

IV. Integrating European and Russian History

A. Supernationalist France under Napoleon

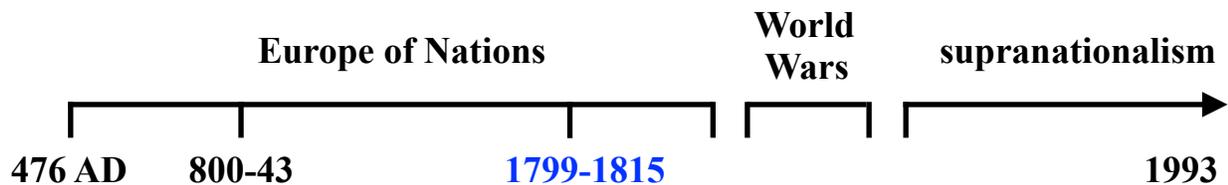
1. We have seen that Russia is a supernationalist culture today. The main reason for its desire to have power over other countries is that it was attacked by supernationalist Germany in the *World Wars*.
2. Supernationalist Germany was not the first supernationalist country in Europe. The first was France.
3. Napoleon is the French leader who started the modern wars of supernationalism. Napoleon ruled France from **1799 to 1815**. He also conquered Germany, made himself an emperor over most of Europe, and invaded Russia.

B. The Second Charlemagne (And More!)

1. One of the reasons why Napoleon conquered Europe was he wanted to be a second Charlemagne. Napoleon was fascinated by history. He believed that conquerors like Charlemagne were the most important people in history.
2. Like Charlemagne, Napoleon conquered most of Europe.
3. Then he made a deal with the tsar of Russia not to invade his country, if only Russia would stop trading with Napoleon's greatest enemy, Great Britain.
4. When Russia backed out of the deal, Napoleon assembled the largest army ever created in European history, called the "*Grande Armée*" (French for "Big Army"!) of 700,000 men.
5. He invaded Russia with this army, making his way all the way to Moscow.
6. Russia was not able to directly resist Napoleon's army, so the Russians practiced a defensive strategy called "scorched earth". They burned all the food and supplies Napoleon's army needed. When Napoleon reached Moscow, even that city was on fire.
7. Napoleon realized too late that he could not stay in Russia because the winter was coming. His army starved and froze to death as it retreated. By the time Napoleon escaped from Russia he had barely 10,000 men left!
8. Soon the other nations of Europe joined together in an alliance to finally rid themselves of Napoleon. He was defeated once and for all in **1815**.
9. Like Charlemagne before him, Napoleon thus *temporarily* united Europe by force. And like Charlemagne before him, he failed.
10. Germany was especially angry about it and began to become *supernationalist*.
11. As for Russia, the invasion by Napoleon was the first time Russia was invaded by a European conqueror since it had joined Europe in the time of Peter "the Great." This started to make Russia supernationalist as well.
12. With Europe weaker than ever after World War II, Russia took advantage of the situation to conquer Eastern Europe, which it held onto as a supernationalist ruler until **1991**.

C. The Importance of Napoleon

1. The importance of Napoleon to European history is that he sparked the rise of German supranationalism, which led to the *World Wars*. That can be shown by adding him to the timeline for Europe:



2. Napoleon also started to make Russia supranationalist, so we draw the *Napoleonic Wars* as a line connecting the two timelines, which are now colored to make them different. The line runs along the line for Russia history to show that Europe had power over Russia until the end of the *World Wars*. Finally, to show that Russia had power over Europe after the *World Wars*, we will draw a pink line down from Russia to run along the top of European history until 1991. Here is the new diagram with all we have learned so far:

