Napoleon: The Musical!

Individual component

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The Napoleonic Wars, 1803-1815, could be considered amongst the most devastating conflicts in the human history. However, beyond the death and destruction, 200 years later, the revolutionary concepts that were introduced by Napoleon are still integrated deep into many urban and social systems. Napoleon is widely known for his military conquests; but little do people know that he could be one of the greatest innovators to walk this earth. He instated revolutionary ideas in France and its colonies during the period of the Napoleonic Wars, such as, the introduction of the street numbering system1. Furthermore, Napoleon was responsible for the formation of law enforcement, the gendarmerie2. In addition, the Napoleonic Wars contributed a great deal to the modern social systems through the concordat2, and the Civil Code2. In conclusion, the Napoleonic Wars were an influential to the modern urban and social systems, as they have spread the vision of Napoleon across Europe and onto the entire world.

The street numbering and the law enforcement systems where both concepts introduced by Napoleon. These are concepts that are implemented in many different countries all around the world. The street numbering system of odd numbers on one side of the street, and even numbers on the other side, is implemented in countries like Canada, England, and the USA. While the law enforcement concept is implemented all across the world. In Italy, the returning monarchies tried to erase all Napoleon related influence once the Napoleonic order was defeated. However, the gendarmerie had proven to be “too useful to be abolished”, which forced them to create their modern equivalent, the carabinieri, which was based off of the gendarmerie3. Hence, the street numbering system and policing where both outcomes of the Napoleonic Wars.

In addition, the Napoleonic Wars has influenced various aspects of the modern social system. Napoleon was responsible for the Concordat, and the Civil Code. The Concordat allowed for religious freedom amongst all civilians of the French Empire, this social value has been adopted in the modern world society. In fact, religious freedom has become a right in this day and age. Furthermore, Napoleon instated the Civil Code, which guaranteed civil equality, and attacked the privileged. Though the code does not fully align with modern social civil rights, especially regarding women, it is the basis to many civil codes that stress equality amongst the civilians. The Civil Code has been adopted by over 40 countries5, which amplifies its significance to society. The Napoleonic code was revolutionary in its time because it was one of the only codes that generally treated people equally, which is considered a stepping stone to modern day civil codes. Therefore, the Napoleonic Wars have had great effect on modern social systems through the Concordat and the Civil Code.4

Napoleon and the Napoleonic Wars have influenced the modern world greatly. The legacy of Napoleon will live through his innovation that bettered this world. The street numbering system, law enforcement, religious freedom, and civil equality are all concepts that are brought through the Napoleonic Wars and the influence of these wars will live on as long as these concepts are employed.