

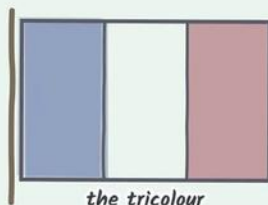
how a continent of kingdoms turned itself into nations

A dream drawn in 1848

- the French artist Frederic Sorrieu made four prints in 1848 of a world made up of democratic and social Republics
- the peoples of Europe and America march past the Statue of Liberty, who carries the torch of Enlightenment and the Charter of the Rights of Man
- the shattered remains of absolutist institutions lie in the foreground, the old order broken up
- it is a utopian picture, a vision of a society so ideal that it is unlikely ever to exist

The French Revolution and the idea of the nation

- 1789: sovereignty moved from the monarch to a body of French citizens, the nation now belonged to the people
- new ideas of la patrie, the fatherland, and le citoyen, the citizen, with equal rights under a constitution
- a tricolour flag replaced the royal standard, and the Estates General became the elected National Assembly
- internal customs duties were abolished, weights and measures were made uniform, and French as spoken in Paris became the national language
- Jacobin clubs sprang up in other cities of Europe and prepared the way for French armies, which moved into Holland, Belgium, Switzerland and much of Italy in the 1790s



the tricolour

three upright bands and no royal emblem, the flag that replaced the royal standard

Napoleon and the Civil Code of 1804 *

- Napoleon ended democracy at home, yet in administration he carried the revolution's reforms outward
- the Civil Code of 1804, the Napoleonic Code, ended privileges based on birth, fixed equality before the law and secured the right to property
- in the territories he held the feudal system went, peasants were freed from serfdom and manorial dues, and guild restrictions in the towns were removed
- uniform laws, standard weights and measures and a common currency made goods move more easily
- welcome soon turned to hostility: higher taxes, censorship and forced conscription into the French armies

Civil Code 1804



one code branching into the three changes it carried wherever French armies went

asked rarely, scores big

Napoleon's Continental System

- the Berlin Decree of 1806 shut the ports of Napoleon's Europe to British trade, a blockade meant to starve Britain of its markets
- smuggling was widespread, and the closed ports hurt the merchants of Europe more than they hurt Britain
- forcing Russia back into the system is what drew Napoleon into the ruinous invasion of 1812