

# ***Chapter 10***

## **NAPOLEONIC EUROPE**

### 10.47 THE FORMATION OF THE FRENCH IMPERIAL SYSTEM

#### *Study Questions*

1. In the years of Napoleon's ascendancy, what internal changes occurred in European countries? What were the motives of the governments that fought Napoleon?
2. How and why did the First Coalition and the Second Coalition against Napoleon break up?
3. Explain the significance of the peace of 1802. How did Bonaparte make use of it to the best of his interests?
4. Of what significance was the treaty of Amiens? How did Bonaparte's policies provoke the formation of the Third Coalition? What was its outcome?
5. Why did Tsar Alexander I puzzle and disturb his contemporaries? In what sense may the treaty of Tilsit be considered the high point of Napoleon's success? What led to the weakening of the alliance with Alexander?
6. Explain the origins, purpose, and nature of Napoleon's Continental System. What effect did Napoleon's setbacks in Spain have on other parts of Europe?
7. In what sense was the Napoleonic empire at its height in the years 1809–1811?
8. Consider the illustrations on p 417, and 419. How do these images represent Napoleon's triumphs or his defeats?

#### *Key Discussion Sentences*

1. The French impact on other nations, though based on military success, represented more than mere forcible subjugation.
2. The history of the Napoleonic period would be much simpler if the European governments had fought merely to protect themselves against the aggressive French.

3. Never had a peace been so advantageous to France as the peace of 1802. Napoleon used peace as he did war to advance his interests.
4. Tsar Alexander I, after Napoleon himself, became the most considerable figure on the European stage soon after the completion of the Third Coalition.
5. The battle of Trafalgar established the supremacy of the British navy for over a century—but only on the proviso that Napoleon be prevented from controlling most of Europe, which could furnish an ample base for eventual construction of a greater navy than the British.
6. Because there was no foreseeable possibility of invading England after Trafalgar, Napoleon turned to economic warfare.
7. By 1810 Napoleon, the Son of the Revolution, could refer to the emperor of Austria as “my father” and was by marriage the nephew of Louis XVI.

### *Identifications*

Peace of Amiens

Grand Duchy of Warsaw

Talleyrand

Wagram

Metternich

Shame of the princes

Ulm

Trafalgar

Austerlitz

Treaty of Pressburg

Jena and Auerstädt

Eylau

Friedland

Treaty of Tilsit

Peninsular War

### *Map Exercise*

1. Study the map on p. 425, “Napoleonic Germany.” What was the impact of Napoleon on the consolidation of the German states?

## 10.48 THE GRAND EMPIRE: SPREAD OF THE REVOLUTION

### *Study Questions*

1. Describe the territory dominated by Napoleon at the height of his influence. What were the main divisions of the Napoleonic domain?
2. Explain the government and administration of the French empire and of the Grand Empire. How did Napoleon use his family as a means of rule?

3. Explain the stages of French occupation or influence that occurred when Napoleon came in to power.
4. Was Napoleon a reformer and a representative of the Enlightenment? In what sense were the main principles of the French Revolution spread throughout Europe by Napoleon?
5. What appeal did the Napoleonic system have in Europe? To what extent was repression employed?

### *Key Discussion Sentences*

1. The Napoleonic domain was in two parts. Its core was the French empire; then came thick layers of dependent states, which together with France comprised the Grand Empire.
2. Napoleon called his system liberal and believed in constitutions.
3. Napoleon's reforms throughout Europe were directed against everything feudal.
4. Under Napoleon, some of the main principles of the French Revolution—with the notable exception of self-government—were introduced in all countries of the Grand Empire.
5. Napoleon, it seemed to Goethe, “was the expression of all that was reasonable, legitimate, and European in the revolutionary movement.”

### *Identifications*

French Empire	Pius VII	Confederation of the Rhine
Grand Empire	Civil Code	Kingdom of Westphalia
Allied states	Illyrian Provinces	Kingdom of Italy
King of Rome		

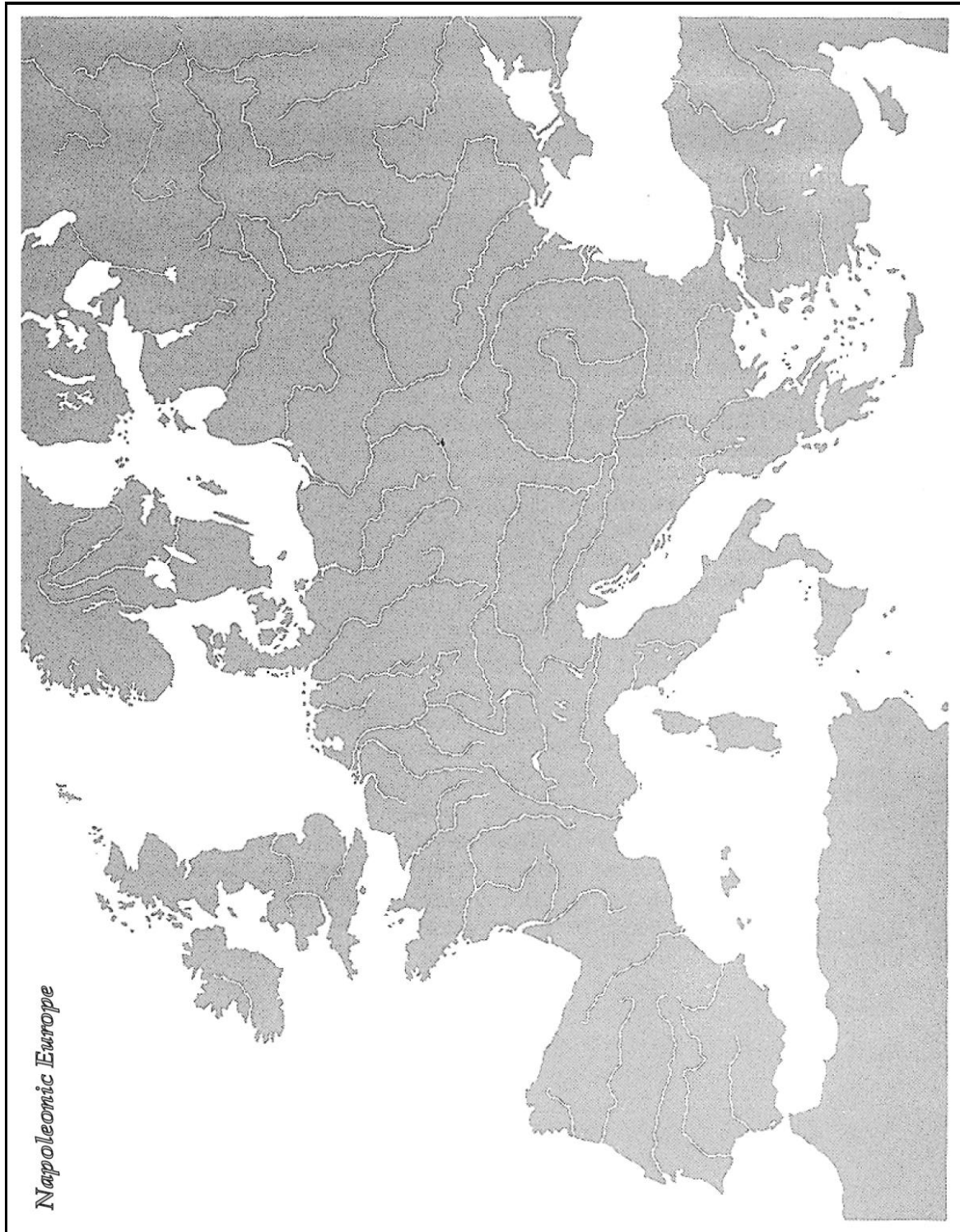
### *Map Exercise*

1. On the outline map, Napoleonic Europe, 1810, show the boundaries of France in 1792, before the Revolutionary and Napoleonic wars. On the same map indicate the boundaries of (a) the French Empire at the height of Napoleon's power about 1810, (b) the Grand Empire and its constituent parts, and (c) the states allied with Napoleon. Indicate also the location of the most important battles of the Napoleonic era. Source: *A History of the Modern World*, p. 423.

## 10.49 THE CONTINENTAL SYSTEM: BRITAIN AND EUROPE

### *Study Questions*

1. Describe Napoleon's efforts to find a basis other than force for the unification of Europe. How did he hope to exploit existing attitudes toward Great Britain?



2. Describe the anti-British sentiments that prevailed in Napoleonic France.
3. In what way did the British blockade and Napoleon's Continental System resemble each other? How did the United States become involved in this economic warfare? What were

the results?

4. What were the objectives of Napoleon's Continental System with respect to the economy of Continental Europe?
5. What were the chief reasons for the failure of the Continental System? What effect did it have as a short-range war measure?

### *Key Discussion Sentences*

1. To arouse an all-European feeling, Napoleon worked upon the latent hostility to Great Britain.
2. The purpose of the Continental System, as of the British blockade, was not to keep imports out of the enemy country but to destroy the enemy's export markets.
3. To destroy British exports Napoleon prohibited, by the Berlin Decree of 1806, the importation of British goods into the continent of Europe.
4. The Continental System was also a scheme to develop the economy of Continental Europe around France as its main center.
5. The Continental System was worse than a failure, for it caused widespread antagonism to the Napoleonic regime.

### *Identifications*

"Nation of shopkeepers"	Order in council of November 1807	Milan Decree
Berlin Decree	Germaine de Staël	

## 10.50 THE NATIONAL MOVEMENTS AND NEW NATIONALIST CULTURES

### *Study Questions*

1. What was the impact of the Napoleonic age on the development of nationalism? What different forms did nationalist feelings take?
2. Describe the change in German minds that set in about 1780. How did the ideas emerging

in Germany differ from the ideas characteristic of the Enlightenment?

3. Discuss the development of nationalist political thought in Napoleonic Germany. In what sense was it democratic? What manifestations of German nationalist activities appeared?
4. Describe J. G. Fichte's contribution in illustrating the course of the German national thought and spirit.
5. Describe (a) the principal aims of the army reformers in Prussia and (b) the political philosophy and reforms of Baron Stein.
6. How did nationalism develop in other parts of Europe during these years?

### *Key Discussion Sentences*

1. Nationalism developed as a movement of resistance against the forcible internationalism of the Napoleonic empire.
2. The nationalism of the Napoleonic period was a mixture of the conservative and the liberal.
3. Nationalism was very complex and appeared in different countries in different ways.
4. German ideas fell in with all the ferment of the new cultural movement known as "romanticism", which everywhere challenged the "dry abstractions" of the Age of Reason and shaping the new themes of literature, music, art, and historical research.
5. The reform program in Prussia was aimed at strengthening Prussia for a war of liberation against the French.

### *Identifications*

Herder	<i>Germany in Its Deep Humiliation</i>	Gneisenau
Romanticism	Fichte	Baron Stein
<i>Volksgeist</i>	<i>Addresses to the German Nation</i>	<i>Tugendbund</i>
"Father" Jahn	<i>Closed Commercial State</i>	

## 10.51 THE OVERTHROW OF NAPOLEON: THE CONGRESS OF VIENNA

### *Study Questions*

1. What factors undermined Napoleon's invasion of Russia in 1812? How did Europe react to Napoleon's setback in Russia?
2. To what extent did the charter of 1814 make permanent the changes of the Revolution and the Napoleonic era?
3. Explain the nature of the "first" Treaty of Paris. How would you summarize the issues facing Europe after the defeat of Napoleon?
4. Describe the principal territorial arrangements adopted at the Congress of Vienna. What attitudes were taken toward the peace settlement by (a) Prussia, (b) Russia, (c) Great Britain, and (d) Austria? How was the dispute over Poland settled?
5. When was the "second" Treaty of Paris made and how was it different from the first one?
6. Why did so many of the French people rally to Napoleon upon his return? How did the allies react?
7. Evaluate the accomplishments and failures of the Peace of Vienna. Why was the settlement a disappointment to many?
8. How are the diplomats at the Congress of Vienna depicted in the illustration on p. 443?

### *Key Discussion Sentences*

1. After Napoleon's retreat from Moscow all the anti-Napoleonic forces rushed together.
2. The closer the allies came to defeating Napoleon, the more they began to fear and distrust each other.
3. Castlereagh and Metternich, with support from Talleyrand, sought to restore a balance of power on the Continent.
4. The question of Poland almost brought the Congress of Vienna to disaster.
5. The Peace of Vienna had its strong points and its weak ones. With past issues the peace of 1815 dealt rather effectively; with future issues, not unnaturally, it was less successful.
6. Even the most conservative diplomats at Vienna recognized that the revolutionary events and legacy would not simply vanish.



7. The French Revolution and the Napoleonic empire had demonstrated how a new, more open system of social and professional advancement enabled a nation to exercise power more effectively than any of the traditional, monarchical states.

### *Identifications*

Borodino	Talleyrand	Congress Poland
Retreat from Moscow	Louis XVIII	Battle of Waterloo
Battle of Leipzig	Quadruple Alliance	Hundred Days
Charter of 1814	Second Treaty of Paris	Castlereagh
First Treaty of Paris	Holy Alliance	Metternich

### *Map Exercises*

1. On the outline map, “Europe 1815,” show the European boundaries set by the Congress of Vienna in 1815. How do they compare with European boundaries in 1792? Source: *A History of the Modern World*, p. 446.
2. What was the Polish-Saxon question at the Congress of Vienna? Outline its effects on the outline map. How did the peace settlement of 1815 affect the boundaries of Prussia and Russia? Trace those effects on the outline map as well.
3. Can you locate each of the places mentioned in Section 10.51?

### GENERAL ESSAY QUESTIONS FOR CHAPTER 10

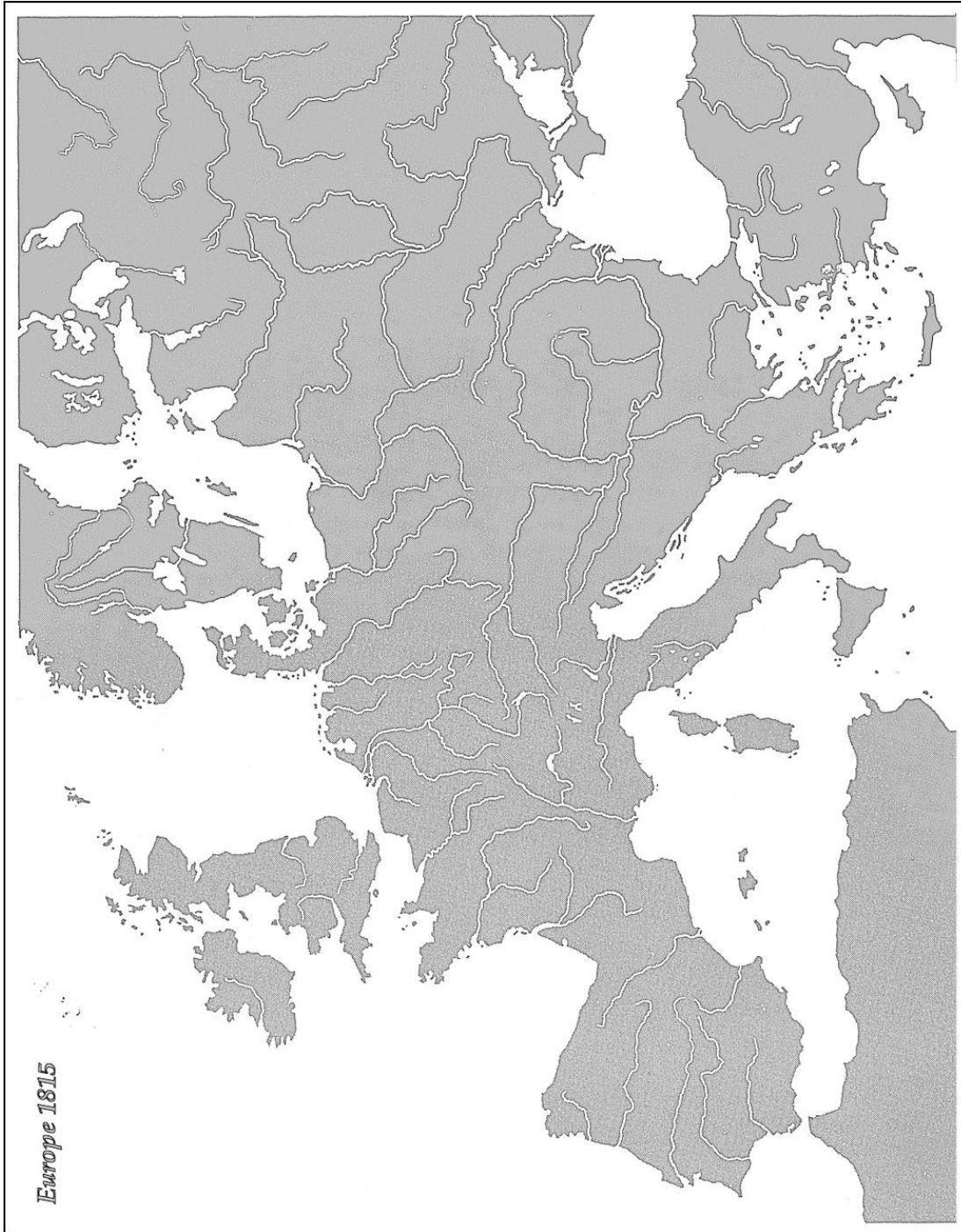
1. How did Napoleon’s military campaigns and later policies transform both international relations in Europe and the internal development of various European countries, despite the short life of his empire?
2. How did the reforms that originated in the French Revolution spread throughout Europe? How did they strengthen the European countries? What resentments did Napoleon’s rule arouse?
3. How did Napoleon’s ascendancy over Europe help reinforce political and cultural nationalism? What role did nationalism play in his downfall?
4. Discuss the foreign policies followed by Britain, Austria, Prussia, and Russia (a) in the French Revolutionary wars, 1792–1799 and (b) in the Napoleonic wars, 1799–1815. How

consistently was the balance-of-power idea applied?

5. Compare and evaluate the peace settlements of (a) Westphalia, 1648, (b) Paris, 1763, and (c) Vienna, 1814–1815. How successfully did the Congress of Vienna deal with the issues it faced?

## GENERAL DISCUSSION PASSAGES FOR CHAPTER 10

1. Napoleon surpassed all previous European rulers in imposing a broad political unity on the European continent. (p. 411)



2. Whether by collaboration or resistance, Europe was transformed. (p. 411)
3. The idea that a country's laws must mirror its distinctive national character and history was foreign to Napoleon's mind, for he carried over the rationalist and universalist outlook of the Age of Enlightenment. He thought that people everywhere wanted, and deserved, much the same thing. (p. 422)

4. Voltaire and the philosophes had expected all peoples to progress along the same path of reason and enlightenment toward a similar civilization. Herder thought that all peoples should develop their own genius in their own way. (p. 433)
5. Romanticism stressed the differences rather than the similarities of mankind. (p. 434)
6. It was hoped that a proper balance of power would also produce a lasting peace. (p. 442)
7. The Holy Alliance, probably sincerely meant by Alexander as a condemnation of violence, and at first not taken seriously by the others who signed it and who thought it absurd to mix Christianity with politics, soon came to signify, in the minds of liberals, a kind of unholy alliance of monarchies against liberty and progress. (p. 445)
8. The peacemakers were in fact hostile both to nationalism and to democracy, the potent forces of the coming age. (p. 445)
9. The French Revolution and the Napoleonic wars, for all their turmoil and terrible destructive violence, created a lasting political and cultural legacy that has influenced modern nations almost everywhere, even down to our own time in the twenty-first century. (p. 447)