

HISTORY

Project

The Napoleonic Wars and
Influence of French Foreign
Policy in Europe





The French Revolution, Accession of Napoleon and Impacts

The French Revolution started on 14th July 1789 by destroying of Bastilla, symbol of tyranny and violence. During revolution fought Third Estate (people led by Jacobins) against royal family and kingdom. They wanted to abolish the kingdom and gain many rights and powers. Revolution finished in 1799 and final result was execution of king and his wife.

It is necessary to mention young soldier Napoleon, who also fought against king, he was one of the key people in French Revolution, he wanted change, too. At first, Napoleon's army career started very well, later he became general, won many battles and was highly successful.

He got many powers and on 2nd december 1804 crowned himself as „Emperor of the French.“ That was significant start of Napoleon's rulership, he did order in France, his Empire was strong, powerful and enlarged. Napoleon was a great ruler, on the other hand, the most of his success were thanks to many battles and wars with other countries. France gain a few allies, but many enemies, French Foreign policy was too strict and Napoleon also did many mistakes.

The Napoleonic Wars

Napoleon studied at military academy and almost whole life sacrificed to military scene, he is considered as one of the most famous army commandant in our history. His tactics, abilities and skills are legendary. French army became skilled and compact under him.

During French Revolution and years before 1805 he fought with long – time rival – the Great Britain, next with Austria, Italian city – states, Ottoman Empire and also was on expedition in Egypt. On those battles he got skills and learn much about military field, so later he had many advantages and suppositions for large wars with strong empires. We will talk about the most known Napoleonic wars and his foreign policy

War of the Third Coalition

War of the Fourth Coalition

War of the Fifth Coalition

The Invasion of Russia

War of the Sixth Coalition

War of the Seventh Coalition

War of the Third Coalition

A detailed portrait of Admiral Horatio Nelson, the British naval commander who defeated the French at the Battle of Trafalgar. He is depicted from the chest up, wearing a dark military coat adorned with numerous medals and orders. He wears a black bicorne hat with gold trim and a plume. The background is a dark, textured wash.

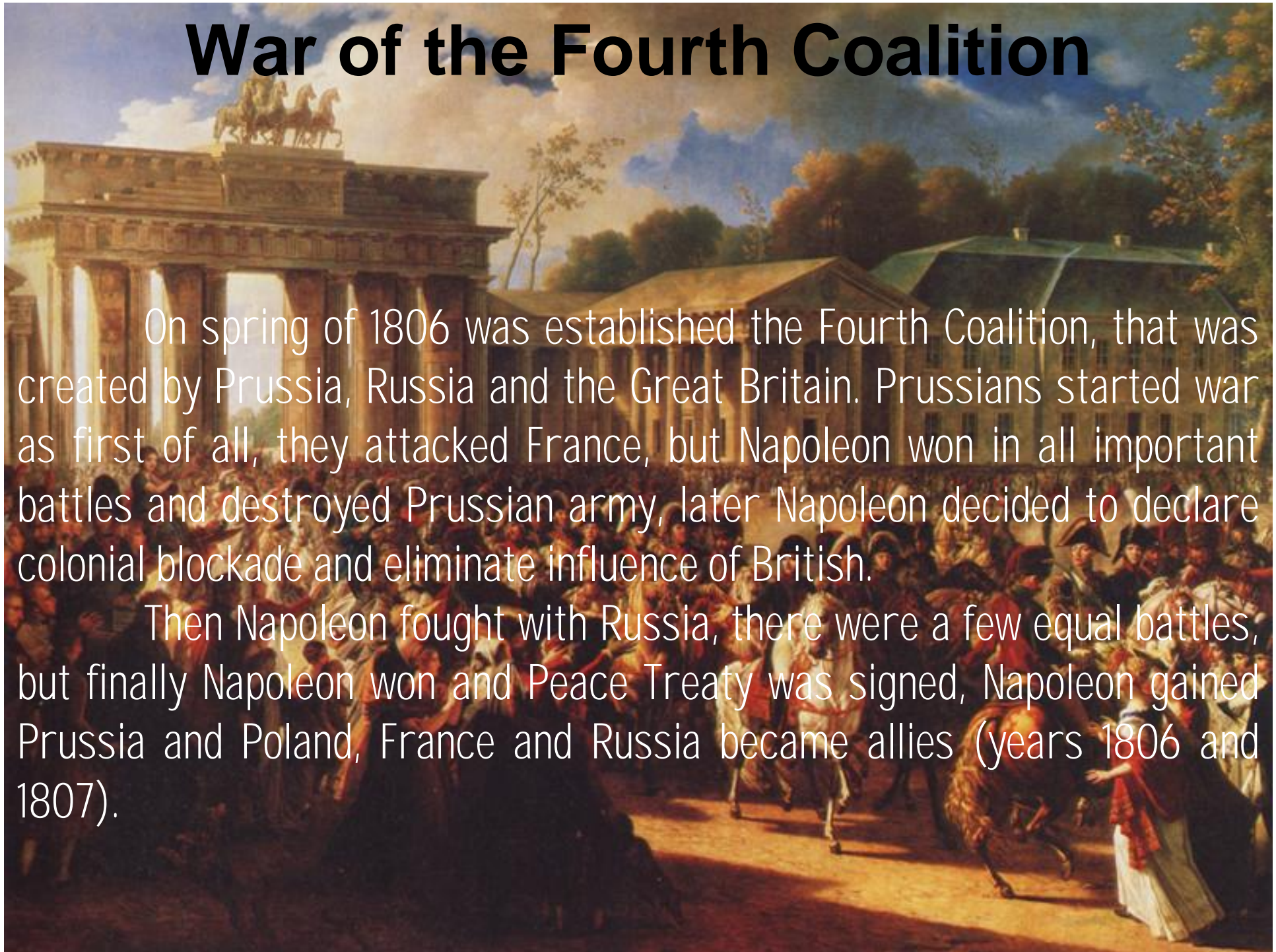
The Third Coalition consisted of the Great Britain, Russia, Sweden and Austria, it was an answer to coronation of Napoleon as the Emperor (It was year 1805). Napoleon prepared his large army for battle with British, it was amount of 180,000 soldiers, but Frenchmen were defeated near Trafalgar by admiral Horatio Nelson (on background), who died in this battle. London's Trafalgar Square is named after this event and in the Middle is Nelson's column.

But few days after this French army got into Germany, Napoleon won over Austrians and then fought with Russian tsar Alexander I. and army leader Kutuzov. Final battle took place near Slavkov, it is called „Battle of Three Emperors“ (Napoleon, Alexander I. and Francis II.) Napoleon was the winner and that was first significant victory of French Emperor.

War of the Fourth Coalition

On spring of 1806 was established the Fourth Coalition, that was created by Prussia, Russia and the Great Britain. Prussians started war as first of all, they attacked France, but Napoleon won in all important battles and destroyed Prussian army, later Napoleon decided to declare colonial blockade and eliminate influence of British.

Then Napoleon fought with Russia, there were a few equal battles, but finally Napoleon won and Peace Treaty was signed, Napoleon gained Prussia and Poland, France and Russia became allies (years 1806 and 1807).



War of the Fifth Coalition



It was coalition of Austria and the Great Britain, Austrians engaged into the war as first. In 1809 Austrians get into the Bavaria with large and strong army, but Napoleon defeated them. Napoleon captured many cities and Vienna, too.

Later in Battle near Aspern - Essling was Napoleon defeated, it was his first loss! Man, who deserved it, was Archduke Charles of Teschen (on background), he became known thanks to this battle.

But later Napoleon won many battles and Austrian Emperor signed capitulation and peace. France gained many coastal lands and other territories, so this war was very successful for Napoleon.

The Invasion of Russia



In 1812 Napoleon started his invasion to Russia, that was beginning of Napoleon end, this invasion was source of problems and mistakes. Napoleon led 600,000 men, while Russia had only 220,000 men, so everything was better for Napoleon.

First battle Napoleon won, but many soldiers died, Russian army was still strong. Then battle on the river Berezina ended equal, both sides lost many men. Russian commandants did many clever steps, used tactics, the greatest Russian marshal was Mikhail Ilarionovich Kutuzov (on background).

Napoleon only with famished half of his original army and weakened by Russian winter, finally lost a few battles and were defeated and went only with 30,000 men home.

War of the Sixth Coalition

In 1813 Prussia and Austria broke away from France and created the Sixth Coalition, then the Great Britain and Sweden followed them. Coalition, supported by Russia attacked Napoleon in Germany, but „Grandé Armeé“ defeated them and Peace Treaty was signed. But it took only short – time, a few months after took place battles in which was Napoleon defeated and his army destroyed.

Then army of Coalition got into France and conquered many cities, Lyon, Bordeaux and finally Paris. Napoleon gave up the throne and had to go to exile together with his generals to island Elba.

French throne gained Bourbons, Louis XVIII became a new king. In september 1814 started the Congress of Vienna, that we will talk about later.

War of the Seventh Coalition



— 1st March 1815 Napoleon I. Bonaparte escaped from Elba and got into the harbour, Cannes. Every army, sent against Napoleon, joined him. Arrival of Napoleon to Paris recorded a great success, French people loved him and were satisfied. This period is known as „Hundred days Empire,“ because Napoleon ruled hundred days now.

After these events was created the Seventh Coalition, where belonged the Great Britain, Austria, German and Italian city – states, Netherlands, Portugal and Spain. Napoleon sent peace signals into Europe, but knew, that war were necessary. He attacked Coalition in Belgium as first and won some battles.

Final battle took place in Belgian Waterloo, Napoleon resisted and fought well, but when Prussians joined a Coalition army he was defeated and captured by British. Then was Napoleon sent to exile to island St. Helen, where he died in 1821 and French throne gained Bourbon, Louis XVIII.

Political effects and Legacy of Napoleonic France

A painting of Napoleon Bonaparte on a white horse, wearing a red cloak and a bicorne hat, set against a dramatic, cloudy sky. The scene is filled with the chaos of battle, with soldiers and fallen figures visible in the foreground and background.

As we already mentioned in introduction Napoleonic France was a great Empire. We could say, that France recorded the greatest period ever in its history under Napoleon government France was world economic and political power, living standard was on very high level. Thanks to many foreign battles and wars with other European countries France gained many lands and became more powerful. Also architecture and education did a significant progress, Paris was one of the most beautiful cities in the world. People really loved him and never forgot, Napoleon is still symbol of great emperor for them.

But on the other hand, Napoleon did many enemies abroad, finally in 1815 almost all Europe fought against him. After all wars and Napoleonic period European powers were afraid of new revolutions and „new Napoleons,“ so they tried to re-organized European map and society on Congress of Vienna, but ideas of revolutions were born in 1848 again.