

### G. Russia in the Napoleonic Period (1799-1815)

1. As part of his plan to unite Europe, like a new Charlemagne, Napoleon invaded Russia in 1812.
2. As his army marched into Russia, however, it began to run out of food, especially because the Russians burned all their crops—a method of war known as “scorched earth tactics.”
3. By the time Napoleon entered Moscow (which was deserted) his army was already starving, so he retreated from Moscow in the Russian winter, and most of his soldiers froze to death.
4. Seeing that France was now greatly weakened, Prussia, Russia, Austria, and Britain all worked together. They defeated him in the Battle of Leipzig, also known as the *Battle of the Nations* of 1813, and finally forced his surrender in 1814.
5. He was imprisoned, but escaped and was defeated once and for all at the Battle of Waterloo of 1815.
6. This time, he was exiled to the island of Saint Helena in the south Atlantic, where he lived the remainder of his days.



Napoleon's retreat from Moscow in the Russian of 1812 winter devastated the remainder of his army, and led to his ultimate defeat.

### H. Russia's “Century of Humiliation”

1. The French invasion of Russia in 1812 was the beginning of a century of terrible outcomes for Russia. The humiliations suffered by Russia led to a desperate attempt to remake its government and to “catch up” to Europe.
2. The second humiliation was the *Crimean War* of 1853-6. Crimea is a peninsula (almost island) that had been taken from the Ottoman Empire by Catherine the Great, but in the Crimean War, France and Britain sent a fleet there and with the advantage of steam ships, railroads, telegraphs, and modern weapons, they were able to defeat Russia on its home soil.
3. Russia's leaders tried to recover from this defeat by making Russia more like its European enemies. They believed that one reason why Europe was stronger was that its people were freer. So in 1861, the Tsar issued the *Edict of Emancipation* announcing that serfs (farmers who were tied to the land and who were nearly slaves) were “emancipated” (freed). This was a big step, but progress would be slow.
4. Like other European empires, Russia wanted to create an empire in Asia, but they were defeated in the *Russo-Japanese War (1904-5)* by Japan. Again the Russians were humiliated, and this time by a non-European power, which made it worse in their eyes.
5. When World War I finally arrived (1914), Russia was in a desperate state. It suffered by far the most casualties, including perhaps 3 million dead. The tsar accepted responsibility for this terrible outcome and he abdicated (gave up power). This left a great vacuum of power in Russia, ready to be filled by a new charismatic leader...