

## Napoleon Timeline

1799 – Napoleon brought to power by coup d'etat engineered by two members of the Directory (executive branch of French Gov't)

1800 – solidifies power as First Consul with overwhelming support of people – strong leadership desired after 10 years of violence and corruption

1801-02 – Domestic Reforms

- Economic
  - o All citizens taxed
  - o \$ used to establish Bank of France
    - stabilize currency
    - pay off debt
    - administer small business loans
  
- The Concordat
  - o Made Catholic church official church of France
  - o Church to renounce any claim on church land bought by citizens during French Revolution
  - o Effective control of church in hands of the state
  
- Education System
  - o Developed *lycee* – state-run high schools to foster an educated civil service
  - o Military-style discipline with a common curriculum
  - o Some scholarships offered to less advantaged
  
- Napoleonic Code
  - o Unified fragmented French legal system
    - Equality before the law, in taxation
    - Freedom from unjust arrest and prosecution
    - Freedom of religion, to move to find work
    - Conservative tone made men head of household
    - Women treated as minors – under control of fathers or husbands
    - Became standard of legal systems across Europe even today

1805 – Battle of Austerlitz

- *Le Grande Armee*, Napoleon's army, defeats Austria and Russia
  - Austria surrenders, Russia retreats pursued by Napoleon
  - Eventually Russia (Alexander I) signs Peace of Tilsit in 1807

1806 – Continental System

- attempt to defeat Britain economically after repeated naval defeats against the British
- no trading was permitted between any European port and Britain – strangle Britain's source of manufactured products and raw material
- hurt British economy but hurt European and, in particular, French economy badly

1811 – Russia officially withdraws from Continental System

- too damaging to economies

1812 – Napoleon invades Russia with force of 600,000 2/3 of which are conscripts from conquered territories

- Russian army of 200,000 retreats destroying crops and supplies as they go (Scorched Earth policy)
- Heat and hunger plague *Grande Armee* causing continuous loss in life from death and desertion
- Eventually arrive in Moscow to find city in flames
- Begin return to France in October
- Hit by extreme winter conditions and constant attack by Cossacks, Napoleon crosses border ahead of less than 100,000 troops

1813 – Battle of Nations at Leipzig

- Coalition of almost all European powers join to defeat Napoleon while his army is weak

1814 – Coalition army enters Paris

- Napoleon abdicates and is exiled to Elba

1815 – Napoleon returns to France and organizes another army

- meets British commander Wellington at Waterloo, Belgium
- defeated for the second time and exiled to St. Helena in N. Atlantic

1821 – Napoleon dies on St. Helena likely from arsenic poisoning leached from paint in rooms