



The Age of Napoleon

From Soldier to Emperor

Quick Facts

- Born in Corsica, 1769
- Started military school at age 9
- Teachers noted his excellent skills in math, geography, and history
- Joined French army under the new government of the revolution
- 1796: Married Josephine de Beauharnais
- 1796: Became a General and led France to victory in Italy
- 1799: Staged a coup d'état – overthrew the Directory
- Made himself “First Consul”



Napoleon, the Savior!

- The Directory was weak and ineffective
- Napoleon was viewed as supporting the ideas of the revolution
- Was a strong leader that France needed after 11 years of chaos
- 1800: After taking power by force, held elections to prove the people supported him



Well, not everyone thought so...

- Seen as a dangerous tyrant by other European countries
- England, Russia, Prussia, and Austria form coalitions (alliances) against Napoleon



He Makes Changes in France



- Fairer taxes
- Public schools (lycées)
- Signed agreement with Pope – got the support of the Catholic church
- 1804: Napoleonic Code:
 - Made rights equal
 - Limited freedoms won during the revolution (speech, press, etc.)
 - Reestablished slavery in the French colonies (Haiti)

He Expands His Empire

- 1804: Adds Italy to his empire and makes himself emperor
- 1806: Napoleon wins the War of the Third Coalition
 - Defeats Russia and Austria
 - Austria loses land and signs treaty with France
 - Napoleon gains MAJOR territory
- 1808: Makes his brother king of Spain, which adds to his empire also
- As empire expands, ideas of French Rev spread



