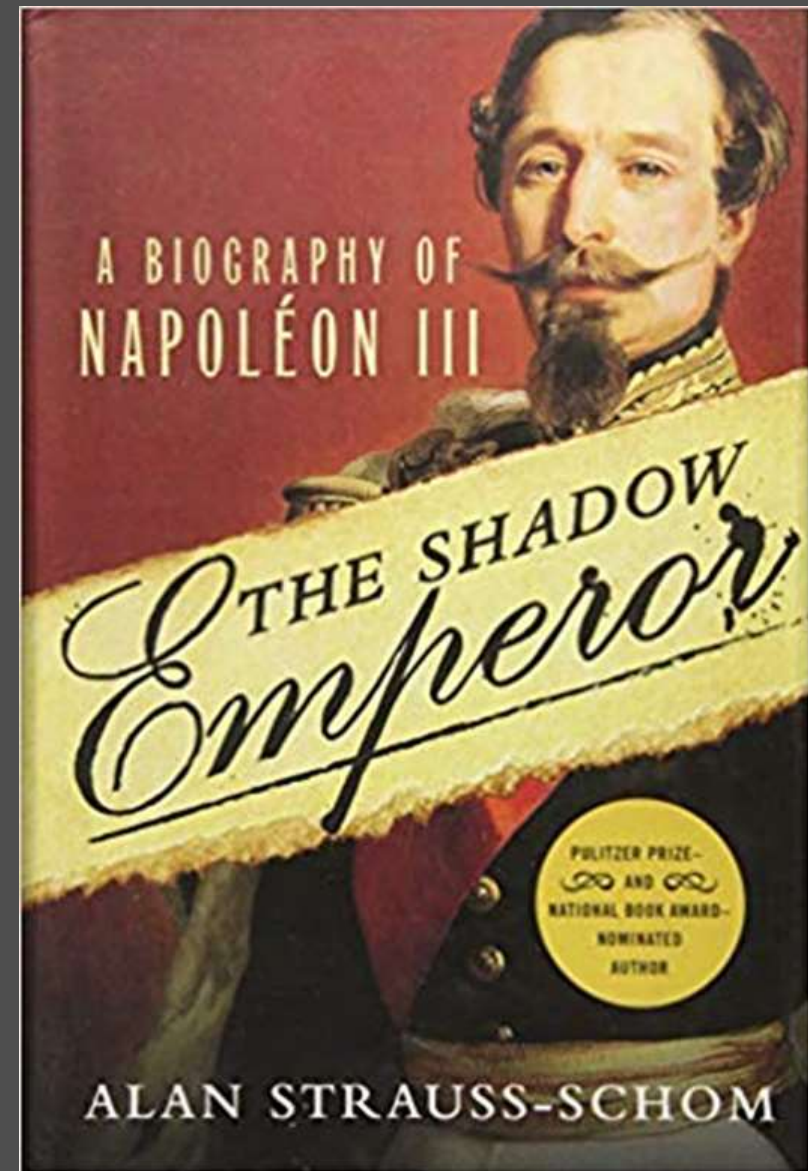


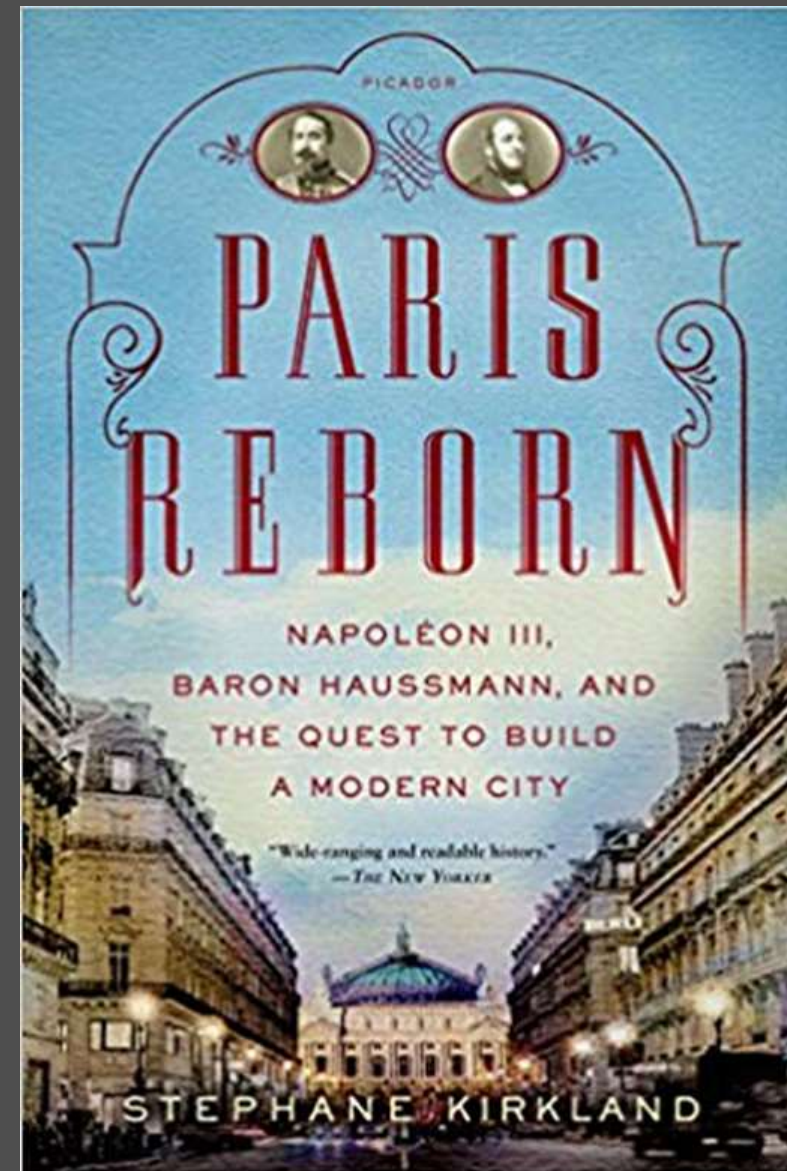
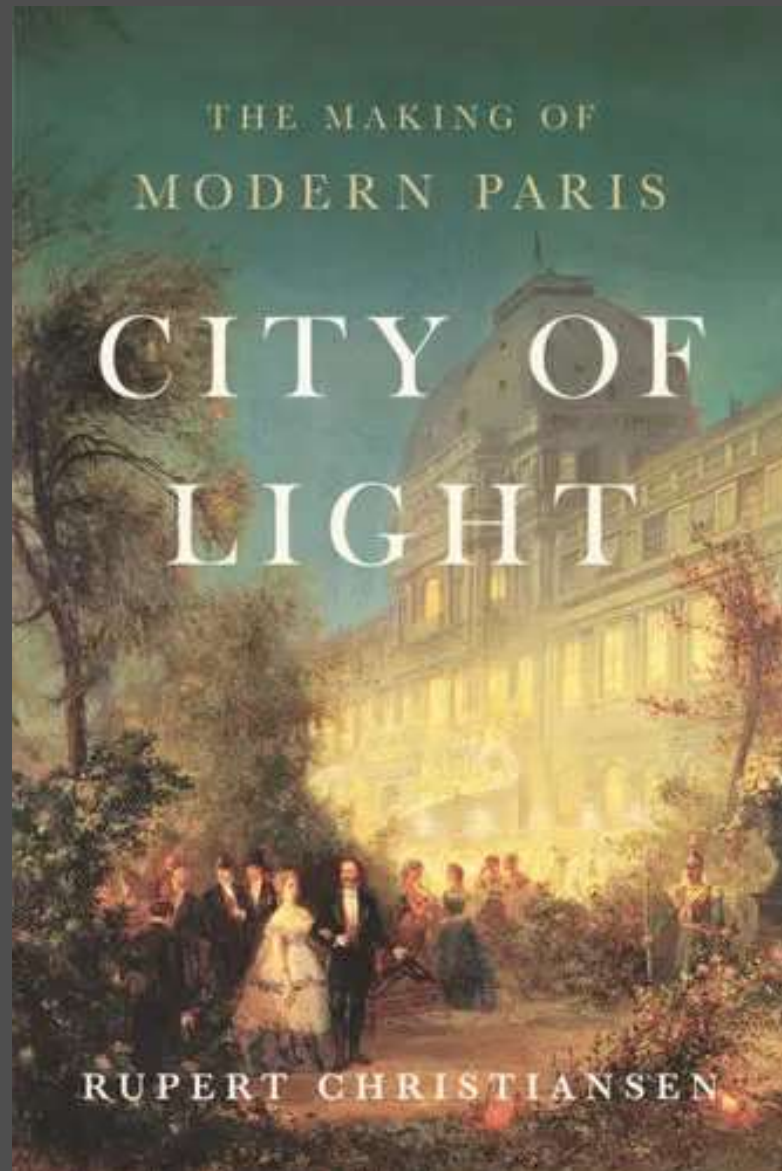


From Napoleon to Charles de Gaulle:
France and its providential saviors

Course outline

- The Bourbon Restoration or how to end the Revolution (1814-1839)
- Louis-Philippe: *"We are the last possible kings"*
- From Napoleon to de Gaulle: the providential savior
- 1870: the terrible year
- **The founding fathers of the Third Republic: how France became a republic**
- The Great Illusion: when France lost the peace (1914-1920)
- 1940: the unforgivable defeat
- From Charles de Gaulle to Macron: restoring the *grandeur* of France?







*“The Napoleonic idea aims **to rebuild** the French society upended by fifty years of revolution, **to reconcile** order and freedom, the rights of the people and the principles of authority”*

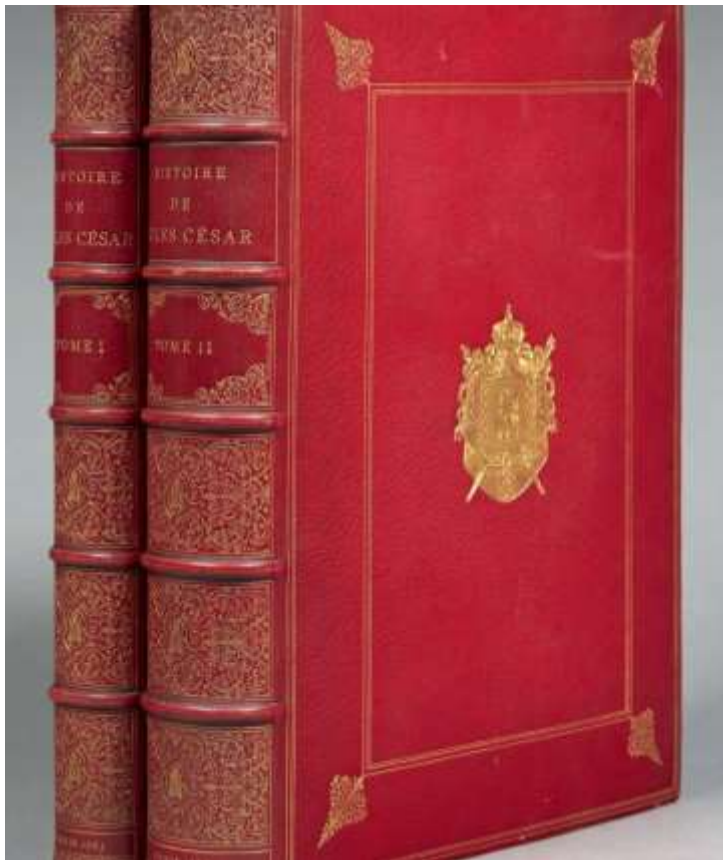
Louis-Napoleon Bonaparte (1840)

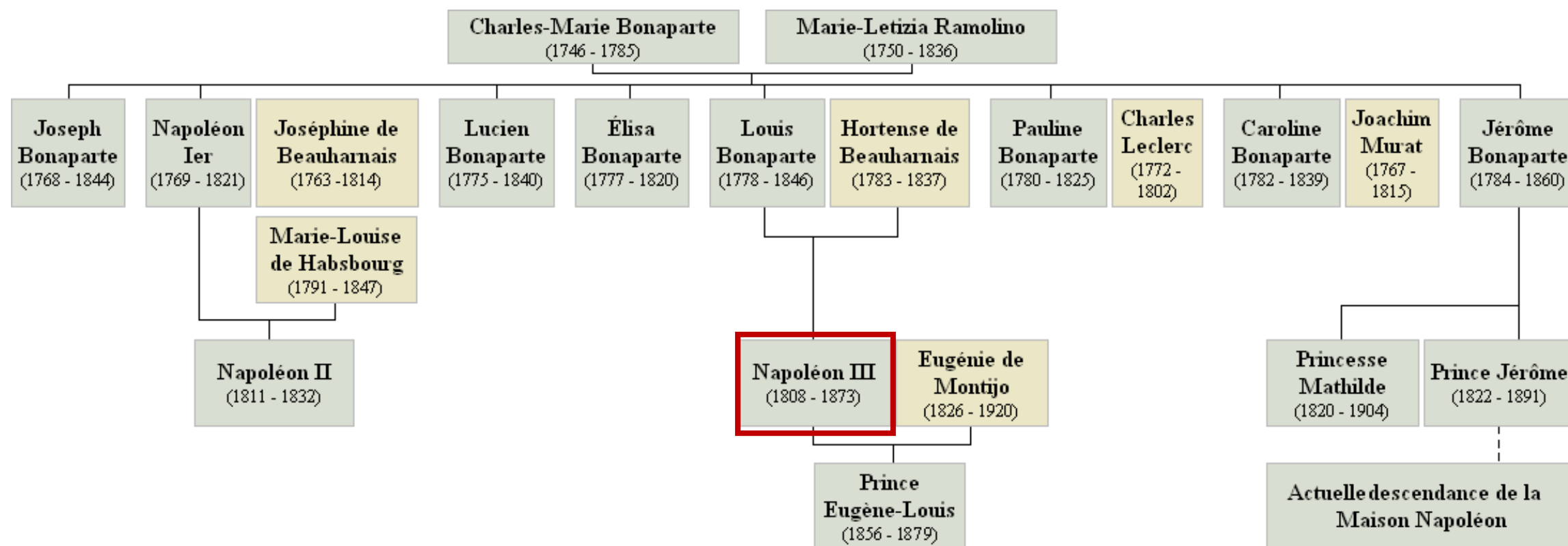
1862: Napoleon III published a **History of Julius Caesar**

No coincidence

A reference to Caesar the **conqueror**

Caesar who established his **absolute political power** with the agreement of the people





Hortense de Beauharnais & Louis Bonaparte: a loveless marriage **decided by** Joséphine & Napoleon



Louis: paranoiac,
pathologically jealous &
complex of inferiority



Louis-Napoleon: the **third child** of Louis Bonaparte & Hortense de Beauharnais

The golden youth of a Bonaparte prince (1808-1815)

"Monsieur Oui-Oui"

Admiration for Napoleon

The defeat of Waterloo (June 1815): a life in exile – The Bonaparte family forbidden to return to France

Arenenberg
(Switzerland)

Education (1820-1827): the ideals of the French Revolution



Belief in an **exceptional destiny**

His goal: to restore the imperial monarchy in France

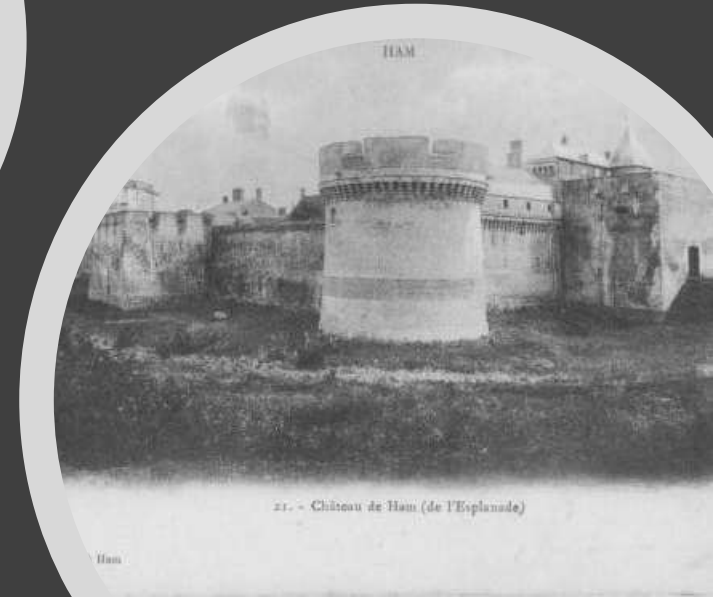


1832: the death of Napoleon II

Louis-Napoleon: the hope of the
Bonaparte family

2 failed coups (1836 & 1840) & 6 years in jail
The belief the army would rally to his side by the mere mention of the Bonaparte name

- Louis-Napoleon: a threat to the regime of King Louis-Philippe
 - 1846: Louis-Napoleon escaped
- The revolution of 1848: the opportunity to revive the Napoleonic ideal



The First & Second Empire: **authoritarian regimes** established with the consent of the people



Two regimes born out of a **revolution**

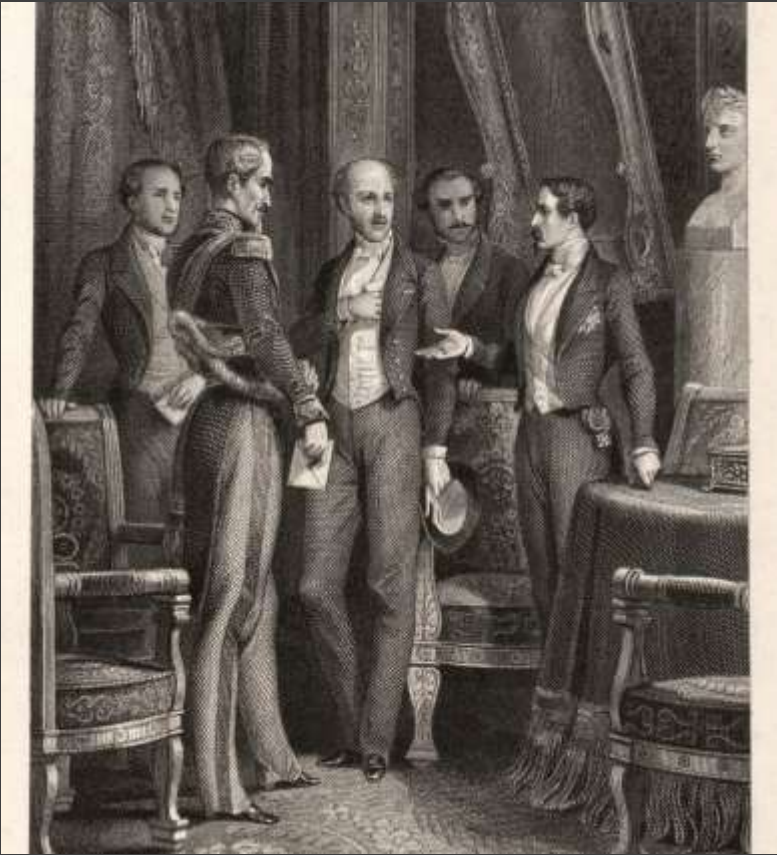
The return to order and stability

To promote the national *"grandeur"*

Similar end: **military defeat**

Stable regimes nonetheless





1799 & 1851: **coups d'État** to replace dying republics



Napoleon & Louis-Napoleon already **popular**



**Bonaparte's campaign
of Italy (1796-1797)
against Austria**



The **battle of Arcola**
(November 1796):
Napoleonic **propaganda** at
its best

Thermidor, an 5 de la Républiq. Fr. (N^o. 1.) 20 Juillet 1797. (v. st.)

LE COURRIER DE L'ARMÉE D'ITALIE, PAR UNE SOCIÉTÉ DE FRANÇAIS RÉPUBLICAINS.



La République perdit le peu qui lui restait d'action et de vie ; il fallait ranimer le cadavre. Cette résurrection n'était pas impossible, parce qu'on était généralement disposé à se prêter à tous les remèdes ; la difficulté était de n'en trouver que de bons (Raynal).

N. B. Le Courrier de l'Armée d'Italie est la première et la seule feuille Française qui paraisse dans ce pays, depuis les grands événements dont il a été le théâtre, et dont le cours n'est point encore terminé. Cependant les triomphes de notre armée, les négociations diplomatiques qui servent de suite et de complément à la guerre ; les crises politiques qui, dans cette partie de l'Europe, ont agité plusieurs États, et semblent en menacer d'autres, se lient essentiellement aux destinées de la République Française, et doivent intéresser tous nos concitoyens. — Le Journal que

ral d'où le télégraphe politique transmet à tous les peuples, les divers événements qui peuvent influencer sur leurs destinées.

Mais à Paris, dans une ville depuis long-temps livrée aux orages des factions, dans une vaste enceinte empoisonnée par cet esprit de parti, par ces passions malfaisantes qui ont couvert de malheurs et de crimes, une terre où ne devaient régner que

**Napoleon: a master
communicator**

A political career
associated with masterful
propaganda

The founding of 2 newspapers to propagate
the image of Bonaparte as a national hero
“The savior of France”





Louis-Napoleon Bonaparte: unknown in
France until 1848

BUT

The good use of the name Bonaparte



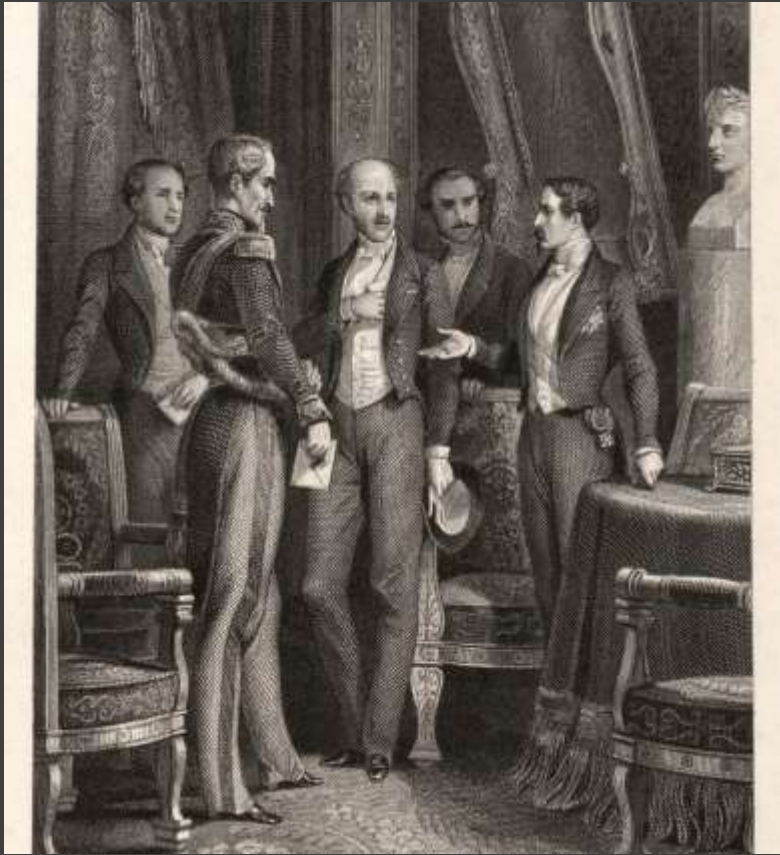
10 December 1848: Louis-Napoleon elected **president of the Second French Republic** (universal male suffrage)

The widespread belief Louis-Napoleon is weak and can be manipulated

Louis-Napoleon: scientific & economic education above the average

A **shrewd communicator** (To use the fascination for Napoleon to his political advantage)





The coups d'État (1799
& 1851) deemed a
necessity



1799: a republic in crisis

Elections manipulated or cancelled (fraud, intimidation, voter suppression)

A political system unworkable since failure to establish constitutional monarchy

Expensive foreign wars: France on the verge of bankruptcy

Religious divide



“When I put myself at the helm, France was in a state similar to Rome, when on declared a dictator was necessary to save the Republic”
Napoleon



Napoleon in 1799 saved by his brother (president of the Assembly) and the **Army**



The Revolution of 1848
Louis-Napoleon elected
member of parliament



The Coup d'État of 1851: a Constitution unworkable



The Constitution of 1848

Separation of powers

A single assembly
(legislative power)

A president (executive
power) elected for a
single term of 4 years
(universal suffrage)



Arbres de liberté (symbol of the French Revolution) to celebrate the emancipation of the people

The Second Republic
(1848-1852) born
out of a revolution

Hope and optimism: the
promise of a better
world

25 February 1848:
proclamation of the republic



Lamartine before the Hôtel de Ville, Paris, rejects the Red Flag by Henri Felix Emmanuel Philippoteaux



What kind of a republic:
liberal or socialist?



(Male) **universal suffrage**
(from 240 000 to 9 million
voters)

Freedom of the press & reunion
Abolition of death penalty &
slavery
Labor laws (freedom of
association)

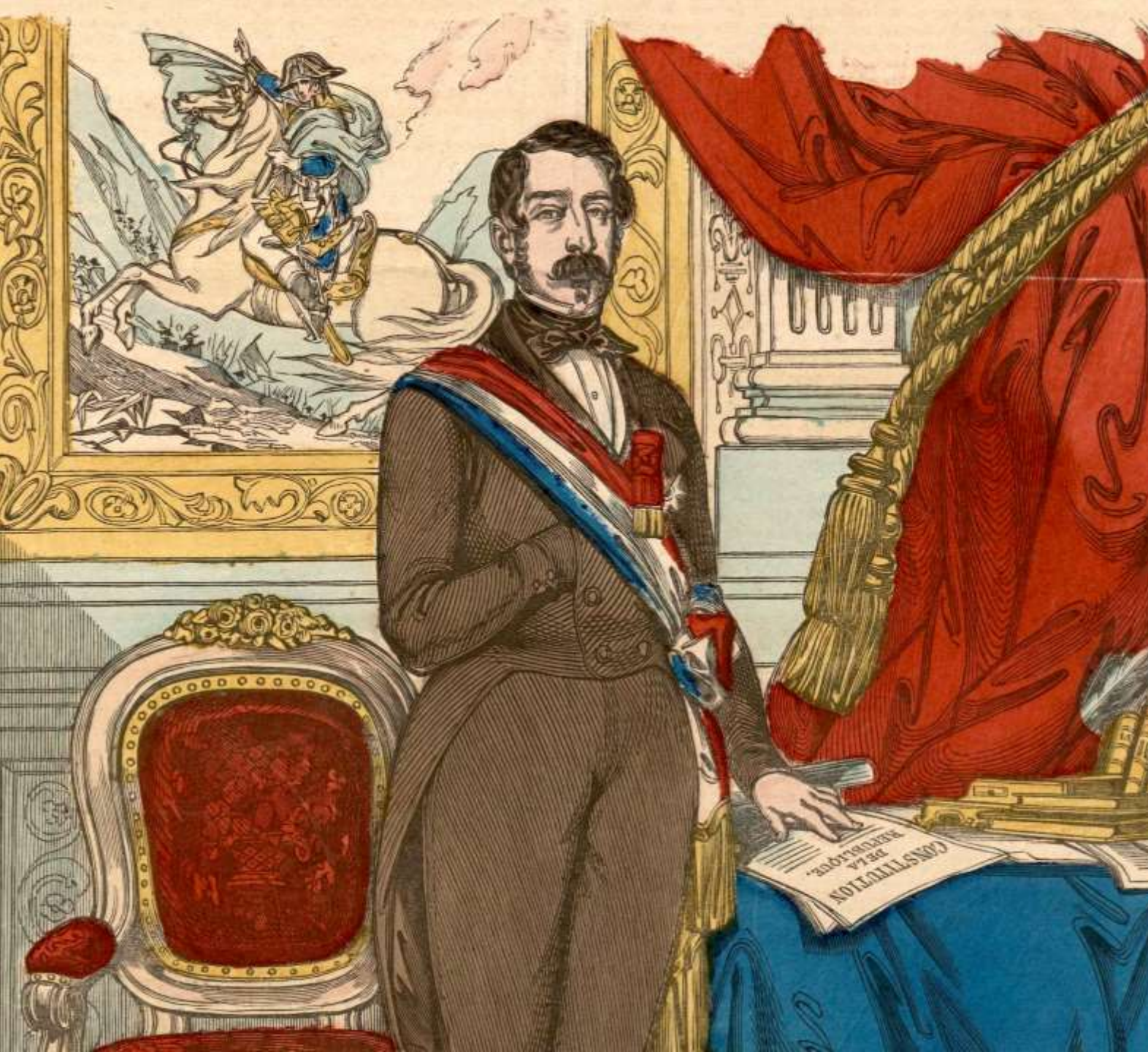
Fear of socialism prevailed



June Days uprising in Paris

Severe reaction (3 000 dead)

Louis-Napoleon seen as the
only option to bring back
order & stability



December 1848: Louis-Napoleon elected president

From president to emperor

The Constitution: an incumbent president
unable to seek re-election

2 December 1851: a **coup d'état**

**A plebiscite (national referendum): 7.1 million
approved the coup**

2 December 1852 (the anniversary of
Napoleon's coronation) : the re-establishment
of the Empire





Victor Hugo: *"a crime"*

The Second Republic massacred
3 000 people in June 1848

The Coup **supported** by the
people



A quest for **legitimacy**

The principle of **national sovereignty** (the support of the “masses”)

Newly found power (1799 & 1851) ratified by the people
(**universal suffrage**)

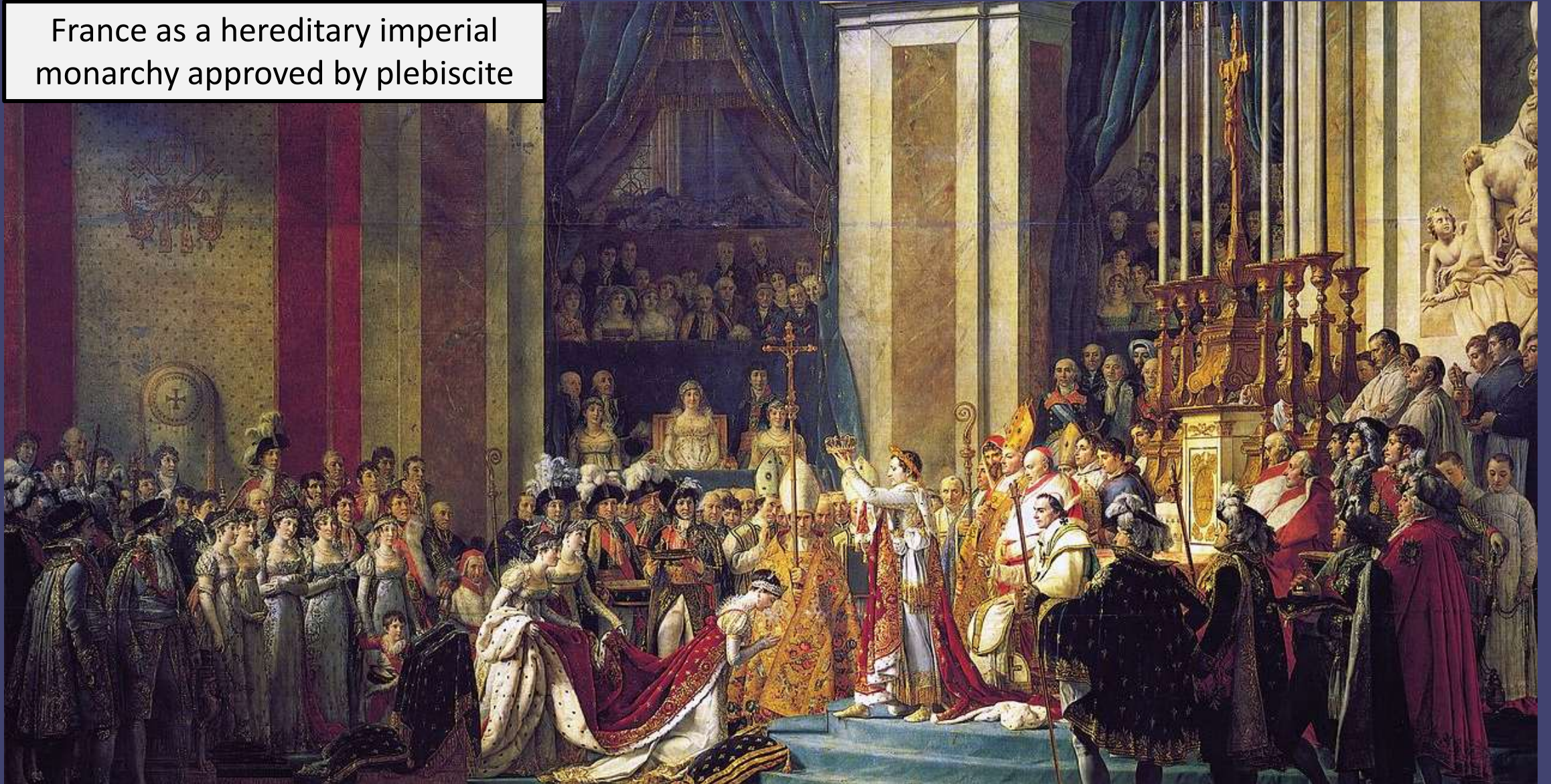




Napoleon and the use of a **referendum**
(plebiscite)

The leader and the people **without**
intermediaries

France as a hereditary imperial
monarchy approved by plebiscite





Louis-Napoleon: 3 successful
plebiscites

December 1851: to ratify
constitutional reforms

1852: to confirm the return of the
imperial monarchy

A triumph



Using the plebiscite as a political tool but **not too often**

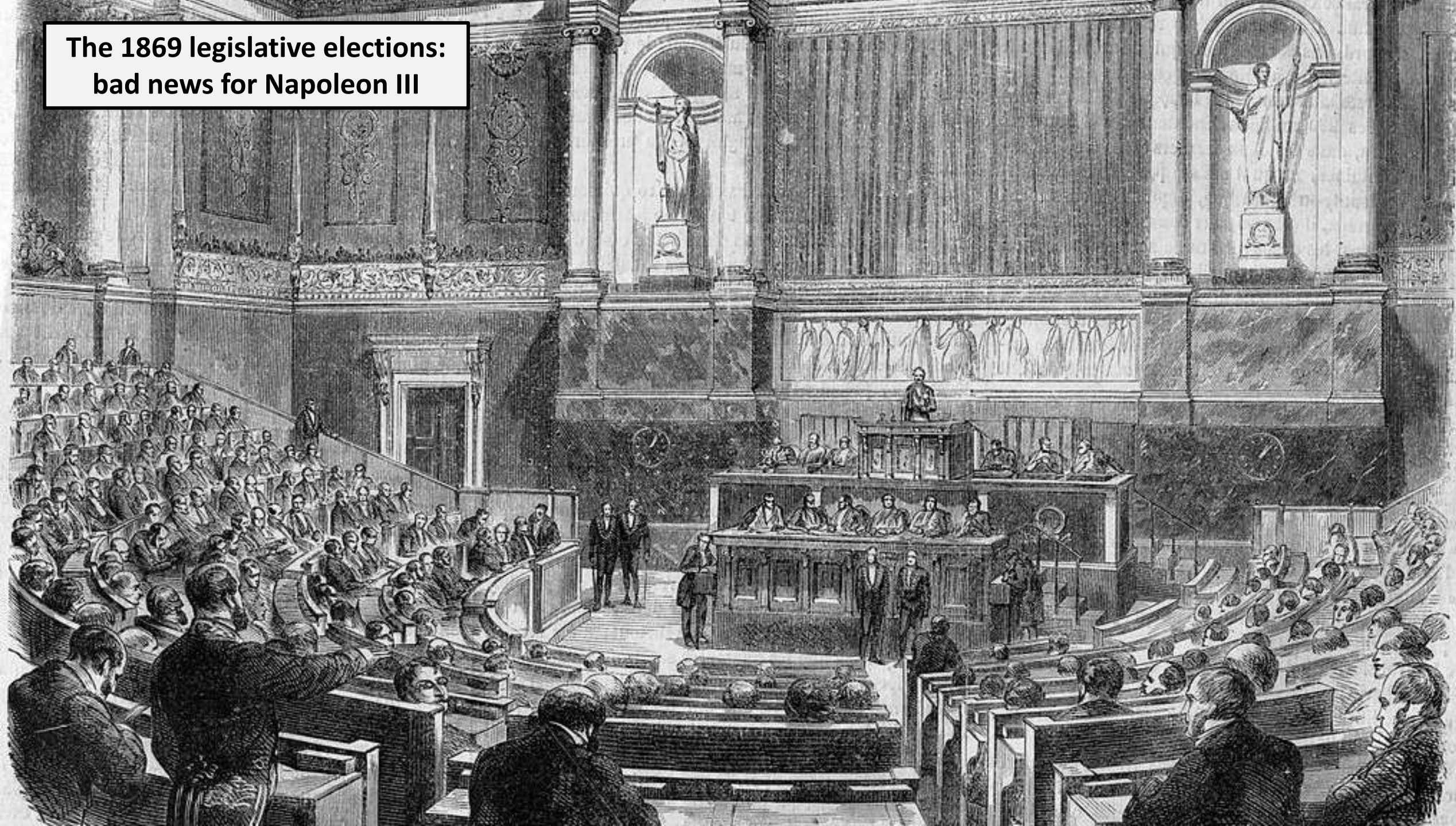
Napoleon in 1815 (return from Elba)

Napoleon III (1870) following a political reversal (legislative elections of 1869)

The danger of the plebiscite:
what if the people say no?



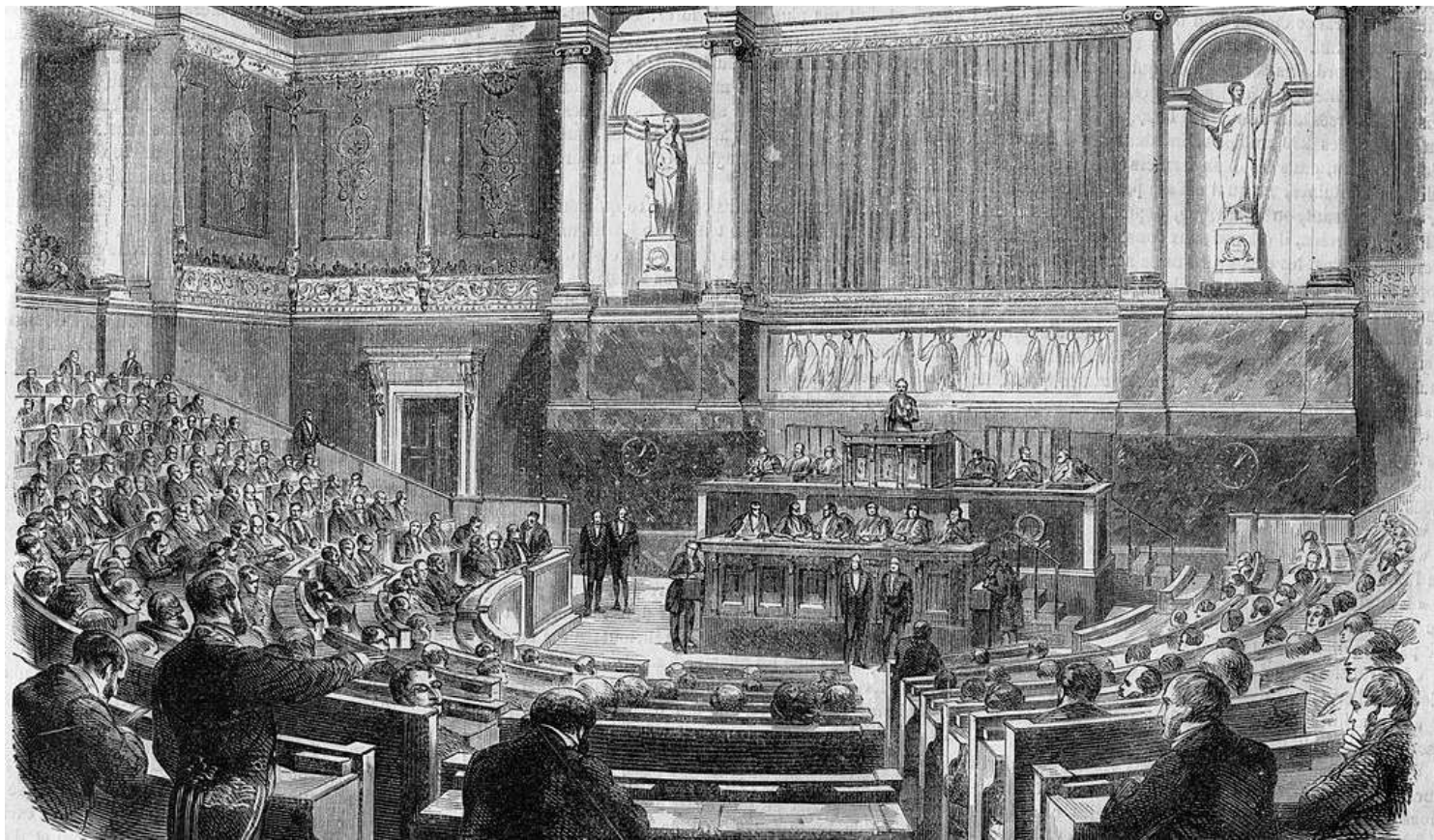
**The 1869 legislative elections:
bad news for Napoleon III**





Triumph of the Republican opposition in Paris

Les élections de Paris du 22 novembre. — Les cafés. — Addition des votes des scrutins.



The majority still
supports Napoleon III's
reforms

*“Progress without
violence and freedom
without revolution”*



The strategy: to secure popular endorsement of the reforms introduced by the government

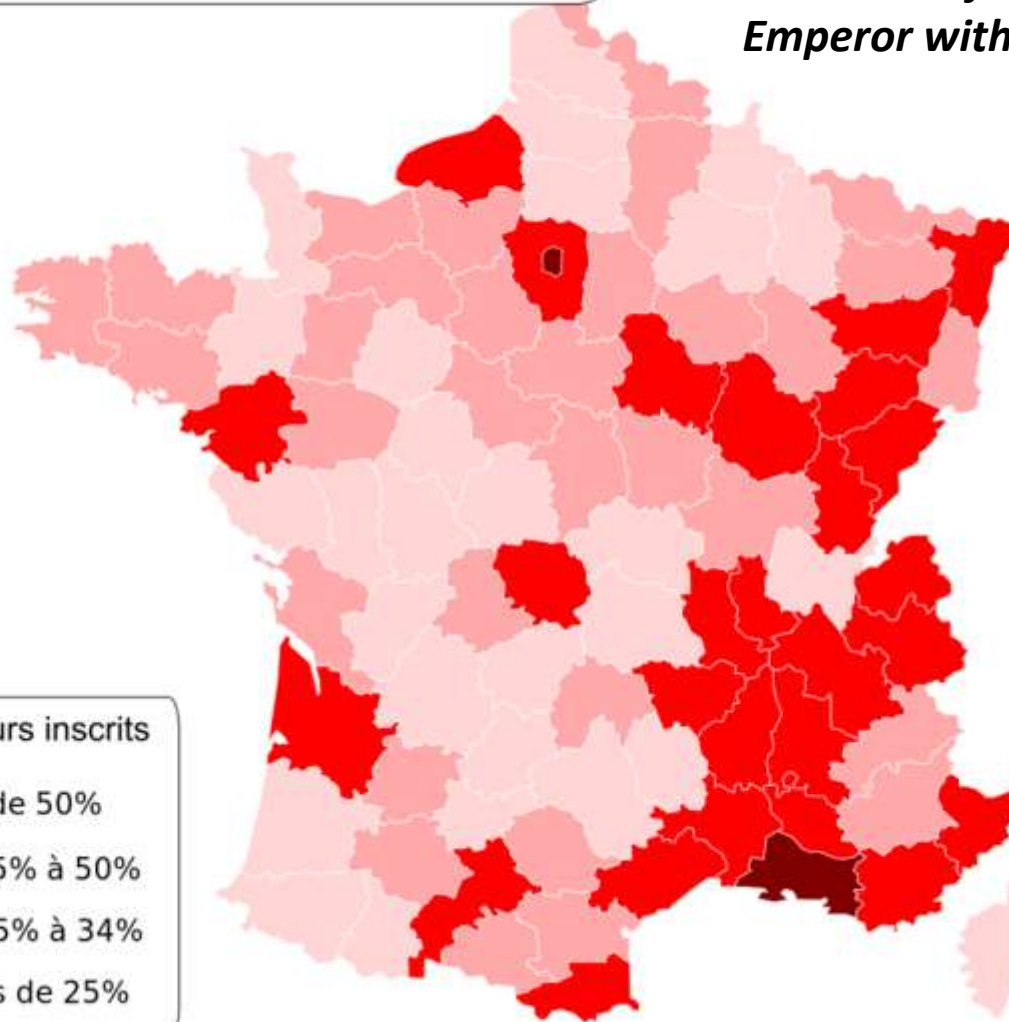
Napoleon III's reaction to growing discontent: another **national referendum**

Le vote non au plébiscite du 8 mai 1870

The question: *“the people approves the liberal reforms introduced by the Emperor with the help of government bodies...”*

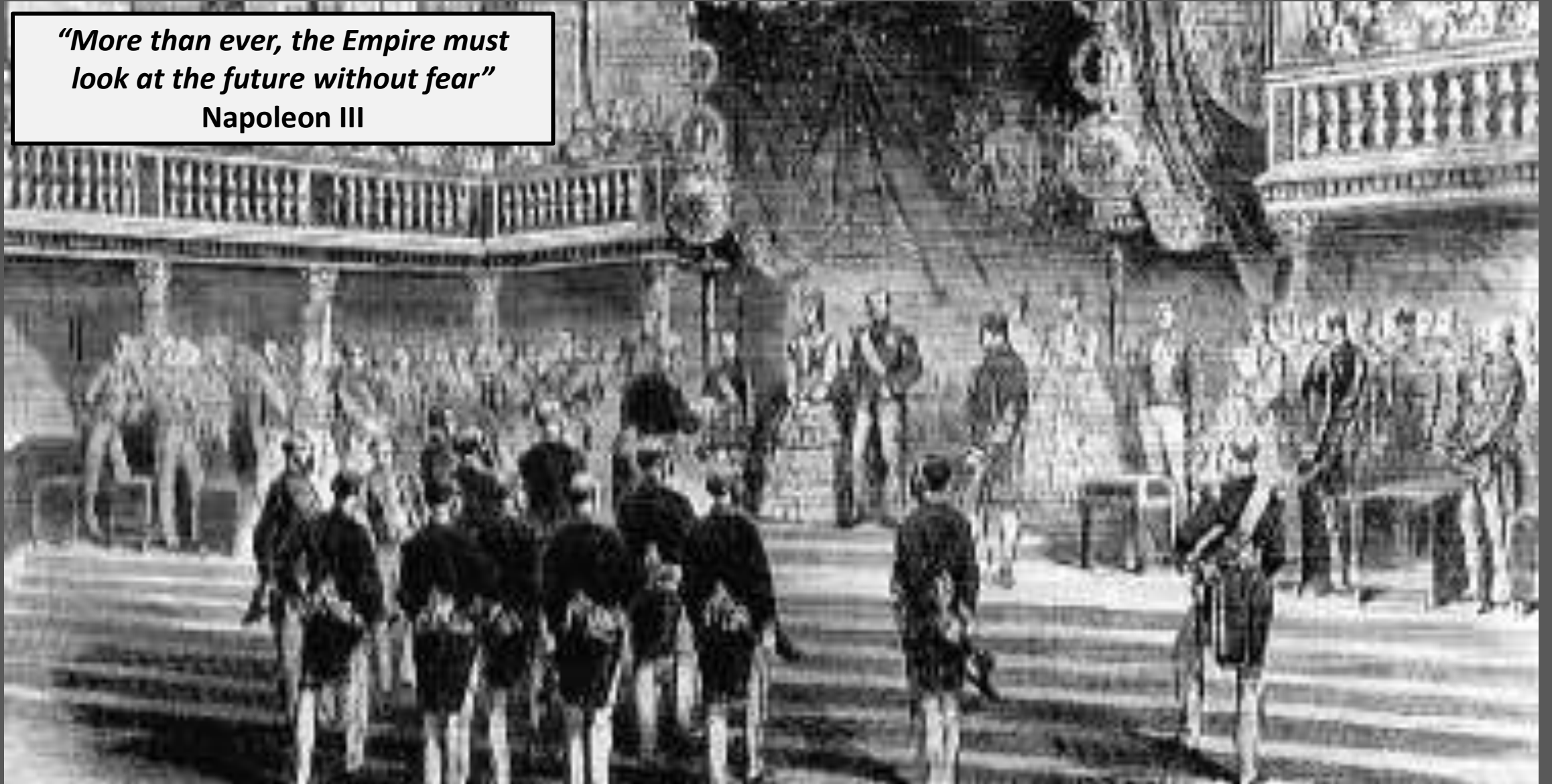
7.4 million YES
1.5 million NO

“The Empire is stronger than ever”
(A Republican opponent)



***“More than ever, the Empire must
look at the future without fear”***

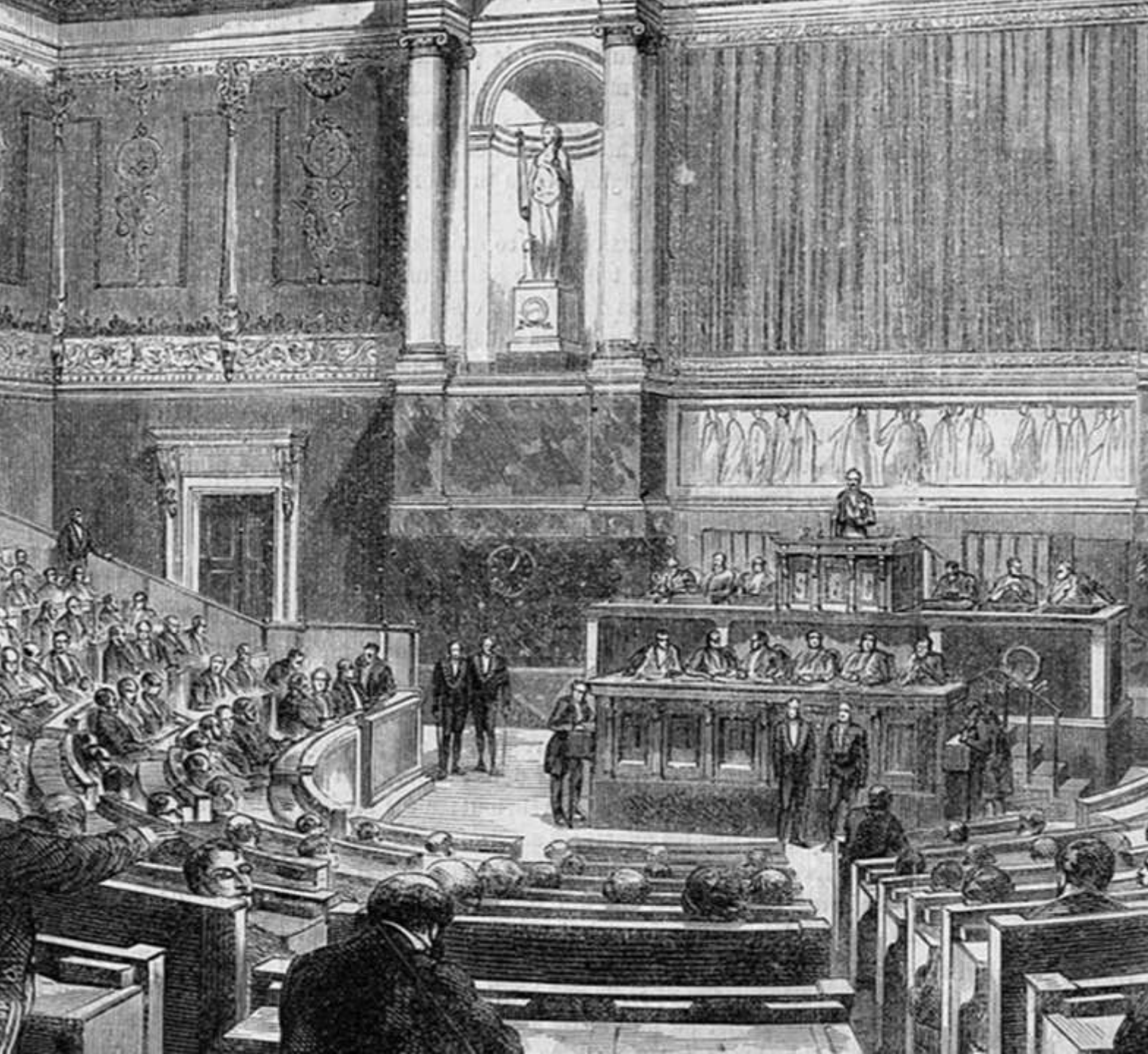
Napoleon III





“Today, the rule of the casts is over: one can only govern with the masses; one must therefore organize them so that they can express their will and discipline them so that they can be directed and enlightened as to their own interests”

Louis-Napoleon (1844)

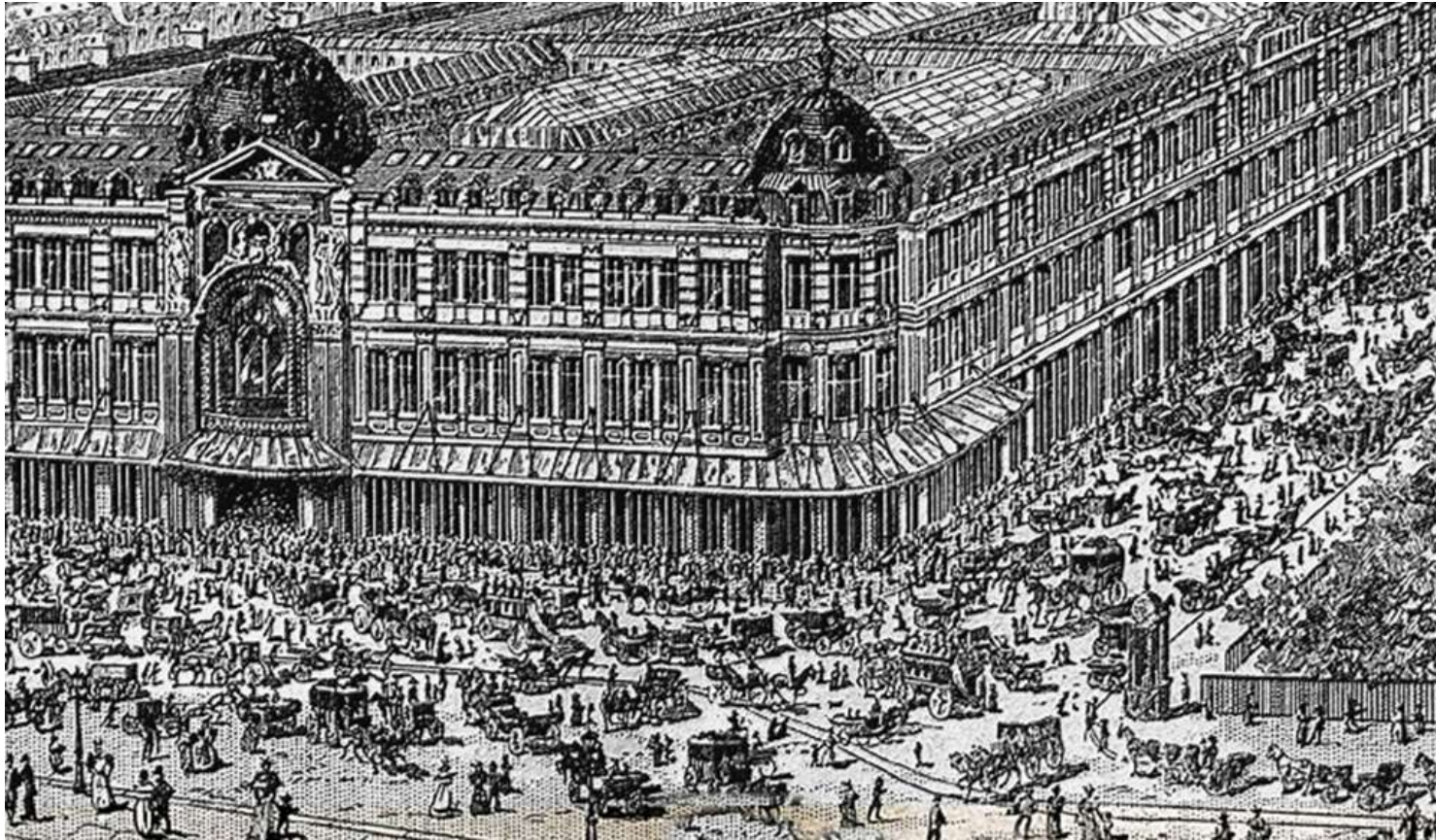


"The end of the casts"
To limit the powers of the
legislative branch of
government

Universal suffrage in lieu of
divine rights of king

More equality but less freedom

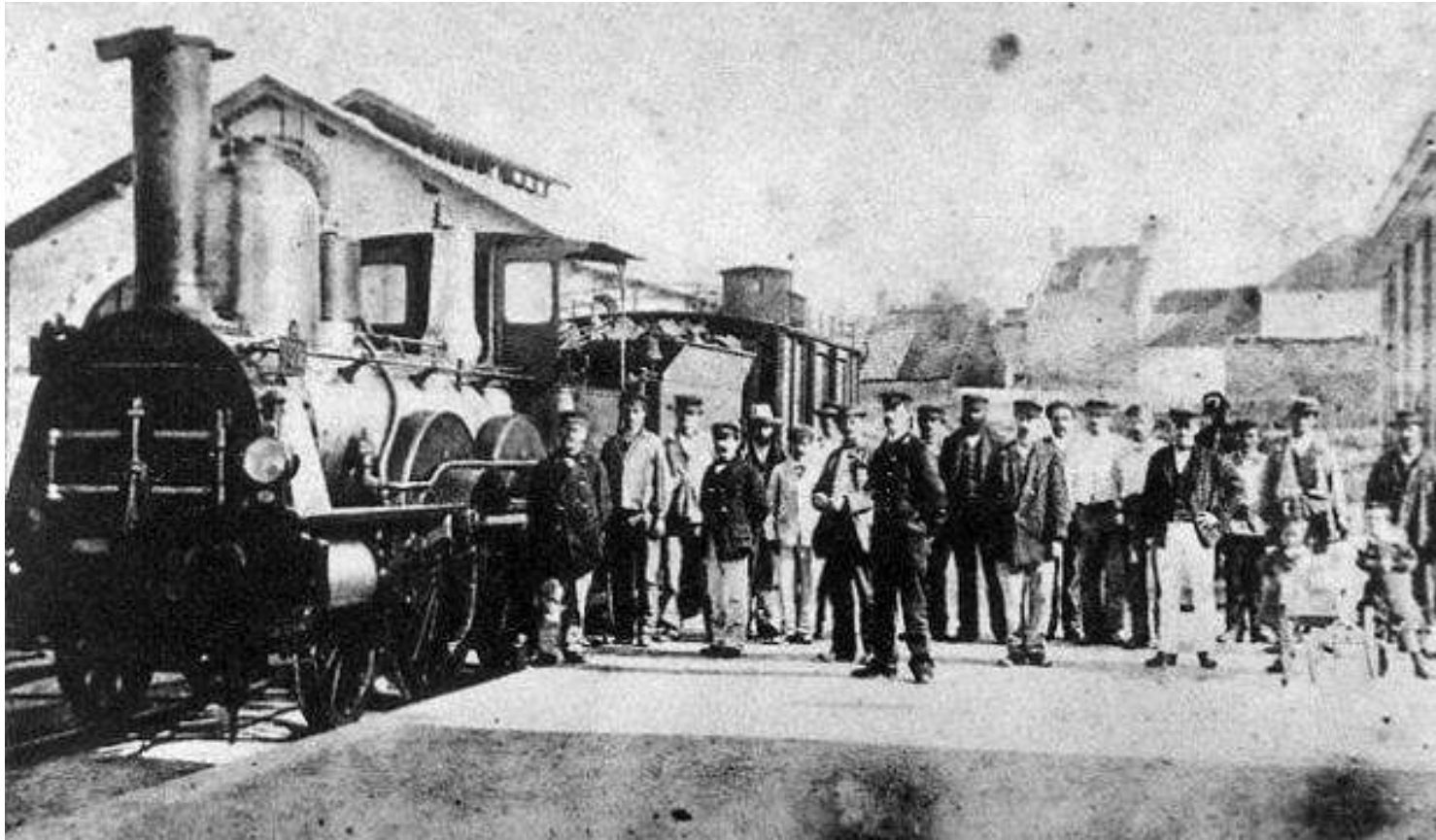
The **key role** played but the
prefects (representatives of the
emperor in the provinces)



Economic dynamism
& social peace

A prosperous France
(1850-1869): tremendous
economic growth

Government initiatives



The railroad boom

1851: 3 560 km

1870: 17 000 km

The role of Napoleon III:

To encourage competition

Tight government control



Industrialization
Banks & free trade
A triumphant bourgeoisie
Mass consumerism







Avenue de l'Opéra



17 November 1869:
the inauguration of the
Suez Canal



Napoleon I & Napoleon III: the **spectacle of power**

A masterful propaganda



The Second Empire: a **glittering spectacle**

The goal: **to rally** the French elites to the imperial regime & **fascinate** the masses



A brilliant Court life



Joséphine: the **link** between the old aristocracy and the new regime

Napoleon's policy of **merging** the two worlds (the old and the new)



1810: Napoleon marries
Marie-Louise of Habsburg
(a “belly”)

A political mistake



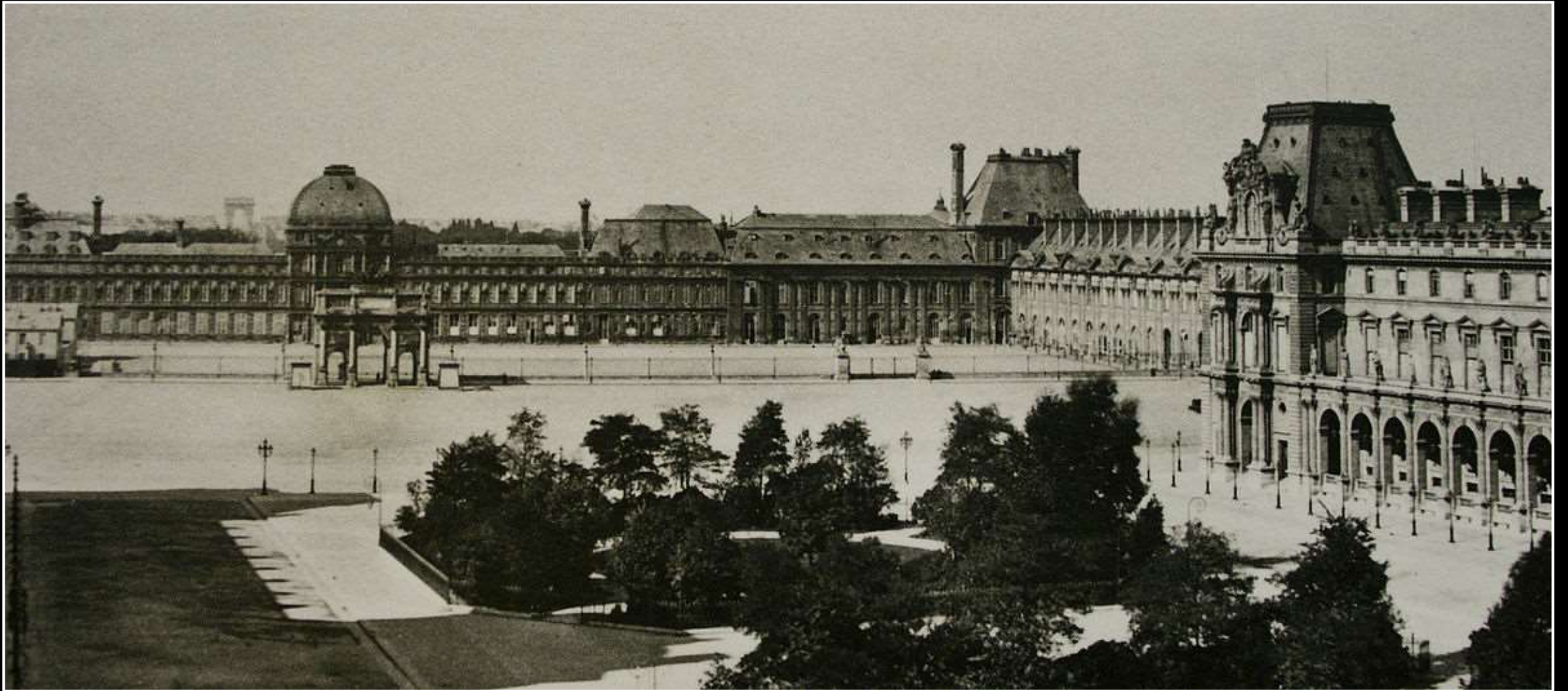
20 March 1811: the birth
of the **King of Rome**





The image of a sensitive & human
sovereign, protector of the Nation and
his subjects

*Napoleon III visiting the
flood victims of Tarascon
(1856)*



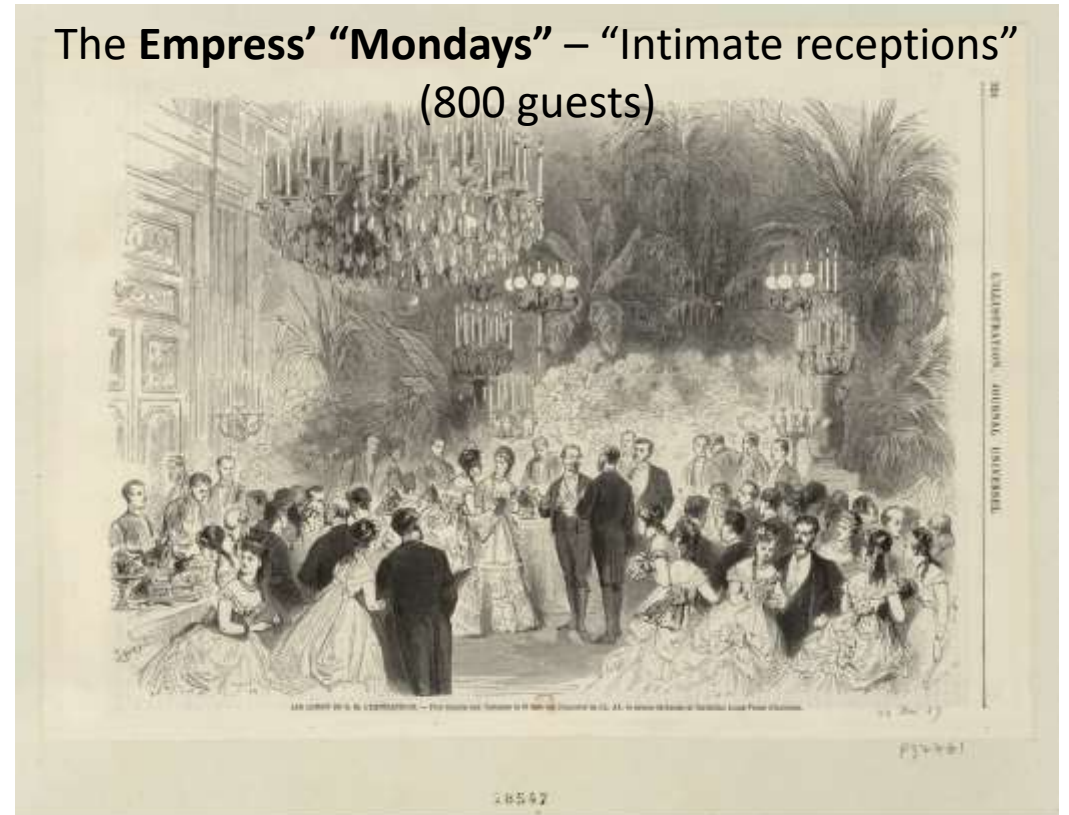
2 December 1851: Louis-Napoleon at the **Tuileries Palace** – The resurgence of Court life

The **Tuileries Palace**: the heart of the Second Empire

The official imperial residence in Paris



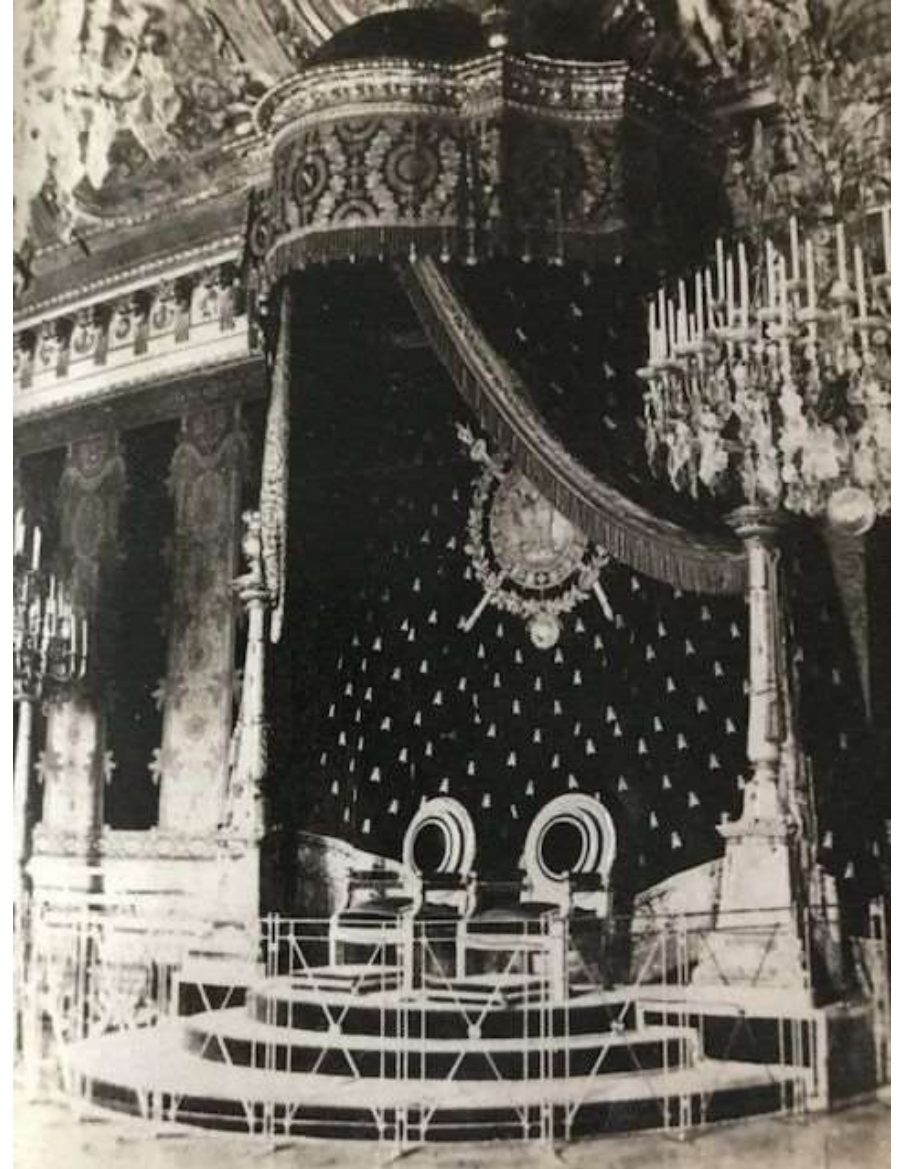
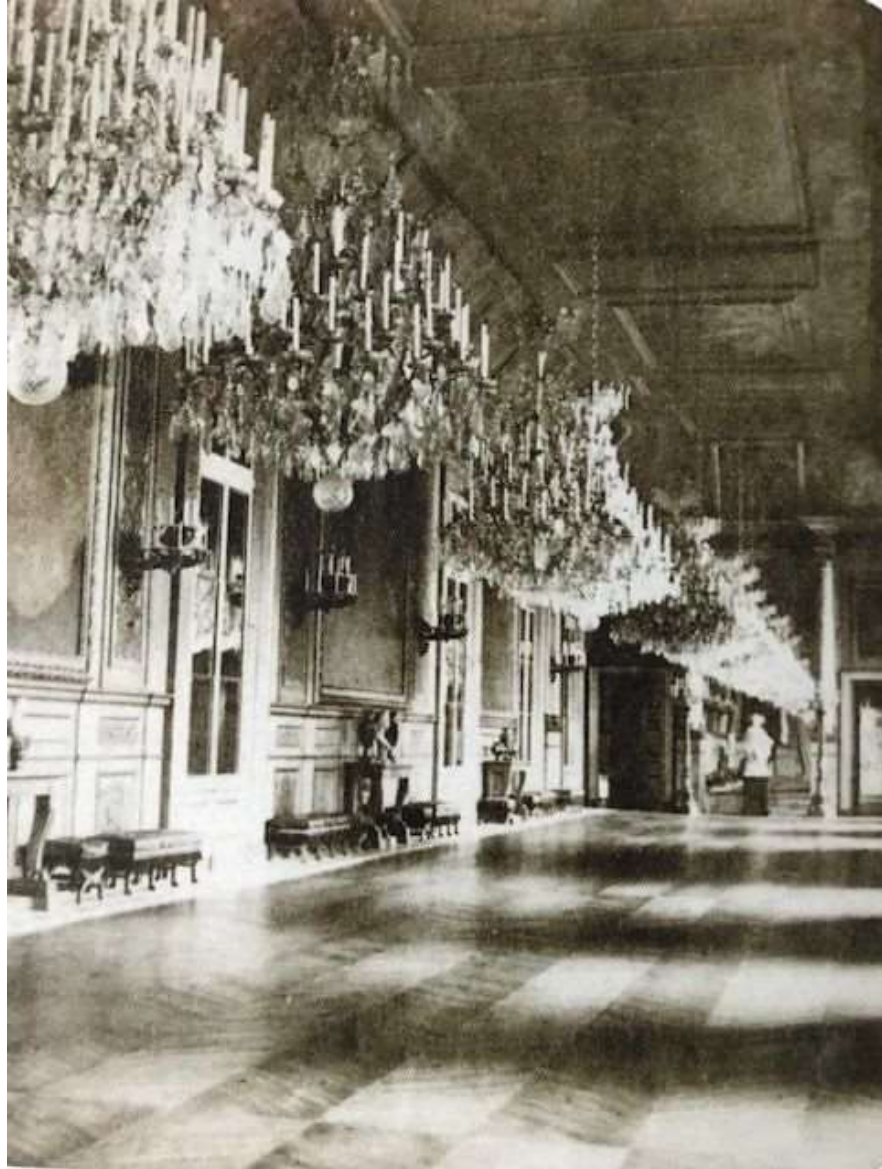
The **Empress' "Mondays"** – "Intimate receptions" (800 guests)







Grand balls & official receptions – Their purposes:
to impress & facilitate the merging of the elites





January 1853: Napoleon III marries Eugénie,
Countess of Teba – The modern concept of
a **love match**



A **popular marriage** among
the masses & the bourgeoisie





Return to order

Napoleon III wearing a uniform (a regime born out of a coup and supported by the Army)

Grand Collar of the Légion d'honneur (the "N" to remember Napoleon, founding father of the Legion of Honor)

The **Tuilleries Palace** in the background





Emperor of the French

Crown, sceptre and hand of justice (symbols of royal power)

The crown next to Napoleon III

The emperor holds the hand of justice, not the sceptre

Napoleon's throne behind





•••••
Eugénie: a political asset

Marriage with Eugénie:
image of **stability** and
respectability

Eugénie: not a royal princess
but a member of old
Spanish aristocracy

A **devout Catholic**



Eugénie: the Second Empire's **First Lady** – An undeserved reputation of frivolity & bigotry

"The ornament of the throne"



A role of representation







A political couple

Complicity despite Napoleon III's
many extramarital affairs

Eugenie: no real **political influence**
until 1870



16 March 1856: the birth of the Prince Impérial – Glittering festivities



The baptism of the Prince Imperial at Notre-Dame

“It was certainly the most beautiful religious ceremony one could witness”
(Count Hübner, Austrian ambassador to Paris)



*Napoleon III and his son (1861): a **political message** – The emperor presents proudly his son*

Napoleon III dressed in a simple black suit (red dot: the Légion d'honneur)

Looks straight at us

The incarnation of a firm and protecting political regime

The prince: black vest and Scottish kilt (Eugenie was half Scottish)

Dynastic continuity – Touching simplicity

Napoleon III: the father of the nation as well as a father

A protective mother



Fighting for women & education

Rosa Bonheur: the first woman granted the
Légion d'honneur by Eugénie



Eugénie: the promotion of the
arts, education and sciences
A real impact



Empress Eugénie et her ladies (Winterhalter, 1855)





Paris: **capital of fashion**

The Countess of Montebello

(The granddaughter of one of
Napoleon's marshals & best friend of
Eugenie's sister)

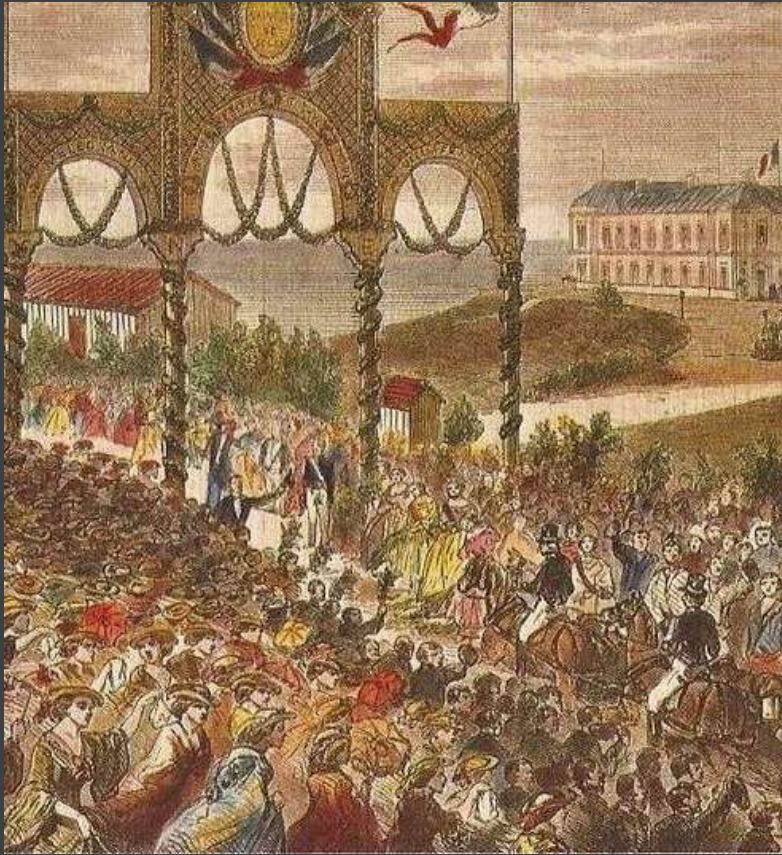
The crinoline (industrial coloring)

An abundance of lace and
ribbons

Few jewels but lots of flowers

Saint-Cloud





Biarritz



Compiègne



Evening illuminations at Versailles in honor of the
King of Spain (21 August 1864)

Versailles: an echo to the
munificence of Louis XIV

Queen Victoria at Versailles (1855)





Victoria's official visit to
France: the first British
sovereign since the
Hundred Years War

A complete success

Fontainebleau







The reception of the ambassadors of Siam at Fontainebleau by Gérôme (1861)



Siam (Thailand) threatened by British colonial expansionism in India sought a rapprochement with France

1861: the king of Siam sent ambassadors (reception at Fontainebleau)

One of Napoleon III's key priorities: to re-establish France's power on the global stage

The Crimean War
(1853-1856)

Colonial expansion
(Cochinchina)

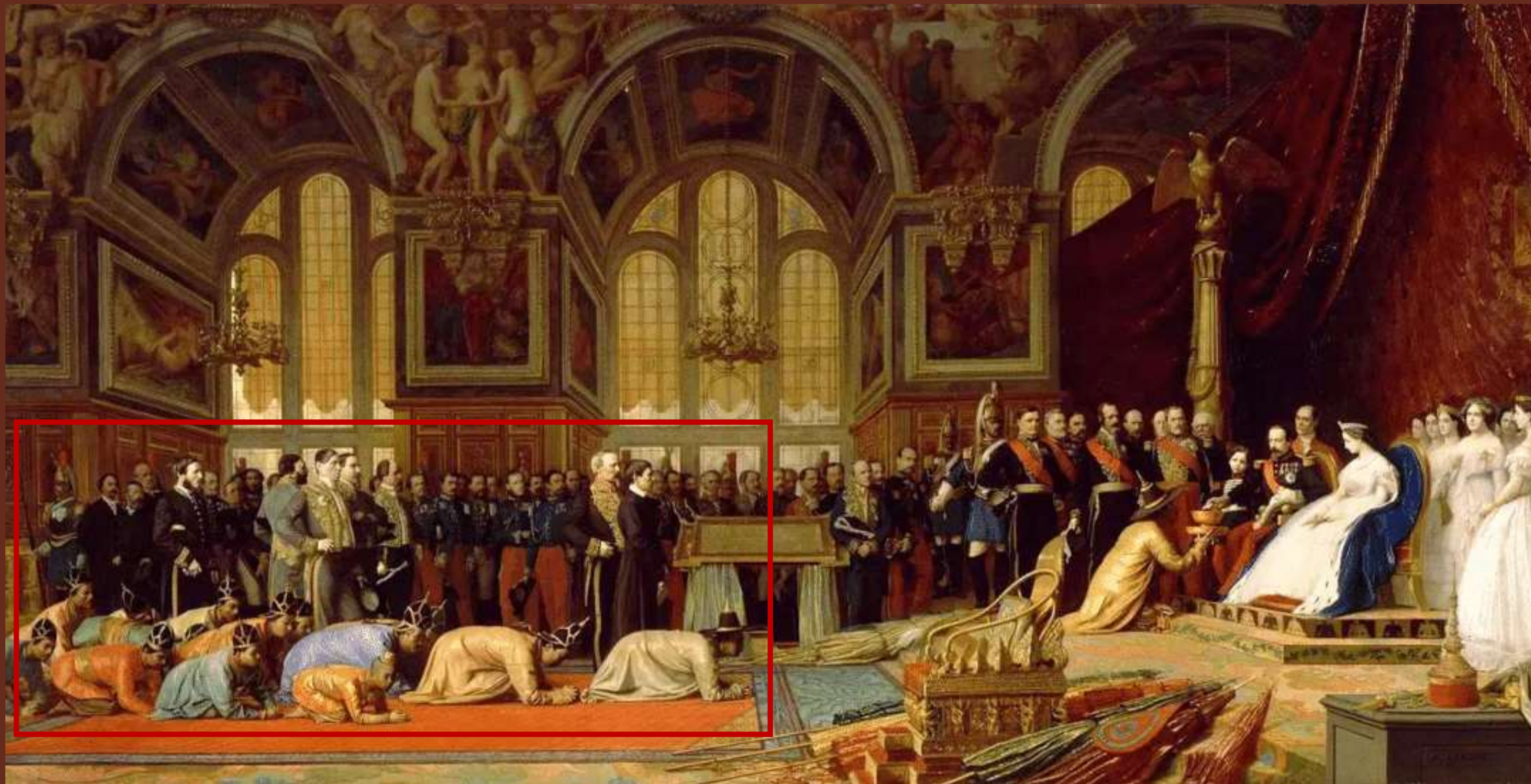
The reception of the Shah of Persia's emissaries (19 February 1715)







Sumptuous presents
Symbols of Siamese royalty
Royal crown (2298 rubies)



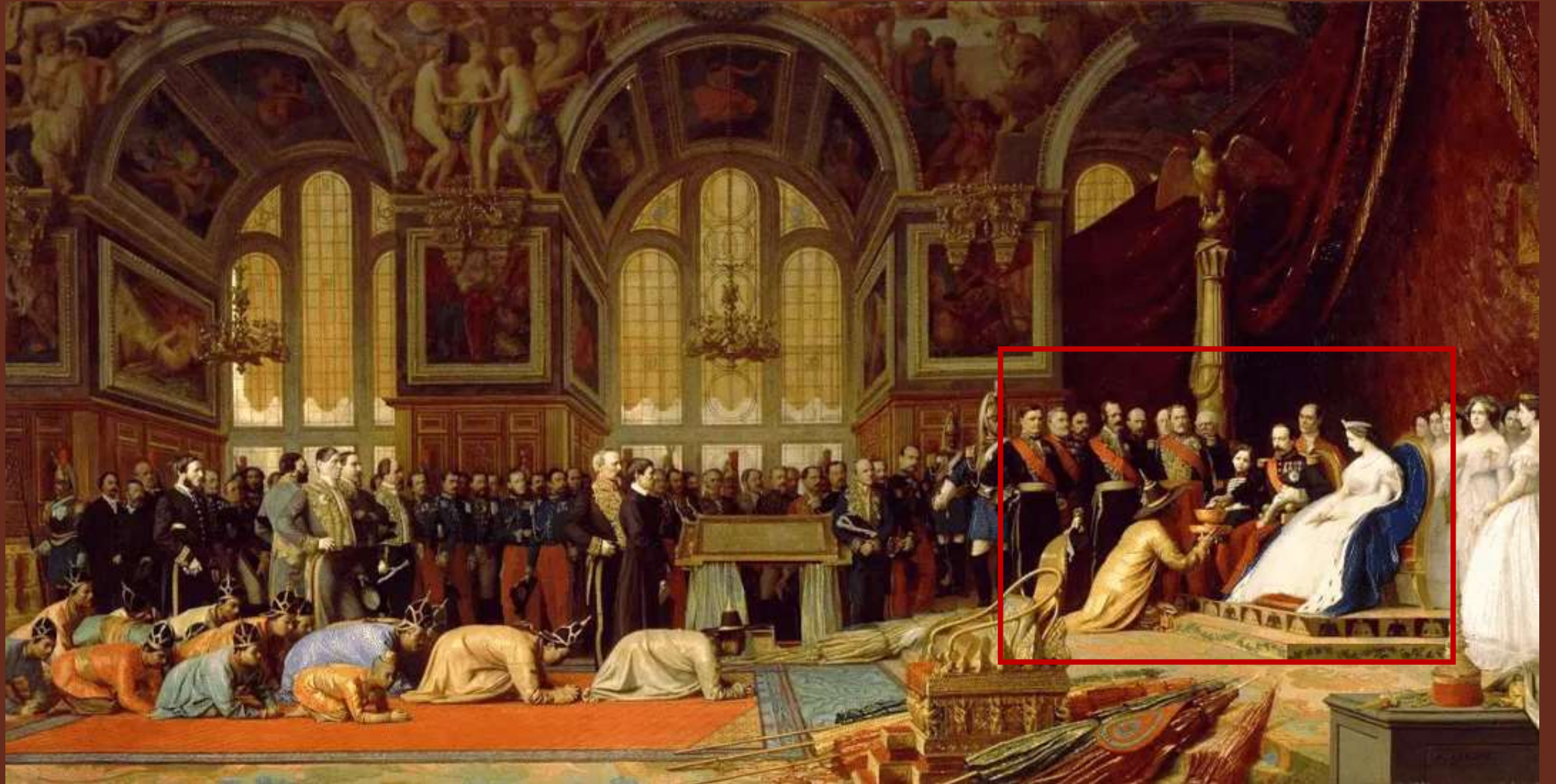


3 years to complete
the painting

87 portraits

The ambassador, his
young son & retinue
prostrate themselves
before the imperial
couple

The Renaissance-style reception room at Fontainebleau reproduced exactly



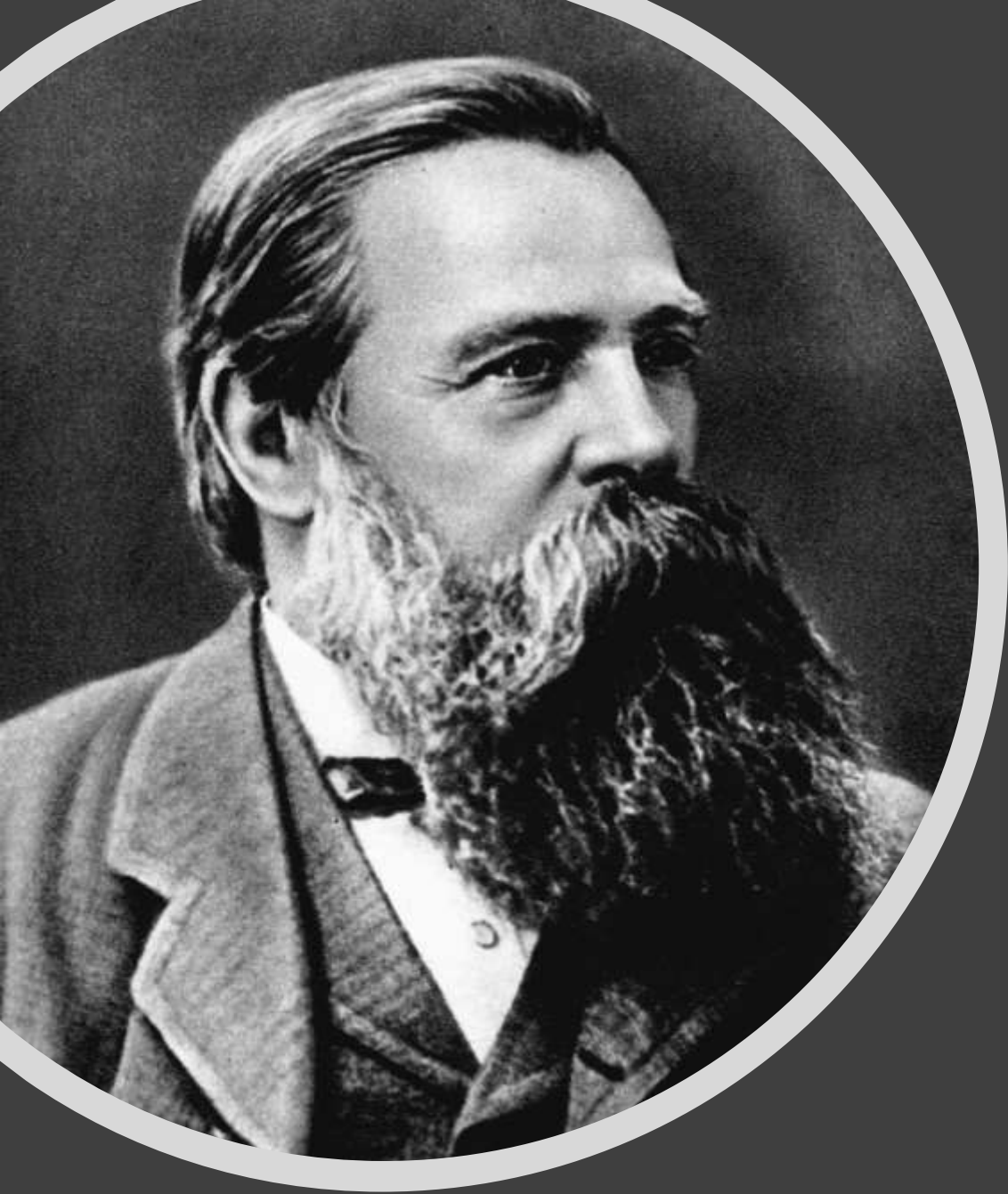


Imperial France associated with military power

Napoleon and France's domination over Europe

Fighting repeated coalitions while spreading revolutionary ideas





*“Napoleon was in Germany the
representative of the Revolution, the
bearer of its principles, the destructor
of the old feudal society”*
Friedrich Engels



Napoleon III in 1852: *"The Empire means peace"*

The Second Empire: numerous military interventions



The First & Second Empire
fell as a result of a **military
defeat**
(1814-1815 & 1870)



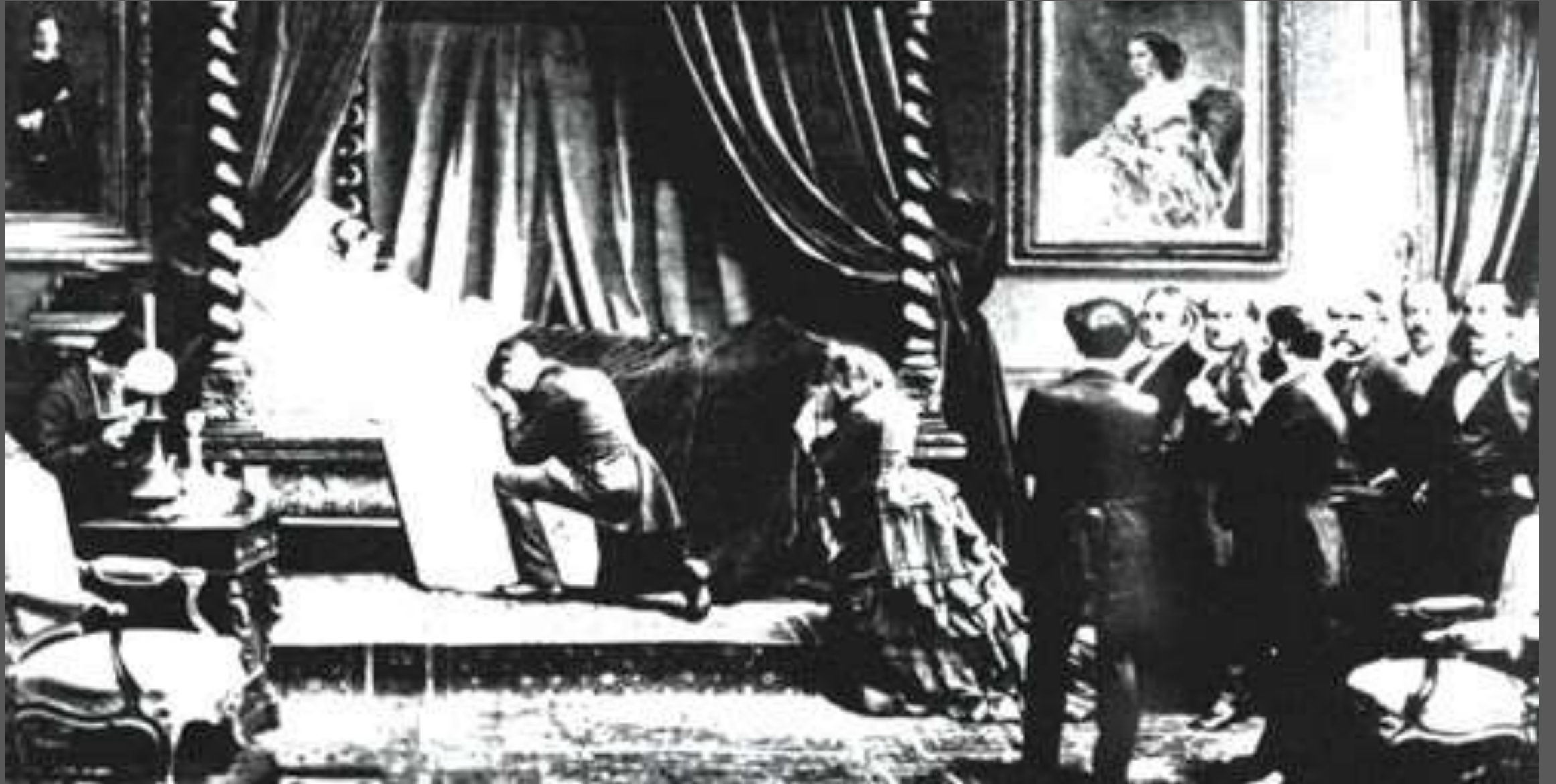


4 September 1870:
proclamation of the
republic





Exile in England





Charles de Gaulle

The man who said no to defeat in 1940

Return to power in 1958 (France in crisis)

The use of referendum
Constitutional reforms (the election of the president by the people)

Ambitious foreign policy (the *grandeur* of France)

