

# Importance (of Napoleon)

- he's a paradox, a contradiction
  - ↳ always claimed he was a product of the revolution
  - his success based on his abilities and merit
  - his Napoleonic Code of Laws forbade privileges based on birth

BUT...

- he rules as an emperor
- his re-organization of society so quickly only possible because of centralized power in him
- started a serious spy network
- repressed freedom of speech (70 newspapers in 1799, 4 in 1814)

2)-spreads Napoleonic Code to wherever he conquered  
-an inspiration to common people worldwide

BUT...

-he inspired anti-French feelings and nationalism w/in those conquered countries

(those who may have benefitted from Napoleonic rule were willing to fight against him)

3)-grew up hating France  
and the French

-France had conquered  
Corsica

-treated poorly by French  
schoolmates during youth

BUT...

-learned to love France  
and came to think of  
himself as French

-related to French  
commoners & soldiers

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- One other point...

- estimates are that total military & civilian deaths totalled between 3.25 million to 6.5 million people during

Napoleonic Wars (1799-1815)

- all before mechanized transport

- by some estimates, his record in battles he commanded was...

54 victories, 9 defeats