Napoleon’s Empire
1804-1815

1804 18 May: Proclamation of the French Empire, and the declaration of Napoleon as the Emperor.
2 December: Napoleon crowns himself Emperor of the French Empire in Notre-Dame Cathedral, Paris.

1805 9 August: Third Coalition is formed. Austria joins British and Russian Alliance to fight France.
21 October: Battle of Trafalgar marks another French naval defeat at the hands of the British under the command of Nelson. 2 December: Napoleon defeats Russian and Austrian forces at the Battle of Austerlitz.
26 December: Napoleon signs the Treaty of Pressburg (Bratislava today) with Austria.

1806 30 March: Napoleon appoints his brother, Joseph Bonaparte, king of Naples. May-June: Creation of Kingdom of Holland with Louis Bonaparte as king.
12 July: Napoleon establishes the Confederation of the Rhine, ending the Holy Roman Empire (est. Charlemagne in 800).
July: Formation of Fourth Coalition led by Prussia, Russia, and Britain. 14 October: Napoleon, after having taken command of the Grande Armée in Germany, defeats Prussia at the Battles of Jena-Auerstadt.
21 November: Continental System inaugurated by Berlin Decrees. The Continental System was Napoleon’s plan to stop all shipping of British goods into Europe.
18 December: Napoleon enters Warsaw, setting the stage for the establishment of the Grand Duchy of Warsaw.

1807 14 June: Napoleon defeats the Russians at the Battle of Friedland.
7-9 July: Treaty of Tilsit between France, Russia, and Prussia. The Treaty required Russia and Prussia to abide by the Continental System.
22 July: Napoleon creates the Grand Duchy of Warsaw (Poland), to be overseen by France.
30 November: With the help of Spain, Napoleon begins the French occupation of Portugal under the command of General Junot, which marks the beginning of the Peninsular War.

1808 2 May: Revolt in Madrid against Murat’s troops marks beginning of Spanish revolt against French rule, which were immortalized in Goya’s set of paintings ‘The Disasters of War.’
7 July: Joseph Bonaparte crowned king of Spain; Murat and Caroline Bonaparte become king and queen of Naples.
30 July: Joseph evacuates Madrid after growing resistance to France’s occupation.

1809 6 April: Fifth Coalition formed by Britain, Austria, and rebel Spain, after Austria declares a ‘War of Liberation’ against the Napoleonic Empire.
5-6 July: Napoleon defeats the Austrians at the Battle of Wagram.
14 October: Treaty of Schönbrunn between France and Austria, in which Austria lost some of its northern land, which was added to the Grand Duchy of Warsaw.
15 December: Napoleon divorces Josephine because she does not beget him a male heir.

1810 17 February: Rome annexed to French Empire
1 April: Napoleon marries Marie-Louise of Austria.
1 July: Holland annexed to France.
13 December: North German territories annexed to French Empire.
31 December: Tsar Alexander I breaks with Continental System because Britain was a major importer of Russian grain.

1811 January-December: Preparations for Russian Campaign
20 March: Birth of Napoleon II, referred to as the king of Rome.

1812 30 May: Sixth Coalition formed by Russia and Sweden with support from Britain and rebel Spain; Napoleon takes command of the Grande Armée in East Prussia and Poland.
24-25 June: The Grande Armée crosses the Niemen River, beginning the Russian campaign.
7 September: Battle of Borodino in Russia. Napoleon defeated the Russians making important territorial gains.
14 September: Napoleon’s Grand Armée enters Moscow to find the city abandoned and set aflame by the inhabitants; retreating in the midst of a frigid winter, the army suffers devastating losses.
19 October: French begin retreat from Moscow.

1813 16 March: Prussia declares war on France, leading to two battles of Prusso-Russian forces against French forces, namely the Battle of Lutzen and Bautzen, both in May of 1813.
21 June: Wellington, leader of Spanish forces, defeats French forces under the command of Joseph Bonaparte at Vitoria.
16-19 October: Battle of Leipzig: also known as the ‘Battle of the Nations;’ Austrian, Prussian, Russian, Swedish, and Bohemian forces defeat Napoleon’s Grande Armée in this town in Saxony.

9 March: Treaty of Chaumont—the four powers that defeated Napoleon (Britain, Austria, Prussia, Russia) all agreed to ally for 20 years, promising to fight together to stop France if it ever got too powerful again.
12 March: Wellington’s Allied Army enters Bordeaux.
2-3 April: The Senate and the Legislative Body proclaim the deposition of Napoleon.
6 April: Napoleon abdicates in favour of his son, and, according to the Treaty of Fontainebleau, agrees to go into exile on the island of Elba, where he will receive a stipend of 2 million francs a year and he could keep the title Emperor.
11 April: Napoleon abdicates unconditionally.
1 May: Treaty of Paris-Louis XVIII proclaimed king of France, and France reverts to her 1792 borders.
4 May: Napoleon begins his exile on Elba, his wife and son take refuge in Vienna.
September: Congress of Vienna begins.

1815 1 March: Napoleon lands in Southern France, near Cannes, after setting sail from Elba a few days earlier.
20 March: Napoleon arrives in Paris and takes control; Louis XVIII flees, marking the beginning of the Hundred Days campaign.
18 June: Napoleon is defeated at the Battle of Waterloo by British and Prussians, led by Wellington.
22 June: Napoleon’s second abdication.
16 October: Napoleon is exiled to St. Helena, an island in the remote South Atlantic, in which escape would be virtually impossible.
20 November: Second Treaty of Paris signed, whose provisions are essentially the same as the first.