Chapter 19

The Age of Napoleon and the Triumph of Romanticism
The Rise of Napoleon Bonaparte

- Napoleon has been judged as a force for good by some who have viewed him as a law-giver and reformer who spread revolutionary ideals throughout Europe.

- Others have viewed him as an egomaniac whose lust for conquest and glory overshadowed any other secondary achievements.

- He was certainly a military leader of genius, but his achievements inspire more philosophical thoughts about the ability of the individual to change the course of history.

Napoleon is often represented in his green colonel uniform of the Chasseur à Cheval, with a large bicorne and a hand-in-waistcoat gesture.
Who Makes History?

- Is history motivated by economic and social forces over which individuals have no control?
- Or does the "hero" actually change history by force of personality and ability?
- The figure of Napoleon is central to that debate, as are such figures as Alexander the Great, Lenin, and Hitler.
Rise of Napoleon

- **1769**: Born on island of Corsica
- **1793**: Helps capture the port of Toulon from British; promoted to brigadier general
- **1795**: Crushes rebels opposed to the National Convention in the Thermidorian Reaction
- **1796–1797**: Becomes commander in chief of the army of Italy; wins victories against Austria
- **1798–1799**: Loses to the British in Egypt and Syria
- **1799**: Overthrows Directory and becomes First Consul of France
- **1804**: Crowns himself emperor of France
Early Military Victories

- The government of the Directory represented a society of recently rich and powerful people whose chief goal was to perpetuate their own rule.
- Their main opposition came from the royalists, who won a majority in the elections of 1797.
- With the aid of Napoleon, the anti-monarchist Directory staged a coup d'etat and put their own supporters into the legislature.
- Meanwhile, Napoleon was crushing Austrian and Sardinian armies in Italy.

General Bonaparte surrounded by members of the Council of Five Hundred during the 18 Brumaire coup d'état, by François Bouchot.
The Invasion of Egypt

- An invasion of Egypt, however, was a failure.
Directory in Decline

- As support for the Directory wanes, one of the Directors, the Abbé Siéyès proposed a new constitution that required another *coup d’État* with military support.

- Napoleon returned from Egypt to popular acclaim and ensured the success of the coup.
The Constitution of the Year VIII

- The new constitution divided the executive authority between three consuls.
- But Bonaparte quickly pushed Siéyès aside and in December 1799 issued the Constitution of the Year VIII.
- It promised full suffrage for all men.
- It also provided for a Council of State and rule by one man – the First Consul – Bonaparte.
"EXIT LIBERTÈ a la FRANCOIS !
Or BUONAPARTE closing the Farce of Egalitè, at St. Cloud near Paris Nov. 10th. 1799", British satirical depiction of the 18 Brumaire coup d'état, by James Gillray.
The Consulate in France

- The **Consulate** (1799-1804) in effect the revolution in France.
- The leading elements of the Third Estate – officials, landowners, doctors, lawyers, and financiers – had achieved most of their goals:
  - abolishing hereditary privilege,
  - opening the careers to talent allowing them to achieve wealth, status, and security for their property.
- The peasants were also satisfied because they had gained the land they had always wanted and destroyed oppressive feudal privileges.
- The new dominant class had no desire to share their new privileges with the lower classes and saw Napoleon as the person to give them security.
- So when he submitted his constitution they overwhelmingly approved it.
Suppressing Foreign Enemies and Domestic Opposition

- In 1802, Napoleon was affirmed as consul for life and he soon produced another constitution that granted him what amounted to full power.
- Bonaparte soon achieved peace with Austria with the Treaty of Luneville in 1801.
- In 1802 the Treaty of Amiens was signed with Britain bringing peace to Europe.
- He was equally effective in restoring order at home by consolidating the central government and stamping out royalist rebellions.
Concordat with the Roman Catholic Church

- Pius VII, before becoming pope, had written that Christianity was compatible with the ideals of equality and democracy.

- So in 1801, Napoleon reached an agreement with the pope:
  - Both refractory clergy and those who accepted the revolution were forced to resign.
  - Replacements received spiritual investiture from the pope.
  - The state named bishops and paid their salaries and the salary of one priest in each parish.
  - The church gave up claims to confiscated property.
  - The clergy had to swear an oath of loyalty to the state.
The Napoleonic Code

- Order, security, and efficiency replaced liberty, equality, and fraternity as the slogans of the new regime.
- Napoleon instituted a number of reforms to restore economic prosperity.
- Napoleon then reformed and codified French law.
- The Napoleonic Code safeguarded all forms of property and tried to secure France against internal challenges:
  - Worker’s organizations remained forbidden and workers had fewer rights than their employers.
  - Fathers were granted extensive control over their children and husbands over their wives.
Establishing a Dynasty

- In 1804, Bonaparte seized on a bomb attack on his life to make himself emperor, arguing that establishing a dynasty would make the new regime secure and make further attempts on his life useless.

- In his decade as emperor (1804–1814), Napoleon conquered most of Europe.

- He could put as many as 700,000 men under arms at any one time and depended on mobility and timing to achieve the destruction of an enemy army.
Napoleon’s Empire: Conquering an Empire

- Napoleon sent an army to restore the rebellious colony of Haiti to French rule.
- Spain restored Louisiana to French rule in 1801.
- He intervened in the Dutch Republic, Italy, and Switzerland.
- He forced redistribution in some areas along the Rhine in the treaty of Campo Formio.
- Britain issued an ultimatum and then declared war in May 1803; by August 1805 Russia and Austria had joined.
Napoleon’s Empire: Conquering an Empire

- Napoleon abolished the Holy Roman Empire, reorganizing Germany.
- Napoleon had an impressive victory at Austerlitz (1805), a setback at Trafalgar (1805) and defeated the Prussians and Russians which resulted in the Treaty of Tilsit (1807).
  - Prussia was cut in half and openly allied with France
  - Russia became a secret ally of France
- Napoleon organized Europe into the French Empire and a number of satellite states—over which ruled the members of his family.
What part of the Italian peninsula was French territory?
*Rome and much of the west-central part of the peninsula.*

Do you think the spread of nationalism would weaken or strengthen Napoleon’s power? Explain.
Napoleon’s Empire: The Continental System

- To defeat the British, Napoleon devised the **Continental System**, which aimed at cutting off British trade with the European continent.
- The Milan Decree of 1807 attempted to stop neutral countries from trading with Britain.
- However, Britain's other markets (in the Americas and the eastern Mediterranean) enabled the British economy to survive.
- The Continental System badly hurt the European economies.
- Napoleon enforced tariffs that benefited France, increasing resentment of foreign merchants and making them less willing to enforce the system and more likely to engage in smuggling.
“The plumb pudding in danger.” In 1805 English cartoonist James Gillray lampooned Napoleon (right) and British Prime Minister William Pitt. Credit: Library of Congress, LC-USZC4-8791.
European Response to the Empire: German Nationalism and Prussian Reforms

- Napoleon's conquests stimulated liberalism and nationalism.

- As it became increasingly clear that Napoleon's policies were to benefit France rather than Europe, the conquered states and peoples became restive.
  - French conquest endangered independence and German achievement, leading to German unification.
  - Reforms of serfdom strengthened Prussian state by freeing serfs and improving military.
In 1808, a general rebellion began in Spain (over Napoleon's deposition of the Bourbon dynasty).

- Guerrilla bands cut Napoleon’s lines of communication
- They killed stragglers, destroyed isolated units, and disappeared into mountains
- British sent army to support Spanish insurgents

French troubles in Spain encouraged Austrians to renew the war in 1809.

- Napoleon marched into Austria and won the Battle of Wagram
- Marie Louise, daughter of Emperor Francis I was married to Napoleon
European Response to the Empire: The Invasion of Russia

- In 1810, the Russians withdrew from the Continental System.
- The invasion of Russia that followed, along with the disastrous retreat from Moscow in the winter of 1812–1813—exposed French weaknesses.
- A powerful coalition defeated the French in the "Battle of Nations" (1813).
- In 1814, the allied army took Paris and Napoleon abdicated, going to the island of Elba.
1. Why is Napoleon shown dropping the scepter and the sphere?
2. Why are the Russian building shown in the bottom right corner?
3. When do you think this cartoon was drawn?
Downfall of Napoleon

- 1812—Napoleon’s forces were defeated in Russia.
- Russia, Britain, Austria, and Prussia form a new alliance against a weakened France.
- 1813—Napoleon defeated in the Battle of Nations in Leipzig.
- 1814—Napoleon abdicated and was exiled to Elba, an island in the Mediterranean Sea.
- 1815—Napoleon escaped his exile and returned to France.
- Combined British and Prussian forces defeated Napoleon at Waterloo.
- Napoleon was forced to abdicate again, and was this time exiled to St. Helena, an island in the South Atlantic.
- 1821—Napoleon died in exile.
The Congress of Vienna

- The Congress of Vienna met from September 1814 to November 1815.
- The arrangements were essentially made by four great powers: Britain, Austria, Prussia, and Russia; the key person in achieving agreement was British foreign secretary Castlereagh.
- The victors agreed that no single state should dominate Europe.
- Proceedings were interrupted by Napoleon's return in March, 1815.
- They soon defeated him at Waterloo.
- The episode hardened the peace settlement for France, but the Congress settled difficult problems in a reasonable way. No general war occurred for a century.
British etching from 1814 in celebration of Napoleon's first exile to Elba at the close of the War of the Sixth Coalition
The Congress of Vienna and the European Settlement

- The Bourbon monarchy was restored in France
- Territorial Adjustments
  - France was satisfied with a non-vindicative boundary
  - The settlement of Eastern Europe divided the victors and enabled Talleyrand, representing France, to join the deliberations.
  - France, Britain, and Austria were able to prevent Russia and Prussia from gaining all of Poland and Saxony respectively.
  - The victors agreed that no single power should dominate Europe; the concept of “balance of power” was formally put into practice & proved to be successful for the next 100 years.
- The Hundred Days and the Quadruple Alliance
Legacy of Napoleon

- The Napoleonic Code consolidated many changes of the revolution.
- Napoleon turned France into a centralized state with a constitution.
- Elections were held with expanded, though limited, suffrage.
- Many more citizens had rights to property and access to education.
- French citizens lost many rights promised to them during the Convention.
- On the world stage, Napoleon’s conquests spread the ideas of the revolution and nationalism.
- Napoleon failed to make Europe into a French empire.
- The abolition of the Holy Roman Empire would eventually contribute to the creation of a new Germany.
- Napoleon’s decision to sell France’s Louisiana Territory to America doubled the size of the United States and ushered in an age of American expansion.
The Romantic Movement

- A new intellectual movement known as Romanticism emerged as a reaction against the Enlightenment.
- The Age of Romanticism was roughly 1780–1830.
- Romantic religious thinkers appealed to the inner emotions of humankind for the foundation of religion.
- Methodist teachings, for example, emphasized inward, heartfelt religion and the possibility of Christian perfection in this life.
- Romanticism glorified both the individual person and individual cultures.
Romantic Questioning of the Supremacy of Reason

- **Rousseau** and *Of Education* tackles fundamental political and philosophical questions about the relationship between the individual and society.

- Rousseau seeks to describe a system of education that would enable the *natural man* he identifies in *The Social Contract* (1762) to survive corrupt society.

- He employs the novelistic device to show how an ideal citizen might be educated.

- *Émile* is not a detailed parenting guide but it does provide specific advice on raising children.

- It is regarded by some as the first philosophy of education in Western culture to have a serious claim to completeness.
Romantic Questioning of the Supremacy of Reason

- **Immanuel Kant** and *The Critique of Pure Reason (Kritik der reinen Vernunft, 1781)*, aimed to unite reason with experience to move beyond what he took to be failures of traditional philosophy and metaphysics.

- He hoped to end an age of speculation where objects outside experience were used to support what he saw as futile theories, while opposing the skepticism of thinkers such as Descartes, Berkeley and Hume.

- He said that: “it always remains a scandal of philosophy and universal human reason that the existence of things outside us ... should have to be assumed merely on faith, and that if it occurs to anyone to doubt it, we should be unable to answer him with a satisfactory proof.”
Romantic Literature

- In England and Germany, the term "romantic" came to be applied to all literature that failed to observe classical forms and gave free play to the imagination.
- The English Romantic Writers, included Blake, Coleridge, Shelley, Wordsworth, and Byron.
- German writers such as Herder and the Grimm brothers went in search of their own past and revived German folk culture.
- Romantic ideas made a major contribution to the emergence of nationalism by emphasizing the worth of each separate people.
- Romantic thought also modified European understanding of Islam and the Arab world, helping Europeans to see the Muslim world in a more positive light.
Sturm and Drang

- Term literally means "turbulence and urge(ncy)", but is usually translated as "Storm and Stress."

- The term first appeared as the title to a play by Friedrich Maximilian Klinger, published in 1776, about the unfolding American Revolution.
  - The author gives violent expression to difficult emotions
  - He extols individuality and subjectivity over the prevailing order of rationalism.

- *Sturm und Drang* came to be associated with literature or music aimed at frightening the audience or imbuing them with extremes of emotion.

- The movement dovetailed into early Romanticism expressing:
  - a socio-political concern for greater human freedom from despotism
  - a religious treatment of all things natural.
Romantic Views of Nationalism & History

- Johann Gottfried Herder and Culture
- He resented French cultural dominance in Germany.
- “On the Knowing and Feelings of the Human Soul” (1778) he rejected the mechanical explanation of nature popular with Enlightenment.
  - He saw human beings and societies as developing organically, like plants, over time – being different at different times and places.
- Urged the collection and preservation of distinctive German songs and sayings.
  - Jakob and Wilhelm Grimm were his most important followers.
- Opposed use of “common language,” such as French, as a form of tyranny.
- His writings led to a revival in interest in history.
Romantic Views of Nationalism & History

- Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel and History
  - He was perhaps the most important person to write about history at this time.
  - He fostered the theory that ideas developed in evolutionary fashion.
  - At any given time, a predominant set of ideas, which he termed the thesis, holds sway. Conflicting ideas, termed the antithesis, challenge the thesis. As these patterns clash, a synthesis emerges that eventually becomes the new thesis.
Islam and Romanticism

- Under the influence of nationalistic aspirations and romantic sensibilities, Europeans viewed Islam with ambivalence.

- The Ottoman Empire was reviled as the repressor of independence movements such as the Greek Revolution of 1821.

- Though, Europeans viewed the Crusades of the 12th century through a romantic prism and stories from *The Thousand and One Nights* were accorded prominence as mysterious and exotic.
Islam and Romanticism

- Napoleon was perhaps the most important individual to reshape Islam and the Middle East in the European imagination.

- His Egyptian campaign in 1798 opened new opportunities for Europeans to learn about Arabic history and Islamic culture.

- Two cultural effects on the West of Napoleon’s invasion were an increase in the number of European visitors to the Middle East and a demand for architecture based on ancient models.

- In the Middle East itself, Napoleon’s invasion demonstrated western military and technological superiority, eventually resulting in Ottoman reforms intended to help the empire compete with European states.