**Napoleonic France:**

**Consulate Period: 1799-1804 (Enlightened Reform)**

A. He took power on December 25, 1799 with the constitution giving supreme power to Napoleon.

1. As **First Consul**, Napoleon **behaved more as an absolute ruler** than as a revolutionary statesman.

2. He sought to govern France by **demanding loyalty to the state**, **rewarding ability**, and creating an **effective hierarchical bureaucracy**.

 However, **wealth determined status**.

3. Napoleon may be thought of as the **last** and most eminent of the **enlightened despots**.

B. **Reforms**

1. **Napoleon Code**— Legal unity provided the first clear and complete codification of French Law.

a. Perhaps the longest **lasting legacy of Napoleon’s rule**

 Included a civil code, code of criminal procedure, a commercial code, and a penal code

 Emphasized the **protection of private property**

b. Resulted in a **strong central gov’t and administrative** unity

c. Many **achievements of the Revolution** were made **permanent**.

 **Equality before the law**: no more estates, legal classes, privileges, local liberties, hereditary offices, guilds, or manors

 **Freedom of religion**

 The state was secular in character

 **Property rights**

 **Abolition of serfdom**

 Women gained inheritance rights

d. **Denied women equal status** with men (except inheritance rights)

 Women and children were **legally dependent on their husband or father**.

 Divorce was more difficult to obtain than during the Revolution.

 Women could not buy or sell property or begin a business without the consent of their husbands.

 Income earned by wives went to their husbands.

 **Penalties for adultery were** far more severe for women than men.

2. “**Careers Open to talent**”

a. Citizens theoretically were able to **rise in gov’t** service purely **according to their abilities**.

b. However, a new imperial nobility was created to reward the most talented generals and officials.

3. **Religious reforms a. Concordat of 1801** with the **Roman Catholic Church**

 Napoleon’s motives:

o Making **peace with the Church** would help **weaken its link to monarchists** who sought a restoration of the Bourbons.

o **Religion** would help people **accept economic inequalities** in French society.

 Provisions:

o The French **gov’t** had power to nominate or **depose bishops**.

* Extended **legal toleration to Catholics, Protestants, Jews, and atheists** who all received the **same civil rights**. o It replaced the Revolutionary Calendar with the Christian calendar

4. Financial unity

a. **The Bank of France** (1800) served the interests of the state and the financial oligarchy.

5. Educational reforms were based on a system of **public education** under state control.

a. Rigorous standards; available to the masses

b. Secondary and higher education (called lycées)

6. Creation of a police state.

a. Secret police

III. Napoleonic Wars during the Consulate Era

C. Saint Domingue (**Haiti**)

1. Napoleon sent a large army to Haiti to subdue a **slave rebellion** there.

a. French forces were decimated by disease and slave rebels.

b. Haitian forces were led by Toissant L’Ouverture.

2. The Haitians were motivated by French Revolutionary ideals of freedom from absolute rule and **natural rights**.

E. **The Continental System**

1. Napoleon decided to wage **economic warfare against Britain** after his loss at the Battle of Trafalgar.

F. **The Peninsular War** (1808-1814)

1. The first great revolt against Napoleon’s power occurred in **Spain.**

2. When Napoleon tried to tighten his control over Spain by replacing the Spanish King with his brother, Joseph, the Spanish people waged a **costly guerrilla war**.

* Created **Spanish “nationalism”**