

The principles of Napoleon's imperial rule

The French politician François Jaubert (later comte Jaubert et de l'Empire) gave the following speech when he asked Napoleon to accept the honour of becoming Emperor of the French in May 1804:

- 1 “Ah, we were deeply touched when, on 10th November 1799 (19th *Brumaire IX*) the saviour of France [i.e. Napoleon] said the memorable words: ‘The Revolution is bound to the principles from which it started.’ [...] Napoleon, with his heroic deeds, amazed Italy, [...]. He gave peace to the continent; [...] his glory shines in Asia, it fills
5 the world [...]. Yes, who could list all the wonders that he has done since he became consul! Look at what he has done in four years: he has established the foundations of the administration; he has put the finances in order; the army has been organized; the Battle of Marengo, which decided the destiny of the continent, was improvised; Europe is at peace, trade as has restarted, industry has been encouraged, and so were
10 the arts and the sciences; the altars have been put back in place, the consciences are at peace, the shelters of suffering people receive help, the system of national education has been re-established; great works have been commissioned and finished; France has got a common civil law code, which is marked by Napoleon's genius; all partisan spirit has disappeared, all bitterness has been calmed; all interests have been
15 harmonized; all [people in exile] have been recalled; [...]. In the coming centuries, these achievements will explain the [love of the French] for Napoleon. [May he], who has given so much glory and so many benefits to the Republic, accept to be called its emperor [...].

Source: I. und P. Hartig (Hrsg.), *Die Französische Revolution*, Stuttgart, Klett, 1984: pp. 116-118, transl. into English.

Napoleon's coronation
(*Le Sacre de Napoléon*)
at Notre Dame in Paris



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File%3AJacques-Louis_David_006-crop.jpg

Tasks:

- 1) Search the web on information about Napoleon's rise. Explain what made him great?
- 2) Say in your own words what, according to Jaubert, Napoleon did for the French.
- 3) Explain what Napoleon meant when he said: ‘The Revolution is bound to the principles from which it started.’

Annotations:

saviour (n.)	<i>Retter</i>
principle (n.)	<i>Grundsatz, Grundlage</i>
conscience (n.)	<i>Gewissen</i>
commission (v.)	<i>in Auftrag geben</i>
civil law code (n.)	<i>bürgerliches Gesetzbuch</i>
partisan (adj.)	<i>parteiisch</i>