

JCC: France
ONE LAST STAND:
Napoleon's Hundred Days



**39th Annual Model United Nations
Conference at St. John's High School**

By Alexander Krolewski and Ryland Tobin

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Letters From the Chairs:

Dear Delegates,

My name is Alex Krolewski, I'm a senior at St. John's, and I'm excited to chair (the better side) this year's joint crisis committee on Napoleon's Hundred Days. A little about me: after school, I am interested in clubs like Model UN and mock trial, and in my free time, I like to play volleyball, code, and mess around with robotics in my garage. I have been a member of MUN since my freshman year, have been to national conferences at both Brown University and the University of Chicago, and am now a co-Secretary General of this year's SJMUNC XXXIX.

Aarav, the chair of the other room of the JCC, and I decided to go for a historical committee this year, so we chose something that we both remember fondly from the European history class we both took when we were sophomores. While this committee *is* historically based, I want to emphasize that we are more focused on what was *plausible* rather than what

actually occurred. While we start the committee on March 7th, 1815, almost everything that happens thereafter is in the control of you, the delegates, and the decisions that you decide to make to further your own individual interests. For this committee, I urge you to mix both a technical mastery of the facts with creativity in problem solving; you cannot find success with only knowledge, just as you cannot find it with only pure imagination. Embrace your roles. Research all sorts of niche details to craft a plan that is uniquely yours. Truly interact and form real connections with everyone else around you. If we all do these three things, we *can't not* be victorious over the Coalition, and have a great time doing so at that.

Please, do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions about your committee, your position, or really anything at all. Also, if anyone would be so enthusiastic as to send a position paper ahead of time, feel encouraged to, and I can give feedback on it if you like. You can contact me at krolea27@stjohnshigh.org.

Sincerely,

Alexander Krolewski '27

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Ryland Tobin. I am a sophomore at Saint John's, and I am excited to co-chair with Alex on the Napoleonic side of this year's joint crisis committee on Napoleon's Hundred Days. Outside of school and Model UN, I love lacrosse, whether it be playing, watching, talking,

reading, or even thinking about it is something I enjoy. Besides lacrosse, I have other interests, including golf, basketball, and virtual reality.

I first became involved with Model UN as a freshman because I was told it would look good on my college application, and my friend's mom made me go. I loved it. I never knew what it was until my first meeting with the club, when it became my favorite at school and something I looked forward to every Tuesday. I was given the opportunity to attend the National conference at the University of Chicago (MUNUC) as a freshman, an opportunity only a few people get each year. I had fun in Chicago. My co-delegate was the co-chair of the other side of this committee, Zhan Barseghyan, and we worked well together and had a great time writing a paper and participating in discussions, just as you should do in this committee.

The topic of our committee excites me because the Hundred Days provides an opportunity to apply the research, debate, strategy, and *creativity* that Model UN offers to find a solution. I emphasize creativity because there are so many possibilities for how this committee can go, given the various crises that will occur. The common saying of that, “we study history so as not to repeat the past,” now has a new meaning because you get the opportunity to reshape history and decide the outcome and events of the Hundred Days.

Most importantly, I hope that everyone has fun with the committee. SJMUNC is a learning-first conference, so don't be afraid to make mistakes. I want you to take risks, come up with unconventional ideas, or interact with delegates in ways that may not have happened historically.

If you have any questions about your position, the committee, or Model UN in general, please feel free to reach out and contact me at tobinr29@stjohnshigh.org. I can't wait to meet all of you and see where you take the Hundred Days.

Sincerely,

Ryland Tobin '29

History of the Problem:

The origins of our reality are firmly rooted in the 1789 French Revolution. After a long reign of European dominance, characterized by the Ancien Régime's absolutist monarchy, many problems began to plague France. Economically, the nation was recovering from the Seven Years' War and intervention in the American Revolution. Politically, the Estates General granted the minorities of the clergy and nobility veto power over the majority, and a new class of wealthy bourgeoisie was effectively shut out of the higher ranks of society. Ideologically, Enlightenment principles of rational governance, equality, and freedom began to circulate. Two consecutive years of poor harvests left the people hungry, bitter, and resentful of the monarchical figures who once were a symbol of France's glory.

The revolution of the following decade presented a change in the status quo of France, Europe, and, in many respects, all of human history. Initially, the French Revolution began as an attempt to rewrite the constitution. On July 14, 1789, the Bastille prison was stormed and, symbolic of Louis XVI's tyranny, taken down brick by brick. The following month, on the Night of August 4th, reforms by the National Constituent Assembly had torn down the old order—the Ancien Régime—and with it, the overreaching power of the nobility had ceased. In October of the same year, women led a march on Versailles in protest of both the high cost of food and the even higher apathy exhibited by their monarchs. By 1791, two years after the revolution began, a new constitution was adopted, and the revolution had achieved its principal end.

And yet, the revolution was only just beginning. Revolutionary zeal spilled over into more spirited, but less controlled activism. Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette were uprooted from their Versailles residence, and a surging republic took control. This surging republic, newly led

by the radical Jacobins and the “Incorruptible” Maximilian Robespierre, quickly became fanatical, hysterical, and violent. Characteristic of a revolution that had gone too far, severed heads filled the streets by the year 1794. This left France, a nation once unflappable on the world’s stage, in a state of sheer disarray.

Within France, a new structure of government emerged to fill the power vacuum and to return the nation to a semblance of normalcy. This structure, known as the Directory, implemented many checks on individual leaders’ powers, thrusting it instead into the hands of the military. While this strategy was effective in suppressing threats to the republic and helped France walk the thin line between monarchical tyranny and revolutionary hysteria, it also gave military generals great power. One of those generals being... Napoleon.

Beyond France, the revolution had already been having a ripple effect throughout Europe. Most European nations, given their firmly rooted monarchical identity, saw revolutionary ideology as a threat. In 1791, Austria and Prussia issued the Declaration of Pillnitz, which threatened to restore Louis XVI to power and undo the work of the revolution. When, in 1792, the revolutionaries declared war against Austria, a chain of dominoes began to fall. Prussia, in allegiance to Austria, followed with a declaration of war against France. An even greater catalyst to the diffusion of anti-French sentiment was Louis XVI’s execution in 1793, formally proving to the world that monarchy was not only ousted from power, but also unsafe with the revolutionaries. Several nations—Britain, Spain, Sardinia, Naples, and others—swiftly joined the Austro-Prussian effort and created the First Coalition.

Despite early shortcomings in the French war effort, victories such as the Battle of Valmy in 1792 and later measures like the *levée en masse* (national conscription) became sources of hope. These advancements gave France the confidence it needed not only to defend its revolutionary ideals against its hostile neighbors but simultaneously to carry them further into new territory. By 1795, the formation of *sister republics* became common throughout Europe. These territories, including the Austrian Netherlands, Batavian Republic, Helvetic Republic, and Roman Republic, were enticed by the French ideals of equality, freedom, and meritocracy, while other European monarchs, nobility, and clergy felt threatened by the proliferation of such dangerous ideology.

In particular, these trends carried into Napoleon's Italian campaign beginning in 1796. Hoping to claim northern Italian territory as part of France's growing empire of liberty, the young general Napoleon fended off Austria en route to his goal. In return, he was showered with glory by France and became a symbol of French stability, excellence, and the triumph of the nation's values. By 1799, Napoleon's return from Egypt and Syria coincided with growing weakness in the Directory's politics. Riding the surges of his military success and popular desire for a stronger government, he became the First Consul: an effective dictator of France.

To secure his leadership amid the changing tides of French popular support, Napoleon began to invent a new model under which France could effectively preside over its many territories and satellite states. Politically, Napoleon ensured that local leaders were selected through a centralized system, often placing trusted family members in charge of managing distant territory. Infrastructurally, the new Lycée system of education introduced a new standard of discipline, competition, and meritocracy that pushed France's capabilities in all aspects.

Napoleon even managed to reconcile religious differences with the Catholic Church through the Concordat of 1801. Legally, all French territory was held accountable by the Napoleonic Code, which did its part to champion the equal application of property rights and taxation requirements. Through the first few years of the new century, Napoleon won the internal battle of popularity within his country, strengthening his image as the embodiment of the best parts of the revolution.

Riding this wave of popularity and internal development, Napoleon's leadership took a large stride forward in the year 1804, when the French electorate approved his promotion to Emperor of the French. After his self-coronation, it became clear that he and France were turning a new page together: a new page of higher ambitions to expand throughout Europe.

Hence began the Napoleonic Wars. In 1805, Napoleon faced the formidable Third Coalition of Britain, Austria, and Russia. In the Battle of Austerlitz, he guided French forces to a masterful victory. In the process, the Holy Roman Empire that had survived nearly a millennium collapsed at the behest of Napoleon. When the Fourth Coalition of Britain, Prussia, and Russia returned the following year seeking revenge, they were quickly crushed at the Battle of Jena-Auerstedt. The Treaty of Tilsit in 1807 formally declared the aftermath: Prussia and Austria were soundly defeated by Napoleon, and Russia was forced to ally with him.

As spoils for these numerous victories, Napoleon proceeded to reorganize Europe, replacing the outgoing Holy Roman Empire with territories fully under his thumb: the Confederation of the Rhine, Kingdom of Italy, the Duchy of Warsaw, Spain, and Naples. With all of these new territories, he leaned into the system that had been proven to work: legal equality, meritocracy, a Napoleonic code, improved education, and infrastructure. And despite this being the fulfillment of the nightmare of many European nations, it is undeniable that many reforms

improved the conditions of Napoleon's territories, making the image of the man more complex than that of a common tyrant.

Where Napoleon was unable to enjoy the same level of military success with Britain as he had with other European countries, he tried instead to exploit their isolated geography. In his Continental System, introduced in 1806, he suspended all trade with Britain and forced all of the territories within his control to do the same. This technique proved highly unpopular, though, and most European states grew frustrated with Napoleon's means, symbolizing early tensions that would only fracture further.

An unintended consequence of the Continental System was Spain's falling out with Napoleon, which was more directly caused by his attempt to force his brother onto its throne. Spanish guerrilla warfare proved successful against Napoleon's otherwise stalwart army, providing the perfect momentum for Britain to rejoin the war. This prolonged conflict, which lasted from 1808 to 1814, became a steady drain of Napoleon's resources, or as he referred to it, his "Spanish Ulcer".

In 1812, a few years into Napoleon's first waning period, he launched an ambitious invasion of Russia. His reason for attacking an ally came from Russia's defiance of the Continental System and continued trade with Britain. Expecting a swift victory, Napoleon assembled his enormous *Grand Armée* of around 600,000 soldiers. The swift victory never came, though, and as the Russians began to retreat, they employed a scorched-earth tactic, opting to burn the land rather than concede it. Without the land's resources, Napoleon's massive army became unsustainable. Perhaps a fault of ego, Napoleon pressed on for too long and accepted

failure too late. Once he decided to retreat, it became one of the most catastrophic decisions in history.

This encounter proved to Europe that Napoleon was far from invincible, and a renewed opposition commenced. The Sixth Coalition—of Russia, Prussia, Austria, Britain, and others—thoroughly defeated Napoleon at the Battle of Leipzig in 1813, and territories once loyal to him began defecting. Within the next year, Paris was captured, and Napoleon's own marshals refused to keep fighting for him. All this culminated in Napoleon's abdication in 1814 and the reduction of his direct command to the small island of Elba. In his place, Louis XVIII was returned to the French throne by the Sixth Coalition while the Congress of Vienna began to put the pieces of Europe back together.

However, if we zoom out and compare the Pre-Revolutionary and Post-Napoleonic images of France, we find that the revolutionary gains have been effectively undone. France, by 1815, returned to the same Bourbon monarchy with sprawling nobles as had plagued them in the year 1789. For revolutionaries, it seemed that their decades-long fight had gone in vain. And if they were given another chance to rewrite the story of their nation, they would be fools not to seize it.

Statement of the Problem:

That chance arrived on March 1st, 1815. On this day, Napoleon, supported by 1,500 men, lands at Cannes, France, with the vision of restoring his empire and reclaiming the throne. His escape had been in the works since February 26th, but the news reached the Congress of Vienna only on March 7th. While they are grappling with the design of Europe's post-Napoleonic future, Napoleon has already broken ground in France.

To avoid the royalist sentiments in the region he landed in, which would have denounced him as a threat to the Bourbon monarchy, Napoleon decided to take a longer, but less risky route. He and his men cross the Alps en route to Grenoble, with a final destination of Paris. On March 5th, Napoleon reached the southern city of Gap, and after initial attempts to win back the favor of his people and the French army, Paris felt the real threat. The following day, King Louis XVIII calls a cabinet meeting, in which he declares Napoleon a traitor and a rebel. In an official proclamation, he asks all commanders and their armies to bring him before a court-martial and shoot him at the first chance.

Today, Napoleon encountered the 5th regiment of the Line near Grenoble. Napoleon approached the soldiers alone and faced the line of loaded muskets, reminding them of the great victories and glory they had shared during his reign. Instead of capturing the traitor that stood before them, the 5th regiment decided to break out into a spirited rallying cry: “Vive l’Empereur!” (“Long Live the Emperor!”) The regiment's commanders did little to interject and quell mutiny against their king. Instead, they defected too.

More important than this newest surge in Napoleon's numbers, the Grenoble incident illustrates the deep divide in the hearts of the French: timid observers of the restored Bourbon monarchy with secret longing and nostalgia for the national hero that is Napoleon. Today, more than ever before, the question reverberates across the nation of France: Who is the legitimate ruler?

Arguments abound for both sides, and each makes fair points. For those loyal to the Bourbon order and Louis XVIII, Napoleon had been thoroughly defeated and voluntarily abdicated his post. The order that replaced him, as instilled by foreign powers, restored Louis as the legitimate monarch. Anyone who threatens this order is a rebel. On the other hand, voices loyal to Napoleon contend that the Bourbon restoration was merely an artificial imposition by foreign powers, not an authentic choice of the French people. The French people, Bonapartists would argue, should have the freedom to choose their own rule; for them, in the case of the 5th regiment, choosing Napoleon is perfectly justified.

Besides, in the short span since the Bourbon monarchy took over in France, shortcomings on many fronts were lamented within the country. Politically, it seems as if Louis XVIII more closely resembled a puppet of foreign states than a strong national leader. His decision to return to the white Bourbon flag and disregard the tricolor flag comes under heavy scrutiny, since the tricolor flag is a symbol of national pride. Socially, the émigrés (clergy, nobility, and allies of the monarch who formerly triumphed over popular opinion) are brought back to France. They return to France with a loud voice, claiming back the former privileges they had been entitled to before the revolution. The middle class, which flourished during Napoleon's reign, finds itself pushed back into a repressive system. More specifically, veterans find themselves demobilized with

many officers on half pay and treated with diminishing respect. Economically, the nation was slipping downhill following costly wars and poor harvests. And even if some of these factors were beyond the monarch's control, they are all beginning to blend together to tarnish his image. During his time in power, Napoleon often threaded the needle between expanding France's influence and appeasing its core revolutionary interests. While Louis XVIII's reputation is under scrutiny, the prospective image of Napoleon's return is being varnished.

With all of this unfolding within France, other major European powers convene in Vienna to grapple with the continent's many unsettled questions. In the aftermath of Napoleon's disruptive empire, they are attempting to redraw border lines, determine the sovereignty of each territory, and distribute power. Unfortunately, disputes are emerging regarding borders as each country pursues its own agenda in the Congress. Russia vies for control of Poland, Prussia seeks Saxony, and both Austria and Britain advocate for a continental balance of power. Revolutionary ideology combined with Napoleon's reemergence has the potential to spark movements for nationalist and liberal restructuring in territories like Italy, Germany, Poland, and Spain.

The news that reaches Congress chambers on March 7th, at any rate, is the worst nightmare for the Congress of Vienna. And without much deliberation, Russia, Prussia, Austria, and Britain temporarily set aside their territorial disputes, declared Napoleon an outlaw, and began to coordinate armies.



This situation reaches a critical juncture on March 7th, where many things are left up in the air. Napoleon's next moves, Louis XVIII's response, the choice of French citizens, and the measures taken by the Congress will ultimately determine whether Europe clings to its conservative order of peace or enters an entirely new order.

Possible Solutions:

As we stand, marching towards Paris, we are faced with a barrage of questions and choices that will decide the success or failure of our effort. Whether it be a careful military maneuver, an ingenious logistical innovation, a well-timed political campaign, a clever financial policy, a strategic alliance, or a covert intelligence operation, one exceptionally well-thought-out plan can make all the difference for the future of Napoleon's dynasty and for Europe as a whole. Though the following solutions are decent outlines for potential plans, a successful solution to a particular problem requires a greater degree of specificity and foresight that you, the delegates, will need to bring to the committee in order to implement it.

Military Actions - Immediately, the most militarily glaring issue revolves around how to make the best use of severely constrained resources, the most important of which are troops—the lifeblood of any campaign. As only 1,500 men originally accompanied Napoleon on French shores, raising troops is a paramount concern. Though Napoleonic forces have since then grown to several thousand, their quantity pales in comparison to the potential of over a million troops mobilized by Coalition forces. Therefore, acquiring manpower will become an ever-present objective, even in the event that Paris is taken. Additionally, making economical use of troop numbers—by employing strategic sequencing, timing, use of terrain, etc.—is a necessity. Granted, however, troop numbers are not the only factor to consider. Training and, even more importantly, *arming* them are necessary to turn recruits from mere supporters into a concrete military force. Both of these processes will inevitably come into conflict with the time and financial constraints of the situation. One of the most important decisions delegates will make is

whether to take a passive or aggressive approach. If forces take time to gather, organize, and arm themselves, they may be better suited to combat Coalition units, yet every second for preparation taken by a given side is also afforded to their opposition. If delegates choose to act aggressively, striking first and seizing the advantage of surprise, the potential rewards and penalties of such a decision are great. On one hand, the benefits of an early victory could be ginormous, with immense support and patriotic zeal stirred up and an enemy thrown completely off their plan at step one. Additionally, attacking early may lessen the disparity in troop sizes, as long as Coalition mobilization processes cannot produce a neat and simultaneous apparition of hundreds of thousands of soldiers on the French border instantaneously. However, on the other hand, an early defeat could nip the campaign in the bud, both in terms of resources and public opinion. Striking quickly also comes at the cost of coordination, both on the ground and in the planning process, and may lessen support if done too hastily before sufficient legitimacy accrues.

Political Actions - Favorable internal politics are absolutely essential if Napoleon's return is going to have any chance whatsoever of sustaining itself against superior forces. Firstly, and most pressingly, is the delicate link between public image and troop resources. Considering that currently very few soldiers are at Napoleon's disposal, facilitating a steady stream of eager volunteers is essential, which therefore requires a political campaign catered to the needs of the populace. Inspiration for political reform should come from offering an appetizing alternative to the Bourbon status quo, an alternative that represents the polar opposite of every present plight. However, it is essential to understand that the denizens of France are not homogeneous—one cannot earn the support of a nation by appealing solely to the peasantry. Properly incentivizing

farmers, bourgeois, and nobility alike is crucial to operational success, acknowledging, however, that some groups are inherently much more difficult to appeal to than others. Given this, it is wise to anticipate the existence of some internal dissent and opposition. Dealing with these challenges is critical to maintain an image of national unity and ensure that an already outnumbered military does not become even further disadvantaged. Internal opponents can be ignored, in which case their objections hopefully either fizzle out or are drowned out; suppressed, an option which has the possibility of doing irreparable harm to Napoleon's image in exchange for a temporary cohesion, or have their concerns addressed, which may require great compromise.

Diplomatic Actions - One key insight for the Napoleonic cause is that all help does not necessarily need to originate internally. In fact, the area of diplomacy has the capability to be the most consequential battlefield on which this war will be fought. Firstly, the enemy's nature as a coalition of forces rather than a single, unified organization creates opportunities for peace that may not otherwise be present. Considering that fighting has not yet started and the conflict is so new, there is no better time than the present to look for possible ways to defuse the situation. If enough concessions are made, the Coalition's cohesion may begin to break down as the war is reconsidered internally. Later, if the military or economic circumstances caused by the war ever present themselves in a manner unfavorable to one particular nation in the Coalition, diplomatic actions may be made to persuade them to cease conflict and substantially reduce the physical and logistical strength of the enemy. Beyond making peace, diplomacy can also recruit manpower for the cause from abroad. One potential ally is the King of Naples, Joachim Murat, who is the

brother-in-law of Napoleon and deeply concerned about the Coalition forces' commitment to restoring Ferdinand IV in his place. Beyond Murat, however, Italy may be a front willing to take up the fight against the Coalition, not out of sympathy for our cause, but out of a nationalist yearning. Though there are many former Italian Napoleonic officers who may be willing to provide assistance out of loyalty alone, a more potent plan than calling solely to them would be to help rally a broader movement for Italian unification to stand against our enemies, thereby siphoning down their available resources to use against us. More potential allies may be found in Poland, a country that was granted de facto independence by Napoleon via the formation of the Grand Duchy of Warsaw. However, just this year, with Russian troops having taken over Poland after Napoleon's 1812 retreat, the Congress of Vienna decided to strip the country of its independence in favor of a balance-of-power partition by Austria, Prussia, and Russia. Though it is unlikely that the country will fully break itself free from Russian control and mobilize to assist the Napoleonic cause, nationalist revolt could play a major part in diverting enemy resources to the opposite end of the continent.

Economic Actions - Assuming Paris is taken, financing a new army on the back of an economy already struggling from decades of continuous fighting will be a monumental task. Though the financing will not be easy, there will be enough tools at our disposal to facilitate warfare for long enough such that strategic victories may sustain the effort. Raising taxes is one option, but one that may create too much resistance and unrest to justify the financial gains if it is done in an improper time, place, or magnitude. Another option is to liquidate state assets and annuities to generate cash for immediate needs, though there is a finite number of things that can reasonably

be sold. An intriguing measure may be to set up a forced national loan, which essentially results in the exchange of private funds to the government for future tax revenues plus interest. When executing these financial plans, it is essential that they do not result in either an explosive backlash of public opinion or a collapse of government credit. Overall, confidence in the regime and in the prospect of victory will be essential to securing the very tools that, without which, make victory an impossibility. Lastly, the most robust method of raising money is contingent on victory itself: it is extracting contributions from conquered areas. This process is invaluable to sustaining a war effort, especially with a dearth of national resources, and has worked well in the Napoleonic campaigns of the previous decade. Going forward, the guiding principle is moderation: if we try to take too much, we'll be met with anger and friction, but if we undershoot, we'll be at yet another disadvantage on top of many others.

Intelligence Actions - With inferior physical strength compared to the Coalition, we must try to compensate with superior tactics; vastly superior tactics are best achieved with superior intelligence. Much time and dedication must be put into the establishment of intelligence networks across the countryside and into gathering information about the plans and position of Coalition troops. Critical decisions will be made on the basis of information that, if wrong, late, or insufficiently credible, may result in catastrophic errors of both commission and omission. A distinct opportunity for intelligence success is past the Northern border. There is a substantial number of French-speaking Belgians residing in the southern Netherlands who are sympathetic to Napoleon. Having been part of the French empire for many years, there is reason to believe

that they may be, with enough encouragement and organizational assistance, a critical mass for triggering a pro-French rebellion against Coalition forces in the region.

Bloc Positions:

IMPORTANT NOTE: Many of these positions were not historically present in France or allied with Napoleon by March 7th, 1815. For the purposes of the committee, all listed positions are assumed to be, at a minimum, willing to have conversations with Napoleon Bonaparte about joining forces.

Military Commanders

- **Napoleon Bonaparte: Emperor of the French, Commander of the Grand Armée** — Napoleon, as a master of political maneuvering and military command, orchestrated a daring return from exile on Elba to reclaim the French throne. Having risen from an artillery officer to the Emperor who centralized the French government and established the Napoleonic Code, he leveraged his enduring popularity to dissolve the restored monarchy without firing a single shot. As a visionary leader and seasoned strategist, Napoleon's return for the Hundred Days represents his final, high-stakes gamble to restore his imperial legacy and challenge the combined forces of Europe one last time.
- **Michel Ney: Marshal of the Empire** — Michel, as master of tactics, led troops in the French Revolutionary Wars and Napoleon's Imperial Wars. As a top general of Bonaparte's, Ney was deemed "bravest of the brave" for his courage in the retreat from Moscow. As a strong leader and master tactician, Ney will be essential to Napoleon's efforts to regain his empire from a tactical standpoint.

- **Louis-Nicolas Davout: Marshal of the Empire** — An established marshal of Bonaparte's, Davout was strong-willed and determined. After spending six weeks in jail, Louis was elected lieutenant colonel of the 3rd battalion of Volunteers. Later appointed Governor General of the Grand Duchy of Warsaw, Davout was now the top Administrator of Poland. Siding with Napoleon, Davout is an important resource because of his military background and political position.
- **Jean-de-Dieu Soult: Marshal of the Empire** — A talented commander, Jean fought many battles and held many roles and positions of command. Jean received many promotions, including chief of staff of the advance guard division of the army of the Moselle, only to be promoted to chef de bataillon a mere two weeks later. Eventually, Dieu Soult was made a Marshal of France and took command of the II Corps in Spain. In Spain, Soult took control of much of the country and parts of Portugal. Soult's experience, as well as his discipline and skillful planning, make him vital to Napoleon's final efforts.
- **Emmanuel de Grouchy: Marshal of the Empire** — After being born into a noble family, Grouchy entered the artillery school of Strasbourg, giving him his first military experience. Emmanuel served in the military for many years in many different battles. After being wounded and imprisoned in battle, he was released and began to gain command roles. Later, he was named Governor of Madrid and Count of the Army when he moved to Italy. Grouchy is experienced in battle and political situations, as seen when he put down the revolt in Madrid. Grouchy is an important politician and general to be at Napoleon's side.

- **Louis-Gabriel Suchet: Marshal of the Empire** — Born into a manufacturing family, Suchet rose through the ranks to become one of Napoleon's most capable leaders. Louis was distinguished by his balance of excellence in combat and his strong leadership. After serving at Austerlitz and Jena, he was named a count of the empire. After elevating his political standing by marrying into the Bonaparte family, Suchet became an invaluable asset to Napoleon. Due to his combination of battle skills and strong leadership, Suchet is one of Napoleon's most important commanders as he fights for his empire.
- **Guillaume Brune: Marshal of the Empire** — Guillaume Brune rose through the French Revolution to become a formidable military and political leader. After surviving the Reign of Terror and defending the Directory alongside Napoleon, Brune proved his strategic brilliance by defeating the British at the Battle of Castricum, thereby saving Holland with extensive experience as both a diplomat and a commander across Europe. Brune is an expert commander whose dual expertise in administration makes him an essential pillar of Napoleon's command.
- **Édouard Mortier: Marshal of the Empire** — After growing up in a merchant family, like many other marshals, Mortier rose through the ranks to become one of Napoleon's strongest and most reliable commanders. Mortier was distinguished by his rare combination of approachable leadership and battlefield reliability. Mortier proved his technical capabilities in battles at the Rhine and Frankfurt, and was promoted to Marshal of the Empire. Mortier was the Governor of Moscow and was a crucial general in the

retreat from Russia. Édouard's reliability and leadership make him a strong commander and an important piece to Napoleon's puzzle.

- **Jean-Baptiste Jourdan: Marshal of the Empire** — A resilient and experienced commander, Jean-Baptiste Jourdan rose from a private in the American Revolutionary War to a Marshal of France. Best known for his decisive victory at the Battle of Fleurus, Jourdan later served as the Governor of Madrid and the chief of staff to Joseph Bonaparte during the Peninsula War. Despite political challenges that once forced him to retire from shopkeeping, Jourdan's strategic coordination and lifelong dedication to the Republic make him a strong asset to French military command.
- **Jean Maximilien Lamarque: General of Division** — A versatile and battle-hardened commander, Lamarque rose from a revolutionary grenadier to a Baron of the Empire. He held critical commands across Naples and Spain, notably serving as Governor of Upper Catalonia and securing strategic victories at Ordal and Banolas. Lamarque's transition from a decorated general to a defiant political leader in the Chamber of Deputies makes him a vital figure for upholding French sovereignty and liberal ideas.

Political Officials

- **Joseph Fouché: Minister of Police** — A master of political survival and intrigue, Joseph Fouché served as the architect of the French police system, navigating the volatile shifts of power between 1792 and 1815. His unparalleled efficiency and opportunism allowed him to remain indispensable to every government from the Revolution to

Napoleon and the restored monarchy. Fouché's vast intelligence network and ruthless pragmatism make him a vital and formidable figure in the governance of France.

- **Lazare Carnot: Minister of the Interior** — A brilliant administrator and military engineer, Carnot served as a leading member of the Committee of Public Safety and the Directory. Renowned as the “Organizer of Victory,” he revolutionized French warfare by advocating for massed attacks at decisive points and mobilizing the nation's total resources for the Revolutionary armed forces. Despite his later opposition to Napoleon's imperial ambitions, Carnot's strategic genius and organizational mastery were vital to the Republic's survival.
- **Benjamin Constant: Political Writer** — A champion of constitutional limits and a relentless critic of arbitrary power, Benjamin Constant emerged as a leading intellectual force during the French Revolution and the rise of the First Empire. As a prominent member of the Tribune, he became a vocal opponent of Napoleon's encroaching authoritarianism, advocating for the protection of individual rights and the necessity of a representative opposition. Constant's early political writings and his commitment to the principles of 1789 establish him as a vital defender of liberty against the pressures of military rule and imperial expansion.
- **Jean-Jacques Régis de Cambacérès: Minister of Justice** — The primary architect of the Napoleonic Code and a cornerstone of imperial administration, Jean-Jacques was the steady legal hand behind France's transformation from 1792 to 1815. As Second Consul and Archchancellor, he provided the juridical stability and administrative continuity essential to Napoleon's rule, often serving as a moderating voice in the

Council of State. His mastery of law and governance makes him an indispensable figure in the creation of the modern French state.

- **Pierre Daru: Minister of Military** — A tireless administrator and the logistical backbone of the Grande Armée, Daru served as the architect of French Military organization throughout various battles. As Intendant General and Minister of War Administration, he translated Napoleon's strategic ambitions into the practical realities of supply and finance across a conquered Europe. Renowned for his ability to sustain massive forces in the field, he is a cornerstone of the Imperial administration and a vital figure in the governance of the Empire.
- **Martin-Michel-Charles Gaudin: Minister of Finance** — A cornerstone of French administrative stability, Gaudin served as the Minister of Finance from the start of the Consulate in 1799 through the height of the Empire. Renowned for his technical mastery and unwavering integrity, he was the primary architect of the French fiscal system, establishing the Bank of France and restoring order to a national treasury ravaged by revolutionary chaos. His profound expertise and loyalty to the state ensured the Empire's financial solvency, making him a central figure in France's enduring governance and economic resilience.
- **Armand de Caulaincourt: Minister of Foreign Affairs** — Caulaincourt, a seasoned diplomat and noble, served as a trusted advisor and Minister of Foreign Affairs during the Napoleonic Wars. Renowned for his expertise in international relations, he famously warned Napoleon against the 1812 invasion of Russia. During the Hundred

Days, Caulaincourt will be vital to Napoleon's efforts to navigate the complex political landscape and secure his empire from a diplomatic perspective.

- **Michel-Louis-Étienne (Regnault de Saint-Jean d'Angély): French Administrator**

— Étienne, as a master of administration and diplomacy, served as an important statesman during the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic eras. As one of Bonaparte's most trusted advisors and a key architect of the imperial government, Regnault was renowned for his eloquence and legislative skill in the Council of State. As a brilliant administrator and loyal diplomat, Regnault will be essential to Napoleon's efforts to rebuild the political legitimacy of his empire from a civil and statesmanlike standpoint.

- **Gaspard Monge: Minister of the Navy** — Monge, as the inventor of descriptive geometry and a loyal Bonapartist, was a key scientific and administrative leader under Napoleon. Having served as Minister of the Navy and as a founder of the École Polytechnique, he brought his expertise in engineering and logistics to the empire. As a dedicated advisor, Monge will be essential to Napoleon's efforts to reorganize and technically fortify his empire during the Hundred Days.

- **Dominique-Vivant Denon: Director General of the Musée Napoléon** — Denon, a master of the arts and archaeology, played a pivotal role in curating the Louvre's collection and documenting Napoleon's campaigns. As a diplomat and one of the first to introduce lithography to France, Denon was instrumental in shaping the visual legacy of the Empire. As a visionary museum official and cultural strategist, Denon will be essential to Napoleon's efforts to restore the prestige of his empire and solidify his cultural influence.

- **Lucien Bonaparte: Political Advisor to Napoleon** — A pivotal figure in Napoleon's rise, Lucien was the architect of the Coup of 18 Brumaire, whose quick thinking legally secured his brother's power as First Consul. Despite his indispensable role, he remained a staunch republican who famously threatened to kill Napoleon if he ever became a tyrant, eventually choosing a decade of exile over subordinating himself to the New Empire. As the only brother who refused the throne to protect his personal and political independence, Lucien's commitment to revolutionary ideals directly challenges Napoleon's imperial trajectory.
- **Jérôme Bonaparte: Imperial Prince of France** — Jérôme, the youngest brother of Napoleon and the former king of Westphalia, served as a French general during the Imperial Wars. Having proven his loyalty through naval commands and military service, he returned to the Emperor's side during the Hundred Days. As a dedicated commander and prince of the blood, Jérôme will be essential to Napoleon's efforts to reclaim his empire through both his leadership and familial prestige.

Foreign Connections

- **Gabriele Pepe: Neapolitan Army Officer** — A veteran of the Napoleonic Wars and a dedicated Italian patriot, Gabriele Pepe embodied the intersection of military service in the Italian Legion and the Peninsula War. His career reflects the strategic alliance between Napoleon's campaigns and the Italian aspiration for a sovereign homeland. A soldier-scholar who balanced battlefield leadership with intellectual rigor, Pepe represents

the generation of officers who viewed the Napoleonic era as a vital catalyst for Italy's national rebirth.

- **Pietro Colletta: State Councilor & Lieutenant General of Naples** — A distinguished Neapolitan general and historian, Pietro Colletta embodied the Napoleonic era's impact on Southern Italy through his leadership as Inspector General of Engineers under Joachim Murat. A veteran of the siege of Gaeta, his career represents the strategic intersection of Napoleonic military reform and the burgeoning Italian aspiration for constitutional governance.
- **Eugène de Beauharnais: Viceroy of Italy** — A loyal stepson and Viceroy of Italy, Eugène de Beauharnais was a decorated general who combined familial devotion with military merit. From his early distinction at Marengo to his command of the Army of Italy, his career represents the administrative stability and strategic loyalty essential to the Napoleonic Empire.
- **Achille Fontenelli: Minister of War of the Kingdom of Italy** — A distinguished Italian general and a veteran of the Napoleonic Wars, Fontanelli embodied the military loyalty of the Kingdom of Italy through his service from the 1796 campaigns to the battle of Wagram. As Minister of War and Navy from 1811, he led the retreat at Leipzig, demonstrating the strategic integration of Italian forces into the Napoleonic system.
- **Giuseppe Lechi: Italian General** — A veteran Italian general of the Napoleonic Wars, Giuseppe Lechi led a Neapolitan division during the Hundred Days in a bold attempt to secure Italian Independence from Austrian rule. Though he distinguished himself at Massa, his defeat at the Battle of Tolentino marked the end of Joachim Murat's

campaign and the dream of a unified Italy. His service reflects the deep-seated link between Napoleon's final campaign and the early Italian struggle for sovereignty.

- **Karol Otto Kniaziewicz: Polish General** — A distinguished Polish general and veteran of the Napoleonic Wars, Karol Kniaziewicz embodied the Polish struggle for independence through his leadership in the French-allied Polish Legions. After surviving Russian imprisonment, he secured vital victories at Gaeta and Civita Castellana, eventually earning the honor of presenting captured enemy flags to the Directory in Paris. His career represents the strategic alliance between Napoleon's rise and the Polish aspiration for a sovereign homeland.
- **Antoni Kosiński: Polish General** — A co-founder of the Polish Legions and a veteran of the Greater Poland uprising, Antoni Kosiński was a key military leader whose service as governor of Warsaw underscored his commitment to Polish independence. Though a loyal commander in Napoleon's campaigns, he eventually retired and later attempted to serve the Kingdom of Poland, highlighting a primary devotion to national restoration over imperial loyalty.
- **Jan Henryk Dąbrowski: Polish General** — Architect of the Polish Legions and a veteran of the Kosciuszko Insurrection, Dąbrowski was the primary link between Polish independence and Napoleonic ambition. As a loyal commander who viewed the Emperor as Poland's sole liberator, his role during the Napoleonic Wars transformed the Polish cause into a central pillar of the French Imperial project, proving that the fight for a restored homeland was inseparable from Napoleon's hegemony over Europe.

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