

# Chapter 23 section 4

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## **Napoleon's empire collapses**

Napoleon's conquests aroused nationalistic feeling across Europe and contributed to his downfall

## **Napoleon's costly mistakes**

### ***The continental system***

- Napoleon strikes Britain through blockade— forced closing of ports
- continental system— economic plan to strengthen Europe, weaken Britain
- smugglers and uncooperative allies make France's blockade fail
- Britain responds with blockade of its own, led by its stronger navy
- Americans fight Britain in war of 1812; war does no major damage to Britain

### ***The peninsula war***

- Napoleon sends troops across Spain to attack Portugal, causing protests
- Napoleon makes his brother king of Spain, making things worse
- Spanish fights as guerrillas— small groups that attacked then disappear
- British aid Spanish guerrillas
- Napoleon loses 300,000 soldiers during this peninsula war
- nationalist rebels fight the french in other conquered territories

### ***The invasion of Russia***

- Relations with Russia break down, Napoleon decides to invade
- in June 1812, Napoleon's army marches into Russia with 420,000 men
- Russians use scorched-earth policy— destroying crops, livestock
- in September 1812, Russians retreat from Moscow after battle of Borodino
- Napoleon finds Moscow abandoned and burning
- Napoleon retreats, losing thousands of soldiers to raids, cold weather

## **Napoleon's downfall**

### ***Napoleon suffers defeat***

- Britain, Prussia, Sweden, Russia, Austria join forces against Napoleon
- Napoleon raises another army, but meets quick defeat by allied powers
- Napoleon finally surrenders and is exiled to island of Elba

### ***The hundred days***

- Louis XVIII, new king, is soon overthrown and Napoleon returns from exile
- Waterloo— British, Prussia forces defeat Napoleon's army
- this defeat ends hundred days— Napoleon's last attempt at power