

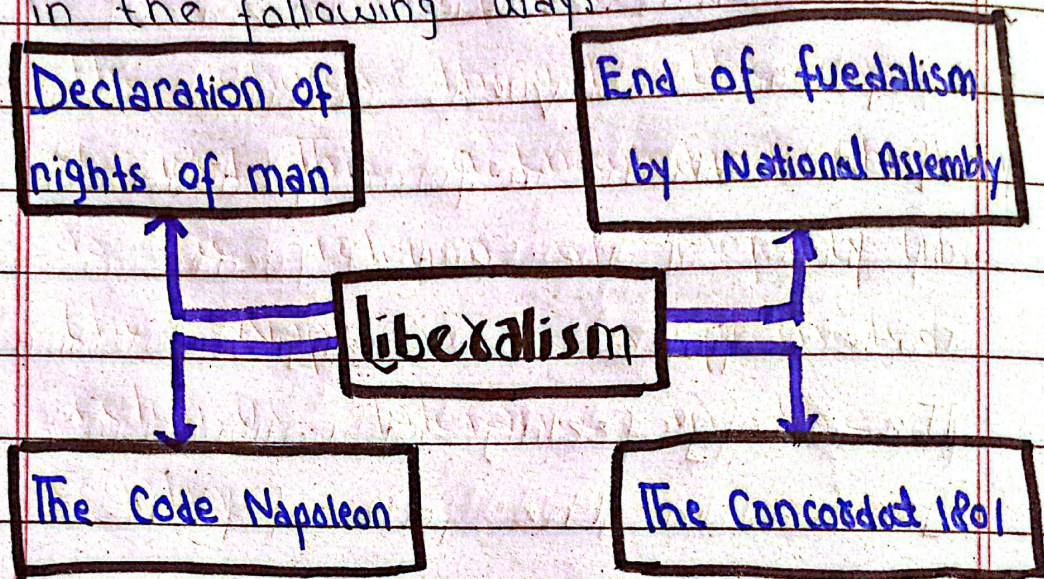
How did the French Revolution and era of Napoleonic Conquests stimulate liberalism, nationalism, & Conservatism?

Introduction:

French Revolution and era of Napoleonic conquests stimulate ideas of liberalism in form of declaration of right of man, end of feudalism, Code Napoleon and religious tolerance. The strong feelings of nationalism aroused in the form of levee en masse which resulted into patriotism. Napoleon's reorganization of Europe resulted into strong feelings of nationalism against France and collapse of multi-ethnic empire encouraged nationalist movement in Latin America and Europe. The conservative backlash emerged as reaction to radical changes brought about by revolution.

(II) Role of French revolution and napoleonic era in stimulating liberalism:

Rational ideas of French revolution and napoleonic era fostered liberalism in the following ways:



i) Declaration of right of man:

Declaration of rights of man was the outcome of influence of revolution. It asserted the right of people to rule. As all the men are equal by nature, so there should be freedom of writing, speaking, and printing. Every citizen has

right to make law and impose taxation through their representative.

ii) End of feudalism by National assembly:

People of France were feared by the nobles and monarch to counter retaliate. So, they attacked on manor houses, burned feudal records and seized land. This man panic forced National assembly to end feudalism.

iii) The Code Napoleon and liberal ideas:

The code Napoleon spread liberal ideas like equality before law and property rights protection. This Napoleonic era wiped out serfdom and ensure the possession of land

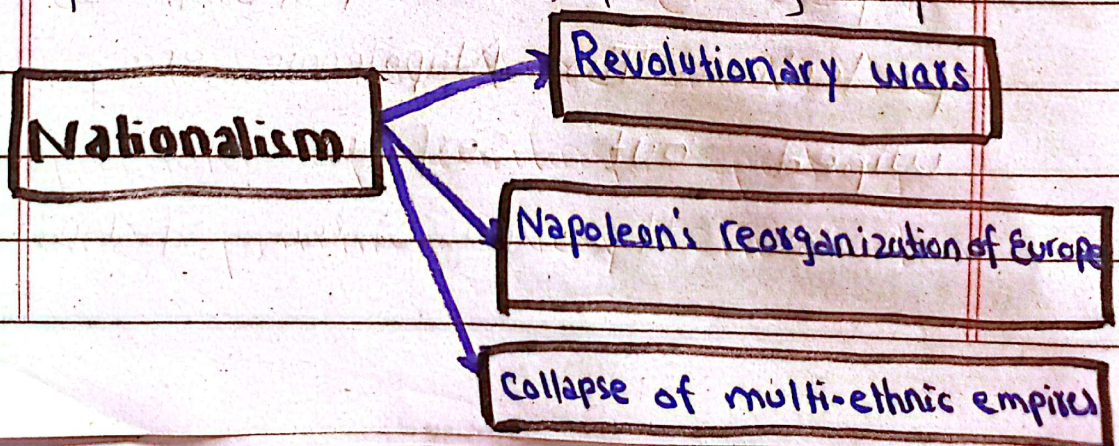
by the peasants remain unharmed that they had bought during Revolution.

iv) The Concordat of 1801:

Napoleon reconcile with the church through the concordat of 1801. This acknowledged Christianity as a religion of majority. Also the Napoleon's era promoted religious tolerance in the country.

(II) Nationalism: From revolutionary patriotism to mass mobilization:

French revolution and Napoleon's era resulted into strong feelings of nationalism in following ways:



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i) Revolutionary wars and rise of nationalism:

The levee en masse turned the war into national cause. The citizen-soldiery created strong feelings of patriotism. This feelings of nationalism also used by kings of prussia and Spain to fight war against Napoleon.

ii) Napoleonic reorganization of Europe:

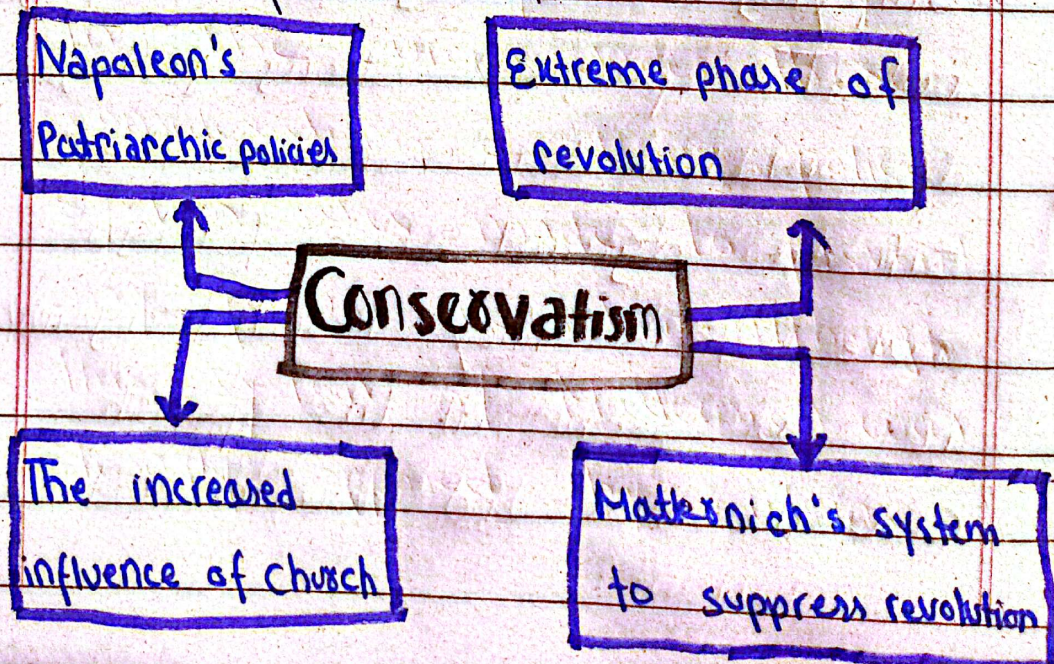
Napoleon introduced reforms, end feudalism and redrew borders, unifying some regions under foreign rule. This provoked strong feelings of Nationalism among the citizen against the foreign rule and they resisted against it as seen in the Spanish Guerrilla war and German Nationalism.

iii) Collapse of multi-ethnic empire and rise of nationalist movements:

Weakening of the Holy Roman Empire (dissolved in 1806) and Spanish empire encourage nationalist movements in Latin America and Europe.

III) Conservatism: The backlash against revolution emerged as reaction to radical changes:

The conservative policies also lies in the light of revolution and Napoleonic era:



i) Napoleon's patriarchic policies:

Under the Code Napoleon, he introduced male superiority in the family. This made female dependent on the man to hold property or to participate in the social sphere. This reversed the opportunities for women brought out by revolution and developed conservative thoughts for them.

ii) Extreme phase of revolution and rise of conservative ideas:

The Reign of terror (1793-1794) and execution of Louis XVI horrified the European monarchies leading to the conservative backlash. Monarchies formed coalitions to restore the ancient regime and reverse radical change brought out by revolution.

iii) Increased influence of the Church:

The French Revolution revolution reduced the power of church. But after the Napoleon defeat the church regained its lost power.

This can be seen when an archbishop was made the president of university of Paris in 1812.

iv) Metternich system to suppress revolutionary ideas:

Metternich, king of Austria, advocate for the suppression of revolutionary ideas anywhere in the Europe. Under these considerations, a strong police system was made to prevent any future revolution. Although this system of Metternich was strongly opposed by Britain.

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Conclusion:

Hence, from the above discussion it is clear that French revolution and Napoleonic era spread stimulate Liberalism, Nationalism and conservatism. The Napoleonic era shows that both authoritarian regime and liberalism can coexist if economic reforms are made. It also shows that harsh policies on the conquered territories can result into strong feelings of nationalism against them.