

# US National Standard in Culture

## Nostredame on Work Ethic



## Public Education 2

**NOSTREDAME:** At the turn of the French Revolution, the main purpose of the law of 1802 was to create the *lycée*, Napoleon's war and military school, a public school.

Source: The Napoleon Revolution, Robert Holtman, 1967

The *lycées* were to teach classical languages, rhetoric, logic, morality, and the elements of the mathematical and physical sciences. The bourgeoisie avoided them since they offered no religious instruction.

**Marquis Fontanes:** This was then the real purpose to reordering the school system. I was at odds with Napoleon. As much as he thought he would conquer other nations, he could not put France backward—the people were too far ahead of those other nations that did not have the background of religious education that would made of them to think of themselves as the one whom had a reason to live, a *raison d'être* as I had said.

The reorganization of public education, we must keep the *lycée* particularly in mind for Napoleonic

education. It was the central point of his thinking-and it *was a failure*.

In 1806 there were 370 communal and 377 private secondary schools enrolling 50,000 pupils, as contrasted with 15,000 pupils in the *lycées*.

There were 4,500 private schools, above the level of primary schools. There were secondary schools which had 25,000 pupils.

The law of 1802 had failed, for the *lycées* could not withstand the competition of the private and communal schools.

The *lycées* did not prove more popular for a number of reasons, The bourgeoisie did not send their sons to them because these schools were looked upon as being irreligious and as being barracks to form soldiers. There could be no questioning the military discipline of the *lycées*, where military exercises were required of all pupils.

**NOSTREDAME:** Had it not been for the choice that parents had, there would have been a forcing upon the people to only accept the military school or the *lycée*.