

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?

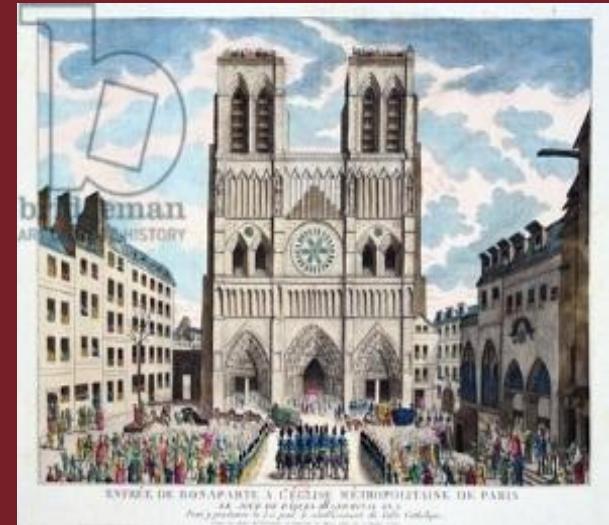
Reforms

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



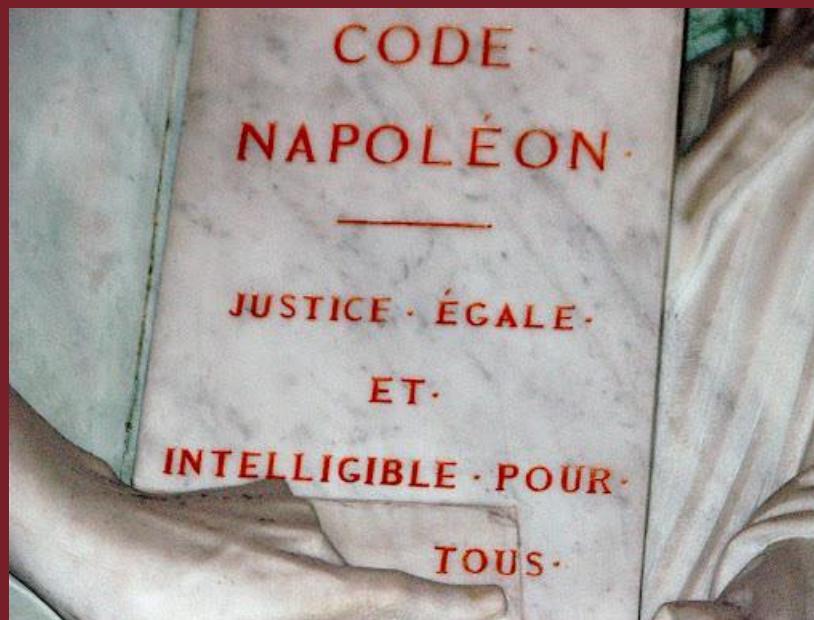
Social Reforms

- 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

