The Napoleonic wars: Causes and Effects on Britain

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Introduction:

The Napoleonic Wars (1799–1815) were a series of major global conflicts between the French Empire and its allies, led by Napoleon I, against European states. It produced a period of French domination over most of continental Europe. The Napoleonic Wars were massive in their geographic scope, ranging, as far as Britain was concerned. The Napoleonic wars are named after Napoleon Bonaparte 1769-1821, known as Emperor Napoleon I, is a French military leader and historical political leader, one of the most influential figures in the modern history of Europe. He was born on the island of Corsica and trained as an artillery officer in France. In 1799, he carried out a military coup and appointed himself first consul, five years later, he was crowned emperor, he directed the armies of the French Empire to fight all the countries of Europe and controlled most of them, through a successful series of military victories, as he strengthened France's power by forming extensive international alliances, as well as By installing his friends and family members on the thrones of the European countries that he occupied, and it seemed as if nothing would stop him, because of his military genius and his captivating charisma, as he was famous for conducting many reforms in France and all of Europe, and Napoleon Bonaparte is one of the most famous military leaders in the history of France and the world.

Causes of The Napoleonic wars on Britain:

The French Revolution was a major cause of the Napoleonic Wars because of the effect it had on the rest of Europe. In the French Revolution, the head of state, the monarch, lost his power and ordinary people took over the ideals of freedom and equality. Fearing that their citizens would accept the same ideals, other European countries went to war against France, eventually leading to the Napoleonic Wars. If other European countries had not angered France with their revolution, the wars that followed the French Revolution would probably never have happened. Therefore, the French Revolution was the main reason for starting the Napoleonic Wars.

The French Revolutionary Wars were also an important cause of the Napoleonic Wars. During the French Wars of Independence, Napoleon proved himself as a good leader. In those wars, France faced the First and Second Coalitions, whose main members were Great Britain, Russia, Prussia, Sardinia, Naples, Spain and Portugal. During those wars, the size of the French army was enormous, mostly due to conscription. Despite this, the French lost most of Germany and Italy, which were previously under French rule. It could be argued that this loss of land was the factor that motivated Napoleon and the rest of France to take revenge on the rest of Europe, which later started the Napoleonic Wars.

According to some historians and their studies, the actual birth of Napoleon could also be classified as one of the reasons for the beginning of the war as something which must have happened. In that case, the birth of Napoleon could not have caused the war and other Napoleonic wars by itself. Therefore, it was not the decisive cause of war.

Napoleon's personality was also one of the important reasons that led to the war as he was a leader's born, who raised us a war-hungry person. So this genetic cause played a role in shaping his personality,if he hadn't been such a strong person with strong charisma he wouldn't have been such a great leader as he is marked by the history nowadays.So, this has helped him alot in his wars against other European states.

Effects of the Napoleonic wars on Britain:

there was significant changes after the end of the Napoleonic wars in Britain, some of them can be mentioned as follows:

The relationship between state and society in Britain after the Napoleonic Wars assumed the shape that was to remain apparent into the 20th and 21st centuries. In contrast to most other European

societies, many of the functions performed by central government elsewhere were performed in Britain by groups of self-governing citizens, The end of the long wars against Napoleon did not usher in a period of peace and contentment in Britain. Instead, the postwar period was marked by open social conflicts, most of them exacerbated by an economic slump.

The agriculturalists, who were predominant in Parliament, attempted to safeguard their wartime economic position by securing, in 1815, a new CornLaw designed to keep up grain prices and rents by taxing imported grain, their political power enabled them to maintain economic protection.

Town and village labourers were also unrepresented in Parliament, and they bore the main brunt of the postwar difficulties. Bad harvests and high food prices left them hungry and discontented, but it was as much their political as their economic situation that served as the basis of their mobilization.