

STEP 1: Use the following websites to answer questions about the life and rule of Napoleon Bonaparte.

Part 1: The Directory and the Rise of Napoleon

<http://www.history.com/topics/napoleon>

The Reign of Terror ended with the execution of Robespierre. The Constitution of 1795 created a five-man Directory and a two-house legislature elected by male citizens of property to rule France. By 1802, the French government was taken over by a popular general who became the most powerful leader in Europe, Napoleon Bonaparte. How did Napoleon gain popularity in France?

Part 2: Napoleon Takes Over France

<http://www.flowofhistory.com/readings-flowcharts/the-early-modern-era/the-age-revolutions/fc106a>

The Directory lost control of the political situation and the people in France. The only control that they had was over the army. Abbe Sieyes (Speaker from the National Assembly) urged Napoleon to stage a “Coup d’état” (overthrow of state).

Part 3: Napoleon Restores Order to France

http://www.napoleon-series.org/ins/weider/c_peace.html

The French were desperate for strong leadership. The people looked to Napoleon to provide a strong central government and to achieve the goals of the Revolution such as equality in law, due process, natural rights, the power of citizens over monarch, freedom of religion, freedom of speech, and separation of powers.

Part 4: Napoleon Creates an Empire (1804)

<http://www.louvre.fr/en/oeuvre-notices/consecration-emperor-napoleon-and-coronation-empress-josephine-december-2-1804> (you can also see the pdf source above for more information on Napoleon’s coronation)

In 1804, Napoleon was crowned Emperor and began his conquest in Europe.

Also think about the use of propaganda here. How does Napoleon use propaganda to his advantage?

<http://fh.oxfordjournals.org/content/18/4/426.short>

Part 5: Napoleon and Europe

http://www.napoleon-series.org/research/napoleon/c_unification.html

STEP 2: Write a paragraph answering our essential question for the lesson: Was Napoleon Bonaparte a hero or a villain to the French people. You can do this on lined paper. Be sure to include answers to the following questions:

1. How is life different compared to life during the Reign of Terror? Compared to an absolute monarchy? What are the similarities and differences?
2. How has Napoleon achieved the goals of the Revolution?
3. Do you support Napoleon’s idea that France’s empire should encompass all of Europe? Why or why not?

Additional helpful links:

<http://www.pbs.org/marieantoinette/timeline/index.html>

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/history/1600s-1800s/french-revolution-tutorial/v/french-revolution-part-4---the-rise-of-napoleon-bonaparte?v=KYob2mjNdr0>