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| **The Napoleonic Code:**  Napoleon had French law re-written. In order to improve the confusing, repetitive elements of French law, Napoleon had the law of the land organised into one supreme law. The Code corrected some unfairness, however it also restricted freedom of speech gained in the revolution in the name of authority. | **The Concordat:**  During the Revolution the Church was a frequent victim – church lands and money were often confiscated. The Concordat gave the Catholic Church status as the official state church and allowed religious freedom for Catholics. | **Creation of a French Empire:**  Napoleon’s military success allowed France to become a world power. With Napoleon as the General, French armies conquered Holland, Belgium and Spain adding them to the French Empire. Napoleon also defeated the Prussians, the Austrians and the Russians (famously at the Battle of Austerlitz in 1805). Only Britain, Portugal and Sweden remained outside his control. |
| **Financial Stability:**  Napoleon stabilised prices, meaning the French people could afford to eat and succeed. He did this by allowing exiled Frenchmen to return to France without the fear of death. Napoleon paid for projects such as building roads and canals. His many military victories brought riches into the country. Napoleon also established a national bank that exits to this day. | **Construction of Schools:**  Schools were built allowing all to gain an education. This was a crucial development because in Napoleon’s France one received their job based upon ability not family connections, which was a new concept for many people at the time! | **Generosity towards his people:**  Napoleon never forgot where he came from (Corsica/the Army). Following a victorious battle against Austria, Napoleon announced he would adopt the children of all the French soldiers killed during the battle. Napoleon ordered the government to pay for the children’s care and education. The government would arrange marriages for the girls and find jobs for the boys. Napoleon also allowed “his children” to allow his name to theirs. |
| **Centralised Authority:**  Napoleon brought order to French society by creating a strong government. Under Napoleon taxes were collected and used for the maintenance of roads, sewers and schools. France returned to the order that citizens had enjoyed under King Louis, but those of the Third Estate were much happier under Napoleon than Louis. | **Crowning himself Emperor:**  In 1804 the Pope was invited to Paris to crown Napoleon Emperor of France for life. Once the Pope arrived, however, Napoleon took the crown from the Pope’s hands and placed the crown on his own head in essence saying that his power came directly from God. | **Decimal Metric System:**  Napoleon was a big fan of the system of milligrams, grams, kilograms, centimetres, metres and kilometres, etc. instead of ounces and pounds, or feet, yards and miles. Napoleon promoted this new system very widely, and is considered important in spreading its use. This is used around the world, even today. |