

A photograph of the Arc de Triomphe in Paris, France, taken from a low angle. The monument is a large, light-colored stone archway with intricate carvings and sculptures. The sky is clear and blue. In the foreground, there are several cars and a few people walking around the base of the arch. The text "Napoleon, For and Against" is overlaid on the top part of the arch.

*Napoleon, For and Against*

Arc de Triomphe, Place du Carrousel, Paris (1806-1836)



Napoleon, for and against: Introduction

# Austerlitz, 2 December 1805

French forces: 72,000

Russian & Austrian: 85,000

Dead or wounded

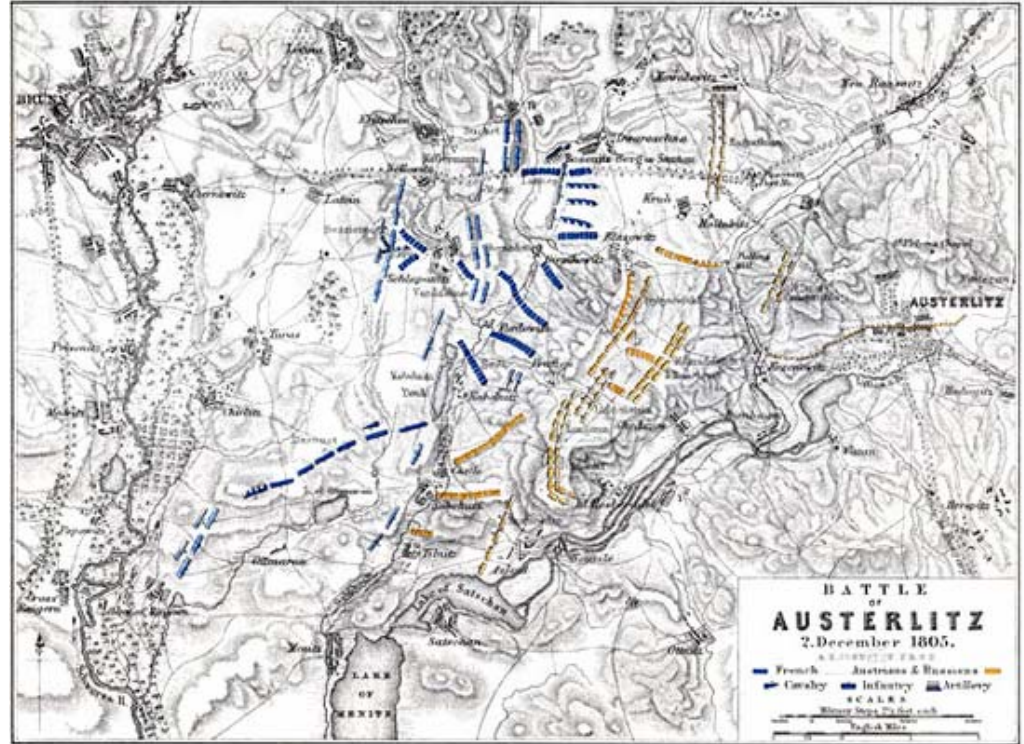
French: 7,245

allied: 27,000

Captured

French: 573

allied 12,000



Treaty of Pressburg: Venice and coast surrendered by Austria to the “Kingdom of Italy”

16 German states “voluntarily” left Holy Roman Empire to form  
“Confederation of the Rhine” (satellite state of France)  
dissolved Holy Roman Empire; Francis II (Marie Antoinette’s nephew)  
became Francis I of Austria

ended War of Third Coalition

Place d'Austerlitz  
Ajaccio, Corsica



Napoleon, for and against: Introduction

Austerlitz Station  
Paris



Napoleon, for and against: Introduction



Place Vendôme Column, Paris

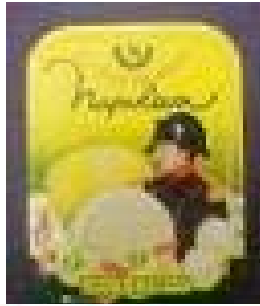


Trajan's Column, Rome

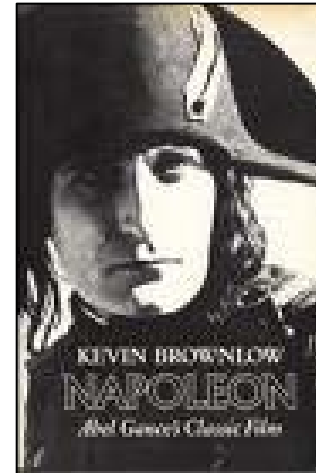


re-enactment of the Battle of Austerlitz  
December 2005  
(photos from wikimedia and bbc.co.uk)





Salon du   
*1er Empire*  
PALAIS DES CONGRÈS DE PARIS  
3-5 DÉCEMBRE 2004



Napoleon, for and against: Introduction

# Napoleon, For and Against

gives institutional permanence to Revolution

individual genius; “World spirit on horseback”

rose through the ranks based on talent



snow and ice sculpture; Harbin, China (2008)



“You are fooled” (1808)

violates most important gains of 1789-1799

military dictatorship; model for Hitler, Mussolini

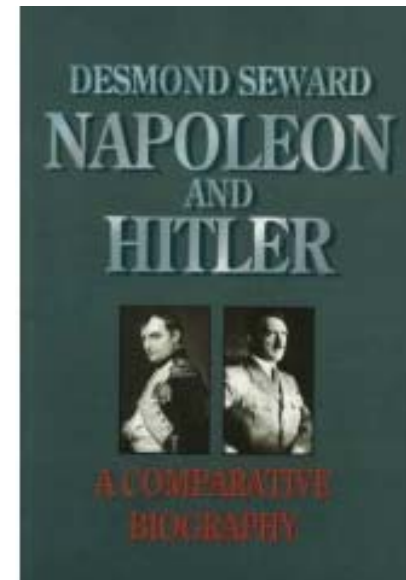
plunged Europe into 16 more years of war

## *Questions for Discussion by Societies*

1. Which was the greater Man, Oliver Cromwell or Napoleon Bonaparte?
7. Has the Fear of Punishment, or the Hope of Reward, the greater Influence on Human Conduct?
12. Is Military Renown a fit Object for Ambition?
13. Is Ambition a Vice or a Virtue?
36. Was the Deposition of Louis XVI justifiable?
49. Is Genius an innate Capacity?
59. Was the Banishment of Napoleon to St. Helena justifiable?
67. Do modern Geological Discoveries agree with Holy Writ?
79. Which was the greater Man, George Washington or Benjamin Franklin?

James D. McCabe, *The National Encyclopaedia of Business and Social Forms, including the Laws of Etiquette...* (Philadelphia, 1880)

Desmond Seward, *Napoleon and Hitler, A Comparative Biography* (1996)



# Napoleon Bonaparte

1769 born "Napoleone Buonaparte" in Corsica

Dec. 1793 central in re-taking Toulon from the British;

Oct. 1795 puts down royalist uprising in Paris

Jan. 1796 named commander-in-chief of Italian Army

Sept. 1797 aids *fructidor* coup

1798-1799 Egyptian campaign

Nov. 1799 (18 brumaire VIII) military/constitutional *coup*

Feb. 1800 Referendum confirms Bonaparte as "First Consul"

Aug. 1802 Referendum makes him "Consul for Life"

May 1804 Referendum makes him "Emperor Napoleon"

1807-1808 French Empire extends to its largest

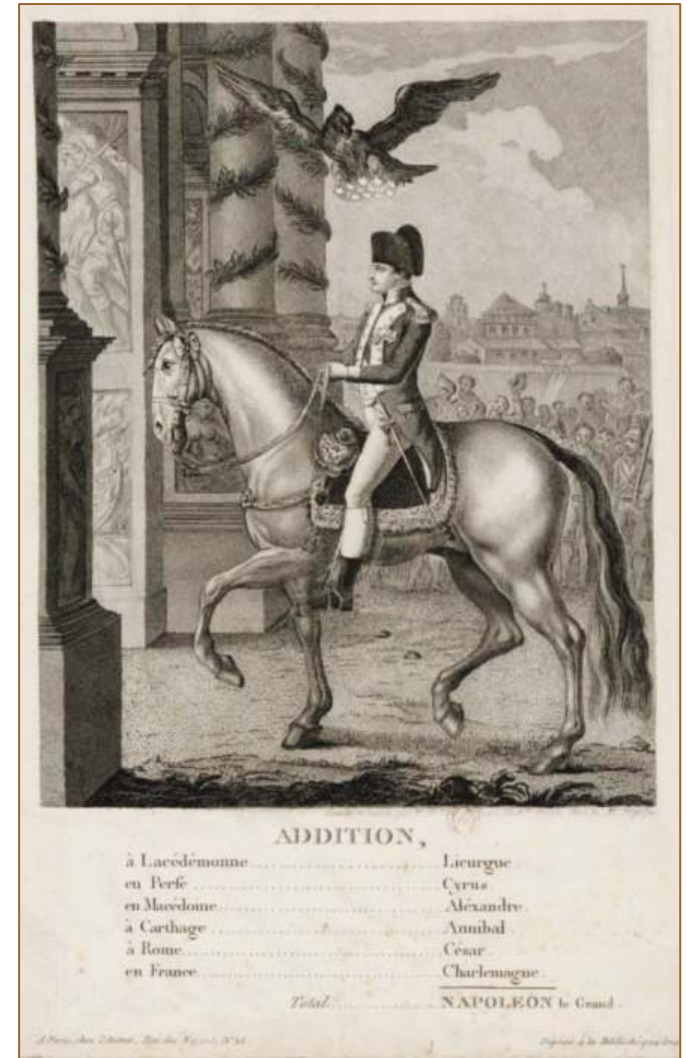
1812 attempted invasion of Russia

1814 Napoleon abdicates; sent into exile in Elba

1815 Napoleon returns to rule for "Hundred Days";  
defeated at Waterloo, imprisoned on St. Helena

1821 dies in St. Helena;

1840 remains returned to France



What makes Bonaparte special? a historical figure "outside" history



- 13:1 Then I saw a beast come out of the sea with ten horns and seven heads; on its horns were ten diadems, and on its heads blasphemous names...
- 13:3 Fascinated, the whole world followed after the beast. ...
- 13:7 ...and it was granted authority over every tribe, people, tongue, and nation.

What makes Bonaparte special?: a historical figure “outside” history



*Courrier of the Italian Army, by a society of French Republicans (July 1797)*

The eyes of Europe and the world are fixed more than even on the French Republic... but in Paris, which was long ago delivered to factionalism and the spirit of parties... writers are too often only the slaves of powerful men. All facts are distorted to the profit of those who speculate on lies, and truth searches in vain for an asylum.

In Milan, by contrast, where there are fewer people and the same plots do not exist... the republican observer can think calmly and present the sacred flame of moderation that should shine across the universe... Only this spirit of moderation and fraternity can destroy those memories of past misfortunes which are the source of division and conflict

What makes Bonaparte special? image management



If we only consulted our feelings, we would wish ardently for an end to this deluge of blood... But if we turn our eyes to the future, we see the need of new battles. ...

A conquering republic is the benefactor of the nations it conquers. ... And you, young hero, who have already shown yourself the equal of the greatest men of all time, and who may yet surpass them all... You can yet bring together the double glory of conqueror and of the benefactor of nations.

*Courrier of the Italian Army, by a society of French Republicans*

What makes Bonaparte special? image management

# Napoleon, For and Against

This question—as to the *means* whereby freedom develops itself into a world—leads us to history itself... The great men in history are those whose own particular aims contain the substantial will that is the will of the World Spirit. They can be called *heroes*, because they have drawn their aim and their vocation not merely from the calm and orderly system that is the sanctified course of things, but rather from a source that is hidden. ...

G.W.F. Hegel, *Introduction to the Philosophy of History* (written 1817-1832; pub. 1840).



“This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased”  
(satire of baptism of Jesus in book of Matthew)  
German caricature, c. 1813

Bonaparte conceived the idea of effecting a counter-revolution to his own advantage by retaining in the state nothing new except himself. He re-established the throne, the clergy, and the nobility; ...It was not enough to have degraded the republican party by entirely changing its nature; Bonaparte wished also to deprive the royalists of that dignity which they owed to their perseverance and their misfortunes. He gave the greater part of the offices of his household to nobles of the Old Regime. He thus flattered the new race by mingling them with the old, and as he himself united the vanity of an upstart to the gigantic talents of a conqueror, he loved the flattery of the courtiers of the former reign...Whenever a gentleman of the old court called back to recollection the etiquette of the days that were gone and proposed ... a certain mode of knocking at the door of an antechamber, a more ceremonious manner of presenting a dispatch, of folding a letter... he was received as if he had made a contribution to the happiness of the human race.

Germaine de Staël, *Considerations on the Revolution in France* (1817).



In our society there is a standing antagonism between the conservative and democratic classes... The first is timid, selfish, hating innovation, and continually losing numbers by death. The second is selfish, too, but bold, self-relying, always outnumbering the other and recruiting to its numbers at every hour by birth...

Napoleon is its representative [and] the incarnate democrat. He had their virtues and their vices; above all, he had their spirit or aim. That tendency is material... highly intellectual, widely and accurately learned, but subordinating all such forces into means of material success.

... a man of Napoleon's stamp almost ceases to have a private speech and opinion. He is so largely receptive, and is so placed, that he comes to be a bureau for all the intelligence, wit, and power of the age and country. He gains the battle, he makes the code; he makes the system of weights and measures; he levels the Alps; he builds the roads. All distinguished engineers, savants, statisticians, report to him: so likewise do all good heads in every kind. He adopts all the best measures, sets his stamp on them and on every happy and memorable expression....

Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Napoleon, or the Man of the World" (1850)

With a ridiculous pretension to vastness of design, and universal observation and intelligence, Bonaparte orders at the same moment the *copybooks of the schoolboys of Paris* to be shown to him, and that England shall be *invaded and conquered!* In the same breath, he regulates the length of the trains of the ladies who appear at court, to establish a distinction in favour of the imperial princesses; and chides the inhabitants of Metz, with an affectation of paternal care and authority, for not preventing a fire that turned many of them houseless into the streets...He said, in an *arrête* of ten words "Slavery is re-established in St Domingo, as in 1796." But a black Emperor has sprung up there, who apes the actions of Bonaparte; and the inhabitants and negroes are free from French domination, few of his shattered army remaining to tell the story of their defeat.

Bonaparte makes the people of France forget the failure of one of his projects, by the activity with which he turns to another.

*A Sketch of the Present State of France, by an English gentleman, who escaped from Paris in the month of May last (London: 1805).*