

NAPOLEON BONAPARTE

First Consul and Emperor

By :

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Bonaparte, First Consul

NAPOLEON

If ever a ruler owed his position to what is called the "will of the people", Napoleon did. Napoleon won it by his success with the sword, not the sword of execution, nor the sword of the guillotine, but the sword of battle against the enemies of France.

The people of France elected Napoleon as the Emperor, because he saved France from its enemies and he defended the gains of the Revolution at home.

Napoleon established both the Bank of France and the French bourse (stock exchange) as well as National and Departmental Tax Boards, to insure equitable taxation for all. Consequently, the income of the French peasants skyrocketed.

Napoleon established awards such as the "Legion of Honour" to reward those whose services to the nation merited special recognition; the recipient could be scientist, composer, legislator, clergyman, writer, as well as a soldier.

In the area of public works, over 20,000 miles of imperial and 12,000 miles of regional roads were completed, almost a thousand miles of canals were build, the Great Cornice road was constructed along the Mediterranean coast, mountain roads were constructed across the Alps by ways of Simplon Pass and Mont. Cenis, and harbors were dredged and expanded at many ports, including Dunkerque and Cherbourg.

Not only was Paris beautified with the construction of boulevards, bridges and monuments, but the National Archives received a permanent home. Napoleon also saved the Louvre.

Monument buildings were constructed throughout the Empire and structures, such as the Imperial Cathedral of Speyer, made famous by Luther, were preserved while work on the spires of the great cathedral of Cologne were continued on Napoleon's orders. In fact, Napoleon's architectural handiwork can be found scattered across Europe, from Rome to Vienna.

"Think tanks" and research centers were established in France to work on projects vital for national economy. An Industrial Board was organized to provide data and information to French Industry, as exemplified by the success of the sugar beet farming and the canning industry.

For religion, Napoleon ended the schism and restored the Catholic Church to France by the Concordat in 1801. He insured freedom of religions and equality to the Protestant sects, and he declared France the homeland of the Jews, after it became obvious he could not establish their national home in Palestine.

The Code Napoleon established equality before the law, emphasized the sanctity of the family, and assured the legal gains of the Revolution. The Code of Civil Procedure insured widespread user of mediation in the courts and the laws, and the courts were secularized.



Napoleon as Emperor at the moment of his coronation, wearing the collar of the Legion of Honour, which he founded in 1802.

Napoleon created the Imperial University to administer French Education. Specialized engineering and technological schools were established along with the famous lycées to insure a scientific education. The establishment of a Professional School of Midwifery and first School of Obstetrics were formed during the consulate and the School of Veterinary Science was professionalized under Napoleon.

In the military, Napoleon pioneered in what we describe today as the "principles of war" which are studied by almost every military academy in the world. The armies of today are based on the organization created by Napoleon for his Grand Army and it has been used ever since.

Many historians claim that Napoleon created his own legend on St. Helena. The truth is that his legend started in Toulon in 1793.

Lord Holland, speaking in the British House of Peers, spoke about the deceased Emperor in August 1833. He stated: "The very people who detested this great man have acknowledged that for 10 centuries there has not appeared upon earth a more extraordinary "character"."

This is indeed a tribute to the Emperor.

THE TRUTH GOES THROUGH THREE STAGES :

First, it is ridiculed;

Second, it is violently attacked;

Finally, it is accepted as self-evident.

It is easy to succumb to the temptation of quoting recognized authorities and get information from secondary sources rather than do primary research.

A quote from a written document made by one historian and uncritically repeated by another soon acquires the authority of "Common Knowledge".

This research did not rely on accepted HISTORIAN EVALUATION, but on primary research.

**THE PURSUIT OF FACTUAL DETAIL IS
THE RELIGION OF PERFECTION**

**THE TRUTH IS INCONTROVERTIBLE
MALICE MAY ATTACK IT AND IGNORANCE
MAY DERIDE IT, BUT IN THE END IT IS ACCEPTED.**

"You already know that in cooperation with Colonel Émile Gueguen, I am working on re-establishing the complete truth about the Emperor.

Indeed, in the last two centuries, so many slanderous lies have been spread about him, and with such persistence, that many have ended up being accepted as true.

In the following document, "Napoleon Bonaparte, First Consul and Emperor" I shall present a few of his achievements and the difficulties he had to overcome to accomplish them.

Even after the French people had elected him Emperor, (with 99 percent of the popular vote), he forever remained a living symbol of the motto of the Republic: liberty, equality, fraternity.

He wore himself out working for the public good.

His ideas and his accomplishments have left their mark on the entire world and all of humanity owes him a debt of recognition and gratitude."

When Napoleon came to power in November 1799, following the coup d'état of *18 brumaire* organized by the Abbé Sieyès, France was in total ruin, and on the brink of anarchy. Civil War was raging in Vendée and Brittany. In Italy, the Austrians, under the second coalition between England and Austria, were in the process of reconquering the entire North of the country and were preparing to invade the French Riviera prior to marching on Paris and restoring the Bourbons to the throne.

To save France and the Republic, Bonaparte set about working 20 hours a day, in other words, 140 hours a week. Going to bed at 8 p.m. and getting up at midnight: this was the regimen he imposed on himself in the first months of the consulate.

And he performed miracles that have never been matched anywhere in the world, before or since. In 1802, France was once more prosperous, law-abiding and at peace. The French people, united, had regained their enthusiasm, hope, desire to work and joy of living. This was the "Golden Age of the Consulate."

Napoleon would have liked this

age to last forever. He would have wished all the nations of Europe, particularly England and France, to work peacefully hand in hand toward improving the lot of their respective populations. This goal would certainly have been achieved if Fox had remained in power in London. Alas, in 1803, William Pitt once more became Prime Minister and immediately declared war on the French Republic.



Exhibition organized at the Louvres

William Pitt was solely responsible for the wars that "perfidious Albion" succeeded in dubbing "the Napoleonic wars," which in reality were the wars of the absolute monarchies against France, the home of the human rights.

Before presenting a few of the achievements of the First Consul of the Republic and of the Emperor of the French people, let us quote a few of his words. (Extract from the memoir from St. Helena)

"However much my detractors attempt to eradicate or suppress, they will find it very difficult to make me disappear completely. The honest historian will have to grant me something, and his task will be an easy one, as the facts speak for themselves. They shine as bright as day.

I have closed the gulf of anarchy and cleared away chaos. I have purified the Revolution and ennobled the people.

I have stimulated competition, rewarded the deserving, and expanded the limits of glory! All that is surely something!

And so, what could they accuse me of that the historian could not defend me for doing?

Could it be my intentions? But he will demonstrate that they always sought the public good.

Could be my despotism? But he will demonstrate that firm authority was an absolute necessity.



Napoleon Emperor (David)

Will they say that I restricted freedom? But he will prove that license, anarchy,

and civil disorder were ever-present threats.

Will they accuse me of liking war too much? But he will show that it was always I who was attacked.

Will they accuse me of wanting universal monarchy? But he will show that it was only the chance product of circumstances; it was our enemies themselves who, step by step, led me to that.



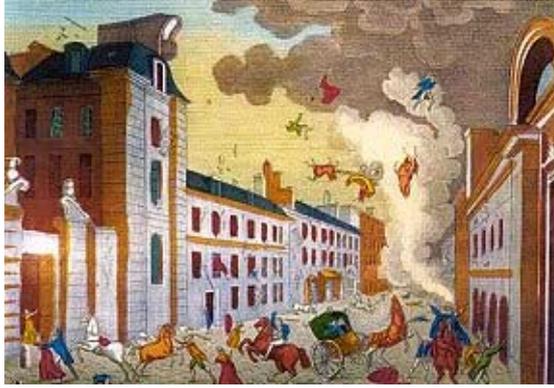
In order to stimulate the economy, Napoleon encourages industries. Seen here touring a fabric factory in Rouen.

Finally, will they say it was my ambition? Oh, they will definitely discover that I was guilty of ambition, but of the highest and the greatest kind that can exist! The ambition to establish and finally to consecrate the empire of reason and the full exercise and enjoyment of all the human faculties.

And here the historian will find himself bound to regret that this ambition was never fully realized. This, in very few words, resumes my entire history."

The point needs to be made that Napoleon was constantly hindered in his peaceful enterprises by repeated attacks from the old European monarchies, goaded on by the English oligarchy, whose aim was to achieve sole domination of the entire world.

William Pitt and his successors resorted to every possible means in their pursuit of this end. They used their gold to finance seven coalitions against France; they sponsored assassinations, including that of Tsar Paul I, and were behind numerous failed assassinations, most notably against First Consul Bonaparte. They even carried out large-scale massacres of civilian populations, such as the one in Copenhagen on Sept. 2, 1807.



The assassination attempt in the rue St. Nicholas. On Dec. 24, 1800, an explosive device was detonated two minutes after the passage of the First Consul's carriage, on its way to the Opera.

Napoleon, on the other hand, had always wanted peace. Although he won several battles, in each instance it was to defend France from foreign attack. Nor did he ever resort to ignoble means. Possessing ample evidence of the assassination attempts mounted against him by William Pitt and the Comte D'Artois, he would have been justified in paying them back in kind. He never did so. On the contrary, he always forgave his enemies when they were at his mercy, even to the point of seeming rather naive in such a Machiavellian world. The saying "he was too kind-hearted for his own good" was never truer than of Napoleon.

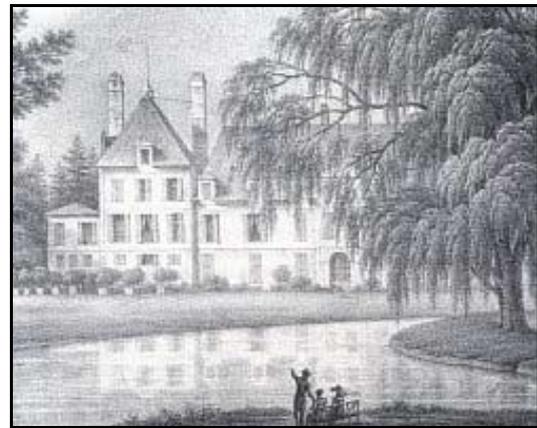
There are a hundred examples of his efforts for peace; we shall cite just a few.



The monks at Grand St. Bernard greet Napoleon on his march to Marengo on May 18, 1800.

Dec. 25, 1799- On the very day that he assumed his functions as First Consul, Bonaparte wrote to the king of England and to the Emperor of Austria imploring

them "*not to forego the happiness of bringing peace to the world.*" England did not reply. In May, the Austrian army crossed France's southwest border and penetrated into the Var. Bonaparte was thus obliged to leave his exhausting work as administrator and hasten to save France and the Republic. He was worn out and haggard from days and nights of constant effort. His wrinkled skin turned transparent and took on a pallid hue. Only his legendary energy kept him going. It was in these conditions that he reached the St. Bernard Pass and defeated the Austrians at Marengo on June 14, 1800.



Mortefontaine Castle and Park. This was the starting point of two centuries of uninterrupted friendship between France and the United States: all thanks to Napoleon.

September 30, 1800 -- The Mortefontaine Agreement. Since 1798, a naval war had been underway between the United States and France under the Directorate. In an attempt to re-establish peace between the two great republics, Bonaparte asked President John Adams to start negotiations. American diplomats Ellsworth, Davie and Van Murray arrived in Paris on April 2, 1800. Upon his return from Marengo, the First Consul sped up the negotiations, which had been tending to bog down, and the agreement was signed in the beautiful castle of Mortefontaine, in the Oise, 40 kilometers north of Paris. This was the beginning of two centuries of unbroken friendship between France on the United States. All thanks to Napoleon Bonaparte.

January 1805 -- Napoleon addresses letters to all the sovereigns of Europe explaining "the advantages of peace and

the stupidity of war, the stupidity of needlessly spilled blood."

December 1805 -- Directly after Austerlitz, Napoleon freed all prisoners of war and allowed the remnants of the Russian army to leave the battlefield in peace. He sang the praises of the Tsar and offered him his friendship with a view to establishing peace in Europe. He wrote: *"My heart bleeds! May all this spilled blood, may all these misfortunes fall upon the treacherous English, who brought them about."*

September 12, 1806 -- Prussia declared war on France and Napoleon wrote to King Friederich Wilhelm: *"This war would be sacrilege. I am unshakable in my bond of allegiance to your Majesty."*

June 14, 1807 -- the battle of Friedland -
- Napoleon wanted to save the lives of numerous Russian and French soldiers, and when the two armies were already face to face, he wrote to the Tsar: *"It is time that Europe lived in peace, safe from the malignant influence of England. Why this war? What is the good of killing each other when our peoples have so much esteem for each other, so many reasons to be friends?"*



Napoleon's meeting with Tsar Alexander on June 25, 1807, on a raft in the middle of the Niemen.

June 26, 1807 -- Tilsit -- After his army was crushed at Friedland, Tsar Alexander became as mild as a lamb and was overcome with joy when Napoleon pardoned him and agreed to meet him on a raft in the middle of the Neimen. He swore eternal friendship to Napoleon, of whom he said: *"I have never loved anything more than this man. The magical power of his gaze and the smile on his lips and in his eyes that comes directly from his soul, have turned me completely upside down. This great man of the century, this formidable commander,*

is friendly, affectionate and magnanimous. He is persuasive because he is sincere".

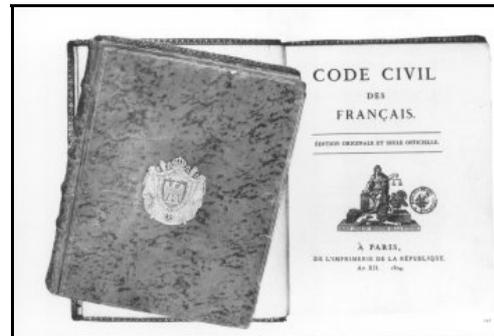
The Tsar's last phrase says it all: Napoleon was sincere. He had always been sincere in his desire to achieve a lasting, universal peace. Yet he was confronted with bloody tyrants in England, Prussia and Russia.

If Napoleon had lived in a time of peace, his achievements for the betterment of his people would have been called extraordinary, even superhuman, but when we consider that they were carried out in a time of incessant attack from every quarter, they belong quite simply to the realm of the supernatural.

A Few Accomplishments

The Bank of France

Napoleon created the Bank of France in 1800, and after six years of varied experiments, gave it its official status by law on April 22, 1806.



The Civil Code, or Napoleon Code, was copied and implemented in many countries around the world

The Napoleonic Code (*Code civil*)

This is a code of laws designed to define the relationship between the members of one family and the citizens of the nation. Napoleon presided over the majority of working sessions. He astonished the most distinguished jurists by the pertinence of his remarks and his knowledge of the law, including that of ancient Rome. One day, he came to the aid of an eminent jurist who was searching his papers for a text on the Institutes of Justinian, by reciting the entire quotation by heart.

Liberty and equality were the principles that Napoleon advocated for the drafting of each of the 2281 articles of the code.

Without him, the jurists would have lost themselves in endless discussion.

The final version of the Napoleonic Code became law on March 21, 1804. This code has been copied in countries the world over and most of its provisions are still in force today.

The Commercial Code

Introduced on April 3, 1801, the final version was adopted in 1807. Napoleon was then far from Paris, defending France against the attacks of the fourth coalition, (England, Prussia, Russia). After his victories at Iena, Auerstädt, Eylau and Friedland and his meeting with Tsar Alexander at Tilsit (treaty of July 7, 1807), he returned to St. Cloud on July 27, 1807. The very next day, July 28, he presided over the work of the commission of the Council of State charged with drafting the final version of the Commercial Code. During the three other sessions over which he presided on July 29 and August 1 and 8, he accelerated the progress of affairs, and the various laws were enacted in September, 1807.

The Criminal Code

This code was introduced in 1801 and completed in 1808.

The *juge d'instruction* (examining magistrate) made his appearance for the first time. He is still there today, and has so much power that he can examine even the most important figures of State.

The Penal Code

The Penal Code of 1810 has survived in its essential form and has retained a strong influence of the legislation of most of the countries of the world.

The Civil Procedure Code

This was designed to complement the Civil Code in every matter concerning the application of laws.



The founding of educational schools for young girls

The Napoleonic University

Upon his accession to power, Napoleon threw himself wholeheartedly into the organization of public education, which at that time was highly neglected. In 1800, 75 percent of French people could neither read nor write.

- Primary Education

He put the prefects of the departments in charge of creating primary schools in the towns and villages to ensure that all children would learn reading, writing, arithmetic, history, geography, and general moral principles. The Primary Studies Certificate was awarded at the age of 12 at the end of this level of studies.

- Secondary Education

Napoleon created the *lycée* system. There were already a hundred or so *lycées* in France in 1802, and 160 by 1804. He created the *baccalauréat* in the form in which it exists today: the examination that crowns a successful program of secondary studies.

-Higher education

Napoleon created the Faculties with their schools of law, medicine science and mathematics. He promoted the rise of the *Grande écoles* such as the Polytechnic.

Upon assuming responsibility for governing Belgium, Holland and Italy, he also extended the benefits of this educational system to those countries.

Freedom of Worship

The Revolution had caused untold harm to the practice of religion by destroying churches, temples and synagogues and imprisoning and massacring ministers, priests, pastors and rabbis.

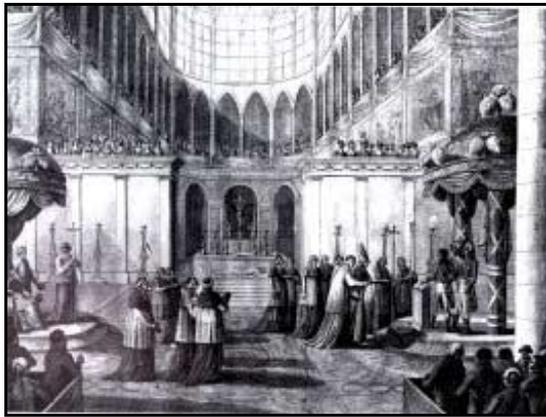
Napoleon re-established total freedom of worship. *"God, he said, belongs to each of us in accordance with our conscience."*

Although he was surrounded by atheistic revolutionaries, he straight away attacked the problem of the freedom of worship in the Catholic faith, which was the religion of the great majority of French people.

THE CONCORDAT:

(the most difficult thing I have ever accomplished, he was later to say)

The new Pope, Pius VII, was elected in March 1800. On June 25, 1800 (11 days after his victory of Marengo over the Austrians), Napoleon sent Cardinal Martiniana to ask for an audience with him to study the conditions for re-establishing freedom of worship, in full agreement with the papacy.



The Concordat – In June 1801, First Consul Bonaparte took part in a work session with the Pope's emissaries.

The Concordat was signed a year later after numerous difficulties were overcome thanks to the firmness but also the conciliatory genius of the First Consul.

He began by making a friend of the *abbé* Bernier, who until that time was the leader of the revolt of Catholics of the Vendée against the prohibitions issued by the Directory government.

Bonaparte, with all the sincerity and charisma so typical of his personality, had no trouble convincing Bernier that they should work together hand in hand for the greater good of the people. With one stroke, he brought an end to a Civil War that the atrocious repression of previous governments had only succeeded in exacerbating.

Now an ally, hard-liner Bernier brought his priestly support to the various phases leading up to the agreement.

1st phase: Cardinal Spina, the Pope's envoy, comes to Paris.

2nd phase: A project is sent to Rome with an excellent diplomat by the name of Cacault. The affair drags on because of the delaying tactics of the Pope's ministers. On May 12, 1801, Napoleon issues an ultimatum, but no one in the Quirinal wants to give in.

3rd phase: Cacault returns to Paris with the Pope's Secretary of State, Cardinal Consalvi. He is in fact the second most powerful man in the hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church and has been granted the power of decision by the Pope. Napoleon, who intervenes personally in the debate, manages after bitter discussion to make him accept the final version, which will be signed by the Pope on July 15, 1801.

The document cancels the anti-religious edicts of the Revolution

-the papacy recognizes the French Republic

-all religions are authorized

-Church and State work in perfect agreement. Priests receive compensation from the government.



In November 1804, the Emperor greets Pope Pius VII upon his arrival in Fontainebleau.

N.B. It wasn't until 1905 that the law separating Church and State was passed.

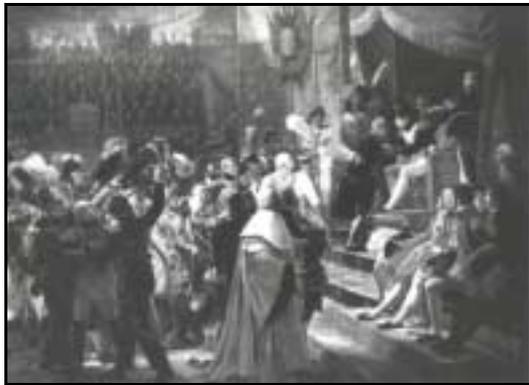
THE GREAT SANHEDRIN

Until 1800, the Jews had been persecuted and harassed for centuries all over Europe.

Napoleon strove to restore their dignity, as the *Encyclopédie judaïque* relates:

- *Napoleon Bonaparte proclaimed the emancipation of the Jews in every State under his authority and they recognized him as their liberator and their saviour.*

-*Napoleon's greatest influence on Jewish history occurred in the years 1806-1808, when he reunited the Great Sanhedrin in Paris* (for the first time in almost 2000 years).



Meeting of the Great Sanhedrin
in Paris on February 9, 1807

Napoleon made the Jews full-fledged citizens of the countries where they resided, levelled the ghettos, did away with the yellow star and promoted the construction of synagogues.

Metternich, who was Austrian ambassador to Paris, wrote to his Emperor in September 1806: *"All the Jews see Napoleon as their Messiah."*

There can be no doubt that the Napoleonic laws constituted the turning point that permitted the Jews to accede to free society as it exists today.

By making Judaism the third official faith, the Great Sanhedrin of 1807 has for the Jews the same importance as the Concordat for Christians.

This prayer was recited at all the synagogues and had been written spontaneously:

A prayer by the children of Israel, citizens of France and Italy, for the success and prosperity of Napoleon, Emperor and King, composed in the month of Mar-Hechran, in the year 5567 (1807).

I implore the eternal Creator of heaven and earth and of all living things

..... How truly happy we are, how agreeable is our fate, since now thou hast placed Napoleon the Great on the thrones of France and Italy...

Oh God, lord of greatness, strength, power and beauty, we implore thee to stay ever by his side..... oblige his enemies to ask for peace, for all he desires is peace among all nations..."

The Legion of Honour

On May 19, 1802, the First Consul created the order of the **LEGION D'HONNEUR** that bore the device "HONOUR and COUNTRY."



Montreal, July 12, 2000
Ben Weider receives the Legion of Honour from His Excellence Denis Bauchard, Ambassador of France in Canada, in the presence of His Imperial Highness Prince Charles Napoléon

The most brilliant Frenchman from both civilian and military life will be reunited in a single élite Legion whose example will guide the nation.

The first ceremony to confer the Legion of Honour took place on July 15 1805 in the *Cour des Invalides*. The Emperor personally bestowed the medal to all the recipients: marshals, high dignitaries, even a soldier of Napoléon's old guard, Jean-Roch Coignet.

The prestige of the Legion of Honour, which was subsequently conferred on a

number of illustrious foreigners, is such that practically all the orders that have since been created the world over have used it as a model. One of the first foreigners to receive the decoration was the great German writer, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. I personally received it on October 12, 2000 from the hands of His Excellency, Denis Bauchard, French Ambassador to Canada.

The Stock Exchange

In the great cleanup campaign that the First Consul undertook upon coming to power at the end of 1799, he first had to attend to the most pressing business: to ensure the proper functioning of the treasury department.

It was only after 1802, when he had obtained external peace by the treaties of Lunéville and Amiens, and internal peace by the Concordat, that he was able to reorganize the financial and commercial markets by regulating the stock markets.

Bonaparte's ideas were simple, and as in every domain, bore the seal of common sense.

-Mistrust of speculators and manipulators of all kinds who wish to enrich themselves while producing nothing.

-Equal mistrust of exchange agents who are often the accomplices of the manipulators.

He created stock exchanges in all the great cities, with a precise set of rules that guaranteed the proper running of businesses while limiting abuses.

It was also Napoleon Bonaparte who oversaw the construction of the Paris Stock Exchange that exists to this day.



The frontage of the Court of Audit, now the Chamber of Deputies

The Court of Audit

The decree ordering the creation of the Court of Audit was signed by the Emperor on September 18, 1807. The court included one senior magistrate, three ordinary magistrates, 18 masters of accounts, 24 first class and 60 second-class auditors, one attorney general, and one senior registrar.

The court's mission was on the one hand, to examine the receipts of the receivers general in the departments and the regulation and administration of all indirect contributions; and, on the other, to examine the expenses of general paymasters, and army, military division and department paymasters.

Canals

In 1800, France had 1000 kilometres of canals. By 1814, Napoleon had understood perfectly the economic importance of river traffic; 1890 additional kilometres were completed or under way.

- The Ille and Rance canal
- The Nantes-Brest canal
- The Doubs-Rhine canal
- The Bourgogne canal
- The Saint-Quentin canal
- The Beaucaire-Aigues-Mortes canal
- The Mons-Condé canal



Fountain of Saint Innocent. One of many fountains set up on orders from Napoleon for the well being of the citizens of Paris.

Furthermore, major improvement work was carried out on rivers, particularly the Seine, the Marne, the Aube, the Yonne and the Aisne. This primarily involved maintaining and repairing embankments and towpaths.

Ports

Napoleon ordered immense constructions that considerably changed the appearance and increased the capacities of the ports of Anvers, Brest and Cherbourg, where he had a great dike constructed. In addition, practically every port under his control, from Italy to Holland, benefited from some useful development, both for the merchant marine and the Navy.

Roads

Napoleon made enormous efforts to improve and extend the road network. From 1800 to 1814, thousands of kilometres of roads were constructed or improved. The decree of December 16, 1811, which defines the classification of the Imperial roads, gives an idea of his accomplishments.

There were 14 first-class roads. The most important of these were:

- no. 2 - from Paris to Amsterdam via Brussels and Anvers
- no. 3 - from Paris to Hamburg via Liège, Wesel, Munster and Bremen
- no. 4 - from Paris to Mayence and Prussia
- no. 6 - from Paris to Rome via the Simplon Pass and Florence
- no. 7 – forming a junction with Milan via Mont-Cenis and Turin
- no.11 – from Paris to Bayonne and Spain

Also worth mentioning are the three routes constructed through the Alps. These are the Simplon, Mont-Cénis and Mont-Genèvre Passes.



Napoleon did much for the enlargement and the embellishment of the Louvre Museum. Seen here, the "Salle des Gardes"

Urban Development

Napoleon's accomplishments in the area of urban development greatly improved the surroundings and living conditions of city dwellers. In 1800, whole city neighborhoods were still in the unhealthy condition of the Middle Ages. The streets had a central ditch in which excrement and pestilential waste accumulated.

By 1814, this was a thing of the past. It can be truly said that it was Napoleon who brought the cities from the Middle Ages and into modern times.

Every city benefited from his decisions, the purpose of which were both hygienic and aesthetic. The plan was extended throughout France and the Empire, most notably in Bordeaux, Lyon, Lille, Marseilles, Rome and Venice. But it was above all in Paris that his greatest feats of urban development were accomplished. Napoleon wanted the most beautiful capital at the world and he got it. Assisted by the best architects and engineers, he defined wide thoroughfares and eradicated unhealthy neighbourhoods.

Among his realizations should be noted the *rue de Rivoli* -- as straight as an arrow -- that follows the line of the garden of the *Tuileries* with wide sidewalks and arcades offering shelter against the weather. This same architectural order was applied to the *rue des Pyramides* and *rue Castiglione*, which together with the *rue de Rivoli* and *the rue de la Paix*, formed a first-rate monumental ensemble whose centre is formed by the *Place Vendôme*, with its column erected to the glory of the *Grande Armée*.

We owe to the Emperor the system of plaques bearing street names and house numbers on plaques (even numbers on one side and odd on the other); a system that was copied throughout Europe. It was also Napoleon who decided the shape of the pavement, slightly convex with gutters along the edges next to the sidewalks.

The organization of the water services was one of the masterpieces of Napoleon's plan to provide Parisians with healthier, better living conditions.

In 1800, the overwhelming majority of the population was still dependent on the costly services of water carriers. Napoleon ordered the construction of hundreds of drinking water fountains, most of which were installed in the most elegant monuments.



Napoleon receives the official document proclaiming him Emperor of the French

It is also to Napoleon that we owe:

- the beautification of the *Palais de Luxembourg* with its magnificent gardens
- the enlargement of the *Louvre*, the transformation of the *Hôtel de Ville* (City Hall) and the decoration of *Les Invalides*, where he probably never suspected that one day his tomb would be located.
- the construction of covered markets
- the brigade of firemen, with their golden helmets
- the abattoirs, which put an end to the disgusting practice of butchers killing animals in front of their shops.
- ten kilometres of sewers
- six kilometres of quays along the banks of the Seine
- the construction of the great cemeteries of Père-Lachaise, of Montmartre and of Montparnasse

- the Arts, Cité, Austerlitz and Iena bridges
- streetlighting. In 1814 Paris was the best-lit city in the world, and on many accounts deserved the title of the City of Light that was given it.



Napoleon liked to chat with children. Here, in 1808, on the terrace of the St-Cloud Castle.

Napoleon was the first French sovereign to truly and consistently occupy himself with Paris. His enormous positive achievements, carried out in only 15 years, are deserving of all our admiration and gratitude.

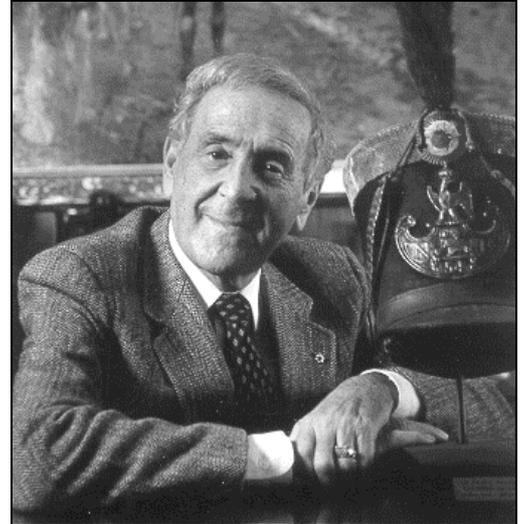


Portrait of Bonaparte, First Consul (Gérard)

BOOKS AND CONFERENCES FROM THE SAME AUTHOR:

Books :

- ◆ The Murder of Napoleon. (translated in 35 languages)
- ◆ Assassination at St.Helena. The poisoning of Napoleon Bonaparte.
- ◆ La Sagesse de Napoléon.
- ◆ Assassination at St.Helena revisited.
- ◆ Napoléon, Liberté, Égalité et Fraternité.
- ◆ Napoléon, est-il mort empoisonné ?
- ◆ Napoleon, The man who shaped Europe.



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Conferences :

- ◆ *The Assassination of Napoléon*, International Military History Festival “Borodino Day”, 1997, Borodino, Russia; Sandhurst Military Academy, England, 1998.
- ◆ *Napoleon and the Jews*, International Congress of the International Napoleonic society, June 1997, 28th Consortium on Revolutionnary Europe, Florida, March 1998.
- ◆ *My Pilgrimage to St.Helena*, 27th Consortium on Revolutionnary Europe, Louisiana, USA, 1997.
- ◆ *Napoleon, Man of Peace*.

