

# NAPOLEON'S GRAND EMPIRE AND HIS DOWNFALL



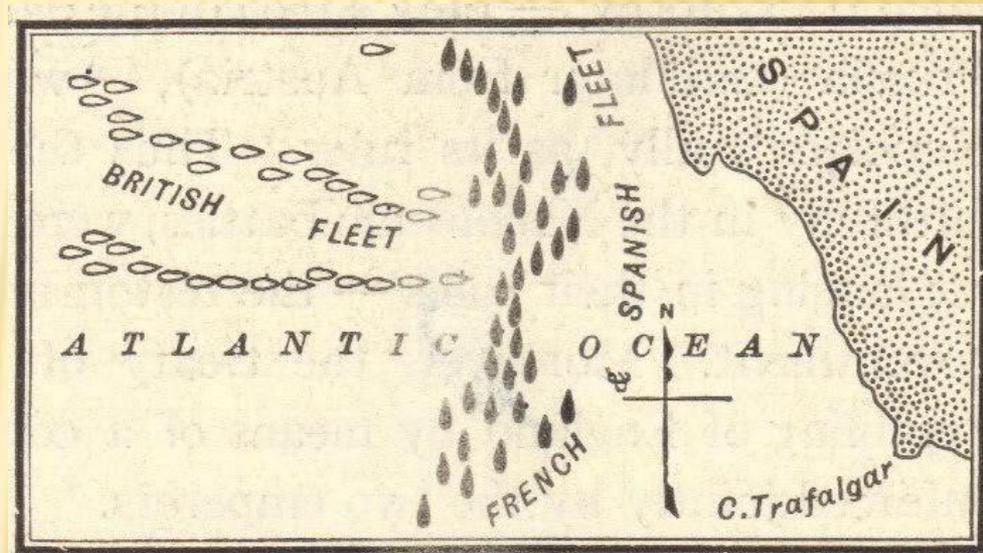
# FIRST NAPOLEONIC WAR, OR THE WAR OF THE THIRD COALITION

- ✘ After selling the LP (1803), Napoleon now had the money to conquer Europe
  - + What convinced him to sell the LP?
- ✘ Russia and Austria join Britain to maintain the B of P
  - + 1805 – Battle of Austerlitz
    - ✘ Napoleon WINS – DUH!
- ✘ 1806 – Napoleon abolishes the HRE, and creates the German Confederation of the Rhine
  - + This convinces Prussia to join with Russia against Napoleon
- ✘ 1807 – Napoleon crushes Russia and Prussia and forces alliances from the three Eastern powers



# NAPOLEON'S MILITARY, OR NAVAL, NEMESIS

- ✘ Despite these land victories, Napoleon could not beat the British
- ✘ Battle of Trafalgar (October 1805)
  - + Napoleon tried to bring his Mediterranean fleet through Gibraltar into the Atlantic
  - + Second loss at the hands of the British Navy
  - + This defeat ensured that Napoleon would not invade Britain, which is what he had always wanted to do!!!



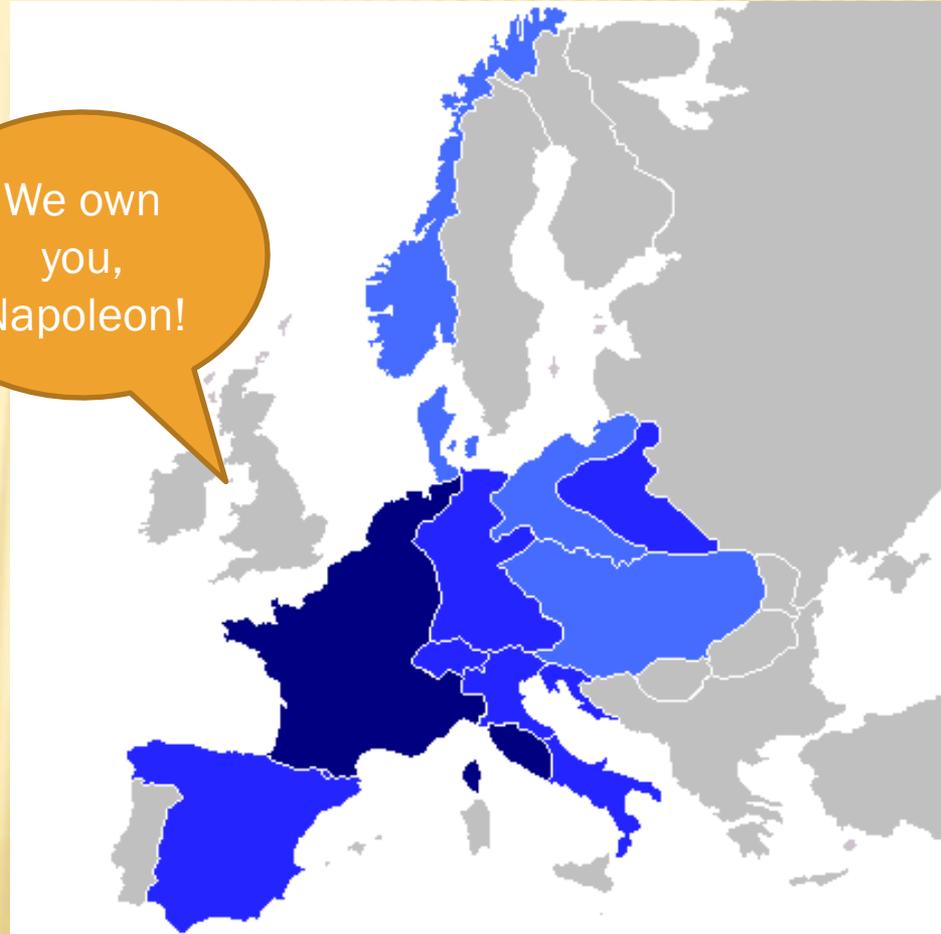
BATTLE OF TRAFALGAR

# NAPOLEON'S GRAND EMPIRE - 1812



# NAPOLEON'S MIGHTY, MIGHTY FALL

- ✘ Two forces contributed to his downfall
  - + The power of Britain
  - + The growth of nationalism
    - ✘ Europe saw Napoleon as a tyrant, not a liberator!
- ✘ He made three terrible mistakes
  - + The Continental System
  - + The Peninsular War
  - + The Invasion of Russia



# THE CONTINENTAL SYSTEM

- ✘ After Trafalgar, Napoleon helped to destroy Britain economically
  - + Created a naval blockade of Europe so Britain could not trade with the continent
- ✘ Napoleon's intended effect backfired!
  - + Britain blockaded the French...much more effectively
  - + Napoleon's allies and puppet rulers, including his own relatives, neglected Napoleon's commands because they wanted British stuff!



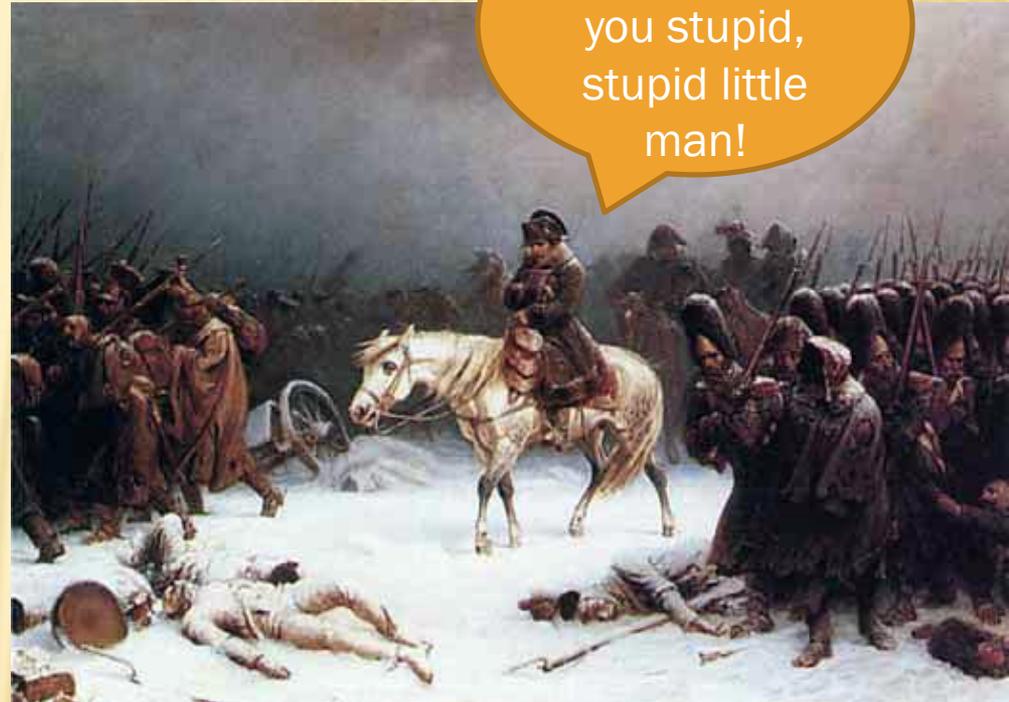
# THE PENINSULAR WAR

- ✘ In 1808, Napoleon marched his armies through Spain to force Portugal to accept the continental system
  - + When Spain protested, Napoleon placed his brother on the throne of Spain
  - + Spanish Nationalists, who despised the French oppressors, rebelled against Napoleon's forces with the use of guerrilla warfare
- ✘ This was a huge blow to the French army as Napoleon lost over 300,000 men in the effort



# THE INVASION OF RUSSIA

- ✘ In June 1812, Napoleon invaded Russia with 600,000 men in order to punish it for failing to follow the continental system
  - + The Russians continued to retreat east while using scorched-earth policy!
- ✘ Napoleon's greed got the best of him...he pushed on to Moscow on the brink of winter!
  - + With the Russians hiding, Napoleon finally decided to retreat in the dead of winter!
  - + Only 30,000 men returned to their homes!



Oh  
Napoleon,  
you stupid,  
stupid little  
man!

# SECOND NAPOLEONIC WAR, OR THE WAR OF THE FOURTH COALITION

- ✘ After the Russian campaign, Europe looked to take advantage of France
  - + Prussia and Austria quickly joined Russia and GB to form the Quadruple Alliance in March 1814
- ✘ Within one month, Prussian and Russian armies quickly marched on Paris and Napoleon was banished to the island of Elba (though it was a pretty good deal for Boney!)
  - + King Louis XVIII was restored to the throne, and a constitutional monarchy like that of 1791 was established!



# THE HUNDRED DAYS

- ✘ Napoleon said, “NOT SO FAST!”
  - + He escaped from Elba and returned to cheering French crowds
  - + Louis XVIII fled like a coward and Napoleon was emperor again!
- ✘ However, Napoleon was defeated for good at the Battle of Waterloo on June 18, 1815
- ✘ Finally, he is jailed on St. Helena in the South Atlantic

