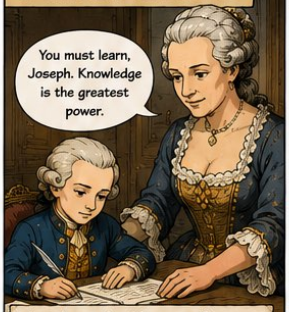
JOSEPH II

A LIFE FOR REFORM AND PROGRESS



- Born: March 13, 1741 in Vienna
- Died: February 20, 1790 in Vienna
- Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire 1765–1790
- Member of the House of Habsburg and ruler of the Habsburg Monarchy

1. A ROYAL CHILDHOOD



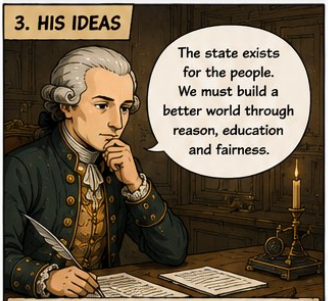
Joseph was the eldest son of Empress Maria Theresa and Emperor Francis I.
His mother prepared him carefully for his future as ruler.

2. BECOMING EMPEROR



In 1765, after the death of his father, Joseph II became Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire. He was only 24 years old.

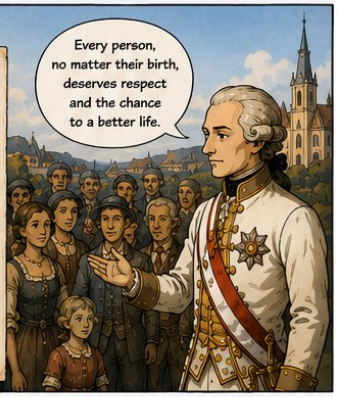
3. HIS IDEAS



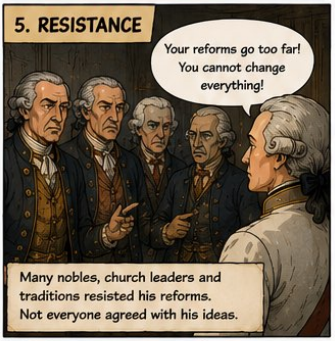
Joseph believed in Enlightened Absolutism: he used his full power as emperor to bring progress and improve the lives of ordinary people.

4. IMPORTANT REFORMS

- Partial abolition of serfdom – more rights and freedom for farmers
- German introduced as an official language in many areas
- Patent of Toleration – more religious freedom
- Abolition of torture
- Promotion of schools and education
- Centralization and modernization of the state
- Reform of laws and administration

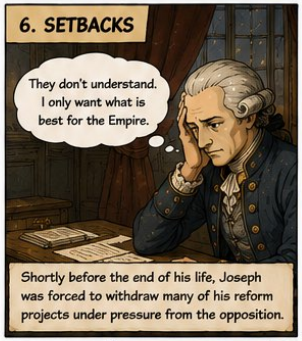


5. RESISTANCE



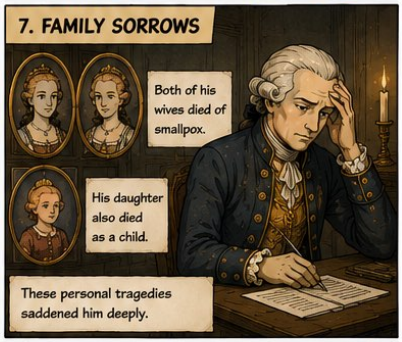
Many nobles, church leaders and traditions resisted his reforms.
Not everyone agreed with his ideas.

6. SETBACKS



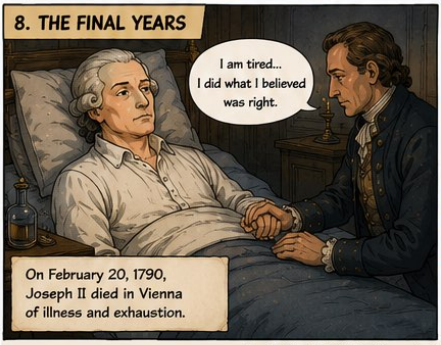
Shortly before the end of his life, Joseph was forced to withdraw many of his reform projects under pressure from the opposition.

7. FAMILY SORROWS



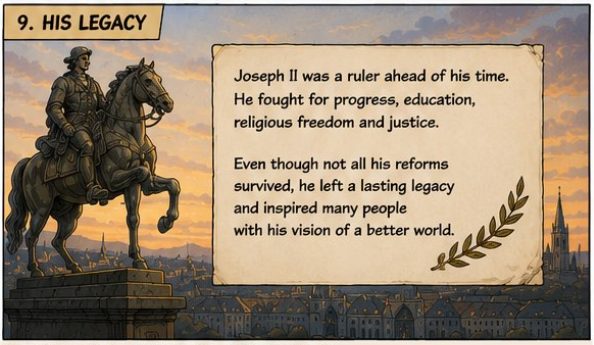
These personal tragedies saddened him deeply.

8. THE FINAL YEARS



On February 20, 1790, Joseph II died in Vienna of illness and exhaustion.

9. HIS LEGACY



Joseph II was a ruler ahead of his time.
He fought for progress, education, religious freedom and justice.

Even though not all his reforms survived, he left a lasting legacy and inspired many people with his vision of a better world.

A REFORMER. A VISIONARY. KAISER JOSEPH II.