

Describe the social function of the Salon exhibitions during Napoleon's reign, and then discuss the following question: in your opinion, what was unique about the Salon exhibitions in terms of advancing Napoleon's agenda; what did exhibiting particular kinds of art do (achieve) that no other means of event/means of communication accomplished?

The Salon exhibitions started off being "unprecedented in France" (115) compared to their uses in Britain in the late eighteenth century. When Napoleon Bonaparte started becoming of power, Salon exhibitions became a place to showcase "vast amounts of propaganda" (117) created by David, which greatly helped Napoleon reach the top in his political career of becoming an emperor of France and who also ruled many parts of Europe. I believe it was unique how the Salon exhibition were used as a way to advertise Napoleon's overall political status that were viewed by higher powered people. It seemed to be a great overload of artwork though, which really illustrates the power art had in politics during Napoleon's reign. An important aspect in promoting Napoleon's power as a leader, was displaying war based artwork. In order to avoid presenting "negative propaganda," (131) artists had achieve the appearance of Napoleon being "both as a military genius and as a humane leader" (131). Doing so really "exalt[ed] the emperor's image," (131) along with heroic portraits of himself and other events that portrayed as an "outstanding revolutionary leader" (126).