

In time, Napoleon's battlefield successes forced the rulers of Austria, Prussia, and Russia to sign peace treaties. These successes also enabled him to build the largest European empire since that of the Romans. France's only major enemy left undefeated was the great naval power, Britain.

**The Battle of Trafalgar** In his drive for a European empire, Napoleon lost only one major battle, the **Battle of Trafalgar** (truh•FAL•guhr). This naval defeat, however, was more important than all of his victories on land. The battle took place in 1805 off the southwest coast of Spain. The British commander, Horatio Nelson, was as brilliant in warfare at sea as Napoleon was in warfare on land. In a bold maneuver, he split the larger French fleet, capturing many ships. (See the map inset on the opposite page.)

The destruction of the French fleet had two major results. First, it ensured the supremacy of the British navy for the next 100 years. Second, it forced Napoleon to give up his plans of invading Britain. He had to look for another way to control his powerful enemy across the English Channel. Eventually, Napoleon's extravagant efforts to crush Britain would lead to his own undoing.

**The French Empire** During the first decade of the 1800s, Napoleon's victories had given him mastery over most of Europe. By 1812, the only areas of Europe free from Napoleon's control were Britain, Portugal, Sweden, and the Ottoman Empire. In addition to the lands of the French Empire, Napoleon also controlled numerous supposedly independent countries. (See the map on the opposite page.) These included Spain, the Grand Duchy of Warsaw, and a number of German kingdoms in Central Europe. The rulers of these countries were Napoleon's puppets; some, in fact, were members of his family. Furthermore, the powerful countries of Russia, Prussia, and Austria were loosely attached to Napoleon's empire through alliances. Although not totally under Napoleon's control, they were easily manipulated by threats of military action. **D**

The French Empire was huge but unstable. Napoleon was able to maintain it at its greatest extent for only five years—from 1807 to 1812. Then it quickly fell to pieces. Its sudden collapse was caused in part by Napoleon's actions.

**MAIN IDEA**

**Drawing Conclusions**

**D** By 1805, how successful had Napoleon been in his efforts to build an empire?

**SECTION**

**3**

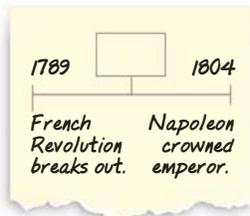
**ASSESSMENT**

**TERMS & NAMES** 1. For each term or name, write a sentence explaining its significance.

- Napoleon Bonaparte
- coup d'état
- plebiscite
- lycée
- concordat
- Napoleonic Code
- Battle of Trafalgar

**USING YOUR NOTES**

2. Which of these events do you think had the greatest impact on Napoleon's rise to power?



**MAIN IDEAS**

3. How did Napoleon become a hero in France?
4. What did Napoleon consider his greatest triumph in domestic policy?
5. How was Napoleon able to control the countries neighboring the French Empire?

**CRITICAL THINKING & WRITING**

6. **FORMING OPINIONS** In your opinion, was Napoleon the creator or the creation of his times?
7. **ANALYZING ISSUES** Napoleon had to deal with forces both inside and outside the French Empire. In your judgment, which area was more important to control?
8. **MAKING INFERENCES** If you had been a member of the bourgeoisie, would you have been satisfied with the results of Napoleon's actions? Explain.
9. **WRITING ACTIVITY** **POWER AND AUTHORITY** Look at the painting on page 665. Write a **paragraph** discussing why the painter portrayed Napoleon in this fashion.

**CONNECT TO TODAY** CREATING A VENN DIAGRAM

Identify and conduct research on a present-day world leader who has used dictatorial powers to rule his or her country. Use your findings to create a **Venn diagram** comparing this leader's use of power to Napoleon's use of power.