

# Napoleon



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*In times of political turmoil, military dictators often seize control of nations (as Napoleon did in the wake of the Reign of Terror and the failure of the Directory)*



# Rise to Power

- ❑ Wins key battles to save the French republic
  - ❑ Defends the National Convention from the threat of royalist rebels
  - ❑ Defeats the Austrians in Italy
  - ❑ *Leads an unsuccessful expedition in Egypt;* becomes a household name regardless



# Rise to Power

- ❑ Returns from Egypt,  
*seizes political control  
from a failing Directory  
in a coup d'état*
  - ❑ “Blow of state”
  - ❑ Overthrow
- ❑ Becomes the first of  
three consuls in a new  
government





# Rise to Power

- ❑ Defeats Britain, Austria, and Russia, uses war and diplomacy to bring order to Europe
- ❑ By 1802, the continent is at peace for the first time in ten years!



# Napoleon Rules France

- ❑ French voters approve a new constitution—the fourth in nine years—when a plebiscite, or vote of the people, is held
- ❑ Desperate for strong leadership, the French people effectively gave all real political power to Napoleon as *First Consul*



# Napoleon Rules France

- ❑ Napoleon gives France order and a stable economy
- ❑ *Crowns himself emperor in 1804*



	<i>The Economy</i>	<i>Government and Society</i>	<i>Religion</i>
<i>Goals of the Revolution</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Equal taxation <input type="checkbox"/> Lower inflation	<input type="checkbox"/> Less government corruption <input type="checkbox"/> Equal opportunity in government	<input type="checkbox"/> Less powerful Catholic Church <input type="checkbox"/> Religious tolerance
<i>Napoleon's Actions</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Set up fairer tax code <input type="checkbox"/> Set up national bank <input type="checkbox"/> Stabilized currency <input type="checkbox"/> Gave state loans to businesses	<input type="checkbox"/> Appointed officials by merit <input type="checkbox"/> Fired corrupt officials <input type="checkbox"/> Created lycées <input type="checkbox"/> Created code of laws	<input type="checkbox"/> Recognized Catholicism as “faith of Frenchmen” <input type="checkbox"/> Signed concordat with pope <input type="checkbox"/> Retained seized church lands
<i>Results</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Equal taxation <input type="checkbox"/> Stable economy	<input type="checkbox"/> Honest, competent officials <input type="checkbox"/> Equal opportunity in government <input type="checkbox"/> Public education	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious tolerance <input type="checkbox"/> Government control of church lands <input type="checkbox"/> Government recognition of church influence



# New World Territories

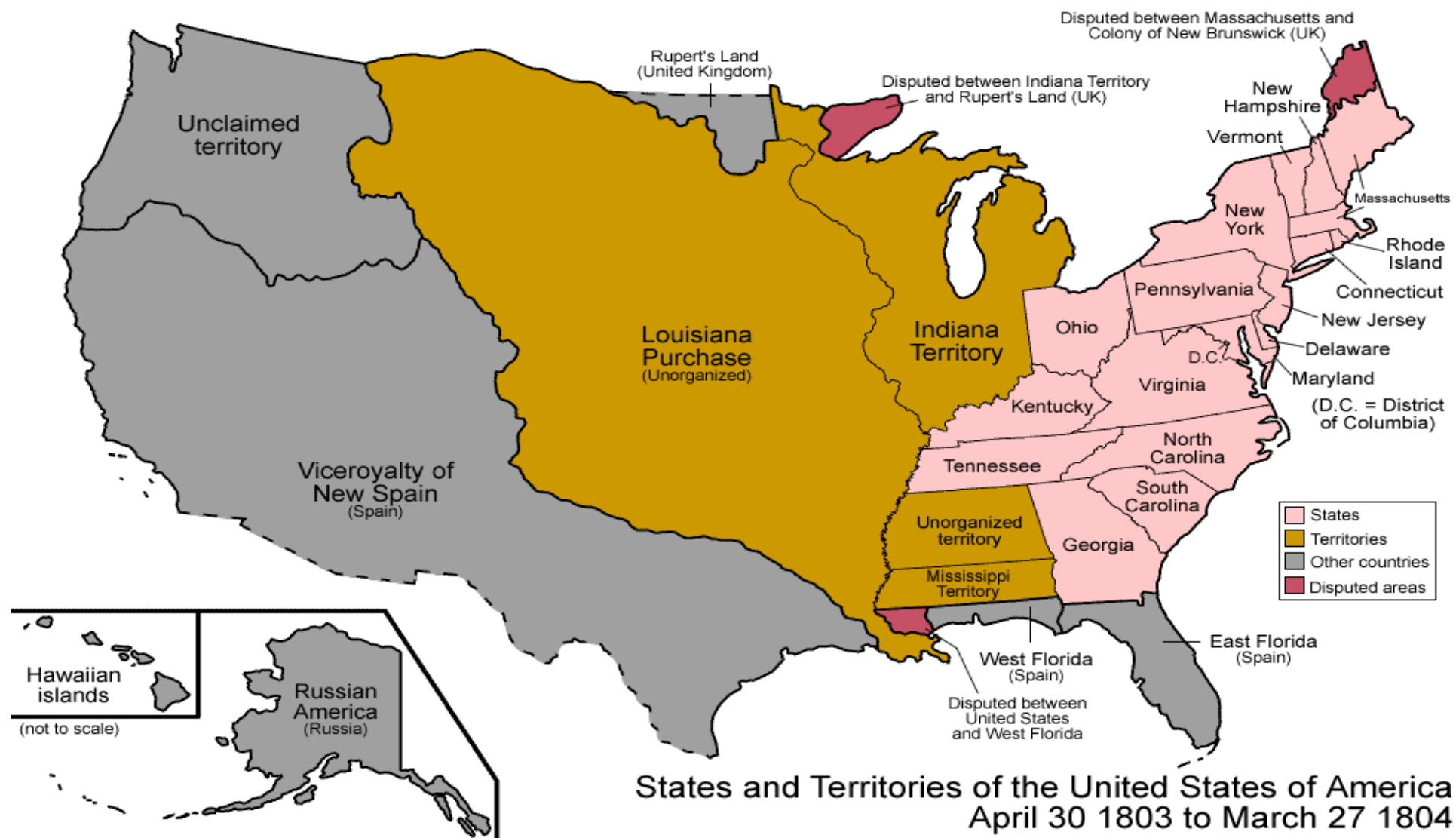
- ☐ Napoleon tries to expand his empire in the Americas but fails in Saint Domingue
  - ☐ Regain control of territory
  - ☐ Reinstitute slavery, which had been abolished during the Revolution
  - ☐ Restore the productive *sugar industry* of the war-torn island
- ☐ Why did the expedition fail?
  - ☐ Rebel slave army proved too formidable
  - ☐ Thousands of French soldiers died of tropical disease
    - ☐ Yellow fever



# New World Territories

- ❑ United States buys the *Louisiana Territory* from Napoleon
  - ❑ Why does Napoleon sell such a large tract of land?
    - ❑ Acquire money needed to finance conquest of Europe
    - ❑ Punish Britain by strengthening the new American republic
- ❑ Cuts losses in New World, turns focus to conquest of Europe instead



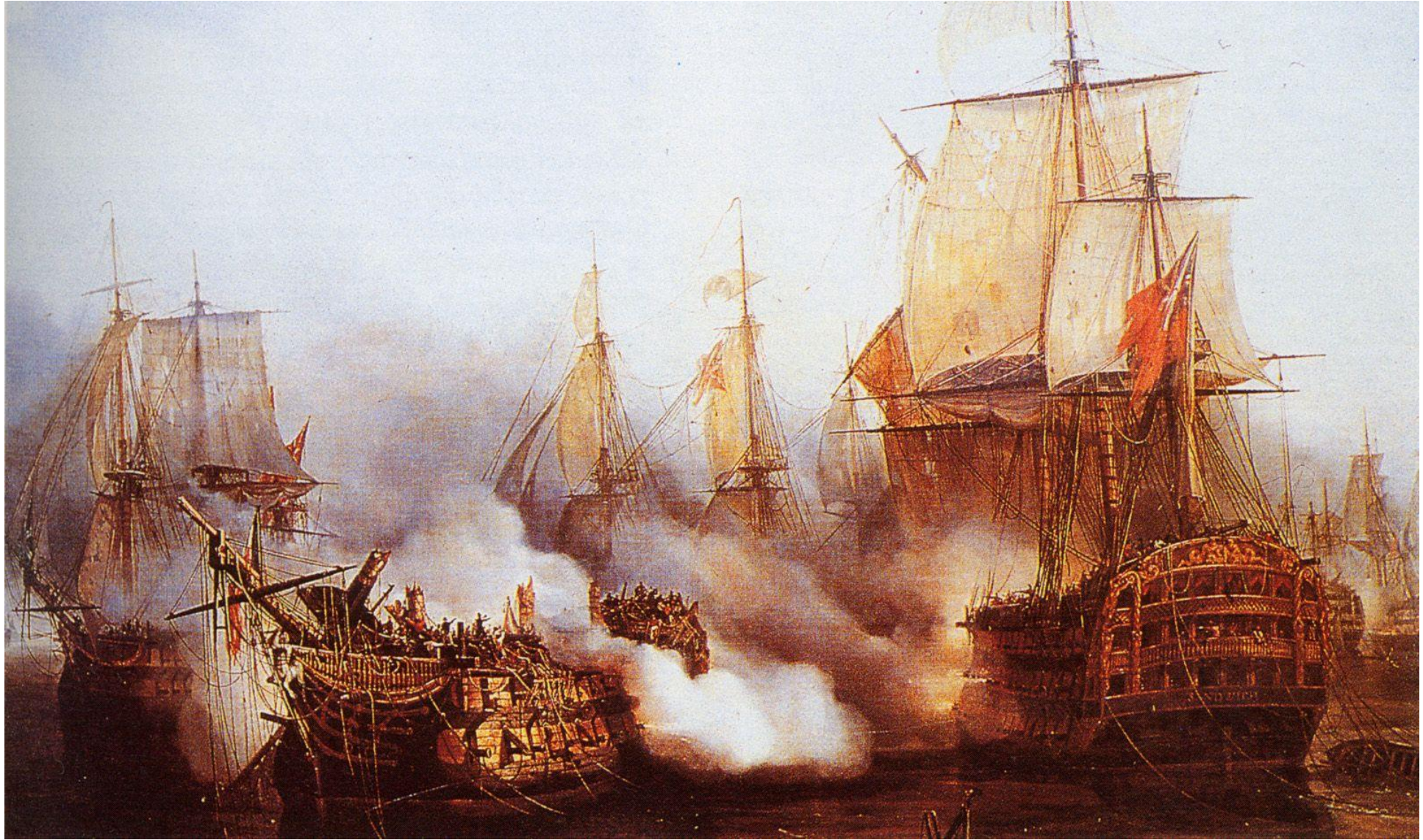


# The French Empire

- ❑ By 1805, Napoleon controlled most of Europe except Britain
- ❑ French navy defeated at *Battle of Trafalgar*
- ❑ Napoleon forced to seek alternative in controlling Britain
  - ❑ Economic warfare
  - ❑ Continental System
- ❑ Vast French empire to be short-lived









# Collapse of an Empire

- ❑ Napoleon made three costly mistakes that led to his downfall
  - ❑ Continental System
  - ❑ Peninsular War
  - ❑ Invasion of Russia



# Continental System

- ❑ Lasted from 1806-1814
- ❑ Ordered a blockade—a forcible closing of ports—to prevent all trade and communication between England and other European nations
  - ❑ Make continental Europe more self-sufficient
  - ❑ Destroy Britain's commercial and industrial economy



# Continental System

- ❑ Why did it fail?
  - ❑ Blockade was not tight enough
    - ❑ Smugglers continued to import British goods
    - ❑ Napoleon's allies defied the policy
  - ❑ Britain responded with its own blockade
    - ❑ Naval superiority made their blockade more effective
- ❑ Result
  - ❑ The Continental System weakened the French economy more than it damaged Britain





# Peninsular War

- ❑ Lasted from 1808-1814
- ❑ Napoleon wished to punish Portugal for ignoring the Continental System
  - ❑ Sent an army through Spain to invade Portugal
- ❑ Spanish resistance led Napoleon to depose the Spanish king and put his brother on the throne
  - ❑ Spanish nationalism!



# Peninsular War

- ❑ French armies defeated by Spanish guerrilla fighters and British forces
- ❑ Driven out of Spain as a result



# Invasion of Russia

- ❑ Lasted from June to December of 1812
- ❑ Reasons
  - ❑ *Russian Czar Alexander I*, an ally of Napoleon, refused to stop selling grain to Britain
  - ❑ Both Napoleon and Alexander wished to control Poland
- ❑ Napoleon assembles a Grand Army, marches into Russia
  - ❑ Many of his troops were not French, and thus felt little loyalty to the French emperor



# Invasion of Russia

- ❑ Russian forces retreat toward Moscow, practicing a scorched-earth policy to weaken Napoleon's Grand Army
- ❑ Napoleon enters Moscow to find it in flames, waits five weeks to meet with Alexander
  - ❑ No peace offer came from the czar
- ❑ Napoleon orders his army to retreat; starvation and harsh winter weather force Napoleon and his army to leave depleted and embarrassed





# Invasion of Russia

*Retreat of the  
Grand Army from  
Russia. The  
temperature fell to  
about 30 degrees  
below zero, so cold  
that birds fell dead  
from the sky.*



## RUSSIAN CAMPAIGN, 1812



*The First Sight of Moscow, by Laslett John Pott, undated*

# Downfall

- ❑ European powers unite against a weakened Napoleon, defeat his inexperienced army at the Battle of Leipzig
  - ❑ Enemies eventually march through Paris, force Napoleon to surrender and banish him to Elba
  - ❑ Bourbon monarchy is restored under *Louis XVIII*, brother of Louis XVI





# Downfall

- ❑ Sensing the lack of popularity of the new king, Napoleon escapes from Elba and briefly regains power during his Hundred Days campaign
  - ❑ Reassembles an army, attacks a combined British and Prussian force near the Belgian village of Waterloo, and is defeated for a final time
- ❑ Is *exiled to St. Helena*, a remote island in the South Atlantic
  - ❑ Lives six more years, dies in 1821





# Napoleon's Impact

- ❑ Reformed France
  - ❑ Political and social order
    - ❑ Legacy of *Napoleonic Code*
  - ❑ Economic stability
  - ❑ Religious tolerance
- ❑ Established mastery over most of Europe, forever changing its political landscape
  - ❑ Brilliant man ruined by greed and desire
  - ❑ Conquests contributed to the rise of nationalism as a political and social force for change

