Empire Under Pressure

Trace why Napoleon rose, expanded his rule, and fell

9-12.WC.47 "Analyze the causes and consequences of the Napoleonic Era."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three causes of Napoleon's rise or fall, then circle a consequence of each. Give each linked cause and consequence the same number.

The Rise and Fall of Napoleon

1. In 1799, France was still at war with European monarchies that feared the French Revolution. At home, the Directory government struggled with debt, corruption, and repeated political crises. General Napoleon Bonaparte had won major battles, making him seem capable of restoring order. He joined a coup that overthrew the Directory and became France's first consul. His rise grew from both the Revolution's upheaval and public desire for stability. In 1804, he crowned himself emperor.

2. As ruler, Napoleon used war and law to reshape Europe. His Civil Code protected property and declared men equal before the law, but it restricted women's rights. French armies spread some legal reforms into conquered lands. To weaken Britain, Napoleon tried to bar British goods from European ports. In 1808, he put his brother on Spain's throne to tighten French control. Many Spaniards rejected the foreign king, and guerrilla attacks tied down French troops for years.

3. Napoleon's invasion of Russia in 1812 turned his expanding empire into a costly weakness. Russian forces retreated, destroying supplies, and winter intensified the French army's losses. Other European powers joined forces against him, and his final defeat came at Waterloo in 1815. At the Congress of Vienna, leaders restored several old ruling families and sought a balance of power to prevent another French empire. Yet legal reforms survived in some places, while resistance to French rule had stirred national feeling.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did conditions in France help Napoleon gain power?

2. What lasting change did Napoleon's Civil Code bring, and whom did it disadvantage?

3. How did Napoleon's decision in Spain weaken his empire?

4. How did the Russian campaign help lead to a new political order in Europe?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose one decision Napoleon made in the passage and propose a different choice. In four sentences, explain one likely immediate effect and one possible effect after 1815, using two details from the passage and noting what remains uncertain.

ANSWER KEY

Empire Under Pressure

HIGH SCHOOL · 9-12.WC.47

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three causes of Napoleon's rise or fall, then circle a consequence of each. Give each linked cause and consequence the same number. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did conditions in France help Napoleon gain power?	**War and the Directory's political crises created a desire for stability. Napoleon's victories made him appear able to provide it.**
2	What lasting change did Napoleon's Civil Code bring, and whom did it disadvantage?	**It protected property and declared men equal before the law, but it restricted women's rights.**
3	How did Napoleon's decision in Spain weaken his empire?	**Putting his brother on Spain's throne provoked resistance, and guerrilla attacks tied down French troops for years.**
4	How did the Russian campaign help lead to a new political order in Europe?	**The campaign caused heavy French losses. Other powers joined against Napoleon; after his defeat, leaders at Vienna restored rulers and sought a balance of power.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Napoleon could have avoided invading Russia in 1812. Because the invasion cost his army many soldiers, keeping those troops might have helped him defend his empire in the short term. After 1815, European leaders might have faced a stronger France and negotiated a different balance of power. Still, the long war in Spain could have weakened him even without the Russian campaign.

Accept plausible cause-and-effect links supported by the passage. For the open task, look for a changed decision, immediate and later effects, two passage details, and a clear uncertainty.