

Napoleon I and 3

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contrast
1 and 3!

Madame de Staël

“While Napoléon is on the throne, there will always be another war, another conquest. He is the great threat to liberty and independence in Europe.”



(Madame de Staël's genius was to cast independence in the form of a nationally diverse Europe, and as the antithesis of Napoleon's ambitions for a 'world monarchy'.)

Europe

- 1500



europa

- 1800



1799



1799

- This map shows the political boundaries of Europe at the start of the Napoleonic wars. France owns a large portion of what is now North East Germany. The main European powers are Britain, France and Austria. Russia's size dwarfs any of its European neighbours, but the country is extremely backward and underdeveloped. Italy and Germany are divided amongst petty states though the German state of Prussia has risen to middle power status and dominates north central Europe. Prussia's position between France, Austria and Russia makes it vulnerable to encirclement. Spain remains a large country with many overseas possessions but it is a weak military and economic power. Similarly the Ottoman empire still holds vast areas of Europe, Asia and Africa but it is backwards militarily and economically and not equal to the European powers militarily.

1801, Treaty of Lunéville



1805



1805

- France's power expands

By 1805, the fighting in Europe has led to some changes in the political status quo. The major powers - Britain, France and Austria are pretty much the same as before. But in Italy, the French puppet state of the Italian Republic has been created as a result of Napoleon's victories there

1810



1810

- By 1810 the map of Europe reflects the enormous changes wrought by Napoleon's campaigns in Europe and the political re-alignment that followed. Poland has been wrested from Prussia and Russia and re-established as an independent country after years of foreign occupation. The Papal states have been annexed by Italy and the Italian Republic has expanded in the north. The boundaries of Austria had changed significantly. There has also been a re-alignment of the German states.

Madame de Staël 1812

Staël's Traveled to St Petersburg in August 1812. Her role in the formation of a coalition against Napoleon was the result of a chain of events that began with her completion of *On Germany*, a work she had begun four years earlier, in the wake of Napoleon's annihilation of Prussian forces at the Battle of Jena.

On Germany constituted a new kind of 'cultural' study written, like her novel *Corinne or Italy*, in the absence of the objective political features of the relevant nation, and evocative of national patriotism as a method of opposition to Napoleon. It described the characteristics of a German national esprit that, Staël argued, traversed the lands of the historic federation, including Prussia, Austria, and the German-speaking parts of the Swiss cantons, and that she believed could excite its populations to take up arms in defence of their difference from the French.

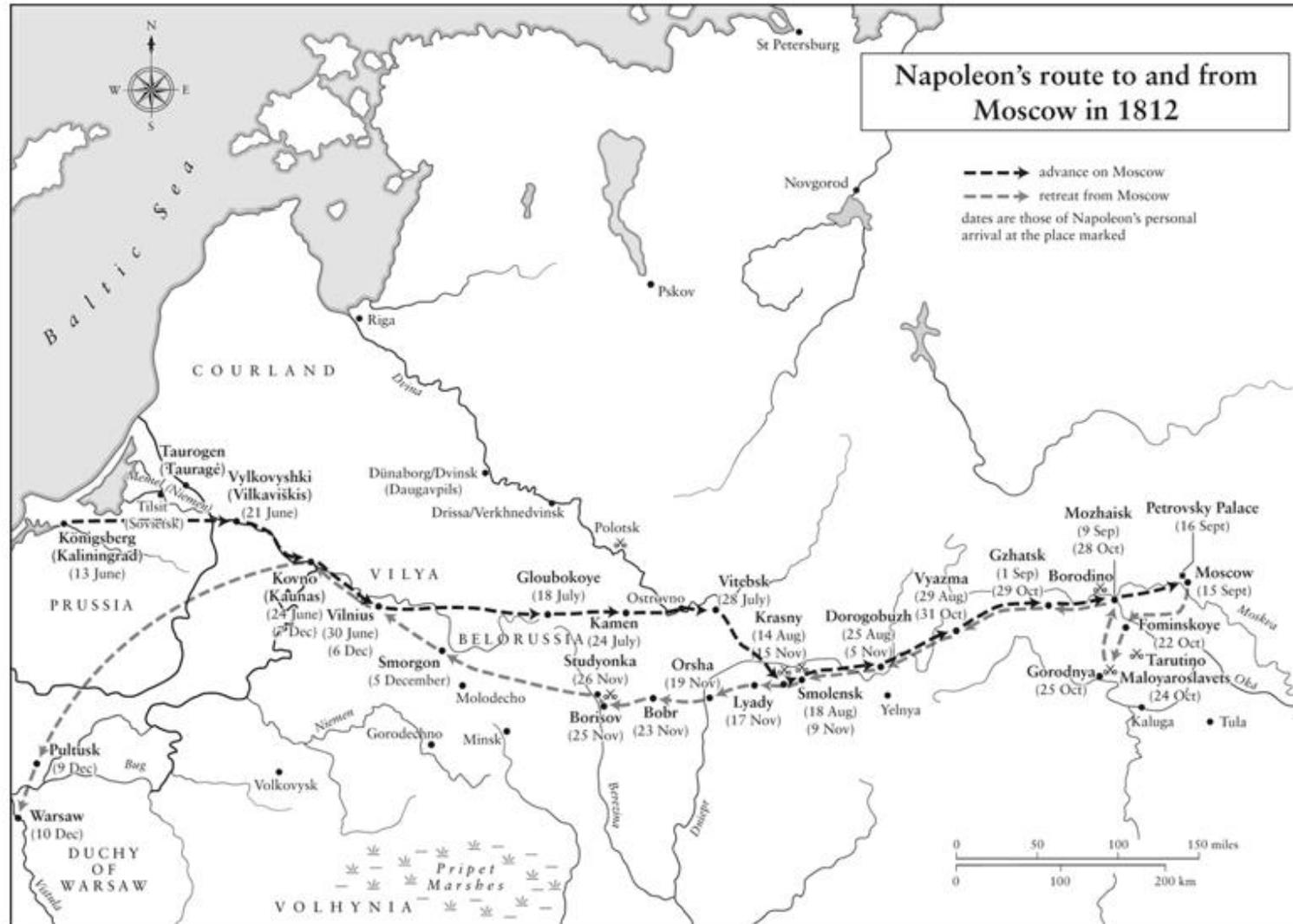
1812 Napoleonic Europe



A European-wide coalition against Napoleon

- From 1812, when Staël found herself part of the machinations for a new international order. Having fled French security forces, Staël arrived in St Petersburg just as the Russian Tsar Alexander was about to initiate with Sweden the first alliance in a fateful coalition; in Stockholm as the Swedish Crown Prince Jean-Baptiste Bernadotte manoeuvred his interests through the advances of Britain, Austria, and Prussia for the coalition's expansion; in London as the English began to strategise the terms of an international peace with implications for Europe and its colonies; and in Paris, as coalition members disputed the conditions of the treaty that would set the terms for the iconic Vienna congress.

1812, Napoleon's route to and from Moscow



Act of Abdication

After the allied entry into Paris on 30 March, 1814, Napoleon fell back to the palace at Fontainebleau with all the troops he had left. From there, he had planned to attack the capital before changing his mind and deciding to negotiate with his enemies, who sought his abdication.

On 4, 6, and 11 April, Napoleon signed three acts of abdication, the minutes and final version of which show the evolution and progressive adjustments in the terms and conditions for the renunciation of the throne which Napoleon attempted to fix himself and which were nevertheless gradually imposed upon him by the circumstances.

The Treaty of Fontainebleau

- The plenipotentiaries above named, after having proceeded to the exchange of their respective full powers, have agreed to the following articles:
- **Article I.** His Majesty the Emperor Napoleon renounces, for himself, his successors and descendants as well as for each of the members of his family, all right of sovereignty and domination, as well as over the French Empire and the kingdom of Italy as over all other countries.
- **Article II.** Their Majesties the Emperor Napoleon and the Empress Marie-Louise, will preserve their titles and qualities to enjoy them during their lives. The mother, brothers, sisters, nephews and nieces of the Emperor shall equally preserve, wherever they may be sojourning, the titles of princes of his family.
- **Article III.** The island of Elba, adopted by his Majesty the Emperor Napoleon, for the place of his residence, shall form, during his life, a separate principality, which shall be possessed by him in all sovereignty and property.
- **Article IV.** All the allied powers engage themselves to employ their good offices cause to be respected, by the Barbary powers, the flag and territory of the island of Elba, so that in its relations with the Barbary powers it should be assimilated to France.
- **Article V.** The Duchies of Parma, of Placentia, and of Guastalla shall be given, in all property and sovereignty, to her Majesty the Empress Marie-Louise. They shall pass to her son and to his descendants in direct line. The prince her son shall take, from this time, the title of Prince of Parma, of Placentia, and of Guastalla.
- **Article VI.** There shall be reserved, in the countries which Napoleon renounces for himself and his family, certain domains or given pensions on the grand livre of France, producing an annual net revenue, deduction being made for all charges, of 2,500,000 francs. These domains, or rentes, shall belong in all property, and to be disposed of as it shall seem best to them, to the princes and the princesses of his family, and shall be divided amongst them

- Napoleon stayed and ruled Elba for ten months, from May 3, 1814, to February 26, 1815, in which night he escaped from Elba during a masquerade carnival party.

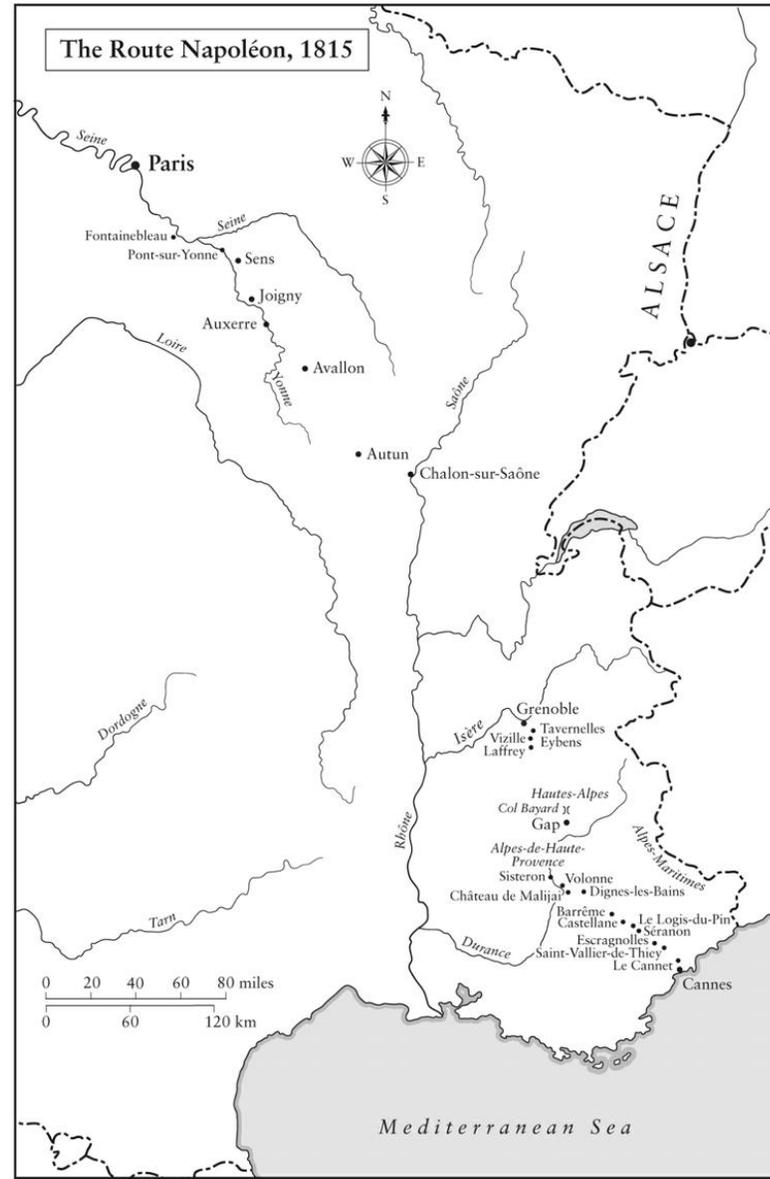


- Napoleon met his definitive defeat with the destructive battle of Waterloo which granted him a second exile on the island of Saint Helena located in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean.

Route Napoléon

- On March 1st, 1815, when Napoleon Bonaparte first set foot on Golfe-Juan beach, after exile on Elba. By his side, 1200 men ready to conquer Paris and sit their emperor on the throne once again.
- It marks the beginning of a six day and 324 kilometre epic journey. At the time, Napoleon and his men took the direction of the Alps and followed the muleteers footpaths to avoid being detected by the royalist resistance. The "Route Napoleon", officially named in 1932, follows a part of his itinerary, going through two regions (Provence-Alps-Côte d'Azur and Rhône-Alpes) and four departments (Alpes Maritimes, Alpes de Haute-Provence, Hautes-Alpes and Isère).

The Route Napoléon begins at Golfe-Juan, where Napoleon disembarked 1 March 1815, beginning the Hundred Days that ended at Waterloo. The road was inaugurated in 1932 and meanders from the French Riviera north-northwest along the foothills of the Alps. It is marked along the way by statues of the French Imperial Eagle.



1815



1815

- The map of Europe reflects the waning of French power. The Italian Republic is gone and France has lost much of its German possessions as well as territory in northern Italy.

1824



1824

- 1824: It is now 9 years after the French defeat and the victors have re-portioned Europe to their liking. Sweden has absorbed Norway. Poland has been carved up between Prussia and Russia. Austria has gained territory especially in Northern Italy. Germany is once again fragmented among small states, but Prussia has survived and in less than 50 years will unite Germany under its empire and eclipse the fading empire of Austria.
- France has been diminished territorially and has the shape that it will have until its disastrous war with Germany in 1870, when even more of its territory will be lost.

France

- 1874

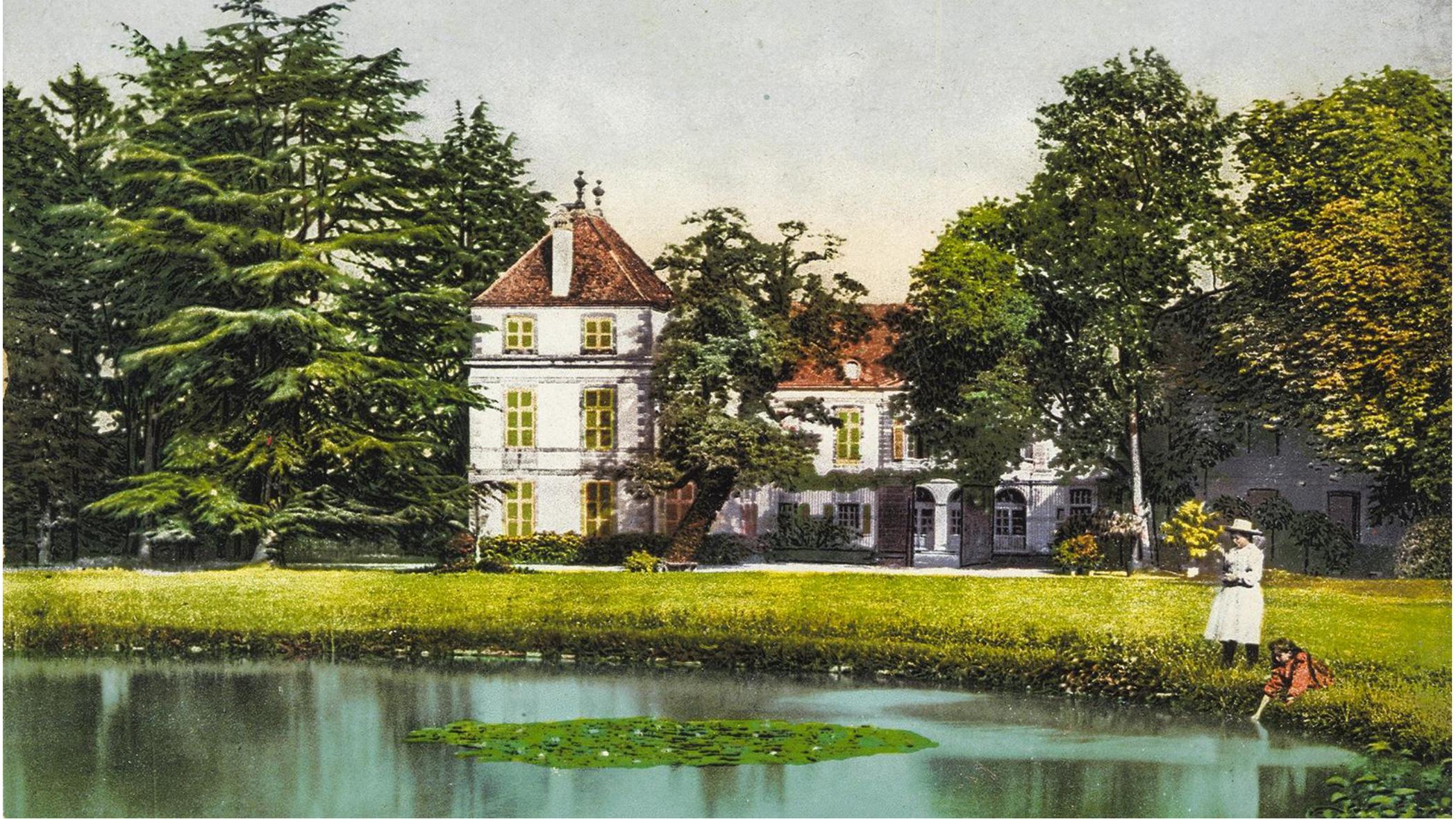


Germaine de Staël

In 1813, common parlance in England and on the continent had it that there were three powers in Europe: Britain, Russia, and Germaine de Staël. She was by then in her mid-forties, celebrated across the Continent and Atlantic for her writing: from the novels *Delphine* (1802) and *Corinne or Italy* (1807), to her original studies of national literatures and cultures such as *On Germany* (1813). Even in an age when women were tolerated as the writers of novels, Staël's status as a female 'genius' was exceptional. Some of her social circumstances worked against her prospects as a public figure - she was neither a man, nor an aristocrat, and, as importantly in her native France, she was not a Catholic. But her privileged private situation also worked to her advantage.

Her father, the Genevan-born Jacques Necker, was Louis XVI's celebrated Minister of Finances, a position that placed the family in the corridors of the French Royal Court. Her mother, Suzanne Necker, was famous for her salon, where the young Germaine imbibed the Enlightenment at the feet of its greatest spokespersons. By the time she had grown up, Staël was, thanks to her father, an extremely wealthy woman with her own flair for financial management. When, in 1785, she married the hapless Baron Eric Magnus Staël-Holstein, Swedish Ambassador to France, she added to her capacity to act in the world the status of Baronne and 'ambassadrice'. These titles gave her personal status at court and in society and, as importantly, access to diplomatic immunity.

Until 1792, when the republican-minded Staël became a political persona non grata for her opposition to the violence of the new republic, the Swedish Embassy in the rue du Bac was the hearth of her celebrated salon. As the political situation deteriorated, she used her money and situation to help rescue from peril individuals in her circle, as well as others outside; 'woman as I am', she wrote at the age of twenty-eight, she preferred 'real dangers' to a safe life removed from the centre of political events. When the Terror brought the denunciation of her salon, Staël was forced to flee to England, returning to Paris only after Robespierre's death in 1794.



Coppet Castle, residence and burial place of Madame de Staël and her parents, around 1920.

Under both the Directory, and Napoleon's early years of rule, Staël's reconstituted salon in the Faubourg St. Germain became a gathering point for liberal republicans and moderate royalists, 'diplomats, ambassadors, artists and men of letters', a place for the cultivation of discussion, generation of ideas, dissemination of views, and orchestration of political favours and appointments including, most famously, Charles Maurice de Talleyrand to the position of Foreign Minister in 1797

In 1803, Napoleon condemned Staël as 'a perpetual motion machine, who stirs up the salons', and ordered her to keep a distance of forty leagues from Paris. Staël would quip that under Napoleon a whole social order was being organised to prevent an ambitious woman from rising to the reputation of a man. During the ten years of exile that ensued, Staël's most permanent address was her father's chateau in Coppet, on Lake Geneva, already well known as home to the Coppet circle, most famously Benjamin Constant, August Wilhelm Schlegel, and Simonde de Sismondi.

Despite her geographical displacement, Staël continued to speak out against Napoleon's creeping hegemony over Europe and domestic despotism. She accused him of wielding 'absolute power', to the extent that 'no person could any longer follow his own will, either in the most important circumstances or in the most trifling'.