

**#68 The Legs of Iron – Napoleon ends the Holy Roman Empire on August 6, 1806**

**Key Understanding:** *Napoleon ends the Holy Roman Empire.* Napoleon’s France, which represents the West of the Charlemagne Split, defeated the Habsburgs, who represent the East of Charlemagne’s Split. An end to the Holy Roman Empire was declared on August 6, 1806.

From 1792 onwards, revolutionary France was intermittently at war with various parts of the Austrian-led Holy Roman Empire. The empire was formally dissolved on August 6, 1806, when the last Holy Roman Emperor, Francis II, abdicated following a military defeat by the French Army under Napoleon. Napoleon (*pictured*) reorganized much of the empire into what was called his Confederation of the Rhine. **All of this ended the Holy Roman Empire, later called the First Reich.**



The map below shows a Napoleon-conquered Europe in 1812



**The Congress of Vienna.** Napoleon would be fully defeated in 1815, and in that year, at the Congress of Vienna, European political leaders of the various monarchies attempted to restore the European political system to the way it had been before the French Revolution and Napoleon. Thus, shortly after Napoleon, the European monarchies of France, Spain, and Austria were in place. While the Holy Roman Empire was officially ended, the Habsburg family continued to be called Austrian emperors until the events of World War I ended for good the Austrian-Hungarian Empire.

#68–Doc 1 is a map of the post-Napoleon restructured Europe after the **Congress of Vienna** in 1815.

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[Note: This part of history is complex, but for now, just rest in understanding the big picture of the official end of the Holy Roman Empire in 1806, though the Austrian Empire that headed the Holy Roman Empire would continue on to World War I.]

*Daniel 2:40 (KJV) And **THE FOURTH KINGDOM SHALL BE STRONG AS IRON** [the Legs of Iron Roman Empire, extending through the Western Roman Empire, which ended in 476 A.D., and the Eastern Roman Empire, which ended in 1453 A.D. The Leg of Iron of the Western Roman Empire was extended to include the life of the Holy Roman Empire, begun by Charlemagne in 800 A.D. Its political power was generally German-based in the earlier centuries, including that of Charlemagne, King Otto I and Frederick Barbarossa, **but more Austrian-based in the later centuries through the Habsburg Dynasty.** In the meantime, the Leg of Iron of the *Eastern* Roman Empire was further extended to include the life of the Russian Empire]: *forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise.**

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