Unit Essential Question?

Was Napoleonic France the ultimate expression of the ideals of the Enlightenment?

Did Napoleon's desire to spread his Code across Europe doom the Enlightened goals he and the rest of France were pursuing?

What does Napoleon teach us about the desire to spread natural rights to and entrenched world of dictatorships where the privileged few benefit?

Important short answers to be addressed and assessed at the end of this mini-unit

1. In 1799, when Napoleon seized power, France had been in political turmoil for a decade, with mass violence, coup d'états, and multiple constitutions. How did Napoleon stabilize French politics? What were the specifics of the Napoleonic Settlement?

3. In 1792, the revolutionary government of France executed the former king, Louis XVI. Upon Napoleon's abdication in April 1814, another Bourbon monarch, Louis XVIII, took the French throne. Did the French Revolution affect long-term changes in French politics and society? If so, what were they?
Who was Napoleon and What did he accomplish?

- The first emblematic image of the Napoleonic myth, this painting exalts the virtues of the military leader, as embodied by the young General Bonaparte at the head of the Armée d'Italie.

- In reality, the Arcole bridge was not crossed. But that is not important.

- Why does the artist glorify the episode and makes it a part of the legend.

- Do drive, courage, overpowering will pour out of this edgy yet passionate picture.

- Who is Bonaparte to France in this picture?

Providential saviour, the conquering hero who leads his troops, sabre in hand, seizing victory through his bravery alone.

"History is a myth men agree to believe."

Napoleon
• Born 1769 - to a poor aristocratic Corsican family
• Schooled in French Military Academy.
• Brilliant from the start.
• Plagued with Gout, which yellowed the skin.
• Oct 1795 "A wiff of Grapeshot"
• 1796-97 Military victories in Italy.

The Egyptian Campaign - the crossroads of two empires & revolutions 1798-1801

"Which creature in the morning goes on four legs, at mid-day on two, and in the evening upon three, and the more legs it has, the weaker it be?"
The Rise to Power
Napoleon organizes Coup de tat over The Directory

Sieyes
"Confidence from below Authority from Above"

BOUCHOT François (1800 - 1842)
General Bonaparte at the Conseil des Cinq-Cents at Saint-Cloud, 10 November, 1799
Versailles, Musée National du Château

Napoleon crossed the pass riding a donkey,
wearying not a magnificent cloak but a simple grey greatcoat!

A propaganda masterpiece, the work puts Napoleon on a par with the conquerors of antiquity, namely Hannibal and Charlemagne, whose names appear graven in the foreground rocks.

Treaty of Luneville 1801 & Amiens 1802
Austria & Prussia
England

Napoleon Coronets his wife, Josephine
Empress of France, December 2, 1804 in Notre-Dame cathedral.

Napoleon's royal Painter, Jacques Louis David is commissioned to paint this scene.

What is going on here?
What is most interesting?

Does this work of art give us a window into Napoleon's Brilliant use of media?
The picture's message is clear:

The Civil Code of France
"Napoleonic Code"

Justice, Equality and understandable for all people...

The French National Bank
1800

"Absolute security of Wealth and private property"

Napoleon works to restrict Trade with England - Britain would become Napoleon’s undoing...

The Napoleonic Wars 1805-1815

1. Haitian Independence - January 1804
2. Battle of Trafalgar - May 1805
3. Battle of Austerlitz - December 1805
4. The German Conf. of the Rhine - 1806
5. Russia and Prussia fight and lose...
6. Treaty of Tilsit - 1807 (Europe redrawn)
7. Nationalism weakens French Control of Spain - 1808
9. Napoleon institutes "Continental System" (1810)
   But Russia openly defies the system...
8. Napoleon Invades Russia - June 1812
   -600,000 men - largest land force since antiquity...(1/3 of army were French however)
   -only 30,000 would make it out...
9. Napoleon abdicates throne - April 1814
   -Napoleon sent to Elba.
10. Congress of Vienna convenes to decide how to re-draw Europe.
11. February 1815 - Napoleon escapes (the 100 days)
12. June 18, 1815 - Battle of Waterloo - Napoleon defeated again
   -Exiled to St. Helena -

Key

- Success for Napoleon
- Defeat for Napoleon
- Weakness for Napoleon
1. In 1799, when Napoleon seized power, France had been in political turmoil for a decade, with mass violence, coup d'êts, and multiple constitutions. How did Napoleon stabilize French politics? What were the specifics of the Napoleonic Settlement?

1. The Continuation of republican virtues within art, the press and law cloaked the road to dictatorship.

2. The Civil Code of 1804 guaranteed protection of property and won the support of the middle classes, the wealthy, and peasants who had gained land from the Revolution.

3. Napoleon's expansion of the bureaucracy, especially in the military, enabled him to recruit new political allies.

4. His amnesty to the old nobility in exile reconciled many of them to his rule.

5. Finally the Concordat of 1801, in which Napoleon allowed French Catholics to practice their religion freely but gained from the pope recognition of his power to nominate bishops and pay the clergy.
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