



**2006 Shaping the World: Conversation on Democracy
Thomas Jefferson Talks With Napoleon Bonaparte**

Section III - Paths That Cross, Democracy & Dictatorship

Have students define a democracy giving several examples in today's world.

Have students define a monarchy giving several examples in today's world.

Have students define a dictatorship giving several examples in today's world.



Create a chart for Napoleon Bonaparte and Thomas Jefferson and list their significant contributions to their country and to the world.



Napoleon created the Legion d'Honneur (Legion of Honor) in 1802. What was it and why was it important? Can you compare it to anything similar in the United States or in the World today?





To many people Napoleon is a Hero; to others a Monstrous Villain and Conquering Tyrant. Create a chart with these two titles (or use this [worksheet](#)) and list under each heading the items that would make him a Hero and those items that would qualify him as a Villain.

View the image at left. Can you determine what insignia (decorations) Napoleon has been honored with?

Using these quotes attributed to Napoleon Bonaparte, put them in either the Democracy column or the Dictatorship column of a chart based on your opinion of whether the statement is a statement suggesting democracy or rule by a dictator.

Quotes:

- I should have conquered the world.
- I am never angry when contradicted, I seek to be enlightened.
- All men are equal before God: wisdom, talents, and virtue are the only difference between them.
- If you want a thing done well, do it yourself.
- Death is nothing, but to live defeated and inglorious is to die daily.
- They think I am stern, even hardhearted. So much the better-this makes it unnecessary for me to justify my reputation. My firmness is taken for callousness. I shall not complain, since this notion is responsible for the good order that is prevailing, so that there is nothing that needs to be repressed.
- My motto has always been: A career open to all talents, without distinctions of birth.
- I have come to realize that men are not born to be free.
- I am not moved by the tears of a duchess, but the sufferings of the people touch me.
- Even when I am gone, I shall remain in people's minds the star of their rights, my name will be the war cry of their efforts, the motto of their hopes.
- Be successful! I judge men only by the results of their actions.
- I start out by believing the worst.
- The bullet that will kill me is not yet cast.
- What I did is immense. What I had decided to do, and what I had projected were still more so.
- I wished to found a European system, a European Code of Laws, a European judiciary; there would be but one people in Europe .
- I reign only through the fear I inspire.
- Equality should be the chief basis of the education of youth.
- For the stability of the Government, the people should have a considerable voice in the elections.



Based on what you know about Jefferson and Napoleon, which one of them said:

- Difference of opinion leads to enquiry, and enquiry to truth...
- Four hostile newspapers are more to be feared than a thousand bayonets.
- Democracy, if it is reasonable, limits itself to giving everyone an equal opportunity to compete and to obtain.
- The disease of liberty is catching.
- A man made for public life and authority never takes account of personalities; he only takes account of things, of their weight and their consequences.
- Above all things, I hope the education of the common people will be attended to; convinced that on their good senses we may rely on the most security for the preservation of a due degree of liberty.
- Bloodletting is among the ingredients of political medicine.
- The will of the people is the only legitimate foundation of any government, and to protect its free expression should be our first object.
- If you wish to be success in the world, promise everything, deliver nothing.
- The sovereignty of the people is inalienable.
- Whenever the people are well informed, they can be trusted with their own government.
- Speeches pass away, but acts remain.
- No government has a legitimate right to do what is not for the welfare of the governed.
- Man is entitled by birthright to a share of the earth's produce sufficient to fill the needs of his existence.
- Believing that religion is a matter which lies solely between man and his God, that he owes account to none other for his faith or his worship...
- To secure these rights [life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness], governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.
- Men of letters [educated men] are useful, and should ever be cherished, as they do honour to their country.
- The only true conquests, and those which awaken no regrets, are the conquests obtained over ignorance.

Use these images of the pictorial record of the coronation of Napoleon on December 2, 1804 to write a news article or give an oral report on this event. Remember to report: who, what, when, where and why and to give details that the public would be interested in.



Click images to view larger version.

Incorporate some of these eyewitness accounts into your article:

Claire Elisabeth Jeanne Gravier de Vergennes, Comtesse de Rémusat in her memoirs wrote:

"With his simple crown of laurel leaves, he looked like an antique medal. But he was extremely pale and deeply moved..."

"The whole ceremony was very imposing and beautiful. The moment when the Empress was crowned aroused general admiration, not so much for the act itself, but she possessed such grace and walked so well towards the altar, she knelt so elegantly and at the same time so unaffectedly, that she pleased all who looked on."

In sections XXX, XXXI and XXXII of the **Excerpt from the Ceremonial Rite of the Coronation and Crowning** printed by the Imperial Presses, it is recorded that the Emperor *"tends the hand of Justice to the High Chancellor and the sceptre to the Chief Treasurer, rises to the altar, takes the crown and places it upon his head, takes into his hands the crown of the Empress, stands before her and crowns her. The Empress kneels and receives the crown."*

An unnamed witness recorded:

"At ten o'clock in the morning, the Emperor left the Tuileries to go to Notre-Dame. His cortege was large and magnificent: five carriages escorted his own, which was a gilded coach with seven windows."

"There were 50,000 men under arms and 500,000 onlookers at windows or in the streets. The church was everywhere draped with crimson silk hangings decorated with fringes, braids and armorial bearings embroidered in gold. The nave, choir and sanctuary were laid with Aubusson and Savonnerie carpets. Galleries of seats were crammed with spectators, the ladies brilliant in their finery and jewels, the men splendidly costumed, places assigned to all the great dignitaries of the state, the throne of the Emperor raised in the centre of the nave, that of the Pope in the sanctuary. It was all beautiful, magnificent and well ordered. This blending of the ceremonial pomp of the Church of Rome with the splendour of the Court of the Tuileries afforded a brilliant spectacle for the eyes that no one can deny."

From the Memoirs of Louis Constant Wairy, first valet de chamber to Napoleon, translated by _____

Elizabeth Gilbert Martin in 1907:

“This was the first time that Their Majesties displayed themselves to the people in all the magnificence of their power. The procession passed through the grand avenue of the Tuileries on its way to the Hotel des Invalides, whose church, changed during the Revolution into a Temple of Mars, had been restored to the Catholic worship by the Emperor, and was to serve for the magnificent ceremonial of this day. It was also the first time that the Emperor used the privilege of passing through the garden of the Tuileries in a carriage. His [cortege](#) was superb; that of the Empress Josephine was not less brilliant. The rapt ecstasy of the people was at its height, and can not be described. By the Emperor's orders, I had mingled with the crowd, so as to observe in what spirit they took part in the [fête](#); I did not hear a murmur; so great, whatever may have been said about it since, was the enthusiasm of all classes for His Majesty. The Emperor and the Empress were received at the door of the Invalides by the governor and by the Count de Ségur, grand master of ceremonies; and at the entrance of the church by Cardinal du Belloy, at the head of a large number of the clergy. After the Mass M. de Lacépède, grand chancellor of the Legion of Honor, pronounced a discourse which was followed by the roll-call of the grand officers of the Legion. Then the Emperor seated himself, put on his hat, and repeated in a loud voice the formula of the oath, at the end of which all the legionaries shouted: 'I swear it.' and at once a thousand-times repeated cries of Long live the Emperor! resounded through the church and beyond it. A singular circumstance enhanced the interest excited by the ceremony. While the knights of the new order were passing one after another in front of the Emperor who received them, a man of the people, wearing a round jacket, came and stood on the steps of the throne. His Majesty seemed somewhat astonished and paused for an instant. The man was questioned and showed his certificate. At once the Emperor showed eagerness to have him draw near, and gave him the decoration with a brisk accolade. On returning, the cortege followed the same road, passing again through the Tuileries garden.”

To assist you, review the coronation timeline provided by The Foundation Napoléon, a charitable organization whose mission is the encouragement of the study and preservation of Napoleonic history.

The day of Napoleon's coronation, 11 Frimaire, An XIII (2 December, 1804)

- The processions to Notre-Dame

During the night of 1/2 December, 1804, there was some light snowfall, and workmen hurried to brush it away from the surroundings of the Tuileries Palace and the procession routes, covering the bare with salt.

At 6am, the first of those with invitations began to try to get into Notre-Dame. Unfortunately they had to be turned away as carpenters were still putting the last touches to the cathedral's decorations.

At about 7am, the five hundred instrumentalists and singers were in place on the temporary grandstands placed at either end of the crossing.

At 9am, the Diplomatic corps arrived at the cathedral. Only the the Comte Cobenzl, chancellor of Austria, was absent as part of an attempt to mark the diplomatic disagreements between his country and France.

[Circa](#) 9am, the pontifical procession, accompanied by 108 dragoons, set out from the Tuileries Palace. Pius VII rode in the second carriage, one of Josephine's carriages decorated specially for the ceremony. The procession was led by the nuncio Speroni riding a [donkey] and carrying the cross. This piece of pontifical [protocol](#) greatly amused bystanders.

After 10am, the imperial procession, comprising 25 carriages, drawn by 150 hundred and escorted by six regiments of cavalry, cuirassiers, mounted chasseurs and mounted [grenadiers](#), left the Tuileries Palace.



Pope Pius VII

The [cortège](#) followed the route Rue Saint-Honoré, Rue du Roule, crossed the Pont Neuf, ran along the Quai des orfèvres, leading into the Rue Saint-Louis, the Rue du Marché Neuf and finally the Rue du parvis Notre-Dame.

At 10-30am, the pontifical [cortège](#) reached Notre-Dame. At the entrance to the archbishop's palace (over which had been erected a reception tent for the carriages), the pope was met by the Archbishop of Paris, the Cardinal du Belloy. After donning the ceremonial robes and his celebrated tiara, the pope entered the cathedral to the sound of Le Sueur's motet, Tu es Petrus, and took his seat on the throne set aside for him on the left-hand side of the choir near the high altar.



After 11am, the carriages bearing the imperial couple entered the tent/[vestibule](#) at the entrance to the archbishop's palace. There they removed their 'petit habillement', or undress costume, for the coronation, to put on their 'Grand habillement', or formal robes.

Napoleon's 'Grand habillement' comprised: "white silk pantaloons and stockings; white slippers with gold embroidery; a white silk tunic, bordered and embroidered with gold crepine at the base; a cloak attached at the shoulders, made of purple velvet spotted with golden bees, embroidered around the edges and lined with [ermine](#); white gold-embroidered gloves, a lace cravate; open crown of gold, formed into bay leaves formée; gold sceptre and hand of justice; sword with gold handle, encrusted with diamonds, attached to a white sash worn around the waist and decorated with gold crepine" (imperial decree, 29 Messidor, An XII).

Josephine's 'Grand habillement' comprised: a long-sleeved dress in silver brocade; a bodice with diamonds and lace gold-embroidered shoulder/collar piece; a velvet cloak spotted with golden bees, lined with [ermine](#) and decorated with olive-branch and oak-leaf embroidery surrounding the letter N. It is fastened at the shoulder and at the waist on the left-hand side. The crown for the ceremony is decorated with black pearls and should be attached by clips to the diadem worn with the 'Petit habillement' (imperial decree, 29 Messidor, An XII).

[Circa](#) midday, Cardinal du Belloy greeted Napoleon and Josephine at the entrance to Notre-Dame and sprinkled them with holy water. They then entered the church to the sound of Le Sueur's Coronation march. The cardinals Cambacérés and du Belloy preceded them and led them to their 'petits trônes' (low thrones) situated in front of the high altar in the centre of the choir, opposite the papal throne.

▪ The ceremony

Napoleon prayed briefly and then gave the regalia he was carrying (hand of justice, sceptre, crown, necklace of the Légion d'honneur, sword) to the Grands dignitaires, during which the choir sang the Veni creator spiritus.

At the end of this plainsong, the pope received Napoleon's religious oath. Pius VII then blessed the kneeling imperial couple with the triple benediction taken from the coronation rite of Rheims.

The imperial couple then moved towards the high altar where they received the sacred coronation [unction](#), on the

forehead and on both hands.

During this the choirs sang Le Sueur's motet, Unxerunt Salomonem.

The mass proper then began, the choir singing the introit, the Kyrie, and the Gloria from the Coronation mass written by Giovanni Paisiello.



Josephine

After the Alleluia, the ornaments were blessed, namely, the sword, the cloak, the ring, the crowns and the globe.

The imperial couple once again approached the high altar and received the blessed ornaments, whilst the globe was given to Berthier.

During a prayer taken from the Rheims ceremonial pronounced by the pope, Napoleon handed the honours to Talleyrand and Caulaincourt, took up the crown from the altar and placed it upon his head.

Napoleon then took Josephine's crown, made as if to place it upon his own head and then crowned the empress kneeling before him.

The imperial couple thus crowned sat down to wait for the formation of the procession which was to accompany them from the low thrones to the grand throne. The procession comprised: the pope, princes, Grands dignitaires, Grands officiers, princesses, ladies in waiting, pages, heralds and bailiffs bearing the honours of Napoleon and Charlemagne.

Napoleon then sat down upon the great throne. The pope blessed him and pronounced the words from the Rheims rite: "Que Dieu vous affermisse sur ce trône..." ("May God strengthen you upon this throne...") and kissed the emperor upon the cheek.



The pope then turned towards the congregation and said in a loud voice Vivat Imperator in aeternum; the choirs then sang the Vivat by the Abbé Roze.

The pope was then accompanied back to his throne.

The mass then continued with the Te Deum (Paisiello), and the Gospel (sung in both Latin and Greek); the choir then sang the Credo and Cardinal Fesch brought the gospel book to the emperor for him to kiss.

Although planned, the imperial couple did not receive communion after the Agnus Dei sung by the choirs.

Once the mass was finished, the pope retired to the [sacristy](#).

Napoleon then pronounced the constitutional oath, his hand on the gospel held by Cardinal Fesch.

Finally the herald proclaimed: "the most glorious, the most august emperor Napoleon, emperor of the French, is crowned and enthroned emperor, Long live the Emperor!"

By this time it was 3-30pm when the cries of "Vive l'Empereur" rose inside the cathedral, echoed by canon salvos outside marking the fact that the emperor had been crowned.

The emperor and the empress, and their [cortège](#), returned to the archbishop's palace to change their robes and to rest after the ceremony.

cathedral to process out to the music Tu es Petrus (performed for a second time), heading for the archbishop's palace.

- The procession back to the Tuileries Palace

Slightly before 4pm the imperial procession left Notre-Dame and headed towards the Place du Chatelet, going via the lower class boulevards, and finally returning to the Tuileries via the rue and the Place de la Concorde. They reached the palace at about 6-30pm.

At about 4pm, the pope also left Notre-Dame, arriving at the Pavillon de Flore (in the Tuileries Palace) where he was staying at about 7pm.

The imperial couple retired to their apartments and dined... alone.

During this time, took place the [scrummage](#) of the 20,000 invited guests trying to get out of the cathedral of Notre-Dame.

Create a poem about the coronation.



How did France respond to the crowning of Napoleon as Emperor?

How did the rest of Europe respond to the crowning of Napoleon as Emperor?



Referencing Thomas Jefferson's words below, write your assessment of how Jefferson must have reacted to Napoleon becoming Emperor.

"No man on earth has stronger detestation than myself of the unprincipled tyrant who is deluging the continent of Europe with blood. No one was more gratified by his disasters of the last campaign."

"A ruthless tyrant, drenching Europe in blood to obtain through future time the character of the destroyer of mankind."

"I grieve for France; although it cannot be denied that by the afflictions with which she wantonly and wickedly overwhelmed other nations, she has merited severe reprisals. For it is no excuse to lay the enormities to the wretch who led them, and who has been the author of more misery and suffering to the world, than any being who ever lived before him. After destroying the liberties of his country, he has exhausted all its resources, physical and moral, to indulge his own maniac ambition, his own tyrannical and overbearing spirit."

Do you think Jefferson's reaction was typical of the American people? Why or why not?

Jefferson was pro-Revolution in France, so why would he oppose Napoleon who called himself the "Defender of the Revolution"?