

**UNIDAD EDUCATIVA PARTICULAR JAVIER**  
**BACHILLERATO EN CIENCIAS**

**MONOGRAPH**  
**“INFLUENCE OF NAPOLEONIC FRANCE IN THE MODERN WORLD”**

**STUDENT:**  
**JUAN ALEMÁN**

**ADVISER:**  
**LCDA. CLAUDIA LOSSA**  
**LCDA. PATRICIA SANCHEZ**

**THIRD OF BACCALAUREATE - COURSE A**

**2019 – 2020**

### **Gratitude**

For the making of this monograph, I would grant the most sincere gratitudes to a few number of people, which made the elaboration of this work a lot easier and more professional. First, I would like to thank my adviser Claudia Lossa, who had served of great help for the proper developing the monograph, ranging from overseeing grammatical mistakes to the whole structure of the work. After that, I give thanks to my friends and my parents, all of which supported me immensely and advised me small but crucial things for the monograph. Finally, I would also thank Ms. Patricia Sánchez who taught me how to cite and use the APA format properly.

## Summary

The contradictory French Revolution started the idea of liberty, equality and fraternity towards its people, on paper at least, but not without sweat and bloodshed. Unprecedented actions such as The Declaration of the Rights of Man, the transformation into a Republic and the expansion of revolutionary Enlightenment ideas across France was followed by civil unrest, bloody revolts, external wars, the Terror and the beheading of Louis XVI, among others. However, both internal and external chaos made the Revolution unacceptable for European powers to accept. The Enlightened principles of the Revolution, liberty, free rights, equality, etc. would not be able to expand properly towards other nations if it was not for the transcendent actions of a Corsican artillery officer: Napoleon Bonaparte.

From the small island of Corsica, Napoleon rose to the ranks to become an experienced politician and military commander. His rise as Consul, and later Emperor, ironically safeguarded France from the destruction of its principles and people, defending her in the fields of battle, but also expanding in it to the very frontiers of the continent, with its frontier going from Portugal to Russia. His famous victories in Italy, Austerlitz, or Prussia, made the Emperor one of the best generals of history. However, after his disastrous campaign in Russia, his fall would be as fast as his rise, being sent into exile to the small island of St. Helene.

The operations of Napoleon, whether it was in the judicial, military, economic, social, intellectual or political aspects, lasted far longer than his Empire. The elaboration of the Napoleonic Code, the Bank of France, the Institute of Egypt, the Corp System, etc. as well

as his judicial, social and economic reforms, survived his fall, being witnessed many times in the modern world. His consequences and effects of his actions transformed the way Europe, and later the world, was structured and based, leading it, both directly and indirectly, for a new era of humanity: the Modern Age. (324)

Gratitude.....	ii
Summary.....	iii
Index.....	v
Introduction.....	1
1.1.1 The Three States.....	3
1.2 Enlightenment influence.....	4
1.2 The Revolution.....	5
1.2.1 Bastille Day.....	5
1.2.2 Declaration of the Rights of Man.....	6
1.2.3 Wars against the Revolution.....	6
1.3 The Terror.....	7
1.3.1 Reign of Maximilien Robespierre.....	7
1.3.2 Thermidor Reaction.....	8
1.4 The Directory.....	8
1.5 Rise of Napoleon.....	9
Chapter II.....	10
Life and Death of Napoleon Bonaparte.....	10
2.1 Early years.....	10
2.1.1 Youth.....	10



2.1.1 Entrance to the military.....	11
2.2.1 Attachment to liberal ideas.....	12
2.2.2 Siege of Toulon.....	12
2.2.3 Defense from rebels.....	13
2.3 Initial campaigns.....	13
2.3.1 Italian campaign.....	13
2.3.2 Egyptian campaign.....	14
2.4 Napoleon`s rise to power.....	15
2.4.1 Napoleon as Consul.....	15
2.4.2 L'empereur.....	16
2.5 Napoleonic Wars.....	17
2.5.1 War of the Third Coalition.....	17
2.5.2 Hegemony in Europe.....	18
2.5.3 Spanish Invasion.....	19
2.5.4 Disaster in Russia.....	19
2.5.5 Exile and return.....	20
2.5.6 Waterloo.....	21
2.6 Final exile and death.....	21
Chapter III.....	22

Napoleonic Influence on the Modern World.....	22
3.1 Law.....	22
3.1.1 Napoleonic Code.....	22
3.2 Military reforms.....	24
3.2.1 Background of Napoleonic Warfare.....	24
3.2.2 Corp System.....	25
3.2.3 Concentration of Forces.....	26
3.3 Economy and Finances.....	27
3.3.1 Tax reforms.....	27
3.3.2 Bank of France.....	28
3.4 Education.....	28
3.4.1 Foundation of modern French education.....	28
3.5 Development of modern propaganda.....	30
3.6 Rise of Nationalism.....	31
3.6.1 Emergence of social and nationalist movements.....	31
3.7 Geopolitical changes.....	33
3.8 Napoleonic influence across the world.....	35
Conclusion.....	36
Recommendations.....	39

References.....	40
-----------------	----



## Introduction

When talking about the causes of modern society to be the way it is, socially, ideally and legally speaking, most will probably mention famous events such as the American, Industrial or French Revolution. While the effects of this situation, the French specially, are well-known around the world, as they are still taught in schools today. However, few people have realised that the reason and success of the French Revolution over the globe is not due to the actions of its main characters and events, but to the Era who allowed the Revolution to thrive and truly be able to reach every corner of, not the continent, but the world: the Napoleonic Era. Therefore, « *Influence of Napoleonic France in the Modern World* » will have the purpose to understand this wide and important subject

In most countries, from every continent in the globe, the effects and consequences of the Napoleonic Era still are vivid in their modern societies, being present from the way their judicial and military system is organized to the elaboration of the Constitution of the country itself. Modern law was built upon the principles and rights given by the Napoleonic Code, and modern education was inspired by Revolutionary and Napoleonic France as well. These are just a few examples of the ground-breaking changes and reforms this Age allowed. With that in mind, the objective of this monograph is to explain such transcendental consequences and the historical events, as well as people, who made it possible.

To deeply study this causes and effects, it was necessary to consult some of the most acclaimed and professional historians specialized in those eras. It's main source will be the

critically praised book « *Napoleon : A life* », by British historian Andrew Roberts, who will allow us to be immersed in the life and characters of the time, with Napoleon Bonaparte as the main focus. However, to understand it, is necessary to have a clear understanding of what the French Revolution meant to realize and its actions, which are beautifully explained in « *The French Revolution 1789-1799* » by Peter Mcphee. Finally, books like « *Napoleon the First : An Intimate Biography* » by Walter Geer and « *The Napoleonic Revolution* » by Robert Holtman will also be of vital importance for the making of this monograph.

The French Revolution was a period marked with anarchy, chaos, internal strife, wars and violence, but also of the pursuit of liberty, equality and fraternity for the citizen, looking for free rights and freedom. It was in this atmosphere that Napoleon Bonaparte would grow up, deeply influenced by it, and become the master of Europe to forever change the landscape and beliefs of the conservative European continent.

For a proper understanding of this monograph, it will be divided into three chapters. The first will focus on the causes and effects of the French Revolution in France at the time, going from a brief explanation of the Three States, the storming of the Bastille and the Declaration of the Rights of Man to the Terror of Robespierre and the Directory. The second chapter will be a brief summary on Napoleon Bonaparte's life: his rise as a military commander, Consul, and Emperor, as well as his campaigns of the Coalitions and battles in Europe and overseas, among with his rapid fall and exile. Finally, the third chapter will cover the consequences made by the Emperor and how it influenced the continent and the modern world. (578)

## **Chapter I**

### **The French Revolution**

#### **1.1 Prelude to the revolution**

In order to recognize the causes of the French Revolution, it is necessary to go back in time as far as the late eighteenth century, and look upon it's people and way of life, analyzing what made them start the event which changed the world forever.

##### **1.1.1 The Three States.**

France's population consisted mostly on rural areas, with its people ranging from peasants to landowners. The peasantry of France recognize they were under scrutiny by their liege. These opulent superiors composed the three pillars of power in France : the monarchy, the nobility and the Church. Although not a State, the monarchy was the highest representation of power and authority in France. The king, Louis the XVI at the time, was considered to be chosen by God himself, allowing to rule over his subjects for their prosperity and well-being. However, it was never done in the practice.

##### ***1.1.1.1 The Church.***

The Church, considered the First State of the realm, was responsible for the owning of ten percent of all the land in the country, even though it only possessed 0.6 percent of the overall population. Most of their wealth would come from taxation to the farmland, called the tithe, but it also had a monopoly on public worship, controlling several religious orders and cathedrals (Mcphee, 2002). It is clearly visible the great effect and influence the Church possessed on the peasant world.

##### ***1.1.1.2 The nobility.***

After the Church came the nobility. In this Second State were the highborn lords, having lots of privileges and power. These nobles, being 0,4 percent of the population, owned a third of the land, while holding a significant amount of influence over the rest. They had the authority of actions such as taxation, the making of a monopoly and even unpaid labor. « Rural people were born into a world marked by physical statements of the sources of authority and status» (Mcphee, 2002, p. 17). As a result, the First and Second State, being only one percent overall, possessed power and influence all over the 99 percent frenchmen, the Third State.

#### ***1.1.1.3 The people.***

The life of the french people was that of extreme poverty, suffering from famine and disease. Along the country, half the children born from a family would die by sickness and malnutrition, while the other was forced to give the respective taxes to its superiors, living in miserable conditions.

### **1.2 Enlightenment influence**

One of the reasons the french started to desire the change of this hierarchy, was that of the influence of Enlightenment thinkers. Writers, such as Voltaire and Rousseau, proposed equality for all men and the right to think freely, challenging sometimes the authority of the upper classes, introducing the concepts of «citizen » and « nation » to the people. The rapid expansion of these works, like the « Encyclopédie » by Diderot, throughout Europe formed a more intelectual society, who were aware of the crisis and abuses of the time, looking for a new way to improve the current political and social systems.

### **1.3 Economic instability**

To worsen the situation, 1780's rural society was on an economic crisis. Harvest failures through the decade provoked a huge increase in prices, adding inflation to the current fragile state. Furthermore, this inflation was followed with nobles overtaxing the population, in order to balance their losses.

Economically, France was on the brink of bankruptcy. Its support for the American revolution, and numerous conflicts with the English left her about to collapse. Due to this high tension and problems France was facing, an Estates-General meeting would be called. This was an assembly representing the Three States, only this time the Third State doubled the representatives it previously possessed, showing its importance to the country.

It is important to note what the call for the Estates-General meant. There was not a meeting between them since 1614. It showed how fragile the situation was, how high the situation was among the classes, now almost reaching its climax.

## **1.2 The Revolution**

With now all of the causes and precedents established, it is possible to look at the events unfolded which would change the shape of France and our world forever.

### **1.2.1 Bastille Day.**

As the meetings of the three states seem to be getting nowhere, a National Assembly was made, to deliver justice to the people. However, on the 14th of July of 1789 the tension finally reached its end with the storming of the Bastille, one of Paris's most notorious prisons, under revolutionaries like Camille Desmoulins, and a symbol of the power of the Ancient Regime.

Mcphee (2002) states: « All over France, from Paris to the smallest hamlet, the summer and spring of 1789 was the occasion of a total and unprecedented collapse of centuries of royal state-making » (p. 54). After the fall of the Bastille, France found herself at war with herself, with the National Assembly seeking to exercise its power over the monarchy and nobility.

### **1.2.2 Declaration of the Rights of Man.**

With France in the middle of a civil war, the National Assembly decided, on the 24th of August of that same year, to issue the Declaration of the Rights of Man. The Declaration, according to Mcphee (2002) : «guaranteed rights of free speech and association, of religion and opinion, limited only— and rather ambiguously— by ‘the law’» (p. 59). This shows the influence of the Declaration compared to the previous system of the regime.

The declaration caused the beginning of a new era, one in which its people are citizens from a country rather than subjects from a king. It meant that, as now every french citizen is equal, the age of privilege of the other states was over. On the other hand, it never specified whether slaves, women or people without property would be considered equal like the rest of the french.

### **1.2.3 Wars against the Revolution.**

Not long after the National Assembly seized, the armies of the kingdoms of Austria and Prussia entered in military conflicts with France, invading their borders, trying to restore the power of the monarchy and the old order. The king made an attempt to flee the country but was found crossing the border. France was a constitutional monarchy now, with the National Assembly having the power of making their own laws and managing the country.



However, after much debate and struggle, the Assembly condemned Louis XVI for the damage caused to the people, and was executed on January 21st, 1793. As the death of the king was on the hands of the bloody revolutionaries, more european states like England, Spain, Naples, Holand formed a coalition, making a declaration of war on France. The state endured this severe conflicts thanks to the strong french army, as well as being under competent generals like Dumoriez. This, however, would not last for long.

Internally, France was bleeding out as, if not more, it was externally. The conflict between the different political parties, such as the extreme Jacobins, the Girondist, Mountanists, etc. caused violent results across Paris, in order to assert their authority and ideology. If this was not enough, loyalists uprisings started to arrived in the region of the Vendée, and were spreading all over the country. To summarize, « the death of Louis XVI rendered the parties irreconcilable, and augmented the external enemies of the revolution. The republicans had to combat all Europe, to struggle with the numerous classes of malcontents, and with one another » (Mignet, 1826, p. 389). France was in full anarchy, with enemies all over the place. It seem that only one man at the time had the strength and lack of morals to face it all, in a bloody way unsurprisingly.

### **1.3 The Terror**

One cannot talk about the events of the French Revolution without mentioning its most bloody and well known period: The Terror.

#### **1.3.1 Reign of Maximilien Robespierre.**

While this events were happening, a revolutionary named Robespierre was gaining recognition on the Comitte of Public Safety, body which now held the executive power.

Once a small lawyer from Arras, Robespierre possessed radical values towards the Revolution, having a very anticlerical position, putting the use of reason over any other believe. Over this period, the Revolution focused also on persecuting catholics and attacking the Catholic Church like the prohibition of mass and the creation of a new calendar. Once a moderate Jacobin, Robespierre saw that the enemies of the Revolution, whether nobles, catholics or even revolutionaries, where everywhere, and order needed to exist for the Revolution to prosper.

Moreover, as we have seen, to Robespierre and his associates in particular, the Terror had a far higher purpose than simply winning the war. Robespierre's vision of a regenerated, virtuous, and selfabnegating society was, for him, the very *raison d'être* of the Revolution. (Mcphee, 2002, p. 144)

During his «reign» from March 1793 to July 1794, thousands of people were guillotined, including revolutionaries like his close friend Camille Desmoulins. The vision Robespierre saw in his mind for the future of France was one of logic, justice and reason.

### **1.3.2 Thermidor Reaction.**

The mass executions lasted for more than a year, when finally, on 8th Thermidor, or 26 of July, 1794, a coup was set to overthrow Robespierre, composed by influential figures like Fouché and Barras. After failing a suicide attempt, Robespierre was guillotined on the 28th. The overthrow of Robespierre and his associates in July 1794 was far more than the ousting of a governing coterie which had outlived its purpose. It was also the end of a regime which had had the twin aims of saving the Revolution and creating a new society.

#### **1.4 The Directory**

After Robespierre, yet a new government was created, this time the Directory. Under this government the tensions returned: religious fighting, along with desertion from army and more internal conflicts as a result of the Terror. Additionally, Britain and Austria resumed hostilities in Egypt and Italy. Furthermore, a high number of rebels rose up to the capital in order to overthrow the government. However, a young artillery officer, Napoleon Bonaparte, managed to end the rebellion by force, saving the Directory.

#### **1.5 Rise of Napoleon**

With the current situation unsustainable, and the Directory being unable to act quick and efficiently, a soldier detected an opportunity to seize power. From Corsica, he was named artillery officer in defense of the Revolution, as he did in the siege of Toulon. His military and political actions allowed Napoleon to confront the Directory for control of France, become Consul and, finally, Emperor, thus ending the Revolution. While Napoleon ended the internal instability of France, its external conflicts would only increase for the next twenty years. (1784)

## **Chapter II**

### **Life and Death of Napoleon Bonaparte**

#### **2.1 Early years**

It serves of crucial importance to recognize the first years and youth in the life of Napoleon Bonaparte, in order to understand the proper development of his character, personality, and ideology, which would prove vital for his future career and subsequent rise to power.

##### **2.1.1 Youth.**

Napoleon was born as Napoleoni di Buonaparte in the populous city of Ajaccio, located in the mediterranean city of Corsica, the 15th of August, 1769. His family was that of landowners and members of a low nobility on the island. The Buonaparte did not possess many riches, but nevertheless they acquired a reasonable amount of land to supply the family of any goods and services. The island of Corsica had been recently under Genoese sovereignty. However, the previous year Napoleon was born the island was sold to the Kingdom of France.

Since his early years, Napoleon proved to be very distant with his father, considering rather weak and filled with debts, which would torment Napoleon later with his father's death. On the other hand, Napoleon grew very fond of his mother, considering her the source of all his virtues. He saw her as a very intelligent and strong but caring woman. She had thirteen children, with eight surpassing childhood. With these brothers and sisters, Napoleon started

to care very much about the well-being of his family, a sentiment that would remain in him in the years to come.

One of the most repeated characteristics of his correspondence is the constant and deep concern for his family. Whether it was the property of his mother in Corsica, the education of his brothers or the marriage proposals of his sisters, he sought continuously to protect and promote the Bonaparte clan. (Roberts, 2016, p. 16)

Internally, Napoleon was a very introverted kid, preferring to be alone in his house reading history books, than to be playing with the kids in his town. Since a young age he showed a passion for history, reading the lives of great military leaders like Alexander the Great or Julius Caesar, and becoming familiar with military tactics and the teachings of the ancient. When Napoleon was nine years old, he was sent to study in Autun, France, thanks to his father's nobility. In his studies, Napoleon only distinguish himself in history and mathematics, considering the last one as strictly necessary to have a clear and organized mind.

### **2.1.1 Entrance to the military.**

After Napoleon passed his final exams in the city of Brienne, he entered in the notorious Royal Military Academy of Paris. There, he distinguished himself intellectually, being attracted to literature and the Enlightenment, and also on the military aspects, joining the elite artillery corp of France. He learned about the importance of troop morale, read about artillery ideas by Jean Baptiste de Gribeauval and the importance of a national army by earl Jacques de Buibert.

On Septembre, 1785, Napoleon was sent, with fifteen years, to the 5th Brigade of the 1st Bataillon Regiment of La Fère, in Valence.

## **2.2 French revolutionary**

The future actions of Napoleon Bonaparte could not have been made without the staggering events during the French Revolution, event which would result crucial for his subsequent fame and rise.

### **2.2.1 Attachment to liberal ideas.**

Even though Napoleon was a fervorous corsican nationalist, supporting leaders such as Pasquale Paoli in the previous conflict with the french, he was amazed by the ideas of the Enlightenment, following the ideals of men such as Rousseau and Voltaire. Therefore, when the French Revolution started, he felt as a follower towards it. He returned to Corsica and from there started to encourage the corsicans to accept the ideals of the Revolution, joining revolutionary parties and clubs in the area.

On the other hand, internal conflicts in Corsica forced Napoleon and his family to move to the city of Toulon, city which would serve as Napoleon`s first victory.

### **2.2.2 Siege of Toulon.**

Napoleon, named battallion chief of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Artillery Regiment, under general Jean Francois Carteaux, was ordered to retake the strategic city of Toulon, which has just fallen to the english fleet. Carteaux proved to be an incompetent general, so Napoleon was de facto in charge of the siege. Through the gathering of batteries and supplies from neighboring cities, Napoleon was able to draw a plan to retake the city, which was followed on October, 1793. The city was successfully taken and this front of the war against the other european powers was secured for now. The siege of Toulon would be the first time Napoleon was in active command of a military operation, as well as achieving his first victory on the battlefield.



### **2.2.3 Defense from rebels.**

It is 1795 and the Terror of Maximilien Robespierre was over. However, insurrections all over the country started to appear, aspiring to overthrow the current government, the Convention, for its failures in domestic and foreign policies, as well as corruption. Napoleon was appointed second commander of the interior army, with the goal of suppressing the rebellion. He organized his soldiers, cavalry and artillery in strategic locations around the city. Over thirty thousand rebels arrived, on 13th Vendémiaire of year IV (October 5th, 1795), entered the capital, only to be heavily defeated by Napoleon's six thousand soldiers. In the end of the day, over three hundred insurgents died, with Napoleon losing half a dozen soldiers. This act saved the government from total collapse, and forged a harsh reputation over Bonaparte.

## **2.3 Initial campaigns**

Due to this notorious act, the new government of France, the Directory, gave Napoleon the command of the army of Italy, hoping to expel the Austrians from French possessions in Italy. Hearing this, Napoleon went to Italy, just after forming a romantic relationship with Viscount Marie Joséphe Rose Tascher de la Pagerie, nicknamed by Napoleon «Josephine». It is vital to analyze his behaviour through these campaigns, as they are an example of his character and actions as a general and leader.

### **2.3.1 Italian campaign.**

Napoleon arrived at Nice on the 26th of March, 1796, where he found an army lacking severely in resources and equipment, surrounded with sickness and dead horses from starvation. To overcome this situation, Napoleon tried to gather all the money required to resupply the army and arm the troops properly. Thanks to his hard work in the organization

of the army, followed by his highly effective chief of staff, Alexandre Berthier, Napoleon was able to mobilized his army properly to face off the Austrians.

On April, the french numbered over fifty thousand troops, against eighty thousand Austrian and Piamontese, an austrian ally. Despite this, Napoleon organized a series of strategic battles that would drive the enemy back, like in Montenotte, Millesimo or Mondovi. Later, Napoleon captured Milan along with Mantua and, after another string of victories, the austrian territories in Italy, which imposed their authority for over three hundred years, were now in french hands. The napoleonic campaign in Italy, which ended with the treaty of Campo Formio in 1797, resulted to be an outstanding success.

### **2.3.2 Egyptian campaign.**

In order to reduce the English influence and commerce in the region, as well as to get rid of Napoleon for his rising fame and affection by the people of France, the Directory sent him to take Egypt, controlled by the Ottoman Empire. From 1798 to 1799, Napoleon managed to control most of the country, with key cities like Alexandria and El Cairo, bringing a high number of scientists, mathematicians and intellectuals to study and analyze the country, creating the «Institute of Egypt» for such purposes.

On the other hand, Napoleon's army suffered from sickness, the heat of the desert, and the plague, becoming demoralized over the course of the campaign. Besides this, Napoleon suffered a heavy defeat at the siege of Acre. Nevertheless, the area was still in French rule. However, throughout the campaign, Napoleon heard terrible news going on. «On March 12 the war broke out against the Second Coalition, with France facing Russia, England, Austria, Turkey, Portugal, Naples and the Pope» (Roberts, 2016, p. 153). France was

suffering considerable defeats against the coalition, forcing Napoleon to return to France and control the situation.

## **2.4 Napoleon's rise to power**

Once Napoleon arrived in France, the situation was as severe internally as externally, with the Directory incapable of ruling the country in an organized and efficient way. Napoleon, seeing the opportunity to overthrow the Directory and put France in order, started to orchestrate a coup d'État, which would put the country in his hands.

### **2.4.1 Napoleon as Consul.**

In order for the coup to work, Napoleon teamed up with his conspirators, Charles François Lebrun and Jean-Jacques-Régis de Cambacérès, to form a government ruled by the three of them: a Consulate. After scheming and gaining allies, like the chief of the secret police Joseph Fouché, the coup was made on the 18th Brumaire Year VIII (9th of November, 1799).

In the end of the day, the plot was successful and the Consulate officially formed, with Napoleon at its head as First Consul.

As First Consul, Napoleon proved to be a very efficient leader, both in the administrative and economic aspects. His first act was to stop banditry, as the country was ravaged by the high number of thieves and rebels found in most rural areas. Napoleon sought to end this practice, using his police to stop all dissidents and outlaws. This effect proved successful, as order was reestablished in rural France. Other actions, such as the Concordat with the Church and the elaboration of the Napoleonic Code (which will be shown in the next

chapter), were very popular by the people, getting proper stability and leadership after a decade of anarchy and violence.

#### **2.4.2 L'empereur.**

After forming a State Council, addressing all the situations in France in every aspect, Napoleon went again to war with the austrians in the italian peninsula. In order to fight the austrians, Napoleon ordered his army to cross the Alps, something unseen since the age of Charlemagne a thousand years prior (although Napoleon himself wasn't present during the crossing). After that, the battle of Marengo saw the two armies clash, giving victory to the gallic side. Once defeated, the austrians signed the treaty of Lunèville in 1801. Following, the english sought peace as well in the treaty of Amiens in 1802, although this was meant to buy time for their next war against France.

After the conflict, Napoleon returned to Paris, with the desire of consolidating his position more as monarch than as a Consul, as the Bourbon dynasty, and every dynasty in Europe, did previous to the Revolution. Therefore, his period of government was now permanent, with the tile «Emperor», rivaling his contemporaries emperor Francis I of Austria and Tzar Alexander I of Russia.

On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1804, Napoleon was officially designated as Emperor, in an ambitious and opulent coronation in the cathedral of Notre Dame, with the Pope itself present at the spectacle, as a sign of legitimacy to his reign. His coronation was found with opposition by some people in the country, as well as some royalists abroad, seeing their power threatened by a person who wasn't from their status, who rose from his own merits rather than by birth. However, most of the populace of France showed no opposition to the ceremony.

Rather, they cheered when the now Emperor leaved the cathedral in direction, rather than to his palace, to the field of battle yet again.

## **2.5 Napoleonic Wars**

The reign of Napoleon would be one marked notably by constant warfare with the other european powers. The napoleonic wars would see Europe bleed herself for more than a decade, leaving millions death and a country in shambles. However, it wasn't all tragedy, as the wars would see numerous changes on the european landscape, influencing events in such manner that are still seen to this day.

### **2.5.1 War of the Third Coalition.**

Over the course of his regime, Napoleon would have to face a number of six coalitions against France, resulting victorious in four of them. As the wars of the coalitions are of great extense, only the war of the Third Coalition, considered to be Napoleon's finest campaign, will be covered more in detail.

#### ***2.5.1.1 Napoleon's Masterpiece.***

Seeking to diminish french power and influence over the continent, the english broke their peace treaty and declared war on France on 1803, along with Austria and Russia (as well as other european states), forming the Third Coalition against France. To crush the coalition, Napoleon ordered his ships to be prepared for an invasion of England and mobilized his troops into austrian territory. In 1805 he was deep in Austria, where he masterfully encircled austrian general Mack's army at Ulm. This would be considered one of Napoleon's greatest achievements. Then, he would marched through the Austrian capital Vienna, and from there he would meet the combined Austro-Russian forces near the town of Austerlitz.

The Austro-Russian army was positioned on a hill called the Pratzen Heights, having the advantage of the high-ground, facing Napoleon's army. Both sides had around 75,000 soldiers. Then Napoleon positioned his forces carefully, leaving his right flank weakened on purpose, as a bait for the enemy to attack there and leave the Pratzen Heights. Once he got the high-ground, Napoleon would divide the austro-russian army in half, able to encircle the enemy situated on his right flank, and from there crush hit completely.

The battle started in the morning of the 2th of December, 1805, exactly one year after his coronation as Emperor. As he predicted, his enemies attacked on his right flank, while he could take the Pratzen Heights and, from there, cut half of the enemy's army and destroy the one situated in his right flank. From there, the battle was won and the enemy found himself fleeing from the battlefield. The Austro-Russian army lost thirty six thousand men, while the French lost around eight thousand. The whole battle went off according to Napoleon's predictions, thanks to his deep knowledge of the terrain and the enemy, as well as a well organized and disciplined army, giving him the greatest victory in his military career.

As a result of Austerlitz, Austria offered peace and Napoleon asserted himself as one of the greatest generals in history, thus ending the Third Coalition with an outstanding French victory.

### **2.5.2 Hegemony in Europe.**

Even though he defeated Austria, the british fleet obliterated the french one at the battle of Trafalgar, eliminating any possibility of a french invasion of England. Besides, Prussia and Russia were still at war with France, forming the Fourth Coalition.



To confront this, Napoleon rapidly led his army to Prussia, defeating her decisively at Jena in 1806, and Russia, crushing her at the battle of Friedland, 1807. Thus, both sides sued for peace and the Fourth Coalition ended. In the span of three years, Napoleon had defeated three of the great powers in Europe, asserting French hegemony all over the continent, from Spain to Russia, positioned as the undisputed hegemon over the continent. It was his moral courage, the characteristic boldness in his design and execution, the willingness to risk much to win much, that, coupled with intellect, made him the master of Europe (Geer, 1921).

### **2.5.3 Spanish Invasion.**

Once the Fourth Coalition was defeated, Napoleon decided to launch an invasion to Portugal and Spain, the first to forbid Portuguese trade in the region, and the latter to put his brother, Joseph, on the Spanish throne. So, in 1808 Napoleon invaded Spain with over 300 thousand troops. Even though he was able to capture the capital, Madrid, and control most of the country, the Spanish people organized skirmishes to the French troops, creating the guerrilla warfare. The guerrillas caused high losses to the French troops in the course of the war. To make matters worse, the French army was defeated at the Bailen, although it was commanded by a subordinate of Napoleon and not the Emperor himself.

According to Napoleon, his war in Spain was the start of his downfall, suffering in the whole Spanish campaign no less than a quarter of a million soldiers, as well as destroying the myth of the French invincibility on the battlefield.

#### **2.5.4 Disaster in Russia.**

While his war in Spain was raging on, Austria declared war once again in the Fifth Coalition. Although Napoleon was defeated at Aspern-Essling (his first defeat in ten years), he won a decisive victory at the battle of Wagram in 1809, ending the coalition. Even though it was over, another country sought to challenge Napoleon once again: Russia. The Russian Empire was still at peace with Napoleon during that time. However, Russia continued to trade goods with Britain, something Napoleon strictly forbid in his «Continental System», only allowing to trade with mainland Europe. This system was causing great troubles in Russia as well as other places in the continent, damaging the local economy. Therefore, the russian-british trade continued. The act enraged Napoleon, who organized over more than half a million men for his invasion of Russia in June 1812. After winning a battle at Borodino, Napoleon was able to reach Moscow. The city, however, was not as he expected. In the middle of the night, disruptors caused vast fires all over the city. Napoleon was forced to retreat in the harsh russian landscapes, lacking supplies for his great army and suffering from sickness and the severe winter. In the end, from his Grand Armée, only a few thousand were able to return, destroying Napoleon's army and reputation. From now on, Napoleon would be fighting a defensive war to save his empire.

#### **2.5.5 Exile and return.**

After losing most of his army, Napoleon lost another battle, against the now Sixth Coalition formed against him, composed by almost every country in Europe, in Leipzig, 1813. Then he retreated back to France when, even though he defeated one of the many opposing

armies, he was forced to abdicate and be confined in the island of Elba, located in the Mediterranean Sea.

Napoleon's exile would not last for long, however, as he escaped in February, 1815. When he returned to France, the French armies sent to stop him joined him instead, choosing rather to be governed by Napoleon, who they knew and believed in, than by the previous monarchy, overthrown by the Revolution decades before.

#### **2.5.6 Waterloo.**

Once Napoleon arrived in Paris, a Seventh (and final), Coalition, was organized. As France was drained in manpower and devastated by the never-ending war, Napoleon was only able to afford around 200 thousand soldiers, who were mostly new recruits with no experience on the battlefield. With this army Napoleon invaded the Netherlands, when he was defeated one last time at the battle of Waterloo on June 18th, 1815, by the duke of Wellington, Sir Arthur Wellesley, and the Prussian troops commanded by general Blücher. It would be Napoleon's last battle in his nineteen years of military career.

#### **2.6 Final exile and death**

Napoleon was forced to abdicate yet again, this time sent to St. Helena, a small island in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, guarded by British soldiers. He would remain there until his death on the 5th of May 1821, having lost his empire and power. His legacy, however, would have profound influences all over the world, that are recognized to this day. (3231)

## **Chapter III**

### **Napoleonic Influence on the Modern World**

#### **3.1 Law**

##### **3.1.1 Napoleonic Code.**

The year 1815 was the end of Napoleonic France. The territories France had annexed during this period were lost and forced to stay in its pre-revolutionary borders. The dozens of battles won by the Emperor seemed to have gone nowhere, leaving millions of civilians death or wounded. This, however, did not mean that the changes Napoleon did throughout his career would be forgotten or futile. On the contrary, his reforms and actions will resound, not just in Europe, but in the whole world, changing it in the process. Napoleon's Empire lasted for just ten years, but his legacy would endure far longer.

Once in St. Helena, Napoleon declared: "My true glory is not to have won in forty battles... What nothing can destroy, what will live forever, is my Civil Code". This would prove to be true, as his Civil Code is, undoubtedly, one of his greatest achievements, influencing dozens of constitutions around the globe.

At the end of the eighteenth century, France possessed over 366 different legal codes applied in her whole territory. Furthermore, her southern half provinces were following the ancient Roman law. This legal chaos led to Napoleon's attempt to develop a new Code, one

that would unify all the dispersed codes in the country, applying it to all French people. Even though Napoleon ordered the drafting of several legal codes like the Penal or Commerce Code, it was the Civil Code that would prove decisive in revolutionizing the way laws are made and drafted today.

The Civil Code simplified over 14000 decrees made by the Revolutionary governments, mixing it with some laws of the Ancient Regime. One of its most notorious features was the definite abolished of feudalism and serfdom, as well as the secularization of the state, following the ideals of the Revolution. It allowed men to perform in any area if he had the right skill. The Code also granted religious freedom and forbid any privilege based on birth. However, some controversial and conservatives aspects remained, such as the control of the man over the woman in the family, when, more than a decade before, the Revolution considered both to be equal.

The laws were all redacted such that every person could read it without any problem, written in a simple way and deeply organized. Even though it deprived the woman from basic rights like signing contracts, testify or inherit property, the Civil Code proved to order most of the progressive ideals of the Revolution, along with its constitutions, into one single legal document.

#### ***3.1.1.1 Effect around the world.***

While Napoleon was Emperor, he had the custom to implement his legal code in each new state he conquered, expanding the ideals of the Revolution as much as possible. In places like Italy, Germany and Holland the Code, although with some variants, was put in order by

Napoleon himself, expressing that an empire should have one single legal code for all its people and allies, like the ancient Romans did.

The Napoleonic Code would prove so revolutionary and effective that, even after Napoleon's abdication, it would be applied in every corner of the globe. The Code was embraced as early as 1808, in Louisiana, while Napoleon was still ruling France. Most Latin American countries also based their constitutions in his Code. Countries like Ecuador, Chile, Uruguay and Argentina were heavily inspired by it. Also Dominican Republic and Bolivia have practically the Code pasted into their constitutions.

"In the first century and a half of its life the Napoleonic Code was introduced into thirty-five states and adapted in thirty-five more" (Holtman, 1967, p. 96). Rumania adopted it 1864, followed by Egypt later. It even was present in distant and remote places like Japan and Communist Yugoslavia. Belgium, Luxembourg, Switzerland are other examples who embraced the Code.

The creation of the Napoleonic Code helped France to stabilize and move forward. It was the first time that a unified system could be applicable to practically every country in the world. The far-reaching distances the Code traveled was a legal revolution never seen before.

Holtman (1967) states:

The Code contributed greatly to Napoleon's achievement of helping France turn away from the past. As the first truly modern code of laws, the Code Napoleon for the first time in modern history gave a nation a unified system of applicable to all citizens without distinction. (p. 98)



## **3.2 Military reforms**

### **3.2.1 Background of Napoleonic Warfare.**

One field that undoubtedly Napoleon stood out was the military one. Fighting in more than sixty battles, with almost all of them victories, in innovative and surprising ways, made military theorists and generals fascinated by the Emperor. His campaigns in Italy, his battles of Austerlitz, Ulm, or even his defeat at Waterloo are some examples of this, and are still taught in most military academies around the world. With his new tactics and military operations, Napoleon revolutionized modern warfare as we know it.

Before the age of Napoleon, many French military theorists improved ideas and tactics for 18<sup>th</sup> century warfare. In their writings they expressed the importance of cavalry as a shock weapon, rather than as a mere fighting force, as well as the importance of artillery as an independent unit and its concentration of forces against a single place. There was also the “mixed order”, introduced in the French army in 1791, showing the effectiveness of marching in columns, to then engaging the enemy in a three line rank.

Even though all these ideas and tactics already existed in the writings of military theorists, it was under Napoleon that these concepts were truly put into practice. His siege of Toulon showed the importance of grouping the artillery into a single area, for example.

### **3.2.2 Corp System.**

Apart from this, Napoleon was responsible for the introduction of the Corp System. Before Napoleon, for an army to move from point A to point B, it needed to stay together and move forward as a single entity, thus reducing its speed and maneuverability, as it had to carry numerous supply wagons for the entire army. With Napoleon, this wasn't the case. To overcome this problem, he created the “corp”, a large division with which the army could

be separated into different pieces. Therefore, in point A the army splits itself into different corps, to then reunite all together in point B.

The Corp System granted Napoleon great speed and mobility, as the army divided itself into smaller parts, eliminating supply wagons and allowing soldiers to live off the land they occupied. This can be masterfully seen in the siege of Ulm, when Napoleon first splits his army in corps in France, to then join all of them at Ulm and taking the city, arriving at half the time his opponent guessed.

The speed at which Napoleon's army encircled and crushed the enemy was the equivalent of 19<sup>th</sup> blitzkrieg, influencing many strategies and tactics during both World Wars, as can be seen with the German invasion of France in 1940. His Corp System had great effect as well, being copied first by the Prussian military, to then be studied and implemented by every country in the world.

### **3.2.3 Concentration of Forces.**

Out of all of the strategies and tactics Napoleon enforced, the concentration of forces is probably the most influential and effective through the Emperor's military career. It states that, when attacking a foe with superior numbers, one should play with the enemy such that he divides his forces in the battlefield. Then, the army concentrates all of its soldiers in order to crush the enemy's groups, one by one. This can be seen in his many campaigns throughout his career like Italy, Ulm, Austerlitz, France and even Waterloo. The fact that this, among others, strategy is studied in military academies around the world truly shows Napoleon's success on the battlefield.

The concentration of forces, the introduction of the Corp System, as well as his other innovations on the fields of battle, prove Napoleon's genius in the military aspect at the

time. His presence in military schools, as well as in the military itself all around the world, truly confirms military theorist Carl von Clausewitz claim in calling Napoleon “the God of War”.

### **3.3 Economy and Finances**

#### **3.3.1 Tax reforms.**

While Napoleon is better known for his achievements both in the military and judiciary fields, the Emperor’s feats do not stop there. Concerning the economics, Bonaparte also made such a profound impact, in the way that the currency and financial reforms and institutions are still present in France today.

One such impact was the changes made on the national currency at the time. Under the Directory, the numerous loans the government made put France into a desperate economic situation, with different types of paper money circulating around the country, with all of them losing almost the entirety of the original value. To address this issue, Napoleon eliminated the use of paper money in France, reduced the expenses and started the elaboration of a new effective system of taxation. It would be composed of departments, each one of them having a special tax-collector ready to obtain taxes from the town or province it represents.

Napoleon also converted most of the direct taxes in indirect taxes, meaning that the people would not know how much they are paying. It was present in transactions of goods like beer, wine and salt. This resulted in earning from 430 to 500 million francs a year.

Napoleon’s reforms in his taxation policy were the result of a competent and organized system, with a stable and steady sound currency, contrasting the previous economic chaos

under the Directory. The tax reforms were so efficient that they are still used across the continent to the present day.

### **3.3.2 Bank of France.**

In 1800, more income and circulation of money was needed in order to properly fund the French army, threatened by most of the foreign powers on the Continent. To solve it, Napoleon aimed to create an institution that would help the economy of the country, increasing the cash-flow and, even though it was called a private institution, and funding the state. With the Bank he tried to stimulate industry, sell shares to the common people, and have an institution from which the government can acquire money to defend itself, as well as to boost national trade.

The Bank would prove vital to improve France's economy for the first years of the Napoleonic Empire, suffering a decline in the later years of the war. However, it demonstrated its importance to regulate currency and financial transactions, not just in Paris but in all of France. The effects can still be seen today, with Napoleon's tax reforms being commonplace across Europe, and the Bank of France still standing and operating under the same functions Napoleon intended, serving as the economic and financial heart of the country.

## **3.4 Education**

### **3.4.1 Foundation of modern French education.**

Once Napoleon took charge as Consul, he initiated the constructions of over 45 lyceums across France. These institutions would have the task to train future soldiers, technicians and functionaries for the French government. Each boy (as girls were prohibited to enter

any kind of education) in the lyceum learned classical latin, greek, rethoric, mathematics, physics, etc. The students had a fixed schedule for the different topics each class would have, contrasting the system of the Ancient Regime, where students could choose their own subjects to study.

In order to supervise these schools, prefects from different departments were appointed for the task. The lyceums also offered around 6400 full scholarships for students over the country. The highly organized system, followed by a strict Spartan discipline, proved successful, as France possessed, by 1813, the highest quality schools in the continent. Lyceums like the Condorcet, Charlemagne, Henry IV and Louis-le-Grand, erected by Napoleon, are still used today as some of France's, and Europe's, finest educational institutions.

Napoleon also sought to create his Imperial University, an institution meant to control and supervise all the lyceums and schools across the country. It was supposed to be the place from where he would have a monopoly on the education of the French people. However, with the appearance of private schools and other institutes, he could not fulfill his desired monopoly.

The University had a strict hierarchical structure, controlled by a Grand Maester, followed by a chancellor, the university treasurer and several inspectors-general. It also possessed faculties of different subjects, which would be present in each lyceum like the Faculty of Science, Literature Law and Medicine. Besides, it would look promote the ideals and morals of the French Revolution into every institution it ruled. Following, each school in France had to under the complete supervision of the University.

Even though the University did not last as a monopoly, its rigid and hierarchical organization did. Its effective system expanded along with France's borders, with Spain and Holland being inspired by the French educational reforms, adopting them while they were still occupied by Napoleon.

Its structure allowed the French government to have a complete centralization in the country, allowing for a greater control in the national education to this day. The hierarchy from classroom teacher to Minister of Education gave the French educational system stability and continuity, and the centralization made the classroom teachers independent of local political and religious pressures (Holtman, 1967).

### **3.5 Development of modern propaganda**

Modern political propaganda, as we know it, began with the rise of Napoleon as First Consul. He was the first political image in the modern era to realize about the importance of molding the public opinion towards a more positive image of the government.

The Napoleonic propaganda first can be seen in the plebiscite made by the government asking the French people if Napoleon should be Consul for life. The official result was more than three and a half million in favor, with only over 2 thousand people against. The similar can be said when another plebiscite was held, asking if France should transform into a hereditary Empire: the results were almost the same.

Most of the propaganda directed to the population came from the newspapers of Paris, which Napoleon supervised and controlled. With Napoleon, censorship increased dramatically, reducing the number of newspapers from seventy-three to just thirteen. Out of

all of them, the “Moniteur” was the most popular in the country, written only by French officials and functionaries.

The Moniteur had the task to informing the people about the events happening in France, as well as its conflicts with other European powers, but writing only the Napoleonic victories and achievements. Although this methods made the population have a distorted view of the circumstances around them, it had useful purposes. It boosted the morale of the French people, increased confidence in their allies and made the troops and citizens more loyal and supportive to the Emperor.

Napoleon’s propaganda was also present in his bulletins and orders of the day. The former were reports, written by Napoleon himself, aimed to the civilian population. It contained mainly military news favorable to the Empire, exaggerating the casualties of the enemy and reducing the ones of the French. On the other hand, the orders of the day were specifically targeted to the army, incrementing its morale and devotion.

There were others forms of Napoleonic propaganda like the use of rumors, books and theater plays to mold the population. However, they were not as used as the ones mentioned above. With them, Napoleon proved to be the first modern leader to use a large part of his time to persuade the public opinion for the benefit of himself and his Empire, an example that many future rulers, and dictators, would be inspired of.

### **3.6 Rise of Nationalism**

#### **3.6.1 Emergence of social and nationalist movements.**

Nationalism, the idea that a people with the same tradition, characteristics, and, above all, language, should unite and be under one single political entity, where each citizen is treated

equally, started with the arrival of the French Revolution, but truly expanded towards other European countries due to the actions, both directly and indirectly, of Napoleon Bonaparte.

With the appearance of the French Revolution came the ideas of equality and national unity. Before the Revolution, the subjects of a country only felt their allegiance to a lord or monarch, rather than a nation. Now, being under attack from many European powers, as well as receiving progressive liberal beliefs, the French populace started to develop a new sense of unity, as being part, not of a country, but of a nation.

After Napoleon became Consul, he tried to expand this idea to the French people in order to gain cohesion and stability, as well as to boost morale among its citizens. He showed by describing France as “the great nation” and claiming that all French people belong only to France, rather than to the different political factions created by the Revolution, which put the people into factionalism and divided the nation even more.

Not only in France would the concept of nationalism stand out, but it would be witnessed in other places over the continent as well. The first region was Italy, when he reduced the number of states of the peninsula to three, helping the future unification of the nation half a century later. Napoleon also made the Italians have an independent flag and army, inducing even more in the nationalistic feeling of their population.

Another people Napoleon introduced the ideas of nationalism were the Slavs and Poles, both people which were under foreign occupation at the time. There the nationalist would increase exponentially over the years, forming many liberal and social movements promoting the creation of their respective countries for their people. This would have consequences many decades later, with the forming Yugoslavia and Poland in the twentieth



century. The influence of Napoleon was such that he is mentioned in the Polish anthem, described as a liberator and savior.

Even though Napoleon influenced nationalism in other places, such as Spain, the people he changed the most were the Germans. After being decisively defeated and humiliated by Napoleon at the battle of Jena in 1806, the Prussians realized that severe reforms needed to be made in order to Prussia, and the other German states, to fight and defend against the Napoleonic invasion. There the German intellectuals started to develop the idea of a single nation for all the German people, a “Father Land”. The idea could come to reality in the second half of the nineteenth century, with the creation of the German Empire, an entity who would forever change the European landscape by its numerous actions and achievements.

Napoleon was, although indirectly, responsible for most of the social and nationalist movements that took place around Europe in the nineteenth century, leading to the creation of nations such as Yugoslavia, Poland, Italy and Germany, which are still standing today (besides Yugoslavia). Ironically, the Napoleonic Wars helped to propagate the ideas of liberty, equality and nationalism through Europe, forming new Constitutions, laws institutions and nations as we know it today.

### **3.7 Geopolitical changes**

The Napoleonic reforms made in Europe affected greatly the political landscape as well. With the wars of the Second and Third coalition, Napoleon held control over most of the European states. To administer his Empire more effectively, he ought to reduce the

numerous German states, before controlled by Prussia and, mainly, Austria, into a few dozens.

Before the French Revolution, central Europe was ruled by an entity called the Holy Roman Empire (HRE), created in the tenth century, composed by several German states. At first, the HRE possessed a few number of principalities, duchies, and cities under its dominion. However, by the time of 1789, the territories increased exponentially, containing more than three hundred and fifty states among the Empire. With the successful invasions of Napoleon into central Europe, the HRE was finally dissolved more than eight hundred years of existence.

In order to control such divided entities, Napoleon supervised the reduction of the states from almost four hundred to just thirty nine states, all under the rule of the new Confederation of the Rhine. This reduction of states bolstered the creation of Germany as much as the introduction of nationalism, making the unification of all the German states much easier by Prussia, as now it had reunite just a few dozen rather hundreds of states in order to form the nation.

Napoleon's influence in the matter can be witnessed overseas as well. The first mayor geopolitical change during his reign was the sale of Louisiana to the newly created United States in 1803. The purchase would double the US' size, improving their chances of expanding towards the Pacific Ocean, making it possess most of the territories we know today.

The Napoleonic effect is still present in Latin America as well. Long before, the revolutionaries from the Spanish colonies seek a pretext for their independence, which they

found in the person of Napoleon. When the Emperor invaded Spain, the Bourbon royal monarchy was overthrown in favor of the Bonaparte dynasty. The revolutionaries exploited the opportunity, rebelling against their liege in places like Mexico, Peru, Colombia and Ecuador. The Spanish, focused in driving Napoleon out of Spain, could not send enough men to crush the emerging insurgencies, thus facilitating the independence of Latin American countries.

Napoleon can also be responsible for the creation of Brazil as a country well. When he invaded Portugal, the Portuguese royal family fled to their colony of Brazil, declaring it independent from Portugal and forming the Empire of Brazil. After that, Brazil became a republic as it is in our time.

### **3.8 Napoleonic influence across the world**

From the Napoleonic Code and the Bank of France, to the creation of modern states like Germany, Brazil and many from Latin America, Napoleon's effect over the planet cannot be understated. As witnessed, the actions, either directly or indirectly, of Napoleon and his wars over the continent deeply influenced the modern world, both in the political, military, judicial, economic, intellectual and social aspects, showing a new era, not only in Europe, but the whole world, of change and reforms. The Napoleonic Era was one of the most significant events in world history, and their consequences will still be seen centuries after the Emperor's departure to St. Helena in 1815. (3725)

## **Conclusion**

As it could be seen over the course of the whole monograph, the influence of the actions of Napoleon Bonaparte, inspired at the same time by the ideals and principles of the French Revolution, made it possible for society to evolve from a conservative, monarchist institution to a liberal and democratic one. The French Revolution, caused by the rebellion of the Third State towards the king and the Church, brought the country the implementation of Enlightenment principles to sustain their idea of equality and liberty. However, the rise of dangerous radical parties to power, with Maximilien Robespierre leading it, led to disorder and revolts over the countryside, further increasing the political and economic issues the Revolution in vain tried to resolve.

The subsequent wars of the Coalition France had to face, along with its internal strife, brought a period of uncertainty and instability for the country. Nevertheless, it was these anarchist movements which led to rise of the former artillery officer Napoleon Bonaparte. After military engagements against the foreign European powers, in places such as Italy or Egypt, Napoleon seized the occasion to obtain power and resolve the economic, political, military and social issues that the country endured severely. Once he became Consul, he immediately worked to achieve its goal of securing and safe-guarding France, both internal and externally.

- In order to solve the social problems, a Commission was charged with the task of uniting all the laws which were dispersed around many local and regional places, into one single legal Code, the Napoleonic Code, which promoted also the ideals the French Revolution was trying to put into place, but really never had the chance due

to poor organization, centralization and leadership. The Code would later expand into most European countries, and be the basis for most Constitutions made around the globe, Ecuador included.

- The economic reforms, of great importance after the inflation of paper money made by the Directory and previous governments, were based on a new plan of tax collection, which would be organized and centralized. The Bank of France also made possible to obtain financial credit to defend against its enemies, as well as improving the economic situation in the country.
- The legacy of Napoleon could also be witnessed in the military field. The battles of Austerlitz, Jena, Friedland or Wagram are still studied in military academies today, and his Corp System would be introduced in virtually every country in the world.
- The rise of nationalism, along with social and liberal movements, in former French occupied territories, contributed to the creation of new states such as Italy, Poland and Germany, promoted by the revolutionary beliefs implanted by Napoleon, and, ironically, the hatred of some of the occupied people to recover their rightful land from the Emperor.

To conclude, the presence of Napoleon Bonaparte, a product of the French Revolution, in European politics at the beginning of the XVIII century meant an endless amount of changes and sociopolitical reforms for the people. Even with the fall of Napoleon, his legacy would still be present in France, modernizing her and making it a proper modern country. Alongside this, the numerous reforms applied in the country proved effective and

long-lasting, inspiring many countries and pushing society forward, which can be seen to this day. (545)

### **Recommendations**

After the concise reading of this monograph, it is important for each individual to realise the importance of the events that took place during this brief period of time, some suggestions could be made to extend the knowledge contained in this paper.

- One such action could be the analysis of the characters involved in the Napoleonic Era, specifically its main protagonist, Napoleon Bonaparte, evaluating their actions and beliefs, to then use that information to our advantage to avoid their mistakes and failures, caused by an excess of greed, ambition and overconfidence, as well as to recognize the merits and principles of those people who fought for a better future during these tumultuous times of the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Age.
- Along with this advice, one could also learn from this period to acknowledge the great leap forward that society has advanced due to these events, and find new ways for its achievements (like the Napoleonic Code), to be accepted or promoted in places where these ideals are prohibited by several reasons by some governments around the world, like the Middle East or African countries, which to this day deny to fully embrace the ideals and beliefs these events brought for the people. (202)

### References

Geer, W. (1921). *"Napoleon the First: An intimate biography."* New York, United States:

The Plimpton Press-Norwood-Usa.

Holtman, R. (1967). *"The Napoleonic Revolution."* New York, United States: J. B. Pilincott

Company.

McPhee, P. (2002). *"The French Revolution: 1789-1799."* New York, United States:

Oxford University Press.

Mignet, A. (1826). *"History of the French Revolution, Vol I."* London, England: Hunt and

Clarke.

Roberts, A. (2014). *"Napoleon, a life."* Madrid, Spain: Palabra.



