

Leadership Lessons from Great Commanders – Week 4 Midterm

Napoleon's Leadership

Napoleon had a tremendous impact on how we view command leadership during war and few would argue it. This does not mean that Napoleon was infallible or free from error. In the end, he was human after all. The fall of Napoleon is traced back to his decision to invade Russia in 1812, undertaken in order to force Tsar Alexander I back into Napoleon's carefully crafted continental system. The invasion, which began promisingly, ultimately ended in disaster for Napoleon.

Of all the battles that Napoleon fought in his career, he stated that Borodino was the most terrible of them all. Paradoxically, he characterized the French as victors and the Russians as invincible. What do you think Napoleon meant when he stated this? Why did this "terrible" battle not end in ultimate victory for Napoleon, where the Russians were defeated and forced back into his continental system?

Your task is to prepare a PowerPoint presentation, using [this template](#), which answers these questions. In addition to the course material, you will need a minimum of TWO scholarly sources. Using no more than 12 slides, you must include the following:

- Statement of Napoleon's Campaign Objective(s)
- Summary of the Battle (good battle maps are a plus)
- Using Clausewitz's criteria for Genius, explain why—in your assessment—Napoleon demonstrated effective leadership or ineffective leadership.
- Using various Personal theories of Leadership, assess Napoleon's performance as a Commander.
- Conclude on what you believe Napoleon meant by his statement that the French were the victors but the Russians were invincible.
- Your PowerPoint presentation must not exceed 12 slides, not counting your opening and references page slides. The entire presentation must be your original work.

[View your assignment rubric.](#)