

Napoleon Bonaparte

He was born Napoleone Buonaparte on August 15, 1769, to minor Italian nobility in the city of Ajaccio, Corsica. His father, Carlo, was an attorney and Corsica's representative to the court of Louis XVI of France. He had 7 brothers and sisters. Napoleon was the fourth child and second son of Carlo Buonaparte. As a child, Napoleon Bonaparte was most influenced by his mother, Maria Letizia Ramolino. She was very strict. She taught the kids sacrifice and discipline. Sometimes Napoleon had to go to bed without supper. Napoleon Bonaparte had to learn French before entering the school and earned high marks in mathematics and geography. When Napoleon was nine, his father sent him to a French military academy at Brienne-le-Chateau, near Troyes. Then in 1784, Napoleon was selected for the elite École Militaire in Paris. While there, he was constantly teased by the French students. In January of 1786 at the age of 16, he joined the French army. When the French Revolution began in 1789, Napoleon returned to Corsica, where a nationalist struggle sought separation from France. Napoleon supported the Revolution and quickly rose through the ranks. In 1793, he freed Toulon from the royalists and from the British troops supporting them. In 1795, when royalists marched against the National Convention in Paris, he had them shot. In the year 1798, Napoleon, in the quest of power, set his sights on Egypt. In 1799, Bonaparte staged a coup d'état and installed himself as First Consul. In February 1800, Napoleon became Prime-Consul of France. He reorganized the army and defeated Austria saving his country from an imminent collapse. In 1802 he proclaimed the Napoleonic Code, a new systematization of the France law. Napoleon crowned himself Emperor on 2 December 1804 at Notre Dame de Paris and then crowned Joséphine Empress.



Simona Chromeková

Natália Dodoková

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