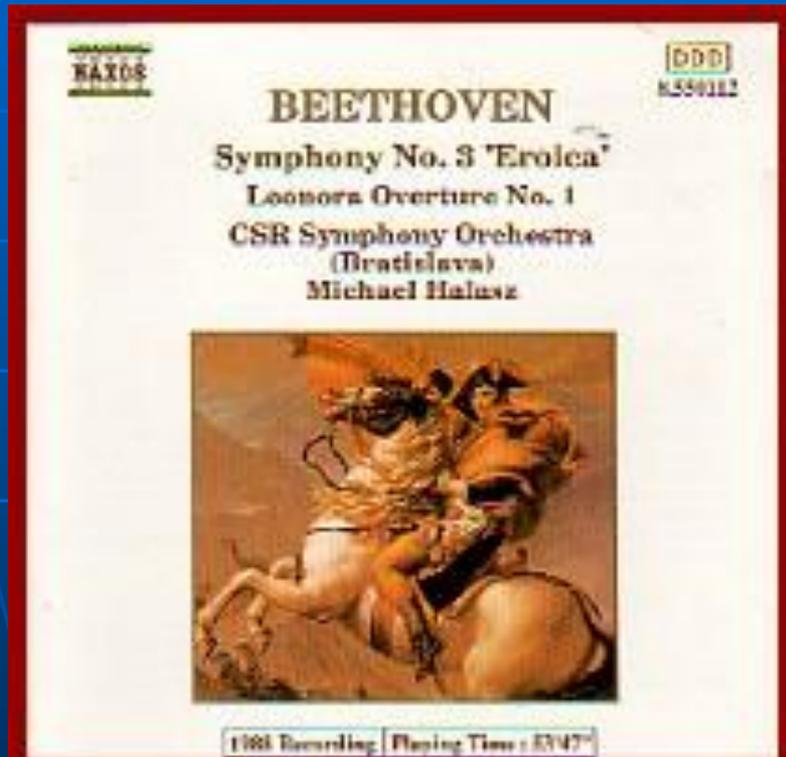
## BATTLE OF AUSTERLITZ 1805



By 1805 Britain instigated a Third Coalition against Napoleon. Napoleon knew the French fleet could not defeat the Royal Navy and therefore arranged to lure the British fleet away from the English Channel so that a joint Spanish and French fleet could regain control of the Channel for twenty-four hours, enough for French armies to cross to England. However, with Austria and Russia preparing an invasion of France and its allies, he had to change his plans and turn his attention to the continent. The newly born Grande Armée secretly marched towards Germany. On October 20th 1805 surprised the Austrians at Ulm. The next day, however, at the decisive Battle of Trafalgar (October 21st 1805), Britain gained lasting control at the seas.

A few weeks later, Napoleon secured a major victory against Austria and Russia at Austerlitz (December 2nd) forcing Austria yet again to sue for peace. He would forever recount this as his grandest military achievement. The Battle of Austerlitz was a testament to his military genius portraying a decisive battle in which he lured the enemy into a carefully laid trap that caused the battle to proceed on Napoleon's terms. In fortification of his belief in his lucky star, the battle was fought and won around the first anniversary of his coronation.

# NAPOLÉON BONAPARTE



- A Fourth Coalition was assembled the following year, and Napoleon defeated Prussia at the Battle of Jena-Auerstedt (October 14th 1806). He marched on against advancing Russian armies through Poland, and was attacked at the bloody Battle of Eylau on February 6 1807. After a decisive victory at Friedland he signed a Treaty at Tilsit in East Prussia with Czar Alexander I of Russia, dividing Europe between the two powers. He placed puppet rulers on the thrones of German states (creating the Confederation of Rhine), including his brother Jerome as king of the new state of Westphalia. In the French-controlled part of Poland, he established the Duchy of Warsaw with King Frederick Augustus I of Saxony as ruler.
- Ludwig van Beethoven initially dedicated his third symphony, the Eroica (Italian for "heroic"), to Napoleon in the belief that the general would sustain the democratic and republican ideals of the French Revolution, but in 1804, as Napoleon's imperial ambitions became clear, renamed the symphony as the "Sinfonia Eroica, composta per festeggiare il Sovvenire di un grand'Uomo", or in English, "composed to celebrate the memory of a great man".

# NAPOLÉON BONAPARTE

## CONTINENTAL SYSTEM



- In addition to military endeavors against Britain, Napoleon also waged economic war, attempting to enforce a Europe-wide commercial boycott of Britain called the "Continental System". Although this action hurt the British economy, it also damaged the French economy and was not a decisive factor.

Portugal did not comply with this Continental System and in 1807 Napoleon sought Spain's support for an invasion of Portugal. When Spain refused, Napoleon invaded Spain as well. After mixed results were produced by his generals, Napoleon himself took command and defeated the Spanish army, retook Madrid and then defeated a British army sent to support the Spanish, driving it to the coast and forcing withdrawal from Iberia. Napoleon installed one of his marshals and brother-in-law, Joachim Murat, as the King of Naples, and his brother Joseph Bonaparte, as King of Spain.

# NAPOLÉON BONAPARTE

## SPANISH NATIONALISM...



- The Spanish, inspired by nationalism and the Catholic Church, and angry over atrocities committed by French troops, rose in revolt. At the same time, Austria unexpectedly broke its alliance with France and Napoleon was forced to assume command of forces on the Danube and German fronts. A bloody draw ensued at Aspern-Essling (May 21-22, 1809) near Vienna, which was the closest Napoleon ever came to a defeat in a battle with more or less equal numbers on each side. After a two month interval, the principal French and Austrian armies engaged again near Vienna resulting in a French victory at Battle of Wagram (July 6th).
- Following this a new peace was signed between Austria and France and in the following year the Austrian Archduchess Marie-Louise married Napoleon, following his divorce of Josephine.

# NAPOLÉON BONAPARTE



- Although the Congress of Erfurt had sought to preserve the Russo-French alliance, by 1811 tensions were again increasing between the two nations. Although Alexander and Napoleon had a friendly personal relationship since their first meeting in 1807, Alexander had been under strong pressure from the Russian aristocracy to break off the alliance with France.
- The first sign that the alliance was deteriorating was the easing of the application of the Continental System in Russia, angering Napoleon. By 1812, advisors to Alexander suggested the possibility of an invasion of the French Empire (and the recapture of Poland).
- Large numbers of troops were deployed to the Polish borders (reaching over 300,000 out of the total Russian army strength of 410,000). After receiving the initial reports of Russian war preparations, Napoleon began expanding his Grande Armée to a massive force of over 450,000-600,000 men (despite already having over 300,000 men deployed in Iberia). Napoleon ignored repeated advice against an invasion of the vast Russian heartland, and prepared his forces for an offensive campaign.
- On June 23rd, 1812, Napoleon's invasion of Russia commenced.

# NAPOLÉON BONAPARTE



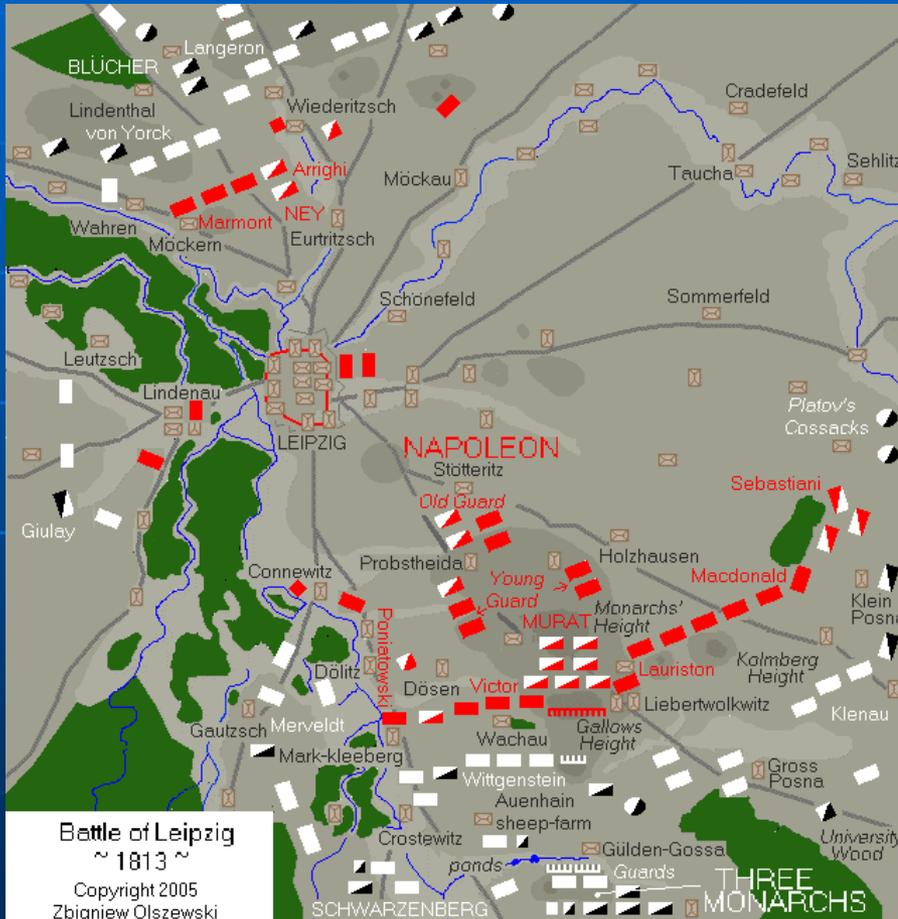
- The Russians under Mikhail Bogdanovich Barclay de Tolly ingeniously avoided a decisive engagement which Napoleon longed for, preferring to retreat ever deeper into the heart of Russia. A brief attempt at resistance was offered at Smolensk (August 16-17), but the Russians were defeated in a series of battles in the area and Napoleon resumed the advance. The Russians then repeatedly avoided battle with the *Grande Armée*, although in a few cases only because Napoleon uncharacteristically hesitated to attack when the opportunity presented itself. The Russians during their strategic retreat, used the scorched earth tactic. They burned crops and slaughtered livestock so the French would have nothing to eat. Along with the hunger, the French also had to face the harsh Russian winter.

# NAPOLÉON BONAPARTE



- Criticized over his tentative strategy of continual retreat, Barclay was replaced by Kutuzov, although he continued Barclay's strategy. Kutuzov eventually offered battle outside Moscow on September 7th. Losses were nearly even for both armies, with slightly more casualties on the Russian side, after what may have been the bloodiest day of battle in history – the Battle of Borodino. Although Napoleon was far from defeated, the Russian army had accepted, and withstood, the major battle the French hoped would be decisive. After the battle, the Russian army withdrew, and retreated past Moscow. The Russians retreated and Napoleon was able to enter Moscow, assuming that the fall of Moscow would end the war and that Alexander I would negotiate peace. However, on orders of the city's military governor and commander-in-chief, Fyodor Rostopchin, rather than capitulating, Moscow was ordered burned. Within the month, fearing loss of control back in France, Napoleon left Moscow. The French suffered greatly in the course of a ruinous retreat; the Army had begun as over 650,000 frontline troops, but in the end fewer than 40,000 crossed the Berezina River (November 1812) to escape. In total French losses in the campaign were 570,000 against about 400,000 Russian casualties and several hundred thousand civilian deaths.

# NAPOLÉON BONAPARTE



- Heartened by Napoleon's losses in Russia, Prussia soon rejoined the Sixth Coalition that now included Russia, the United Kingdom, Spain, and Portugal. Napoleon assumed command in Germany and soon inflicted a series of defeats on the Allies culminating in the Battle of Dresden on August 26-27, 1813 causing almost 100,000 casualties to the Coalition forces (the French sustaining only around 30,000).
- Despite these initial successes, however, the numbers continued to mount against Napoleon as Sweden and Austria joined the Coalition. Eventually the French army was pinned down by a force twice its size at the Battle of Nations (October 16-19) at Leipzig. Some of the German states switched sides in the midst of the battle, further undermining the French position. This was by far the largest battle of the Napoleonic Wars and cost both sides a combined total of over 120,000 casualties.
- After this Napoleon withdrew in an orderly fashion back into France, but his army was now reduced to less than 100,000 against more than half a million Allied troops. The French were now surrounded (with British armies pressing from the south in addition to the Coalition forces moving in from the German states) and vastly outnumbered. The French armies could only delay an inevitable defeat.

# NAPOLÉON BONAPARTE



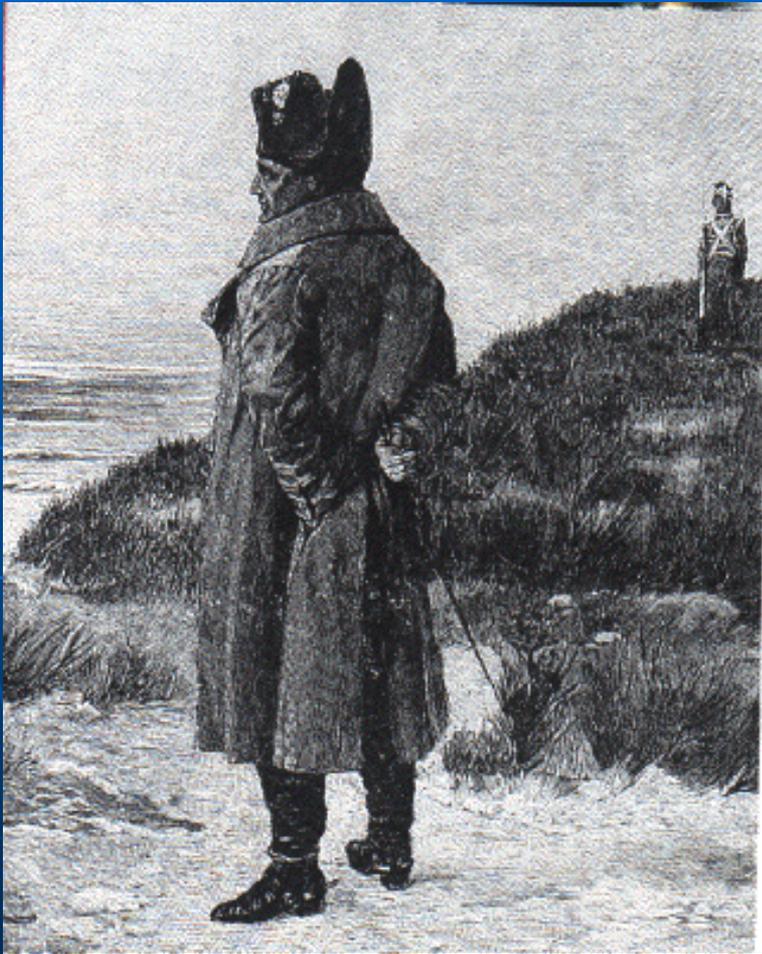
- Paris was occupied on March 31, 1814. At the urging of his marshals, Napoleon abdicated on April 6th in favour of his son. The Allies, however, demanded unconditional surrender and Napoleon abdicated again, unconditionally, on April 11th. In the Treaty of Fontainebleau the victors exiled him to Elba, a small island in the Mediterranean 20 km off the coast of Italy.
- In France, the royalists had taken over and restored King Louis XVIII to power. Separated from his wife and son (who had come under Austrian control), cut off from the allowance guaranteed to him by the Treaty of Fontainebleau, and aware of rumours that he was about to be banished to a remote island in the Atlantic, Napoleon escaped from Elba on February 26th 1815 and returned to the mainland on March 1st 1815.

# NAPOLÉON BONAPARTE



- King Louis XVIII sent the Fifth Regiment, led by Marshal Michel Ney who had formerly served under Napoleon in Russia, to meet him at Grenoble on March 7th, 1815. Napoleon approached the regiment alone, dismounted his horse and, when he was within earshot of Ney's forces, shouted "Soldiers of the Fifth, you recognize me. If any man would shoot his emperor, he may do so now". Following a brief silence, the soldiers shouted "Vive L'Empereur!" and marched with Napoleon to Paris. He arrived on March 20th, quickly raising a regular army of 140,000 and a volunteer force of around 200,000 and governed for a Hundred Days. Napoleon's final defeat came at the hands of the Duke of Wellington and Gebhard Leberecht von Blucher at the Battle of Waterloo in present day Belgium on June 18th 1815. Off the port of Rochefort, Napoléon made his formal surrender while on board HMS Bellerophon on July 15th 1815.

# NAPOLÉON BONAPARTE



- Napoleon was imprisoned and then exiled by the British to the island of Saint Helena (2,800 km off the Bight of Guinea) from October 15th 1815. Whilst there, with a small cadre of followers, he dictated his memoirs and criticized his captors. Sick for much his time on Saint Helena, Napoleon died, on May 5th 1821. His last words were: "France, the Army, head of the Army, Josephine".
- Napoleon had asked in his will to be buried on the banks of the Seine, but was buried on Saint Helena. In 1840, his remains were taken to France in the frigate *Belle-Poule* and entombed in Les Invalides, Paris. Hundreds of millions have visited his tomb since that date.

# NAPOLÉON BONAPARTE



- The cause of Napoleon's death has been greatly disputed. Francesco Antommarchi, Napoleon's personal physician, listed stomach cancer as the reason for Napoleon's death in his death certificate.
- The diaries of Louis Marchand, Napoleon's valet, have led some (most notably Sten Forshufvud and Ben Weider) to conclude that Napoleon was killed by arsenic poisoning, although whether he was murdered or ingested arsenic in some accidental way (it was used in wallpaper as a green pigment, and in some medicines) is still under dispute. In 2001, Pascal Kintz, of the Strasbourg Forensic Institute in France, added credence to this claim with a study of arsenic levels found in a lock of Napoleon's hair preserved after his death that were seven to thirty-eight times higher than normal (although this is disputable, because another use of arsenic at the time of Napoleon's death was to preserve samples of hair).