Aim: How did Napoleon Bonaparte rise to power toward the end of the French Revolution?

Get Going: What do you already know about Napoleon? How do you know these things?

NAPOLEON SEIZES POWER

Napoleon Bonaparte was born in 1769 on the Mediterranean island of Corsica. When he was nine years old, his parents sent him to a military school. In 1785, at the age of 16, he finished school and became a lieutenant in the artillery. When the Revolution broke out, Napoleon joined the army of the new government.

In October 1795, fate handed the young officer a chance for glory. When royalist rebels marched on the National Convention, a government official told Napoleon to defend the delegates. Napoleon and his gunners greeted the thousands of royalists with a cannonade. Within minutes, the attackers fled in panic and confusion. Napoleon Bonaparte became the hero of the hour and was hailed throughout Paris as the savior of the French republic.

In 1796, the Directory (the group that followed the National Convention as the government of France) appointed Napoleon to lead a French army against the forces of Austria and the Kingdom of Sardinia. Crossing the Alps, the young general swept into Italy and won a series of remarkable victories. Next, in an attempt to protect French trade interests and to disrupt British trade with India, Napoleon led an expedition to Egypt. But he was unable to repeat the successes he had achieved in Europe. His army was pinned down in Egypt, and the British admiral Horatio Nelson defeated his naval forces. However, Napoleon controlled the press in France and managed to keep stories about his setbacks out of the newspapers and thereby remained a great hero to the people of France.

By 1799, the Directory had lost control of the political situation and the confidence of the French people. When Napoleon returned from Egypt, his friends urged him to seize political power. Napoleon took action in early November 1799. Troops under his command surrounded the national legislature and drove out most of its members. The lawmakers who remained then voted to dissolve the Directory. In its place, they established a group of three consuls, one of whom was Napoleon. Napoleon quickly took the title of first consul and assumed the powers of a dictator. A sudden seizure of power like Napoleon's is known as a coup—from the French phrase coup d'état (KOO day•TAH), or "blow

to the state."

At the time of Napoleon's coup, France was still at war. In 1799, Britain, Austria, and Russia joined forces with one goal in mind, to drive Napoleon from power. Once again, Napoleon rode from Paris at the head of his troops. Eventually, as a result of war and diplomacy, all three nations signed peace agreements with France. By 1802, Europe was at peace for the first time in ten years. Napoleon was free to focus his energies on restoring order in France.

What led Napoleon to a life in the military?

Describe Napoleon's first major military success.

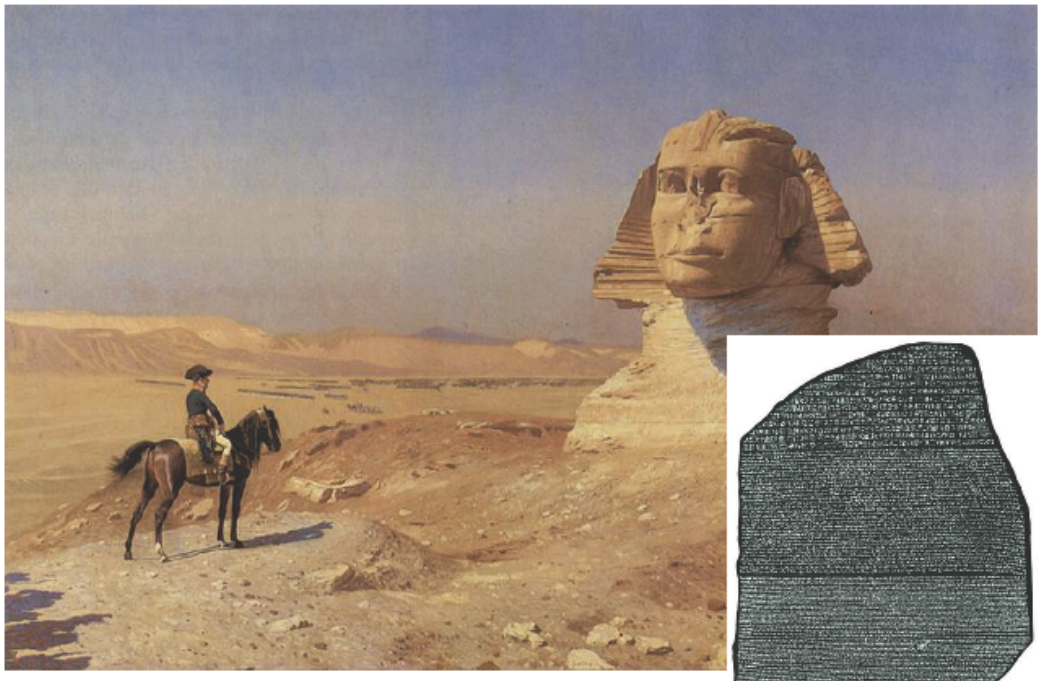
Discuss Napoleon's successes and failures abroad.

Why was his failure in Egypt against the British not published?

What happened in 1799 (the coup d'état)? Be descriptive.

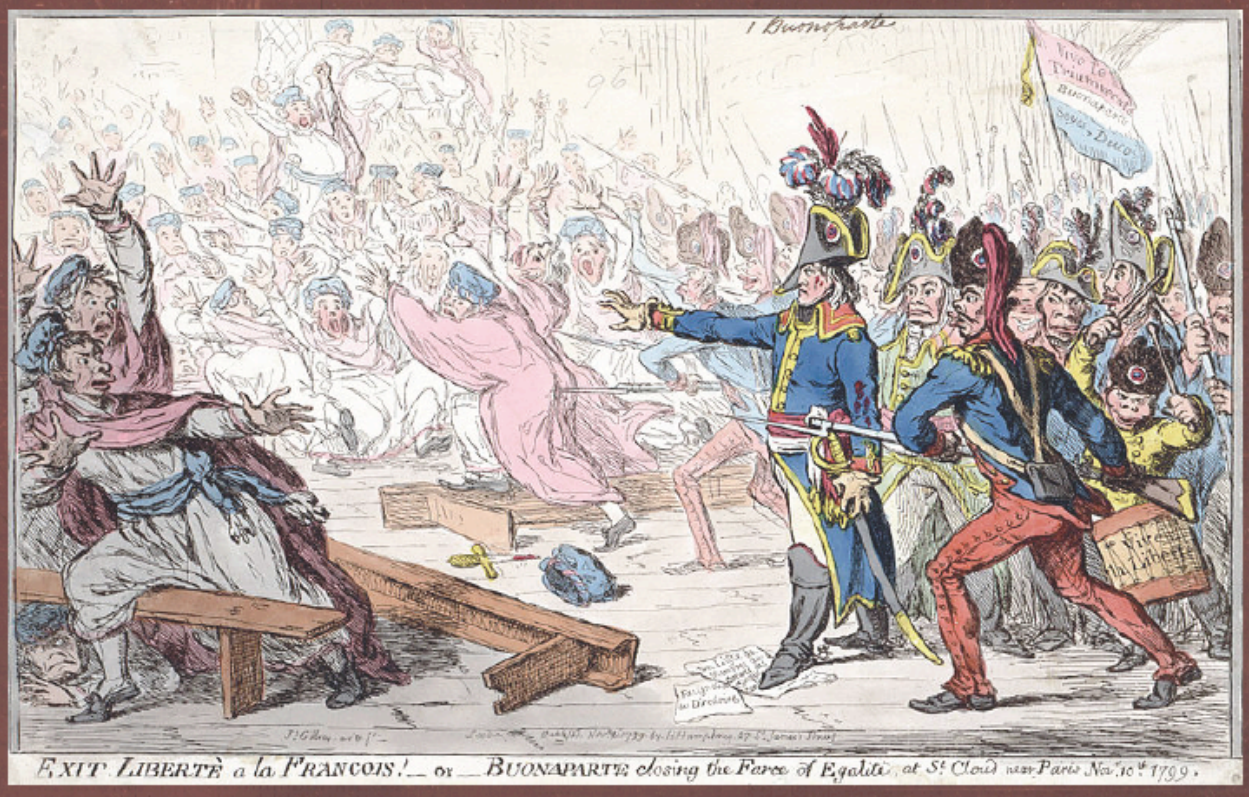
Describe Europe in 1802 and make a prediction regarding what you think will happen next.

NAPOLEON IN EGYPT



Let's not forget about this!

Napoleon's Entry to Paris (1799)



HOW DID NAPOLEON GAIN POWER?

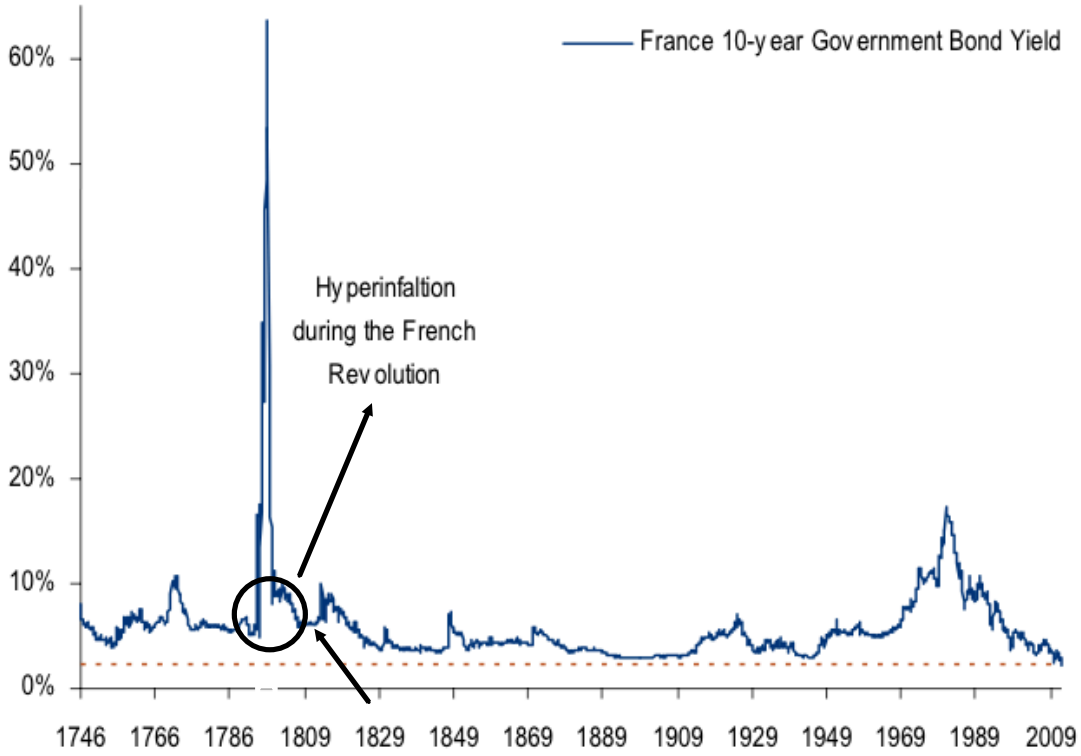
- Following a series of successful military campaigns, Napoleon was very popular in France
- Took control of France as "consulet" (1799)
  - Dictatorial powers

Even though he failed and even abandoned his troops in Egypt, no one knew about it!

He was actually voted in!

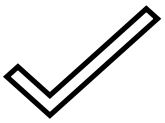
Napoleon went along with the idea that he was going to be the "elected" leader of France, but he knew regardless of what anyone thought, he wasn't going anywhere.

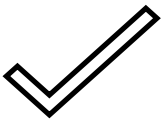
He had no intention of returning to the ways of Louis XVI, and did indeed want to continue some of the changes of the revolution. But he had some problems to deal with. What do you think the first issue Napoleon had to deal with was (think of the problems before and during the French Revolution).



Monthly data. Data was unavailable July 1793 - December 1796
Source: BofA Merrill Lynch Global Equity Strategy, Global Financial Data, Bloomberg

The Economy

Set up efficient tax collecting 

Created a national bank 

Social Issues

MAKING PEACE WITH THE CHURCH (1801)

He signed a <u>concordat</u> with the Pope and established a new relationship with the church. The government recognized the influence of the church, but the Church could not control national affairs! Everyone was happy with this agreement.

Lycee System of Education

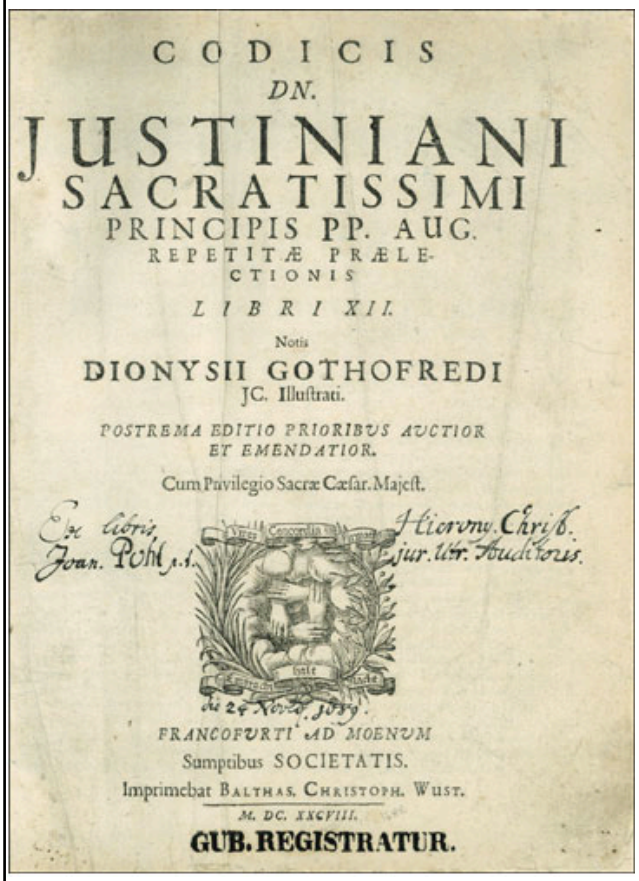
Merit based

Only males

- Established by Napoleon in 1801 as an educational reform school
- Enrolled the nation's most talented students [they had to pay tuition, although there was some financial help available for poorer student].
- Trained the nation's future government leaders / officials

Confucius

Napoleon however, was most proud of his "Napoleonic Code", which were a comprehensive system of laws:



CODICIS
DN.
JUSTINIANI
SACRATISSIMI
PRINCIPIS PP. AUG.
REPETITÆ PRÆLE-
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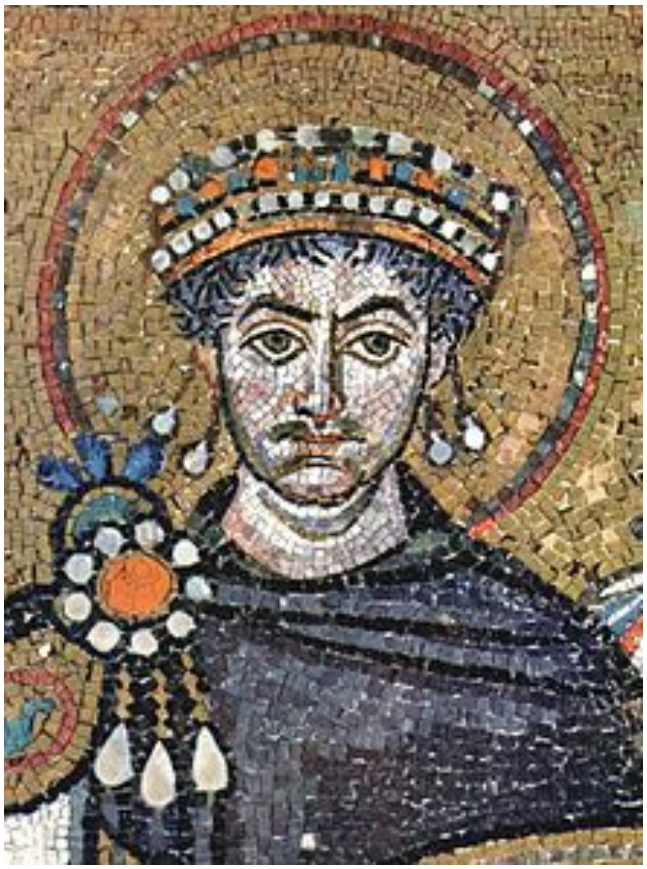
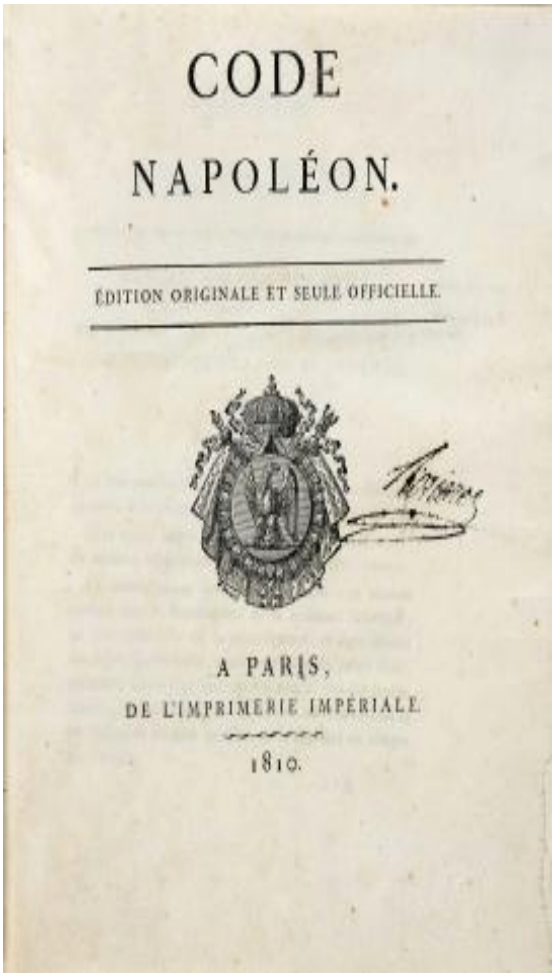
LIBRI XII.
Notis
DIONYSII GOTHOFREDI
JC. Illustrati.
POSTREMA EDITIO PRIORIBUS AUCTIOR
ET EMENDATIOR.
Cum Privilegio Sacræ Cæsar. Majest.
Ex libris Joan. Pohl p.t. Hierony. Christ. jur. Utr. Auditoris.
die 24 Novb. 1689.
FRANCOFURTI AD MOENUM
Sumptibus SOCIETATIS.
Imprimebat BALTHAS. CHRISTOPH. WUST.
M. DC. XXCVIII.
GUB. REGISTRATUR.



Napoleonic Code- The "Positives"

- French citizens, at least male citizens, were equal before the law and could freely exercise their rights.
- They could practice free speech and religious dissent, and they were entitled to property rights, including 'the right to enjoy and to dispose of one's property in the most absolute fashion.'
- Furthermore, the privileges of the aristocracy, including the feudal systems, were wiped out. All Frenchmen, at least in theory, had equal standing despite their class or wealth.


CODE

NAPOLÉON.

ÉDITION ORIGINALE ET SEULE OFFICIELLE.

A PARIS,

DE L'IMPRIMERIE IMPÉRIALE.

1810.

Negatives

Limited liberty- promoted authority over individual rights, restricted freedom of speech and of the press, and brought back slavery in the French colonies of the Caribbean.

NAPOLEON "CROWNS" HIMSELF (1804)

In 1804, Napoleon decided to make himself emperor, and the French voters supported him. On December 2, 1804, dressed in a splendid robe of purple velvet, Napoleon walked down the long aisle of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. The pope waited for him with a glittering crown. As thousands watched, the new emperor took the crown from the pope and placed it on his own head.

WHY?

With this gesture, Napoleon signaled that he was more powerful than the Church, which had traditionally crowned the rulers of France.

Write a letter to Napoleon warning him about his arrogant behavior. In this letter, you must use the word "Hubris". Hubris is defined as excessive pride or self-confidence.

noun

Dear Napoleon,