

Napoleon Bonaparte

Napoleon quickly advances through military ranks.

In 1802, Napoleon names himself consul for life.

In 1804, Napoleon assumes the title of Emperor of the French.

Napoleon consolidates his power by strengthening the central government.

Napoleon reforms France and wins support across class lines.

From 1804 to 1812, Napoleon creates a vast French empire.

In 1812, Napoleon invades Russia.

In 1813, a new European alliance defeats Napoleon in the Battle of the Nations at Leipzig.

The next year, Napoleon abdicates, or steps down.

In March 1815, Napoleon returns to France triumphantly.

One hundred days later, British and Prussian forces crush Napoleon completely at the Battle of Waterloo.

Napoleon is forced to abdicate and go into exile.