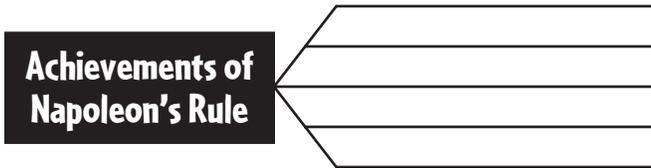


The Age of Napoleon

Big Idea

As Napoleon built his empire across Europe, he also spread the revolutionary idea of nationalism. As you read, use a diagram like the one below to list the achievements of Napoleon’s rule.



Notes

Read to Learn

The Rise of Napoleon (page 596)

Analyzing Information

Why did Napoleon become a hero to the French?

In one sense, Napoleon Bonaparte brought the revolution to an end when he took power. However, he always reminded the French that he had preserved the best parts of the revolution during his reign as emperor. His father came from minor nobility in Italy, but the family was not rich. However, Napoleon was talented and won a scholarship to a famous military school. He devoted himself to reading French philosophers and studying military campaigns. Napoleon rose quickly through the ranks.

At the age of 24, he became a brigadier general. He won battles against the Papal States and the Austrians that gave France control of northern Italy. Napoleon became known for speed, surprise, and decisive action. His troops were devoted to him. In 1797 he returned to France as a hero. He was given an army to invade Britain. Napoleon knew that such an invasion would fail and suggested taking Egypt, an important colony of Britain’s, instead. However, the British navy defeated the French naval forces supporting Napoleon’s army in Egypt. Seeing certain defeat, Napoleon abandoned his army and returned to Paris. There he took part in the coup d’etat of 1799 that overthrew the Directory. He set up a new government, the **consulate**. In theory, it was a republic, but actually, Napoleon had absolute power. In 1802 Napoleon was made consul for life. In 1804 he crowned himself Emperor Napoleon I.

Napoleon's Domestic Policies (page 598)**Drawing Conclusions**

In what ways was Napoleon a despot?

One of Napoleon's first moves at home was to establish peace with the Catholic Church. This eliminated the Church as an enemy and also gave Napoleon the support of those who had acquired church lands.

Napoleon's most famous achievement was codifying the laws. Before the revolution, France had almost 300 different legal systems. The most important code, the Napoleonic Code, preserved the principles of equality of all citizens before the law, the right of an individual to choose a profession, religious toleration, and abolition of serfdom and feudal obligations. However, under the Napoleonic Code women lost control over their property when they married, they could not testify in court, and they were generally treated as children.

Napoleon created a strong, centralized administration. Public officials and military officers were all promoted on the basis of ability. Careers were opened to men of talent. However, Napoleon was also despotic. He shut down 60 of France's 73 newspapers and banned many books. He insisted that all manuscripts be looked at by the government before publication. Even the mail was opened by government police.

Napoleon's Empire (page 601)**Determining Cause and Effect**

Why did Napoleon want to sell the Louisiana territory?

In 1803 Napoleon sold the Louisiana territory to the United States for \$15 million. This gave him money to fight his enemies. In a series of battles at Ulm, Austerlitz, Jena, and Eylau from 1805 to 1807, Napoleon's Grand Army defeated the Austrian, Prussian, and Russian armies. From 1807 to 1812, Napoleon was the master of Europe. At the core of his empire was an enlarged France. Spain, Holland, the kingdom of Italy, the Swiss Republic, the Grand Duchy of Warsaw, and the Confederation of the Rhine were all dependent states ruled by Napoleon's relatives. Prussia, Austria, Russia, and Sweden were forced to become allies in Napoleon's struggle against Britain.

Also, Napoleon aroused ideas of **nationalism**—the sense of unique identity of a people based on common language, religion, and national symbols—in the conquered countries. They felt united in hating the French, while at the same time, they saw what power national unity had brought France.

The Fall of Napoleon (page 602)

Determining Cause and Effect

What happened after Napoleon invaded Russia?

Napoleon's downfall began when he invaded Russia in 1812. The Russian army retreated for hundreds of miles and burned the countryside so the French army could not get food or fuel. Fewer than 40,000 of Napoleon's 600,000 soldiers returned from Russia. Other countries attacked, and Napoleon was defeated and sent into exile on the island of Elba in 1814. The victorious powers restored the monarchy with Louis XVIII as king. The French did not support the monarchy, and when Napoleon escaped, the troops sent to capture him instead supported him. He entered Paris in triumph in 1815. However, at Waterloo in Belgium, Napoleon suffered a bloody defeat at the hands of a British and Prussian army commanded by the Duke of Wellington. Napoleon was exiled to the island of St. Helena.

Section Wrap-up

Answer these questions to check your understanding of the entire section.

1. What were the results of Napoleon's peace-making agreement with the Catholic Church?

2. What general commanded the combined British and Prussian army that finally defeated Napoleon?

Expository Writing

Contrast the impact of the Napoleonic code on male citizens with its impact on women.
