

# The Age of Napoleon



# Hero or Tyrant

- Dominated Europe from 1799-1815
- Born in Corsica; trained in the military; rose quickly in the army
- Success made him ambitious



# Moving into Politics

- 1799: political leader; set up 3 man Consulate
- 1802: a new Constitution; named Consul for Life



# Self Made Emperor



1804 Napoleon crowns  
himself as the Pope  
looks on

# How did Napoleon Rise to Power

- At each step, the people voted to support Napoleon (plebiscite)
- Focused on order, security, and efficiency
- Why was order and security popular with the people?

# Reforms

- Prosperity:
  - Modernized finance
  - Controlled prices
  - Encouraged new industry
  - Built roads and canals



# Social Reforms

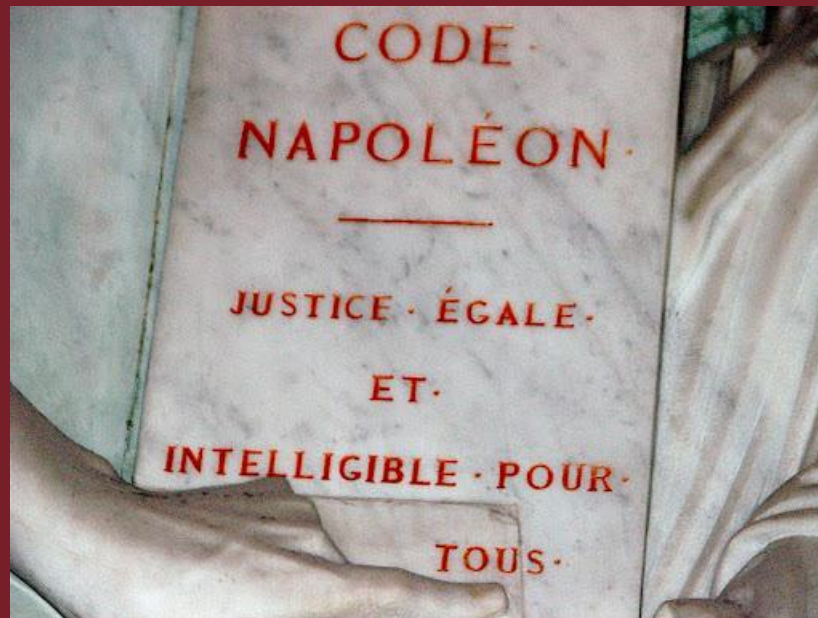
- System of public schools
- Made peace with Catholic church
- Won support across class lines:
  - Émigrés
  - Peasants
  - Middle class liked order
  - All jobs open to talent





# The Code

- New law code; long lasting
- Enlightenment principles: equality before the law; religious tolerance; advancement based on merit





# Downside of the Code

- Women lost newly gained rights; considered minors; males regained complete authority over women and children
- Order and Authority over Individual Rights



# Building an Empire

- Built up power from 1804-1814
- Took great risks and suffered huge losses
- Annexed: Netherlands, Belgium; parts of Italy and Germany; put relatives on thrones
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# France v. Britain

- Britain used its sea power
- Napoleon defeated at Battle of Trafalgar



Economic Warfare: blockades

# Successes and Failures

- Britain was able to keep trading
- Europe was hurt: scarce goods and higher prices; smuggling
- Great boost in French nationalism

