**V. Collapse of Napoleon’s Empire**

A. Napoleon’s Luck Runs Out

* **1807 –**
* Enemies began to grow stronger
* Copy his military methods
* **Nationalism –**

B. The End is Near

* Napoleon’s personality is a major reason for his downfall
* “I love power, as a musician loves his violin”
* Always wanted more land & power

C. Napoleon’s 3 Major Mistakes

**1st Mistake**

* **Continental System –**
* Wanted to starve Britain into submission
* Blockade was never effective
* Britain reacted by forcing all neutral ships to pass through Britain
* U.S. gets involved in the middle because they trade with both countries
* **War of 1812 –**
* **Major Result -**

**2nd Mistake**

* **Peninsular War –**
* Invades Portugal through Spain
* Spanish people rioted in protest
* Napoleon exiles the Spanish King and puts his brother Joseph on the throne
* Britain allies with Spain and Portugal
* Guerrilla forces strike Napoleon’s army and kill around 300,000 men

**3rd Mistake**

* Russia was France’s ally but refused to stop selling grain to Britain
* **Grand Army –**
* Russia does not send an army to fight
* Instead, they flee deeper into Russia
* **Scorched-Earth Policy –**
* No food is left for French soldiers
* **September 1812 –**
* Expects Russians to sign a peace treaty
* Waits in Moscow for 5 weeks – Russians began to burn Moscow
* **November 1812 –**
* Troops have no winter gear and Russian forces began to attack as they retreated
* Only 10,000 men are left fit to fight – Only 5% of original force

D. Napoleon’s Downfall

* Formation of the 4th Coalition
* Britain, Russia, Prussia, & Sweden
* Takes the offensive
* Napoleon’s army lacks skilled veterans and the 4th Coalition captures Paris
* **Elba –**
* **Louis XVIII –**

E. The Hundred Days

* **March 1, 1815 –**
* Thousands of his former men join him
* Louis XVIII is forced to flee Paris
* European allies quickly join together

F. Final Defeat

* **Battle of Waterloo –**
* **St. Helena –**
* Dies there in 1821 from cancer