

Napoleon Forges an Empire

- **Essential Question:** Napoleon creates an empire, what are his lasting achievements?
 - Napoleon Grasps the Power
 - Napoleon Rules France
 - Napoleon Creates an Empire

Napoleon Grasps the Power

- Napoleon would become **recognized as one of the world's greatest military geniuses** and cast a long shadow over the history of modern times.
- **Napoleon Bonaparte** was born in **1769** on the island of Corsica and was sent to **military school** by his parents when he turned nine.
- When the revolution broke out, **he joined the army of the new government.**
- As a young officer **Napoleon** became a savior of the French republic when he greeted thousands of royalists **attacking the National Convention with cannon fire.**

Napoleon Grasps the Power

- In 1796 the Directory appointed Napoleon to lead the French army and he wins key battles to save the French Republic
 - ▣ Became hero for defending France against Austria & Sardinia forces
- Upon his return from Egypt in 1799, Napoleon, with the help of his wife Josephine, seizes political control from the Directory (**coup d'état**)
- Napoleon quickly set up dictatorial powers.
- Eventually Napoleon's successes on the battlefield lead to peace in Europe, and he could focus on restoring order in France.

Napoleon Rules France

- Napoleon pretended to be a constitutionally chosen leader of a free republic and in 1800 set up a **plebiscite** or vote of the people
- Napoleon gains power when French voters approve 4th constitution in 8 years, which gave all the real power to Napoleon as 1st consul.
- Unlike Louis XVI, Napoleon supported many of the changes that came with the revolution, while strengthening the central government.
- Napoleon got economy back on a solid footing by establishing a national bank and efficient tax collection system
- In order to reduce government corruption he provided the government with trained officials by setting up public schools (**lycees**), which included children of ordinary citizens as well as children of the wealthy.

Napoleon Rules France

- Napoleon signed a **concordat** (agreement) with Pope Pius VII spelling out a **new relationship with the church**, where the government would appoint bishops but the bishops would appoint the parish priests.
- Napoleon thought his **greatest achievement** was the publishing of his **comprehensive systems of laws** known as the **Napoleonic Code**.
- Although the code eliminated many injustices, it **took away some rights** & restored slavery in French colonies.
- Napoleon gives France **order and stability**, and **crowns himself as emperor of France**, taking the crown from the **Pope** and placing it on his own head.

Napoleon Creates an Empire

- Napoleon was not content to simply be the master of France, he wanted to control the rest of Europe and reassert French power in the new world.
- Napoleon unsuccessfully tried to expand his empire in the Americas, and sells the Louisiana Territory to the United States for \$15 million
- Napoleon abandoned his imperial ambitions in the New World and turned his attention to Europe.
- Fearful of Napoleon's ambitions, Britain persuaded Russia, Austria, and Sweden to join in a coalition against France.

Napoleon Creates an Empire

- Napoleon met this challenge with his usual boldness, and in a series of brilliant battles crushed the opposition.
- Eventually the rulers of Austria, Prussia, and Russia all signed peace treaties with France, and Napoleon built the largest European empire since the Romans.
- Although he conquers much of Europe, but his navy is defeated by the British in the Battle of Trafalgar.
- Napoleon's power made conquered people more conscious of their own national loyalty.