

Napoleon: Hero or Tyrant?



"I closed the gulf of anarchy and brought order out of chaos. I rewarded merit regardless of birth or wealth, wherever I found it. I abolished feudalism and restored equality to all regardless of religion and before the law. I fought the decrepit monarchies of the Old Regime because the alternative was the destruction of all this. I purified the Revolution." Napoleon



The time is 1815. Napoleon has been exiled for good, this time to St. Helena. Louis XVIII has been restored to the throne. Meanwhile in Vienna, various European heads of state and diplomats are meeting to devise a new order for Europe.

You must produce a newspaper editorial or speech from 1815 which assesses Napoleon's career.

Your editorial or speech

- ✍ must take the stance that Napoleon is either a hero or a tyrant.
- ✍ must support your claims using facts.
- ✍ be at least a page in length (12 pt font, single spaced, ½" margins)
- ✍ be persuasive

Sources: (use only these for your information)

Western Civilization by Noble (also known as your textbook)

http://www.pbs.org/empires/napoleon/n_myth/tyrant/page_1.html

<http://www.historyguide.org/intellect/lecture15a.html>

<http://www.sparknotes.com/biography/napoleon>

Questions to contemplate:

- ✍ What qualities make a hero or a tyrant? Are they mutually exclusive? Is it possible for a hero be a tyrant & vice versa?
- ✍ Did Napoleon do more to preserve or destroy the legacy of the French Revolution?
- ✍ Was Napoleon really an Enlightened Despot? Did he advance society or move it backwards?
- ✍ Should the fact Napoleon became emperor by support of the people affect how we judge him as tyrant?
- ✍ Are all conquerors tyrants? Are some heroes?
- ✍ How did Napoleon change both the physical and mental landscape of Europe? The world?
- ✍ Did Napoleon conquer for a higher purpose or for his own glory?
- ✍ Should personal life be factored into the assessment? Why or why not?