

NAPOLEON'S IMPACT ON TODAY'S WORLD



NAPOLEON THE CONQUEROR

Napoleon's military campaigns are legendary. He conquered much of Europe through his innovative use of artillery, rapid deployment of troops, brilliant battle strategies, and the loyalty he inspired among his soldiers. His exploits are still studied in military academies today.

POWER OF PROPAGANDA

Napoleon utilized propaganda on an unprecedented scale. He expertly courted public opinion by every means possible, from controlling newspapers and restricting theatrical performances to staging public spectacles and ceremonies. He used imperial power to censor any voice raised against him, while generously rewarding supporters. His enduring fame, however, may well rest on the visual splendor of the paintings, sculptures, and monuments that celebrate his reign.

LAW CODE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Napoleon instituted the Civil Code, a modern, rational, and flexible system of laws that provided a basis for the development of law codes throughout the world. The code, which favored men over women, guaranteed equality before the law, freedom from arbitrary arrest, freedom of religion, and the right to own property and to pursue any occupation. Although this progressive law code remains an influence on a quarter of the world's legal systems today, Napoleon failed to abolish slavery in French Saint Dominque and sent an army to oppose the slave revolt led by Toussaint Louverture.

NAPOLEON AND NATIONAL IDENTITY



At the height of his power, Napoleon controlled most of Europe either directly or through alliances. As he redrew political boundaries, he also fueled ideas about national identity, leading to the formation of numerous modern nation states, including Italy and Germany.

NAPOLEON AND THE UNITED STATES



As First Consul, Napoleon sold the Louisiana Purchase to the United States in 1803, doubling its size. Motivated by financial gain and his rivalry with Great Britain, Napoleon boasted, "I have just given England a maritime rival that sooner or later will humble her pride."