



**NAPOLEON BONAPARTE** |

# Napoleon's rise



- 1785 - Commissioned as a Lieutenant
  - Not well liked
  - Sounded Italian (he was Corsican), and had little money
- The French measure of five foot two (5' 2"), recorded at his autopsy
  - translates into five feet six and one half inches (5' 6.5") in English measure, which was about the average height of the Frenchman of his day.
- Studious and serious, he spent his time reading of past military campaigns
  - Rome, Greece, Europe, American Revolution

# Military Success



- 1792 – Becomes a Captain
- 2yrs later at age 25 he is named Brigadier General by the Committee of Public Safety
- 1796 Named Commander of the French Army in Italy
  - Wins a series of victories using Speed, Surprise, and Deception
  - Gains support through Charm, Intelligence, quick decisions, supreme confidence in himself
- 1797 Returned to France as a Conquering Hero
  - Napoleon was put in charge of an army training to invade Britain
  - Knew they were not ready to invade England
  - He invaded Egypt to cut of British supply routes from India which was a major source of British wealth

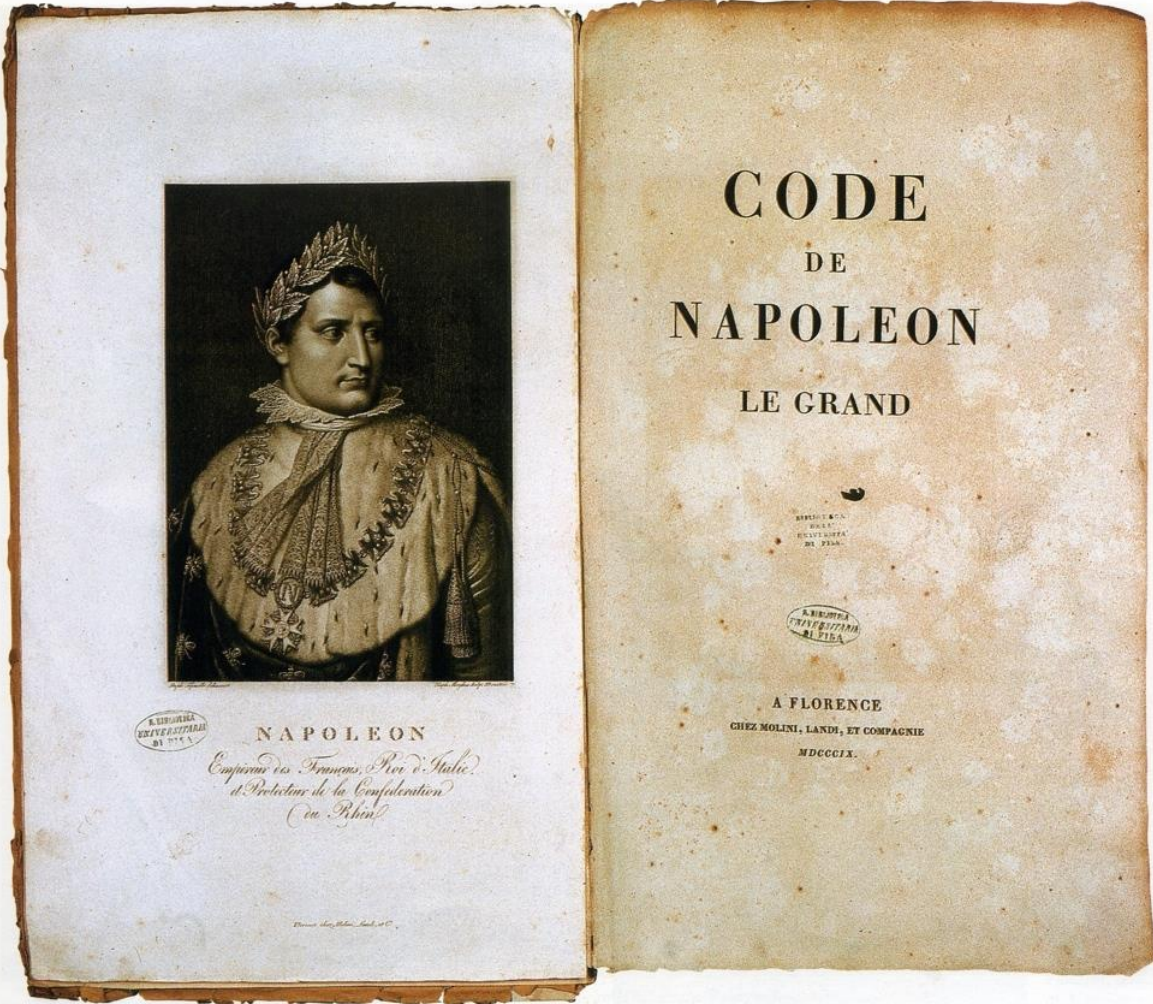
# CONSUL AND EMPEROR

- 1799 Napoleon backed a coup d'état to overthrow the Government
- The “Consulate” was formed
  - Supposedly a Republic, but truly leaving Napoleon as Emperor
- 1802 Napoleon was named “Consul for Life”
  - What Julius Caesar did just before he became a pin cushion
- 1804 He crowned himself “Emperor Napoleon I”





# Domestic Policies



## Creates his own Law Code

- The most important being Civil Law the “Napoleonic Code”
  - All men equal, abolish serfdom, protect property, etc.
- The revolution had made divorce easier and allowed women and daughters to inherit property
  - Napoleon changed that.
    - He made it difficult for Women to seek the divorce
    - Difficult for women to inherit property
    - When women married, any property they had came under the man’s control
    - In lawsuits, they were considered “minors” and their testimony less credible than a man’s

# A NEW BUREAUCRACY

Established the Bank of France

Creates a Public Education System

- Elementary, Secondary, Universities, & Tech schools

Promotions in Gov't and military became based on ability not station in life

- A meritocracy

But, Liberty changed into Despotism

- 60 of France's 73 Newspapers were closed by Napoleon
  - He insisted all drafts be subject to review before printing
- The mail was often opened by Government Police



# BUILDING THE EMPIRE

1807-1812

- Defeats combined armies of Britain, Russia, Austria, Prussia
- Seizes all of Europe (except England)

Unfortunately his empire collapses almost as fast as it was built





# TWO BIG REASONS IT COLLAPSED

## 1. Nationalism

- The unique cultural, language, religion, and national Pride of all countries

## 2. Britain was allowed to survive

- England ruled the sea, making it almost impossible to attack
  - 1805-Britain defeated the France/Spanish fleet at Trafalgar
- This was also Hitler's mistake
  - Hitler also then invaded Russia instead of England, and got the same result

# THE FALL OF NAPOLEON (PART ONE)



France and Russia had been “allies” but Russia backs out

- Napoleon was forced to invade, if he didn't, other allies may follow Russia

1812 – Army of 600,000 march into Russia

- The Russians refused to engage them in battle
- They retreated for hundreds of miles, burning every village as they went (their own towns)
- When the armies did meet, it was costly for the Russians and French (who were now starving and tired)

In October, he reached Moscow, finding it ablaze when he arrived

- He began the retreat at this point, only 40,000 made it back to Poland in Jan. 1813





He was replaced by Louis XVIII, the long exiled brother of Louis XVI

Spent over 20 years in Prussia, the UK, and Russia while exiled

First reign did not last very long

- 1814 – other nations rose up against France, Seized Paris
  - Sent Napoleon to Exile on island of Elba





*A throne is only made of wood and cover'd with velvet.*

*The greatest events in human life is turn'd to a puff.*

*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. by J. Phillips N. 22. Charles Street Hampstead road. London May*

# Napoleon's escape



Napoleon spent only nine months and 21 days on Elba

Was allowed to keep his imperial court while there

The Dissolving of the great Empire into the realm of old France caused dissatisfaction among the French

- Exacerbated by stories of Bourbon treatment of the army and people of France.

Figuring he would be welcomed back with open arms, Napoleon stages an escape

- 26 February 1815, when the British and French guard ships were absent, he slipped away with some 1,000 men

# The Hundred Days

Welcomed back as he predicted: “If there is a man among you who would kill the Emperor, here I am!”

March 20, 1815 marches into Paris  
Triumphant

- Louis XVIII does what he does best and books it out of town

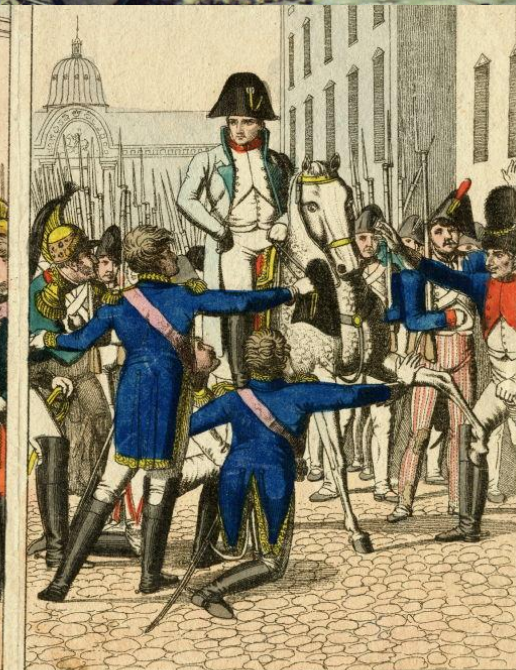
Russia, Great Britain, Prussia, and Austria reunite to defeat him

- Call him the “Enemy and Disturber of the Tranquility of the World”



Paris am 19<sup>ten</sup> März 1815.

*Wir schwören unverbrüchliche Treue unserem guten König Ludwig dem Erachteten!  
Mit unserem letzten Blutestropfen wollen wir ihn und seinen Thron verteidigen!*

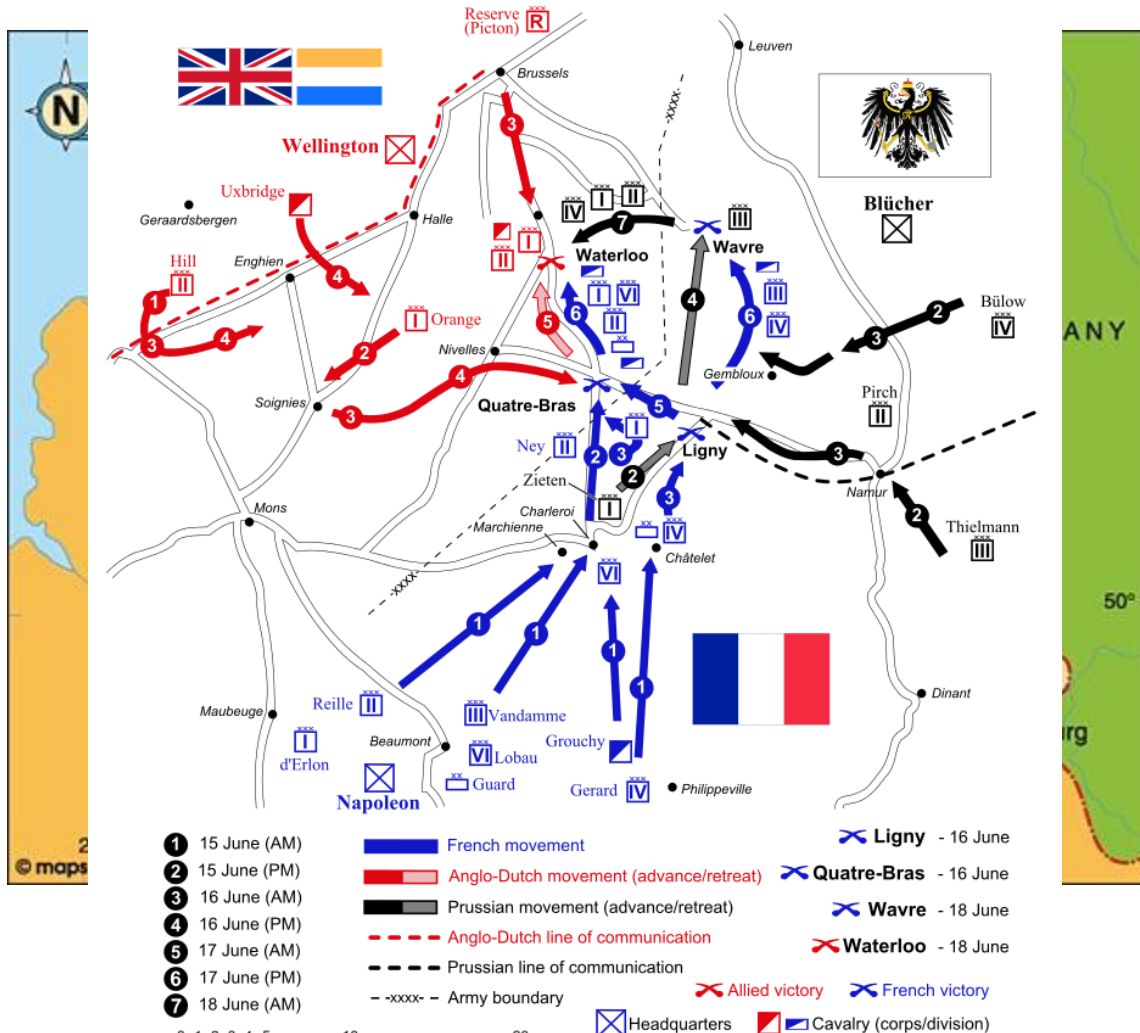


Paris am 20<sup>ten</sup> März 1815.

*Es lebe der Kaiser! — Fort mit den Bourbons!*

# Waterloo – The last stand of Napoleon

- Marched to Waterloo with a new grand army
- French army consisted of 69 000 (48,000 infantry, 14,000 cavalry, and 7,000 artillery with 250 guns)
- The British and Prussians combined their armies
  - British: 67,000 (50,000 infantry, 11,000 cavalry, and 6000 artillery with 150 guns)
  - Prussia: 48,000 men
- Led by Wellington the combined British/Prussian armies defeated the French





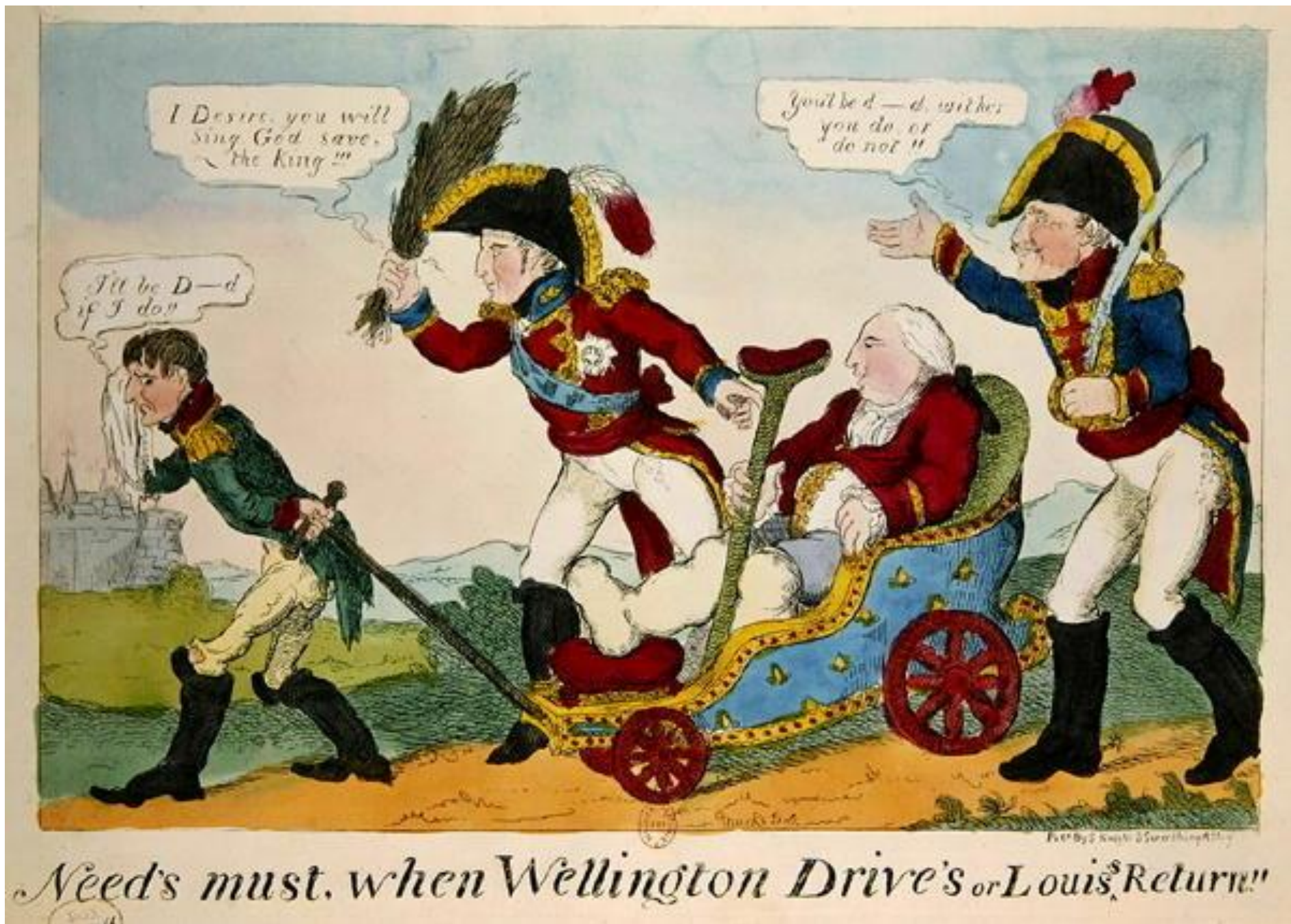


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The Corsican Shullecok or a pretty Play thing for y Allies

Pub'd April 14 1814 by S. Knight  
No. 3. D'Arny Alley.





I Desire, you will  
sing God save,  
the King !!!

I'll be D—d  
if I do!!

You'll be d—d, wither,  
you do, or  
do not !!

*Need's must, when Wellington Drive's or Louis's Return!!*

*The Plumb-pudding in danger; — or — State Epicures taking unPetit Soup*

*"the great Globe itself, and all which it inherit," is too small to satisfy such insatiable appetite*

*— 1794. M.W. — London, by W. Woodcut, in the Original Magazine*



# ST. Helena and death

This time Napoleon is exiled to a remote British island, St. Helena

- Remains here for the rest of his life

Died May 5, 1821

- Controversy over what led to his death
- Slow poisoning (arsenic) to murder, theories abound
- Official cause of death: Stomach Cancer
  - Remains generally accepted cause



Google

# WAS NAPOLEON A TYRANT OR HERO?

Napoleon leaves a complicated legacy with historians struggling to classify him as a tyrant or a hero

Write a short letter either in support or criticism of Napoleon

- You choose the who, what, where, when, and why
  - Ex: A soldier on the Russian expedition writing home to his mother; a baker in Paris living under the restored Louis XVIII writing a Letter to a newspaper; A revolutionary writing to her sister at the start of Napoleon's reign and civil code.
- Choose no less than three historical facts appropriate to the time period chosen to support your argument
  - Use your book, notes, or the movie as evidence
- No less than a paragraph, no more than a page