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### Napoleon Bonaparte

Napoleon Bonaparte was an outstanding figure in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Napoleon was able to gain and maintain power through a few different means. One of those means was his prowess as a military strategist. He was able to devise tactics to overcome his enemies, and by doing so, he was able to build a reputation with his men and the people of France. He so loved by his people that upon his return from exile, he was welcomed with open arms with the hopes that he could return France to her former glory by way of his military genius. Another tactic used was to place his family members in critical positions within the countries he defeated. Napoleon made his brothers kings over several nations; with this, he was able to lessen the chance of revolt from these nations. Finally, Napoleon was quick to silence any rebellion within France.

While in power, Napoleon doesn't just become a war-hungry dictator; he is sure to do some key things to secure the future of France as a modern state. Napoleon begins to streamline the government. He forms the first national bank of France and, by doing so, straightens out the nation's finances. Napoleon even turns his eyes towards the nation's legal system and simplifies it with a new set of streamlined laws called the Code Napoleon that regulates all aspects of life for his subjects.

In comparison to the other revolutions of the time is the outcome of the French Revolution. In both the Haitian and American revolutions, those in revolt were successful not only in winning their wars but also establishing a system of democracy for its people. With the French, however, they traded a system of monarchy only to shortly after being ruled by an emperor in the shape of Napoleon. He was able to position himself to gain the power of a

dictator strategically. Yes, the people were free from the greed and oppression of monarchy, but they still became subject to a ruler.