

# NAPOLEON & EUROPE

'In the beginning was Napoleon'  
(Thomas Nipperdey, *Germany from Napoleon to Bismarck*)

- 1798 General Bonaparte leads an expedition to conquer Egypt  
Battle of the Nile, a British fleet commanded by Nelson destroys Napoleon's fleet  
War of the Second Coalition
- 1799 March, war between France and Austria resumes; Russia enters the war on the side of Austria; the French are expelled from Italy  
October, Bonaparte returns from Egypt  
Bonaparte seizes power in France
- 1800 Battle of Marengo, Bonaparte defeats the Austrians  
Battle of Hohenlinden, Moreau defeats the Austrians
- 1801 Peace of Lunéville ends war between France and Austria  
Assassination of Paul I, accession of Alexander I  
Bonaparte's Concordat with the Pope re-establishes the French Church as an organ of state
- 1802 Peace of Amiens between France and Great Britain
- 1803 War resumes between France and Great Britain  
France sells Louisiana to the USA  
Imperial Recess decrees sweeping territorial changes in Germany which ensure French domination  
widespread secularisation of monasteries in Germany  
Beethoven's Third Symphony 'Eroica' composed (first performed 1805)
- 1804 Francis II, Holy Roman Emperor, proclaims himself also Emperor of Austria as Francis I,  
Bonaparte proclaims himself Emperor Napoleon I, is crowned by the Pope Pius VII  
Code Napoléon enacted
- 1805 Bonaparte reorganises Italy under direct French control  
August, the third coalition consisting of Great Britain, Austria, Russia and Sweden is formed against France; war resumes on the continent  
October, Austrian army capitulates at Ulm  
October, Battle of Trafalgar  
December, Battle of Austerlitz; Napoleon inflicts a crushing defeat on an Austro-Russian army  
December Peace of Pressburg
- 1806 March, Napoleon makes his brother Joseph king of Naples  
June, Napoleon makes his brother Louis king of the Netherlands  
July, Napoleon reorganises Germany as the 'Confederation of the Rhine'  
August, formal end of the Holy Roman Empire when the Emperor Francis II abdicates and becomes Francis I of Austria  
October, Prussia declares war on France  
October, Battles of Jena and Auerstedt, Prussia defeated
- 1807 Russia rejoins war as Prussia's ally; indecisive campaign in Poland  
June, decisive French victory at Battle of Friedland  
July, Treaty of Tilsit ends war; France and Russia enter alliance  
Portuguese royal family flees to Brazil
- 1808 Napoleon imposes his brother Joseph as King of Spain; Spanish people rise in revolt, assisted by the British army

- Rome occupied by French troops
- 1809 April, war resumes between France and Austria  
 May, Austrians defeat Napoleon at the battles of Aspern  
 July, Napoleon defeats the Austrians at the battle of Wagram  
 October, Treaty of Schönbrunn ends war between Austria and France  
 Papal states annexed to France
- 1810 Napoleon marries the Archduchess Marie Louise, daughter of the Emperor Francis I  
 Napoleon annexes the Netherlands to France  
 Napoleon annexes the north-western coast of Germany
- 1812 Battle of Salamanca, defeat of French in Spain by army commanded by the Duke of Wellington  
 Goya's *The disasters of war*  
 Napoleon with his German and Italian satellites invades Russia  
 September, Napoleon fights the indecisive Battle of Borodino and enters Moscow a week later  
 October, Napoleon's retreat from Moscow begins  
 December, remnants of Napoleon's army leaves Russia
- 1813 February, treaty of Kalisch between Prussia and Russia  
 June, Wellington defeats the French at Vittoria, prompting King Joseph to flee to France  
 August, Austria declares war on France  
 8 October by the treaty of Ried, Bavaria abandons Napoleon  
 16-19 October, Napoleon is defeated at the Battle of Leipzig and loses control of Germany  
 December, Prussian army under Blücher begins the invasion of France
- 1814 March, Allies abandon attempt to negotiate with Napoleon and conclude Treaty of Chaumont for wartime and post-war alliance  
 March, Wellington captures Bordeaux  
 April, Napoleon abdicates, is exiled to the island of Elba; Louis XVIII returned to French throne  
 September, general negotiations for a comprehensive peace settlement begin at Vienna
- 1815 March, Napoleon returns from Elba  
 18 June, Battle of Waterloo; Napoleon abdicates and is exiled to St. Helena  
 June, Congress of Vienna completes restructuring of Europe  
 September, Russia, Austria and Prussia form the 'Holy Alliance'  
 November, Great Britain, Russia, Austria and Prussia form a Quadruple Alliance to maintain the Vienna settlement  
 November second treaty of Paris reduces France to frontiers of 1790
- 1821 Death of Napoleon on St. Helena

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'The French Revolution *coincided* with a revolution in war that had been under way through the last decades of the monarchy. Soon the two meshed' (Peter Paret)

### **King Jerome of Westphalia 1807**

'What people will wish to return to the arbitrary rule of Prussia when it has once tasted the benefits of a wise and liberal administration? The peoples of Germany, France, Italy and Spain demand civil equality and liberal ideas'.

### **The army of the Confederation of the Rhine**

1806	63,000
1808	119,000
1812	190,000

### **Bavaria the beneficiary and victim of Napoleon**

- 1803-06 acquires 83 additional territories when the Holy Roman Empire is abolished
- increases population and size by c. 50%
- but its army has to increase in size 3 times, in cost 9 times and national debt increases 5 times

### **Prince Hardenberg (Chancellor of Prussia)**

‘The power of the principles of the French Revolution, as spread to the rest of Europe by Napoleon is so great, they are so generally recognised and disseminated, that the state that does not accept them can only look forward either to its collapse or their compulsory enforcement’.

### **The Junta of Seville, 1808:**

‘We are going to fight in defence of the Fatherland and of Religion and our actions must show that we are true Spaniards and Christians. This junta therefore urges the armies, the towns and persons of all classes to improve their habits, to be modest and to endeavour to appease the righteous wrath of God through... virtue and by means of ceaseless prayer’.

### **Ernst Moritz von Arndt (1813):**

In the name of my God and my People I hate all the French without exception... I teach this hatred to my son... All my life long I shall strive to ensure that contempt and hatred for the French strike deep roots in German hearts.

### **Paul Schroeder:**

‘He [Napoleon] finally convinced the statesmen of Europe, hard persons to teach, that what was at risk was not merely certain goods in international politics (peace, security, territorial integrity) but the very life principle of European politics which made these goods and others possible, the independence of European states, the existence of a European states system. He made them see that the kind of politics they had hitherto practised themselves had made his rise to power and his colonial rule possible; that to preserve the international system on which they depended from being wholly destroyed and replaced by colonial rule, they would have not only to defeat or curb him but also to abandon their own old politics, and discover or invent something else’.

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