

Napoleon's life and Achievements

"You must not fight too often with one enemy, or you will teach him all your art of war" was once said by the famous general Napoleon Bonaparte (1). Have you ever heard someone talk about Napoleon but never really understood who they were talking about? By the time you finish reading, not only will you understand what they are talking about, but you will also be able to contribute to the conversation. I will walk you through Napoleon's early life and education, military career, and his rule and exile.

Napoleon was born into a very large family. He was the second of eight children and while his parents were nobles they weren't rich by any means. When Napoleon was only 16 and still in school his father died. This made him the man of the family and gave him the need to step up. Through his education he was able to be placed into a good job that set him up for life.

Throughout Napoleon's life he went to both regular and military schools. Napoleon went to a regular school until the age of 10. After that he finished school in military academy. By the time he graduated he was towards the bottom of the class in terms of performance, but he was still able to get a good placement in the military.

When Napoleon graduated he became the 2nd lieutenant of the artillery unit. While in this position he read many books on military tactics and strategies. After a while and a few successful battles his hard work payed off because he became brigadier general by the time he was just 24.

After being in the military, making a name for himself, and earning power he finally went in to the government. Him and 2 others led a coup which became a triumvirate. Eventually though Napoleon was able to gain support of many citizens and he named himself the 1st French Emperor. He accomplished this by using his natural charm and knowledge.

Under his rule there was a series of wars called the Napoleonic wars. These wars were very bloody, and they included Europe, Egypt, and even South America. One of Napoleon's most famous and prized accomplishments is his creation "The Napoleon Code".

The Napoleon code was a series of laws that are closely similar to the laws we see today. These laws included many freedoms that weren't usually allowed during those times. The Napoleon code put an end to a social structure based on birth and more on jobs and talent. Because of that it was a big hit and many countries adopted it. Today the U.S uses a similar constitution.

Napoleon was exiled to Elba after attacking Russia under a false accusation. In 1812 Napoleon attacked Russia because he was afraid they would try to invade (even though they were under a treaty that he made). Russia ended up defeating Napoleon and he was then exiled to Elba.

Napoleon was exiled to a Mediterranean island called Elba. There the inhabitants of the island made him their emperor. Even though it seemed he enjoyed Elba and was happy, he was still controlling a WAY smaller empire than he did before. It seems that because of this he tried to escape exile and he succeeded.

The time Napoleon escaped exile is called 100 days because he was only free for 110 days before he returned to exile. He had tried to gather forces and reclaim his throne. During his freedom he was named an outlaw and other kingdoms gathered forces to defeat him. His final battle was the famous battle at Waterloo. At this battle he was defeated and exiled to a more remote island.

Napoleon's 2nd exile was much more remote, and he couldn't escape. It was a lot worse than his first exile and he wasn't even called an emperor. He died in exile on May 5th, 1821. The cause of his death seems to be a type of stomach cancer.

Napoleon was a great general and achieved many things over his life. He was able to outsmart his opponents many times and he was able to create a fair and famous civil code. By my standards I would say that Napoleon achieved great things and was a fair ruler.

Bibliography

- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/timelines/zg9kwmn> (5/21/18)
- www.bc.edu/bc_org/avp/cas/his/CoreArt/art/nap3.html (5/21/18)
- www.bc.edu/bc_org/avp/cas/his/CoreArt/art/nap4.html (5/21/18)
- <https://www.biography.com/people/napoleon-9420291> (5/20/18)
- <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Napoleonic-Code> (5/21/18)
- <http://www.history.com/topics/napoleon> (5/20/18)
- http://www.historyofwar.org/articles/wars_napoleonic.html (5/21/18)
- <https://www.ngv.vic.gov.au/napoleon/revolution-to-empire/the-rise-of-napoleon.html> (5/21/18)
- <http://www.notablebiographies.com/Mo-Ni/Napoleon-Bonaparte.html> (5/20/18)
- <https://www.thegreatcoursesdaily.com/the-rise-of-napoleon/> (5/21/18)
- <http://time.com/3714089/napoleon-exile-history/> (5/21/18)
- Blaufarb, Rafe. "Napoleon" World Book N O 14, 2015.