

Empire Style



The “Old” Regime (divine-right absolutism)	1650-1789
Constitutional Monarchy	1789-1792
National (Constituent) Assembly, 1789-1791	
Legislative Assembly, 1791-1792	
The French Republic	1792-1804
National Convention, 1792-1795	
Directory, 1795-1799	
Consulate, 1799-1804	
First Empire	1804-1815
Constitutional Monarchy	1815-1848
Second Republic	1848-1851
Second Empire	1851-1870
Third Republic	1875-1940
Vichy, the French State	1940-1944
Fourth Republic	1946-1958
Fifth Republic	1958-present

The Consulate, 1799-1804

keeps forms of republican governance
from the Convention and Directory
written Constitution
elected representatives
vote: adult males who satisfy a residency
requirement and are neither bankrupts
nor domestic servants

keeps some republican-revolutionary symbols
tricolor flag
republican calendar

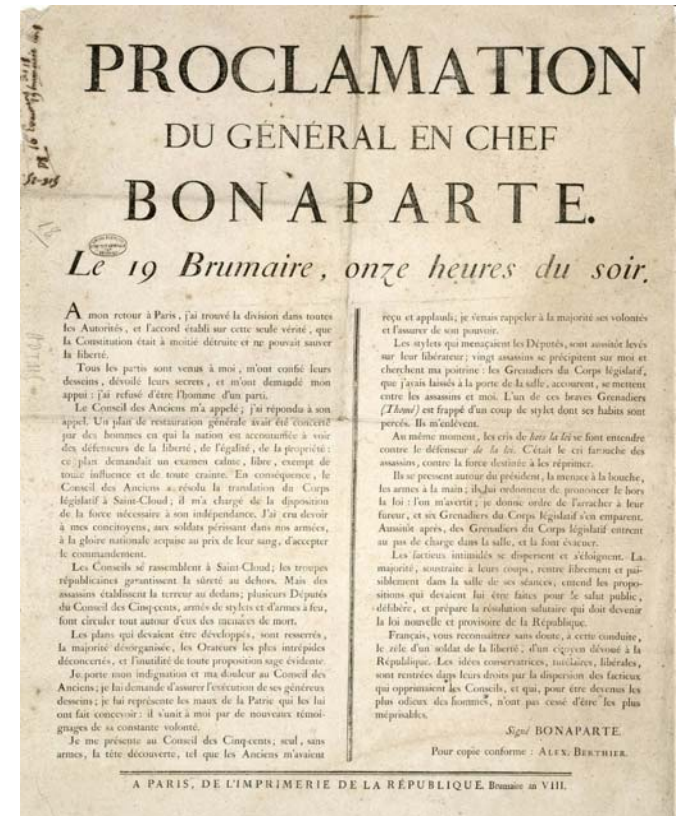
but has a much, much stronger executive
re-introduces censorship
referendum by public, signed ballot
imposes military justice in much of
southern and western France



Bonaparte, First Consul of the French Republic
Review of troops on *quintidi* (fifth day)

The Consuls of the Republic to the French people:
A constitution is presented to you.
It ends the uncertainties that the provisional government* introduced into the Republic's foreign and domestic policy, as well as into its military. ... The Constitution is founded on the true principles of representative government: the sacred rights of property, equality, and liberty. The powers that it institutes will be strong and stable, such as they must be to guarantee the rights of citizens and the interests of the state. Citizens, the Revolution is set with the principles that started it. Citizens, the Revolution is finished.

proclamation 24 frimaire VIII (15 dec 1799)



* of the past month, since 18-19 brumaire

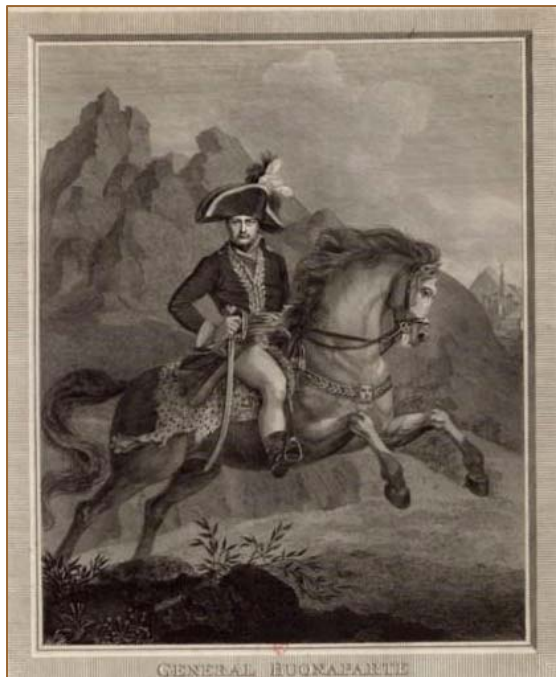
Review from Monday: what was the Consulate?

From Buonaparte to Napoleon the First

How did the transition to empire happen?

How was it justified or legitimated?

What happens to revolutionary and/or republican political culture (and cultural politics) during the First Empire?



General Buonaparte



Napoleon the First, Emperor of the French and King of Italy

Violence and the Breakdown of Law

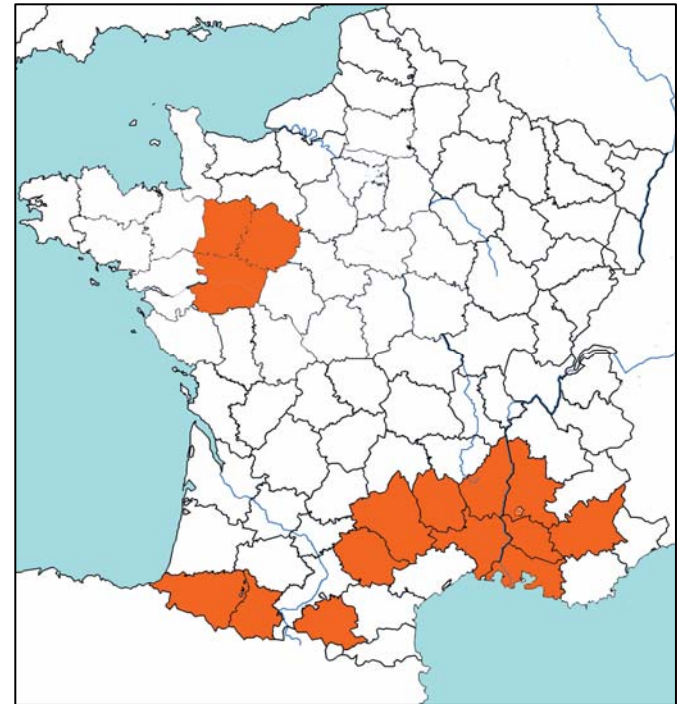
chouannerie (guerrilla terrorist groups in the West)

“White Terror” in the south

general collapse of traditional and revolutionary
symbolic economies of violence

“While excellent in tranquil times, jury trials have increased the brigandage that devastates parts of France... When the storm of factions moves off, when partisan hatred has calmed, when society—purged of the revolutionary crimes that torment it—again only experiences isolated and obscure crimes, then we can place ourselves under the protection of juries. But first we must have security”

member of the Tribunate, January 1801.



areas where civilian criminal courts replaced
by military commissions, 1800-1804



"The Infernal Machine" (Dec. 24, 1800)

transition to empire: fear and instability

Bonaparte, the Peacemaker

Peace of Amiens, March 1802-May 1803
British to evacuate Egypt and Malta

France to withdraw from Rome and
Batavian Republic

Concordat of 1801, ratified April 1802



James Gillray, "The First Kiss in Ten Years"

“The success and longevity of any political system depends on government stability... In our present happy situation, where the French people possess all the rights they sought in the Revolution of 1789, only uncertainty for the future still troubles the State.

What guarantee can we offer? Heredity of power in a family whom the Revolution has made illustrious, whom equality and liberty have consecrated; heredity in the family of a leader who was the Revolution’s first soldier before becoming its first magistrate; a leader whose civil qualities alone would have eminently distinguished him had he not filled the entire world with the sound of his weapons and the brilliance of his victories”

Tribunate motion to introduce hereditary government, April 1804.

Q. What are the duties of Christians with respect to the princes who govern them and what in particular are our duties toward Napoleon, our Emperor?

A. ... love, respect, obedience, fidelity, military service, payments ordered for the conservation and defense of the Empire and his throne; we owe him also fervent prayers for his safety and for the spiritual and temporal prosperity of the State.

Q. Why do we have all these duties towards our Emperor?

A. First, because by bountifully bestowing talents on our Emperor both in peace and in war, God has established him as our sovereign and has made him the minister of His power and His image on earth. ... [In addition] God gave us Napoleon, our Emperor, in difficult circumstances to re-establish the public worship of the holy religion of our fathers... He [Napoleon] has re-established and maintained public order by his profound and active wisdom; he defends the State with his powerful arm; he has become the Lord's anointed by the consecration he received from the pontifical Sovereign

text added to the French catechism, 1805.



Jacques Louis David, *The Consecration of Emperor Napoleon and the Crowning of the Empress Josephine in December 1804* (1806); oil on canvas; 6.21 x 9.79 meters

Empire: how legitimated?



“His Majesty, Napoleon the First, Emperor of the French, presents his oath to the French Republic.”



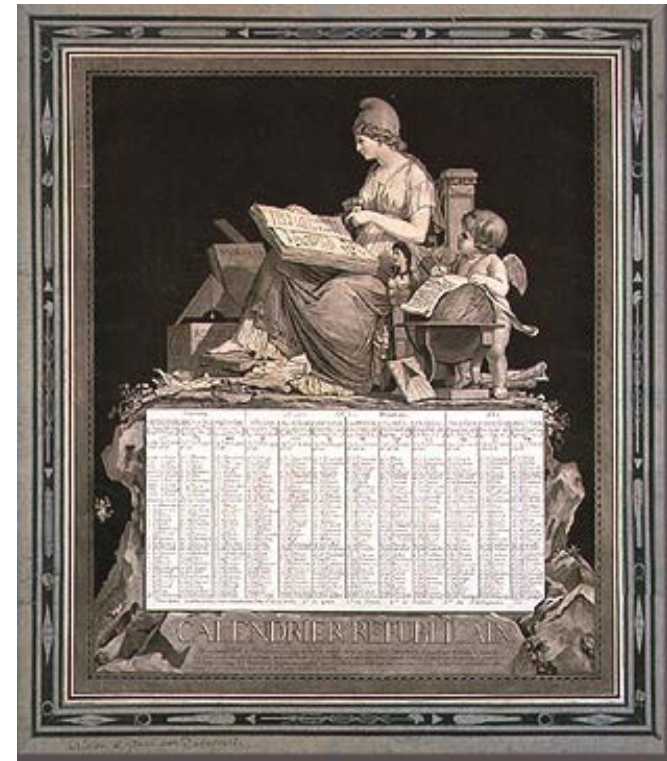
“Napoleon the First, Emperor of the French, puts the imperial diadem on his head”

Empire: how legitimated?

The Revolution has renewed the souls of Frenchmen; it educates them each day in republican virtues. Time opens a new book in history; and in its new march, as majestic and simple as equality, it must write with a new and vigorous instrument the history of regenerated France.

Such is the spirit of the National Convention's decree of 22 September 1792, which orders that, beginning with that day, all public acts be dated as from the first year of the Republic."

Charles-Gilbert Romme,
"Report on the Republican Era" (20 September 1793)



- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| 1. Vendémiaire | 7. Germinal |
| 2. Brumaire | 8. Floréal |
| 3. Frimaire | 9. Prairial |
| 4. Nivôse | 10. Messidor |
| 5. Pluviôse | 11. Thermidor |
| 6. Ventôse | 12. Fructidor |



anonymous, "Fame Proclaiming to the Universe the Crowning of Napoleon the First, Emperor of the French" (1804-1805)



Gros, *General Bonaparte on the Bridge at Arcola, 1796* (1801)



“Emperor Napoleon the First and Josephine visit the Gothic Room at the Museum of French Monuments”

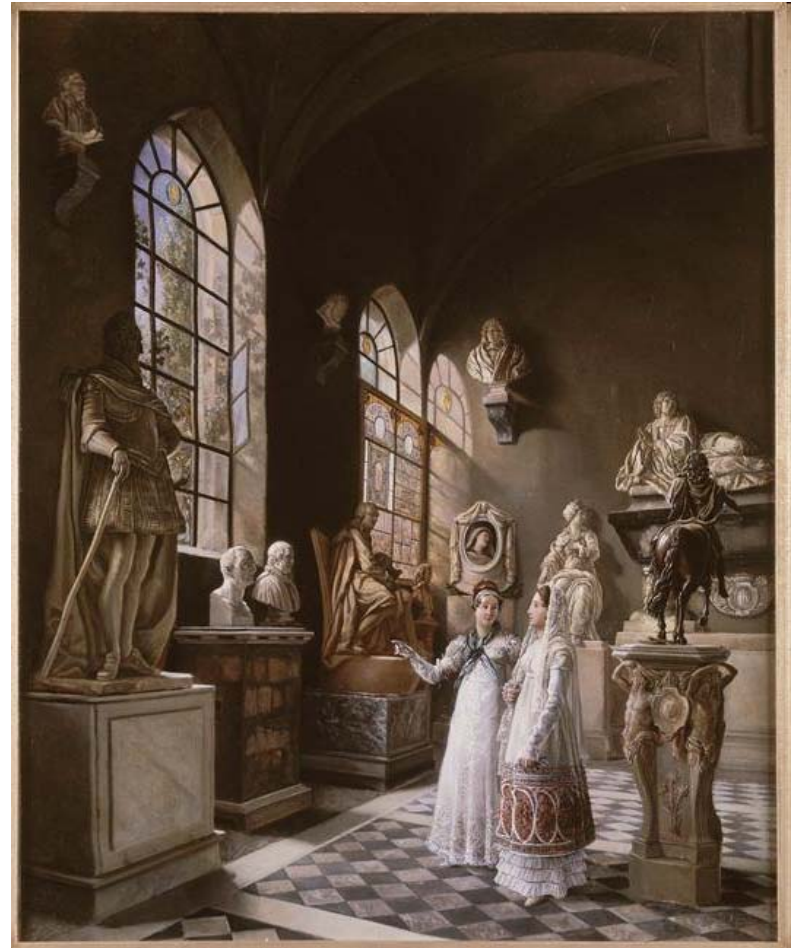
Empire and history

Historicism, A New Past

past to be understood and explained
on its own terms, not judged in
comparison with the present

explanation should be based on materials
from the time (primary sources)

therefore requires special skills and
training (reading old handwriting,
detecting fakes, traveling to archives)



*View of the Seventeenth-Century Room of the
Museum of French Monuments (181?)*

Sources

1. Arc de triomphe du Carrousel [between the Louvre and where the Tuileries Palace used to stand], 1806-1808.
3. "Bonaparte, First Consul," anonymous print; Bonaparte Museum, Ajaccio (Corsica), France; www.photo.rmn.fr
4. Proclamation of 24 frimaire translated by RLS from text at <http://www.conseil-constitutionnel.fr>
6. For more on the use of the military for internal policing in France, 1797-1802, see Howard G. Brown, *Ending the French Revolution* (Charlottesville and London: University of Virginia Press, 2006).
7. Martinet, *La Machine infernale* (lithograph by Charles Motte); photo gallica.bnf.fr
8. James Gillray, *The First Kiss in Ten Years* (1802); photo from commons.wikimedia.org
9. For texts on the transformation from the Consulate to Empire, see Blaufarb, ed., *Napoleon*.
10. Robert Holtman, "The Catholic Church in Napoleon's Propaganda Organization," *Catholic History Review* 35 (April 1949), 1-18.
11. Jacques Louis David, *The Consecration of Emperor Napoleon and the Crowning of the Empress Josephine in December 1804* (1806); oil on canvas; 6.21 x 9.79 meters; Louvre Museum (Paris); www.photo.rmn.fr
15. anonymous drawing; "Napoleon I and the Empress Josephine visiting the Gothic room of the Museum of French Monuments"; www.photo.rmn.fr
16. L.M. Cochereau (or his studio), *View of the Seventeenth-Century Room* (181?), oil on canvas, .69 x .55 meters; Fine Arts Museum, Reims (Marne), France; www.photo.rmn.fr