

X. Napoleonic Europe pp. 417-452

The impact of France under Napoleon on Europe was based on military subjugation. Some peoples worked with Napoleon to gain changes; in other cases, resistance to Napoleon was the factor that brought change. The period from 1792-1814 was not a world war, but a series of short, sharp, distinct episodes; only Great Britain remained at war for the full period, and only in 1813 was there full cooperation in the field against Napoleon. The period is complicated by the continuation of past stories: Britain's economic growth, Russian pressure on Poland and Turkey, Prussia's push for German leadership, and Austrian dreams of territorial expansion. In pursuit of their own aims, governments were as willing to ally with Napoleon as to fight him. Only gradually, after repeated provocations, did they conclude that their main interest was to dispose of the French emperor entirely.

47. The Formation of the French Imperial System

pp. 418-425

- A. The Dissolution of the First and Second Coalitions, 1792-1802
 1. The First Coalition (1792) was between jealous rivals who cooperated only in seizing Polish territory. Prussia, Spain, and Austria made separate peaces with France; Spain allied with France because of its animosity towards Britain.
 2. The Second Coalition dissolved because Russians feared that a British victory in Egypt would block their Middle Eastern concerns.
 3. Peace in 1802 allowed Napoleon to try to crush the Haitian revolt of Toussaint L'Ouverture and build a sugar empire in America. Napoleon gained control over Switzerland (Helvetic Republic) and created the North Italian Cisalpine Republic. He helped break up the Holy Roman Empire, thus enlarging the states of Bavaria, Baden, Wurttemberg, and Prussia--all now indebted to Napoleon.
- B. Formation of the Third Coalition in 1805
 1. Britain declared war in 1803. Forced to retreat from Haiti by the British navy, Haitian guerrilla tactics and yellow fever, Nap sold Louisiana to the US.
 2. In 1804 Napoleon crowned himself emperor; shortly after, Francis II created the Austrian Empire, realizing any attempts to regain control of the Holy Roman Empire were futile.
 3. The Third Coalition was formed by Austria, Russia and Great Britain. Alexander I Romanov, raised by Catherine to be an "enlightened despot," wished to control Poland. German liberals saw him as the protector of Germany from France. Moralistic and self-righteous, he saw himself as Napoleon's rival. Europe's leaders saw him as either a "Jacobin" or a Russian imperialist. His contribution to western thought was a conception international collective security and the notion of the indivisibility of peace. Upset by the crude force of Nap, he wanted a society with rights secured by international agreement and organization.
- C. The Third Coalition, 1805-1807: The Peace of Tilsit
 1. Napoleon wanted to invade Britain, but it was defeated by Nelson's fleet and the potential threat of the Austrian and Russian armies. When these forces moved west, Napoleon attacked and defeated a large Austrian force at Ulm in Bavaria. But Nelson's victory at **Trafalgar** over the combined Spanish-French fleet prevented any idea of invasion and made England master of the sea until 1900.
 2. Napoleon next crushed the combined Austro-Russian army at **Austerlitz**. He took Venetia and began building a new fleet to challenge Britain. He merged the German states into the Confederation of the Rhine, with himself as "protector." Upset, Prussia declared war on France and was smashed in two battles, Jena and Auerstadt. Nap next defeated the Russians at Friedland. Alex I agreed to the Peace of Tilsit, allying with Napoleon and recognizing France's dominance.
- D. The Continental System and the War in Spain
 1. Napoleon declared the **Continental System** to shut out British goods and ruin their commerce. Russia, Prussia, and Austria followed, declaring war on Britain. Portugal's refusal to join brought Nap's invasion of the Iberian peninsula. After Nap placed his brother on the Spanish throne, the Spanish began guerrilla warfare, aided by the British. The resulting Peninsular War dragged on for five brutal years. French losses roused anti-French feeling in Germany and Austria.
 2. Napoleon upset Alexander I by creating the Grand Duchy of Warsaw and refusing to back Russian interests in the Balkans. Talleyrand encouraged the Tsar to play a waiting game; in case Napoleon's plans failed, T. wanted a refuge.
 3. Austria declared war on France and for the fourth time was defeated--bringing the rise of **Clemens von Metternich**, who was to dominate European politics until 1848. Metternich saw Russia as the long-term problem and worked for a French alliance--secured by Nap's marriage to Marie Louise. [Nap II was born in 1811.]

48. The Grand Empire: Spread of the Revolution

pp. 425-431

- A. The Organization of the Napoleonic Empire

1. The French Empire was buffered with dependent states in Germany and Italy, plus a string of allied states. The Empire itself included Belgium, the left bank of the Rhine, plus the Dutch, German, and Italian coastlines and their key ports.
2. Napoleon promoted his family. His older brother Joseph was King of Naples and then king of Spain; Jerome was king of Westphalia; Caroline was Queen of Naples. Napoleon became king of Lombardy, Venetia, and the Papal States, his stepson (Josephine's son) as viceroy.

B. Napoleon and the Spread of the Revolution

1. In each state of the Empire, the same course of events was repeated: military conquest and occupation; government by collaborators during which a new constitution was drafted; and finally a third period of sweeping internal reform and reorganization based on the French model. Nap considered himself "enlightened" and "liberal." He believed in rational, constitutional government and the rule of law--especially with his Civil Code, which he felt universally applicable. His goal was to create a society of legally equal individuals.

2. He ended the **manorial system** and gave full citizenship rights to citizens; he abolished manorial fees but required payment of compensation. East of the Rhine he compromised; in Poland the peasants were legally free, but landlords remained owners of the land.

He reduced the authority of the Catholic **Church**--limiting its courts, ending tithes, confiscating property, requiring legal toleration. In economics, he abolished the guilds, broke up the old town oligarchies, and removed internal tariffs. He fostered shifts to decimal money systems and to the metric system generally. He abolished hereditary offices and ended the sale of offices; he increased the salaries of the bureaucracy and modernized and systematized tax and finance. (Why did he do all this?)

3. The reforms were supported by the commercial and professional men, and progressive nobles. There was little repression associated with these changes. Outside of Belgium or the Rhineland, north Italy and southern Germany were most affected: they lacked monarchical tradition and had a strong urban middle class with anti-clerical tendencies. As the German poet Goethe said, Nap "was the expression of all that was reasonable, legitimate, and European in the revolutionary movement." Nap conferred the benefits of the Fr. Rev without its ruinous disorder. But the main beneficiary was the French bourgeoisie.

49. The Continental System: Britain and France

pp. 431-434

A. The great project was to crush Britain, but the attempt resulted in a new goal, the unification and mastery over all Europe. Nap. used his enlightenment ideals as ideology--destroying feudalism and ignorance. To arouse all-European feeling, Napoleon played on latent anti-British sentiment, based on Britain's success in the wars for colonial empire.

B. British Blockade and Napoleon's Continental System

1. Britain announced a blockade of Europe to destroy French imports and shipping, with the ultimate goal of weakening its position in world markets. The British in fact had almost a total trade monopoly, and with the Industrial Revolution could produce cloth cheaply.

2. Napoleon attacked Britain as "a nation of shop-keepers" and in 1806 announced his **Berlin Decree**: importation of British goods to the Continent was prohibited. Britain replied with its **Order in Council** that all goods bound for Europe must pass through Britain. Napoleon countered with the **Milan Decree** declared that any neutral ship complying with British orders would be seized. The US, as the only major trading neutral, was forced to choose sides. Since the British were the most serious violators of US rights, the US went to war with Britain in 1812.

C. The Failure of the Continental System

1. Napoleon thought the System would unify Europe, but Europeans continued to demand overseas goods that only the British could provide--especially sugar and tobacco. And European trade depended on coastal shipping; overland transportation was still limited. Europeans were antagonized by French tariff policies. Shippers, a major element of the bourgeoisie, were ruined; ports were idled, people angered. The West began new manufacture, but the east was unable either to produce goods or to market their own. What Britain lost in European trade it more than made up by a vast increase in exports to Latin America. British cotton goods exports doubled between 1805 and 1809, and the annual income of the British people more than doubled during the war years, 1792 to 1814.

50. The National Movements: Germany

pp. 435-44

A. Resistance to Napoleon: Nationalism

Resentment of France began early, due to plundering, requisitions for troops, higher taxes, conscription of soldiers, favoritism to the French economy, ignoring of local leaders. Nationalism emerged as resistance to the French internationalism. Conservatives desired their own national values and institutions; liberals wanted self-determination, more participation, more freedom for the individual. In England, war with France produced solidarity in a time of social crisis brought about by the start of the Industrial Revolution. In Spain, the feeling was mainly counter-revolutionary--aimed at restoring the clergy and the Bourbons. Italian dreams of unification were stirred.

B. Movement of Thought in Napoleonic Germany

1. Germans rebelled against French cultural dominance, the ideas of the Age of Reason--and Germany became the most Romantic of all European nations, with the work of Beethoven, Schiller, Goethe, Herder, Kant, Fichte, Hegel. Germans had been cosmopolitan world citizens, adopting French culture.
2. **Herder**, a German theologian, argued that a true culture must arise from native roots, from the *Volk*; only the *volksgeist* contained the essence of the people. Other Germans saw in the state the moral will of a new, revived nation, or stressed the purity of the *volk* and ideals of manliness.
3. **Fichte** agreed with Rousseau that the state should be the embodiment of the sovereign will of the people; the only truth was the *volksgeist*, seen in superior German customs, ideas, and institutions, which needed to be kept pure.

C. Reforms in Prussia

The collapse of Prussia against Napoleon was shocking; Baron Stein resolved to renew Prussian morale and arouse the ideals of duty, service, moral character, and responsibility. He loosened the caste structure and gave burghers extensive self government. Serfs were freed, but anyone staying on the land remained subject to the rule of the Junkers; a serf could become free by giving one-third of his land to the Junker. Overall, he laid the foundations for the modern state and economy, but kept the position of the Junker class high.

*51. The Overthrow of Napoleon: The Congress of Vienna pp. 441-452

A. At the close of 1811, peace reigned over Europe, except in Spain, though the Continental System was failing, with European peoples increasingly restive and nationalistic. Yet Britain's wealth and navy alone could not defeat France. Russians were upset by the Austro-French connection and the creation of a Polish state--and Russian landowners were eager for trade with Britain. In late 1810 Russia pulled out of the Continental System.

B. Russian Campaign: Napoleon moved his Grand Army east--700,000 men, 1/3 French, 1/3 German. In June of 1812 he moved into Russia, expecting a short campaign climaxed by a decisive battle. The Russians merely withdrew, using scorched earth tactics. Napoleon took Moscow, but Alexander refused to negotiate. Forced by lack of supplies to retreat, Napoleon lost most of his army. Prussia and Austria jumped on the Russian bandwagon; anti-French riots broke out in Italy; Wellington advanced in Spain. Napoleon raised a new army, but it was defeated at Leipzig in the **Battle of Nations**. Britain's £32 m had borne fruit--but the coalition was crumbling.

C. The Restoration of the Bourbons: Should peace be dictated, as Russia wanted, with Sweden's Crown Prince Bernadotte on the French throne? Austria preferred Napoleon ruling over a weakened France. The British wanted Napoleon out, a freed Belgium, and the Bourbons restored. When Napoleon rejected negotiations, the British **Castlereagh** promised subsidies--resulting in a solid quadruple alliance. With his enemies finally united, Nap was forced to abdicate. Talleyrand pushed Louis XVIII as the natural king, peaceable and requiring no foreign troops to support. When Louis agreed to a constitutional charter guaranteeing the most basic changes made by the revolution, he was acceptable to all parties.

D. The Treaty of Paris.

1. France was given its 1792 borders, no reparations, and the exile of Napoleon to Elba. The great powers then moved to Vienna to settle other problems, but found no one willing to negotiate where vital issues were at stake. The Big Four at the Congress of Vienna were: Castlereagh, Metternich, Alexander I (Nesselrode), and Hardenburg. Talleyrand represented France.
2. The balance of power was settled by the redrawing of boundaries. Holland was revived under a hereditary monarch and was given Belgium. Piedmont was restored, and given Genoa. Prussia was given most of the left bank of the Rhine; Austria was made overlord of northern Italy, including Venice, Milan, and Florence. Germany stayed a conglomeration: three kingdoms, 39 states, plus Austria and Prussia, made up the Confederation of the Rhine. Russia got Poland; in a compromise, Prussia was given 2/5 of Saxony.

E. The Hundred Days and Their Aftermath

1. On March 1, 1815, Napoleon escaped from Elba and returned to France. After a year of reaction under the "white terror" of vengeful emigrés, France was ripe. Napoleon quickly gained control of the army but was decisively defeated by Wellington at **Waterloo**, and exiled to St. Helena, where he soon died. The vengeful allies now imposed a second treaty of Paris, with indemnities and an army of occupation.
2. The main effect of the Hundred Days was to cement the Quadruple Alliance. Few changes were made, though the Bourbons were restored in Naples. Alexander produced his Holy Alliance--a promise to uphold Christian principles of charity and peace. All smirked, and signed it. The Congress of Vienna produced a major diplomatic settlement. It produced a minimum of French resentment; it ended 200 years of colonial rivalries; it smoothed over the problem of Poland, and of the dualism of Austrian and Prussian authority in Germany. It was not reactionary, but it disappointed liberals and nationalists. It restored the balance of power and the European state system. It established a basic peace in Europe which was to remain unbroken for a century.