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Him crowning the empress as he believed it presented a nobler, less authoritarian image, a ruler for the people. The painting has meaning for example the use of gold, red represents wealth, power and importance and the white sacred and putiry, the red and white together shows happiness and celebration. Even the light source that is constantly over the congregation shows unity and the concentrated light on Napoleon and the Pope adds importance to them. Napoleon had quite a power over what was in the paintings yet David added his own ideas. Ingres also painted a work of Napoleon, Napoleon Ion his Imperial Throne 1806. This painting had many hidden symbols to reflect Ingres's thoughts on napoleon. Napoleon was an imperialist, even though he did not declare himself one. He conquered his neighbours and forced the code Napoleon onto those countries. He stated that he was merely establishing his democracy throughout Europe following examples of his hero Julius Caesar and Charlemagne but he did not fulfil this notion. In the painting there are many imperialist symbols. He is depicted holding the hand of justice and the sceptre of Charlemagne with a laurel wreath on his head an Eagle carpet underneath him and a sword leant against him. The hand represents the justice-dispensing power of God as being literally in the hands of the King. The sceptre and sword both belong to a past imperialist king, Charlemagne (crowned in the year 800) The laurel wreath refers to victory and success and connects to Greek victors and roman military victory. The eagle is the imperial eagle. This symbol represents a government headed by and emperor.

Orientalism is scenes from exotic cultures that included history, religion, literature, landscapes or genre associated with Northern African, near Eastern or Biblical subjects. The interest of the exotic was fuelled by the exploration of James Cook and the invasion of Egypt by Napoleon.

Examples of orient influenced art are a collection of paintings by Jean
Auguste Ingres, a student of David, Bather of Valpincon 1808 and La
Grande Odalisque 1814. The first has many oriental influences such as the sumptuous textures (turban) and designer bed clothes. Also the idea of nudity and bathing at public baths is something new to Europe as it was a very Turkish fashion. This nude also reflects his belief in enlightenment values and the possibility of human perfection. The second is very similar, has many oriental influences such as the designed drapery, turban and pipe. A sensuousness is created by the model and lighting in the painting which is also a very different concept to French society at the time. The French would have been captivated by Ingres' nudes as it had no relation to French society at the time.



Napoleon I on his Imperial throne



Bather of Valpincon 1801



La Grande Odalisque 1814

Many ideas were put forward to the public through art such as the ideas of enlightenment, imperialism and orientalism by artists David and Ingres and powerful people such as Napoleon and therefore art was an important part of society. The effort and resources used such as paying the artist and the amount of time it would have taken to paint the work reflects how important it was in society at the time. We see that the ideas transmitted to the public through art consequently shaped society and are a significant part of history,