**Year 11 ATAR Modern History | The French Revolution**

OUTCOMES OF THE REVOLUTION – NAPOLEON BONAPARTE

* Many historians view Napoleon as a product of the revolution, promoter of its values and symbol of its end.
* Constitution of 1795 Napoleon was 26, four years later reached the position of first consul, which made him ruler of France. Military prowess made him one of the greatest leaders in world history.
* Napoleons opportunity for success came because of the of the period of Directory which lasted longer than any other revolutionary regime.
* Early military successes in Toulon and Paris and the support of Parisian politicians resulted in his appointment as commander of he French armies in Italy in 1796.
* Career rise was triggered by success in campaigns of 1796-97 when his troops defeated the Piedmontese and the Austrians.
* 1798 the Directory felt threatened by Napoleons glory and sent him to Egypt so he was away from Paris.
  + The expedition was meant to deal a blow to the British but the destruction of the French fleet by the British navy ended the mission.
  + Returned to France in October 1799 to increasing unpopularity of the Directory. This, combined with the instability of the political factions enabled Napoleon to depose the Directory in a coup on 9 November 1799.
* The Directory was replaced by a three-man executive called the Consulate, with Napoleon as the first consul
  + 1801 Napoleon signed a concordat normalising France’s relations with the papacy.
  + 1802 referendum approved Napoleon’s indefinite tenure of office
  + 1804 France was proclaimed an Empire.
* One view shows Napoleon as a man from humble background, rose on merit, became the equivalent of a king but ruled in the name of the people.
* Under Napoleons rule many of the revolutionary reforms continued.
  + 1804 introduced Civil Code of 1804 – unify and standardise France’s local law codes.
    - Protected property rights and guaranteed religious liberty and equality for all adult males.
    - Women’s rights were diminished significantly.
      * Reduced to domestic functions.
      * Protections for single mothers and abandoned children introduced.
    - Rights of workers were also constrained in favour of employers.
* Used military service as a means of social transformation and mobility – French Army maintained high moral as result.
* Napoleon remained undefeated on land during the prolonged military conflict of the period. The peace treaties resulting from his victories ensured Napoleon’s domination of Europe.
* Napoleon’s approach to territories under his control was pragmatic. The changes he implemented were in keeping with the spirit of the French Revolution but also encouraged the growth of nationalism in Germany and Italy laying the foundation for the respective unification as nation states in the 19th century.
  + Reorganised conquered territories to create states dependent on France
    - As with the Confederation of the Rhine which combined most German states except Austria and Prussia.
  + Holy Roman Empire disestablished in 1806.
  + Italy, annexed territories directly to France and established the kingdoms of Italy and Naples.
  + In the annexed territories and satellite states, abolished serfdom and seigneurial dues, introduced constitutions, codified laws and granted civil rights to Jews and religious minorities.
* In response to the establishment of alliances between Britain and Russia against France, Napoleon invaded Russia in 1812 with a Grand Army of 600 000 men.
  + Advanced as fa as Moscow.
  + Ordered retreat on October 1812. Troop morale was at its lowest.
  + Army reduced to 100 000 men because of the cold, lack of provisions, Russian guerrilla tactics by December 1812.
  + French defeat at the Battle of Leipzid in October 1813 brought the war into France.
* Deserted by his own generals, abdicated in March 1814 and agreed to go into exile on the island of Elba.
* After abdication Louis XVIII was placed on the French throne.
* 1815 Napoleon returned to France, rallied troops and public support for his restoration and faced war with a coalition led by Britain and Russia.
  + Armies defeated at Waterloo in 18 June 1815.
  + Napoleon permanently detained on island of Saint Helena – died on the island at age 52.
* While the rule of Napoleon, and the restoration of the House of Bourbon can be seen as a return to the ways of the ancien regime, the core values/beliefs of the revolution did remain.
  + The principals of liberty, merit, equality and sovereignty of the people became an enduring aspect of French politics since 1789.
  + The revolutionary declaration of ‘Liberty, Equality, Fraternity’ remains the national motto and the tricolour the flag of France’s Fifth Republic.
  + Events and values of the revolution have spilled beyond the nation of France
    - Values enshrined in the *Declaration of Human Rights* have strong similarities to the *Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen*.
    - Western ideas of rights, citizenship, secular society, free speech, merit, rule of law, popular sovereignty and democracy can all be traced to the French Revolution.
  + The fact that the ideas of the revolution continue to shape and drive events in the world today lead some to draw the conclusion that the French Revolution may be over – but the revolution if yet to end.