

Rise of Napoleon.

Under the Reign of Terror, Napoleon Bonaparte drove the British Fleet from the port of Toulon and saved the country from an impending British naval attack. He also saved the Convention from the hands of a violent mob. All this earned him the gratitude of the French nation and Napoleon became the idol of the French people.

Napoleon was also given the task of fighting the Coalition against France. Napoleon by his extra-ordinary military skill succeeded in defeating and breaking the First Coalition against France. It was due to the part, of Napoleon played in saving the Convention. This new arrangement is called the Directory. Under the Directory, Napoleon Bonaparte served as the commander of French Army and gave proofs of his extra-ordinary ability. He became gradually the greatest leader of French nation and seized the power of the State.

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Continental System.

The term Continental System is generally understood to mean the economic warfare waged by Napoleonic France on England from 1805 to 1812. Napoleon had controlled all the big powers of Europe except England. England was the Mistress of water. It was impossible for Napoleon to attack England by crossing the English Channel. The plan adopted by Napoleon is known as the Continental System which involved the economic blockade of England.

Napoleon declared — (1) Berlin Decree (1806),
(2) Milan Decree (1807), (3) Fontainebleau Decree (1810).

British Govt declared Orders in Council of 1807. According to this Orders in Council, all vessels trading with France or her allies were liable to be captured. It was physically impossible for Napoleon to extend the Continental System over Europe. His blockade of British islands was a paper Blockade, because he had no navy to enforce it.

Results of Continental System.

- ① Spain and Portugal refused to obey the Continental System. As a result Napoleon had to wage, what is called Peninsular war that totally ruined him.
- ② The Continental System as a whole, caused immense hardship to the people of France and the French dependencies.
- ③ The Czar of Russia ultimately rejected the Continental System. It provoked Napoleon to invade Russia which brought his downfall.
- ④ The Continental System was a grand economic disaster of France. It brought the decline of France.

Downfall of Napoleon.

- ① Overambition and over confidence
- ② Lack of loyalty to the Emperor.
- ③ Continental System.
- ④ Peninsular war (war with Spain)
- ⑤ Russian Expedition and loss of Russian friendship.
- ⑥ War of Liberation, Loss of money and damping of spirit of the French.
- ⑦ Battle of Waterloo.

Important Events

- ① 1802 - Napoleon became the Consul for life.
- ② 1804 - Napoleon became the Emperor of France.
- ③ Concordat of 1801 - An agreement between Pope of Rome and Napoleon Bonaparte.
- ④ 1806 - Battle of Jena between France and Prussia.
- ⑤ 1807 - Treaty of Tilsit between Russia and France.
- ⑥ 1812 - Moscow Expedition.
- ⑦ 1813 - The Battle of Nations
- ⑧ 1815 - The Battle of Waterloo between France and England.