

Critically evaluate Napoleonic Regime whether it was "military dictatorship" or "victory of state"?

Introduction:

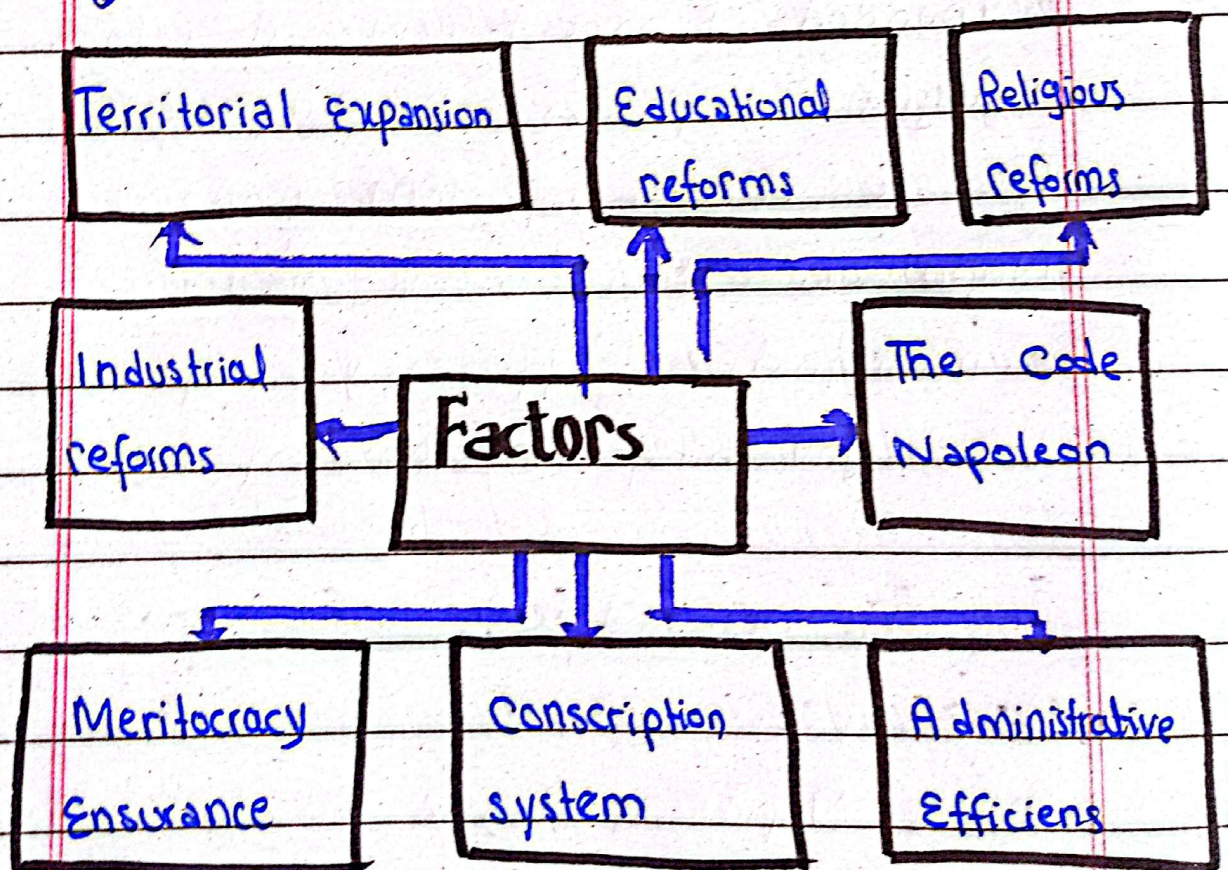
Napoleonic regime can be termed as "victory of state" as it stabilized France from the chaos of revolution. His regime strategically and territorially expanded France. Educational reforms, religious reforms, industrial reforms. The concordat of 1801, Code Napoleon, Meritocracy and administrative efficiency improved the governing system of France.

Brief overview of Napoleon regime:

Napoleon came to power after successful campaigns of

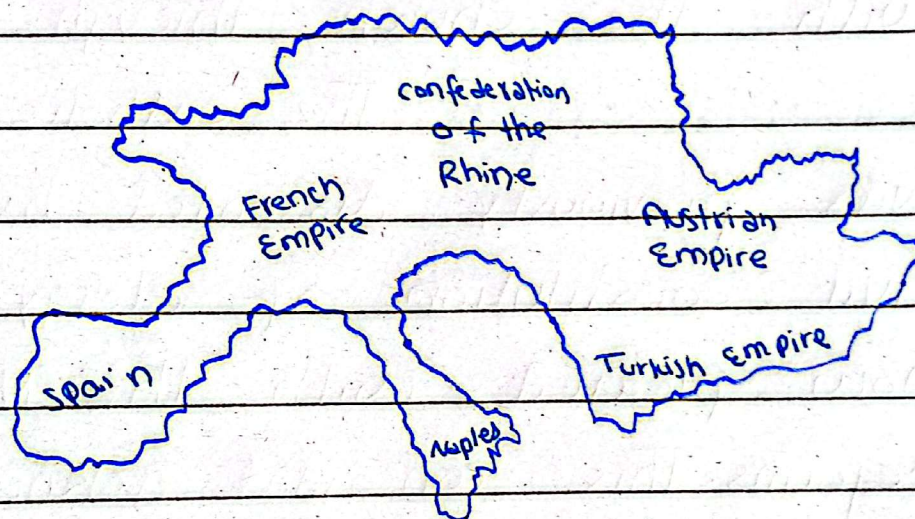
Italy and Egypt and hold power after the coup of Brumaire. After that he reorganised the France under a centralized system and made reforms that proved his regime as victory of state.

Napoleonic regime as victory of state:



i) Strategic and territorial Expansion of France:

The Treaty of Lunéville restored the gains of treaty of Campo Formio which extended France territory to Belgium and Rhine.



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ii) Educational reforms:

Napoleon introduced lycees, school in state control and also found University of France. Along with scientific and technical education, loyalty

towards the state and military was taught there. These educational reforms improved the educational system of France.

iii) Religious reforms:

Napoleon reconciliated with the church through the Concordat of 1801. The catholic church was previously dissented by the civil constitution of clergy but now pleased with the Napoleon's reforms. This concordat acknowledged Christianity as the religion of the majority people of France. These reforms stabilize the relations between church and Napoleon and also strengthens Napoleon position in France.

iv) Industrial reforms and positive

impacts on French industry:

Napoleon emphasized on the industrial development of France. He imposed heavy taxes on imported goods and encouraged new innovations. This strengthened French industry. He also pleased the merchant class of Europe by stabilizing the currency on the gold basis. He also found the Bank of France which help in stabilizing currency.

v) The Code Napoleon and Religious tolerance:

Napoleon was highly appreciated for the Code Napoleon. This introduced legal and administrative reforms in France. Everyone become clear of their position before

Constitution. Equality before law and property rights were protected under this system. This also promoted religious tolerance in France and trial before jury speedy.

vi) Meritocracy and Skilled labor:

One of the policies of Napoleon was "Career open to talent" which ensured the recruitment on the basis of merit. This principle paved the way for the selection of skilled labor. This not only improved the production of French industry but also improved the quality of goods and services available to the France and Europe.

vii) Conscription and defense system of France:

Napoleon introduced conscription system in which a trained militia is preserved. This will be utilized at the time of need. This system made France's defense system strong for any future invasion. This militia helped Napoleon in many wars.

viii) Administrative efficiencies Under Napoleonic regime:

Napoleon's administrative reforms can be observed in his meritocracy, industrial and commerce reforms and Code Napoleon. Although, all the administration was centralized under his control.

but was effective in improving governance and efficiency. He effectively managed the corruption and smuggling highlighting his administrative effectiveness.

Conclusion:

Hence, from the above discussion it is clear that although the Napoleonic regime was centralized. But this proved to be the victory of the state through his effective reforms and policies. His regime expanded the France territory and influence in the Europe.