

# **FACTORS FOR THE RISE OF NAPOLEON TO POWER**

## **COMPILED BY MR ALBERTCOOK ISINGOMA**

### **FOR REVISION/DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY**

#### **1. The French Revolution**

- ❖ A number of capable and experienced military officers were killed hence his recall
- ❖ Political and military vacuum after the death of experienced political figures
- ❖ Napoleon got a chance to become a military hero
- ❖ It destroyed the discriminative social class system
- ❖ The need to export revolutionary ideas to other countries hence Italian campaign
- ❖ Able to use the army well for his campaigns
- ❖ Military officers of the nobility sent into exile
- ❖ Participation in the activities of the Jacobin club
- ❖ It brought to an end the Bourbon monarchy
- ❖ It gave him exhibit his military talent
- ❖ Introduced the seizure of power through violence and coups
- ❖ It exposed him to the influential leaders at the time
- ❖ It enabled him to connect with military officers like Carnot who gave him command of the army
- ❖ It ushered in a period of confusion, anarchy and foreign wars which he took advantage of
- ❖ It introduced the principle of Merit
- ❖ It gave birth to revolutionary principles of Liberty, equality and fraternity which he adopted
- ❖ It led to formation of a revolutionary army the National Guard which replaced the royal Guard

#### **2. The success of the 1796 Italian Campaign**

- ❖ It won him territorial gains for France ie Belgium, Lombardy, left bank of the Rhine, Savoy, Nice
- ❖ It made him famous among the French people
- ❖ Stole art pieces from Italy hence beautifying France
- ❖ It won him the respect and loyalty of the French army
- ❖ Gave him a chance to exercise his political talent
- ❖ It gave him chance to associate with influential politicians
- ❖ His oratory skills were exercised and inspired the French army
- ❖ Made him become aggressively ambitious
- ❖ Made the directory government appoint him the commander of the French army
- ❖ Facilitated his command of the army for the Egyptian campaign
- ❖ From the Egyptian campaign, he carried out a coup detat hence his rise to power.

#### **3. Napoleon's Personal Qualities**

- ❖ His unique and determination
- ❖ A skilled orator and gifted speaker
- ❖ His foresightedness
- ❖ A military genius
- ❖ His ambitious personality
- ❖ Possession of rare organizational abilities
- ❖ Rare political abilities
- ❖ His intelligence

#### **4. The Failures and weaknesses of the Directory Government**

- ❖ Check all your notes on the weaknesses of the Directory government and explain how each point gave Napoleon a chance to rise to Power.

## **5. Influence of Luck**

- ❖ Lucky that Corsica was annexed to France in 1768
- ❖ Lucky to acquire a royal scholarship to military academies
- ❖ Luck that he survived childhood death
- ❖ Luck that many experienced generals had perished during the revolution hence his recall
- ❖ Luck that many political figures were killed during the revolution hence a power vacuum
- ❖ Lucky to survive the reign of terror
- ❖ Lucky not to be killed by the British at the 1793 port of Toulon siege
- ❖ Luck during the Italian campaign since Austria was a strong nation at that time.
- ❖ Luck when he escaped the British fleet after the Egyptian campaign and landed back to France
- ❖ Lucky that the Frenchman accepted and supported his November 1799 coup detat

## **6. Simple and humble background**

## **7. Role of his Military Education**

## **8. The Annexation of Corsica**

## **9. The scientific and military innovations**

## **10. The role of his father Charles Bonaparte**

## **11. The role of his brother Lucien Bonaparte, the president of the council of 500.**

## **12. Napoleon's marriage to Josephine on March 9<sup>th</sup> 1796**

## **13. His association with men of reputation ie Danton, Baras, Abbey Sieyes, Ducos, Robespierre, Murat**

## **14. The role of the French Army**

## **15. Influence of the Print Media/Press Propaganda**

## **16. The role of the 1798-99 Egyptian Campaign**

## **17. The Triumph of the November 9<sup>th</sup> 1799 Brumaire Coup Detat**

## **POSSIBLE CHLORONOLOGICAL ORDER FOR THE RISE OF NAPOLEON**

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3. The role of his Father Charles Bonaparte
4. Simple and humble background
5. The role of his Military Education
6. His association with men of reputation ie Danton, Baras, Abbey Sieyes, Ducos, Robespierre, Murat
7. The Failures and Weaknesses of the Directory Government,
8. The Scientific and Military Innovations
9. Napoleon's Personal Qualities
10. Influence of Luck
11. The role of the French army
12. Influence of Press Propaganda
13. His marriage to Josephine,
14. The Success of the 1796 Italian Campaign
15. The role of the 1798-99 Egyptian Campaign
16. The role of his brother Lucien Bonaparte
17. The Triumph of the November 9<sup>th</sup> 1799 Brumaire Coup detat