



Napoleon Bonaparte: Hero or Tyrant?

Directions: For each document, **evaluate** whether it provides more convincing evidence of Napoleon's heroic or tyrannical leadership. **Describe** the information in the documents (in your own words) to back up your decision. Some documents may show Napoleon as both hero and tyrant - explain HOW.

	Hero –	Tyrant-
Document #1: Relations with the Church		
Document #2: The Napoleonic Code (1804)		
Document #3: Carrot and Stick		
Document #4: Napoleon's Empire		
Document #5: <i>The Third of May 1808</i> by Francisco de Goya		
Document #6: War & the Military		

Document #1: Relations with the Church

Napoleon had no personal use for religion, but he understood its political value.

“Religion is an excellent way to keep the common people quiet”

“If I governed a nations of Jews, I would restore the Temple of Solomon.”

-Napoleon

The Concordat of 1801

The Government of the French Republic recognizes that the Roman Catholic religion is the religion of the majority of French citizens. The French Republic and the Roman Catholic Church have agreed...

1. Catholicism shall be freely worshipped
2. The Government [Napoleon] shall appoint the archbishops and bishops
3. Before the Bishops begin working they must take the following oath:
“I swear and promise to god, upon the Holy Scriptures, to remain in obedience and fidelity to the government of France.”
4. The catholic schools and seminaries can exist, but without financial support from the government.
5. The state will pay the salaries of the bishops and pastors

Document #2: The Napoleonic Code or The French Civil Code (1804)

Napoleon brought to completion a project dear to the hearts of the revolutionaries, the drafting of new law codes. The civil code was the most important of them because it institutionalized equality under the law (at least for adult men), guaranteed the abolition of feudalism, and, not least, gave the nation one single code of law replacing the hundreds in effect in 1789. The Civil Code became universal, applying to all within Napoleon's empire.

Excerpts from France's Laws (1804):

1. All men are equal before the law
2. "Inherited estates by the nobility are prohibited"
3. "No one can be forced to give up his property, unless for the public good"
4. "The enjoyment of civil rights is independent of the class of the citizen"
5. "A husband owes the protection of his wife; a wife owes her husband obedience to her husband. They must live together wherever a husband decides. A wife may sue for a divorce only in the case in which the husband introduces a permanent mistress onto the household. In the case of divorce, the children shall remain with the husband, unless it shall be otherwise ordered by the tribunal, at the request either of the mother, or of the family, for the greater benefit of the children."
6. "A career [should be] open to all talents, without distinction of birth."
7. Everyone paid taxes
8. Public education is established

Document #3: Napoleon leads with both the Carrot and Stick

Napoleon set in place a strong central government with a tightly knit, far-reaching **bureaucracy**. No patience for people demanding freedom- Napoleon ruled with an iron hand and crushed those who spoke out against him. Napoleon personally oversaw the production of plays in the theaters of France. If Napoleon disapproved of a playwright's work, his career was over. Napoleon also controlled the press, dropping the number of newspapers in Paris from over sixty in 1799 to four by 1814. The police used spies everywhere to listen to what the people were saying.

Napoleon's government was, to many, more reassuring than a Democracy. He acted with speed to reform the French taxation system bringing his new government an additional 700 million francs annually. The sources for the money came from taxes on income and a series of taxes on goods - such as wine, tobacco and salt. Napoleon used the tax money to built new parks, bridges, canals, reservoirs and roads (and of course, support the military). He wanted to make Paris the loveliest city in the world would ever see. He organized a secondary school system and a **Central Bank**. The economy **revived** and people **prospered**.

"Education must impart the same knowledge and the same principals to all individuals living in the same society, in order to create a single, uniform body, informed with one and the same understanding, and working for the common good on the basis of uniformity of views."

-Napoleon

Document #4: Napoleon's Empire

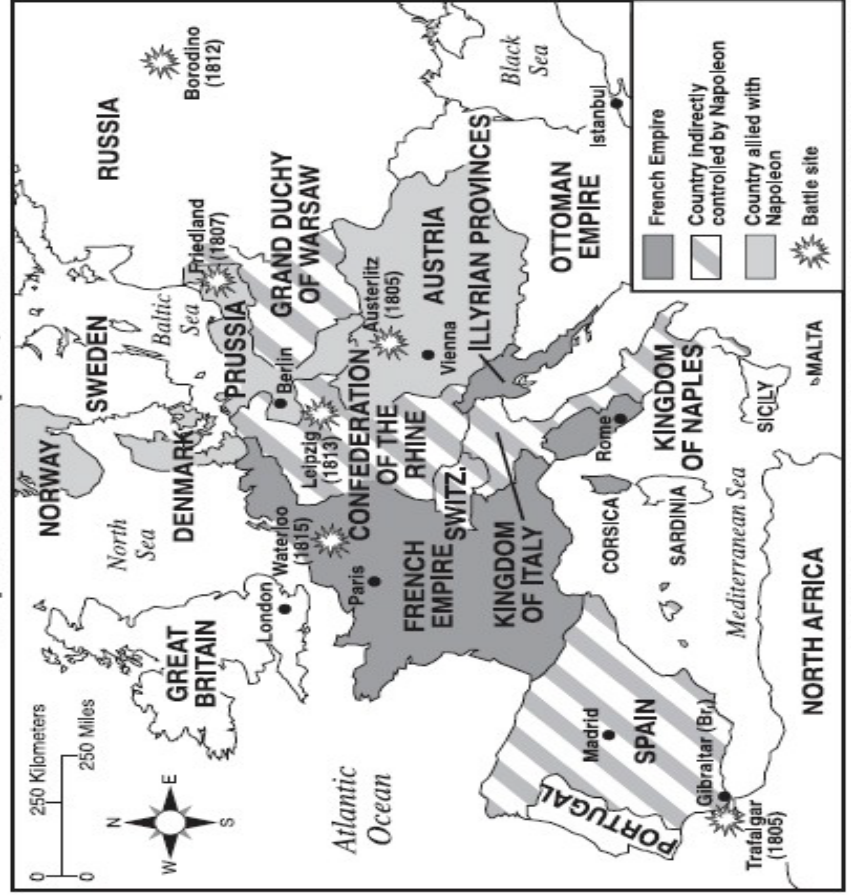
Napoleon brought stability to France after years of revolutionary turmoil. But Napoleon was not satisfied with stability. He sought to instead bend all of Europe to his will. Following a brief period of peace, in 1805 France, led by Napoleon, again was at war. In the decade (10 years) that followed, he fought against Spain, Britain, Russia, Austria, and Sweden; nearly conquering all of Europe.

"Soldiers of France!...All of you are consumed with a desire to extend the glory of the French People; all of you long to humiliate those arrogant kings who dare to contemplate placing us in chains; all of you desire to dictate a glorious peace, one which will repay the Patrie (Nation) for the immense sacrifices it has made."

-Napoleon Bonaparte

In many places Napoleon took over, Napoleon would often create an "independent" government for the people, controlled by his family members. These countries would become "satellites" of France, officially independent, but reliant on Napoleon.

Napoleon's Empire, 1812



Document #5: *The Third of May 1808* by Francisco de Goya

When the Spanish King was defeated by Napoleon's army, Spain was under their control, but there was a lot of resistance. Many Spaniards remained loyal to their former king and the church. Goya here represents one of the 'most notable and heroic actions...of our glorious insurrection against the tyrant of Europe' by a dramatic



Document #6: War

The Napoleonic Wars (1799-1815) required a great number of troops from France's empire. Because there were not enough volunteers, and many casualties; (deaths during military service including dying of disease, wounds, starvation, exposure, drowning, friendly fire, etc.) many were forced to join the military.

France and allies

400,000 killed in action
600,000 died of other causes
~1,000,000 TOTAL French dead and/or missing

Approximate Casualty figures for the Napoleonic Wars

Countries against the French Empire

400,000 TOTAL Russian dead and/or missing
400,000 TOTAL Prussian dead and/or missing
~200,000 TOTAL Austrian dead and/or missing
~300,000 TOTAL Spanish dead and/or missing
200,000 TOTAL British dead and/or missing

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