

## Napoleon Bonaparte (NB)

- Born (1767-1821) Corsica
- Sent to military school in France as a child
- Apprenticed as a soldier in his teens
- Participates in the military of the FR
- Made Brigadier General of the interior during the Reign of Terror (after he fired cannons on French citizens rebelling against the revolution)
- After becoming established in the French Military, goes back to Corsica to start a political career
- Finds conflict with his Corsican hero, republican Pasquale Paoli (leader of the resistance to the Genoese and French) in Corsica
  - Corsica after expelling the Genoese, were the first nation to write a constitution on the basis of enlightenment principles, 1755.
- Death sentence issued by Paoli, Bonaparte family forced to flee to France
- Decides to make his name in the French Military
- Fights and wins in the Toulon in southern France
  - Promoted up the ranks quickly
- Then fights Austria in Italy
  - creating propaganda in paintings and newspapers about his military exploits of which he even wrote articles anonymously himself
  - takes works of the Italian masters back to France (Michelangelo, Titian, etc.)
- 1798 – invades Egypt (then part of the Ottoman Empire)
  - June: took control of Alexandria
  - July 3: fought “Battle of the Pyramids” with the Mamluk army
    - then sort of in the Ottoman empire, but were also fighting for independence;
    - defeated them easily, as they were only equipped with swords and muskets, rather than with the heavily artillery of the Fr. military.
  - Great Britain, whom France was at war with, destroys the Napoleon’s fleet, leaving him stranded in Egypt
  - Around 160 artists, mathematicians, map makers, engineers, and other scholars accompany the so-called “army of the orient” to document, describe, analyze, and retrieve the cultural artefacts of ancient Egypt, as well as the native plant and animal species, the Islamic architecture, and the current political organization of the state.
  - Upon return to France the research and material compiled by the invasion was published in a multi-volume compendium called *The Description of Egypt*. [SHOW PIC].
  - **\*\*IMPORTANT\*\* EGYPTIAN PLUNDER:** Many works of art, artefacts, and human remains were plundered from Egypt at the time, including the so-called Rosetta stone—A stone tablet written in multiple ancient languages, included Egyptian hieroglyphics which allowed scholars, by way of cross-reference, to decipher the dead written language of the ancient Egyptians, something no one

at the time knew how to read. Besides helping found the disciplines of Egyptology and Archeology, these stolen works also led to an explosion of European interest in Egypt, from exotic travel fantasies, and the fetishization of ancient Egyptian art and style, to quasi-magical cults about the power of image and symbol, about hieroglyphs in particular—fantasies which fueled both the scholarly endeavors as well as popular imagination.

- Napoleon quote, “The true conquests, the ones that leave no regret are the ones that have been wrested from ignorance”
- August 1799: Napoleon sets sail back to France, leaving behind more than 30,000 soldiers
- 1799 – Napoleon, first attempts a parliamentary coup with the likes of E. J. Sieyès, then Member of the Directory. After this fails miserably due to NB’s impatience, he is thrown out of Parliament and while his own soldiers begin to turn on him for sedition, NB’s brother, Lucien, already a member of Parliament, convinces the soldiers instead that the Parliament was wrong to throw NB out since he had no intentions. This leads to their storming of the building and the dissolution of the Directory. A new provisional government is put into place with three Consuls. Within weeks of the coup, Bonaparte had taken charge, re-written the constitution, and pronounced himself First Consul, making him the undisputed leader of France and the Age of 30.
  - He said, “The Revolution is over. I am the Revolution” echoing Louis XIV famous dictum.
- 1800-02 – NB wins famous victories in Europe, including one that took his army over the Alps, something that only Hannibal and Charlemagne had done before him, gaining—in the end—a provisional peace across western Europe for the first time in a decade.
- 1802 – amends constitution again, making him First Consul for life, at the age of 33, he is the effective Dictator over all of French Government
- Sets about reforming government structure and embarking on widescale public works projects
  - Roads, parks, bridges, water works, monuments
  - Legal, political, and economic reforms
    - Centralized government
    - System of primary public education (lycees)
    - Established the Central Bank of France
    - And Developed the Civil Code (also known as the Napoleonic code)
      - Abolishing feudal privilege and ensuring equality before the law
      - Remains the basis of modern French law today
    - Signs the Concorda with the Catholic pope, making Catholicism the ‘preferred religion’
      - NB, “Religion is excellent stuff for keeping common people quiet”
  - Since France was in control of many parts of western Europe at the time, this has the effect of liberalizing much of Europe (Including Switzerland, Germany, and Italy), the Napoleonic code has influenced the legal systems of over 70 nations.
- 1803 – Tensions between GB and Fr remain and GB eventually declares war
- 1804 – Crowns himself Emperor of France, brings the Pope from Italy to give legitimacy to the coronation
  - NB, “I am the instrument of Providence, she will use me as long as I accomplish her designs, then she will break me like a glass”

- 1804-1814 – fought wars across Europe and elsewhere, including in Netherlands, Spain, Portugal, Austria, Prussia, and Russia.
  - 1810-1811: Divorced Josephine and married Duchess Marie-Louise of Austria
- 1814 – Forced Abdication of Napoleon, by a coalition consisting of almost all of Europe. ‘Exiled’ to the Island of Elba, where he is placed as ‘Emperor’.
- 1815 – “Hundred Days”: Due to rumors that he will be banished, and cut off from the allowance made in the terms of his abdication, NB escapes exile and heads back to France. After bringing the 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment back under his command, and galvanizing his support on the way back to Paris, he again became emperor for less than year.
- Dec 1815 – Exiled to St Helena, where he remained until his death in 1821.

### War Monuments and Imperial Portraits

- Public monuments, architecture, Napoleon Museum (the Louvre)
  - Vendome column
    - Trajan’s
  - L’arc de Triomphe
  - The *Description of Egypt*
    - First volume of which was published in 1809 and continued throughout his reign This is the so called “imperial edition”; so popular that a second ‘Royal Edition’ was made, despite its clear relation to NB, after his abdication and exile.
- The Empire style, the Propaganda Machine
  - Imperial Décor:
    - Between the fantasies of Egypt and Rome:
  - J’s bedroom
    - Washbasin
    - Red and gold
    - The return of ornament, this time made of mixed influences of neoclassicism, Egyptian and roman art, which was imbued with the conjugation of power and pleasure that the imperial culture promoted as the glory of France
    - The style was limited to décor, but also found a prominent home in painting
  - David
    - *Sabine Women (1799)*
      - Same year NB first takes power; Attempt at reconciliation after the reign of terror
    - *N. Crossing the Alps (1800-1)*
      - the centrality of the figure
      - his address to the viewer
      - NB really rode a mule
      - Hannibal and Charlemagne
  - Pierre-Paul Prud’hon
    - *Josephine (1805)*
      - Boredom?

- *Childlessness?*
  - *Wistful serenity?*
  - *Melancholy?*
  - *Nature/romanticism?*
- *King of Rome Sleeping (1811)*
  - *Vegetable motifs serves the allegory of the imperial houses of France and Austria*
- Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres
  - *Napoleon on his Imperial Throne (1806)*
    - Compare van Eycks' *God the Father* (1432)
    - Incredible stillness silence, a vacuum in space
    - Almost like it's underwater
    - Masterful use of analogous color-scheme; all warms
      - Compare *Portrait of Madame Rivière* (1805) with its icy blues and jet black hair.
- Antoine-Jean Gros
  - *Bonaparte Visiting the Plague House at Jaffa (1804)*
    - *Exoticism is on display despite the scene*
    - *E.g. the architecture looks more Moorish than Ottoman to me, a style of Islamic Architecture you would find in southern Spain and Morocco, probably not the type you might have found in Egypt in 1799. NOT AN EXPERT just a hunch.*

## Goya and the War in Spain

- **\*\*TRIGGER WARNING\*\*** Because, in the rest of W. Euro, Spain was seen as somewhat of a backwater, very much stuck in the middle ages, and dominated by a repressively orthodox Christian government and clergy, NB expected, when invading Spain starting in [?] to be greeted—as he pretty much had been in Italy—as a liberator and modernizer of a people held back by its state. This, turned out to be anything but the case. The Spanish were a very proud, very partisan, very nationalist people, who detested the presence of Napoleon's army in their country. This meant that NB ended up fighting, not only the military forces of the state, but also the ad hoc citizen's militia—not in open battle—but in guerrilla war (a term invented during the Napoleonic Franco-Spanish war). NB's reaction to this resistance movement of the people was brutal and inglorious, and the Spanish returned the brutality in kind. The horror of the war in Spain, and its depiction by Spain's greatest contemporary painter, Francisco Goya, would be the first to demystify the unfathomable pain of modern warfare: it would be echoed in short order by the American Civil War, and then by World War I, and would continue throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- Goya
  - *El sueño de la razón produce monstruos* (1799)
  - *Grande hazaña! Con muertos!* from *Desastres de la guerra* (ca. 1810-1815)
  - Others from *Desastres de la guerra*

- *The Execution of the Rebels on the Third of May 1808*. (1814)
  - Miguel Gamborino, *The Execution of the Five Franciscan Friars at the Hand of a French Firing Squad* (1813).
- The Napoleonic version of the story by Gros (1810)

**\*\*STOP HERE FOR FEB 10\*\***

### The Waning of Neo Classical Heroism

- Femininity in the male nude
  - Gone is the stoic virtue of the revolution
  - Here is the sensuality of male youth
  - Winklemann's two Greek tendencies
    - Relation to the sexual roles of males in ancient Greece
      - Intergenerational homosociality, homosexuality; coming of age practices in Greece and Renaissance Italy
- Jean Broc's *Death of Hyacinth* (1801)
  - *homoeroticism*
- Anne-Louis Girondet
  - *The Sleep of Endymion* (1791)
    - *homoeroticism*
  - *The New Danaë* (1799)
    - *Implications of gender*
  - *The Entombment of Atala* (1808)
    - *Exoticist fantasy, christianity*
- The Troubadour style
  - Focus on everyday events of historical figures and periods
    - Interest in the middle ages and attention to historical detail
    - Made use of the Musée des Monuments Français
  - Works on smaller scale than David's epic historic scenes
- Fleury-François Richard's *King Francis I and his Sister Margaret, Queen of Navarre* (1804)
  - Marguerite de Navarre
    - Humanist and major reformer in France during the Renaissance; one of the most important figures of French Renaissance politics and culture.
    - Author of *The Heptaméron*, a collection of 70 stories about the moral lessons of Renaissance France and sexual intrigues of fictitious people in the Renaissance society, in various stations; perhaps the most famous work of French Renaissance literature alongside Rabelais's *Gargantua and Pantagruel* which she was the protector of.
- Genre Painting
  - The Bourgeois Interior
    - Louis-Léopold Boilly

- Portraits
  - Like we saw with Ingres
- Historical Landscape
  - Valenciennes
    - Plein air studies
    - Attention on the sky