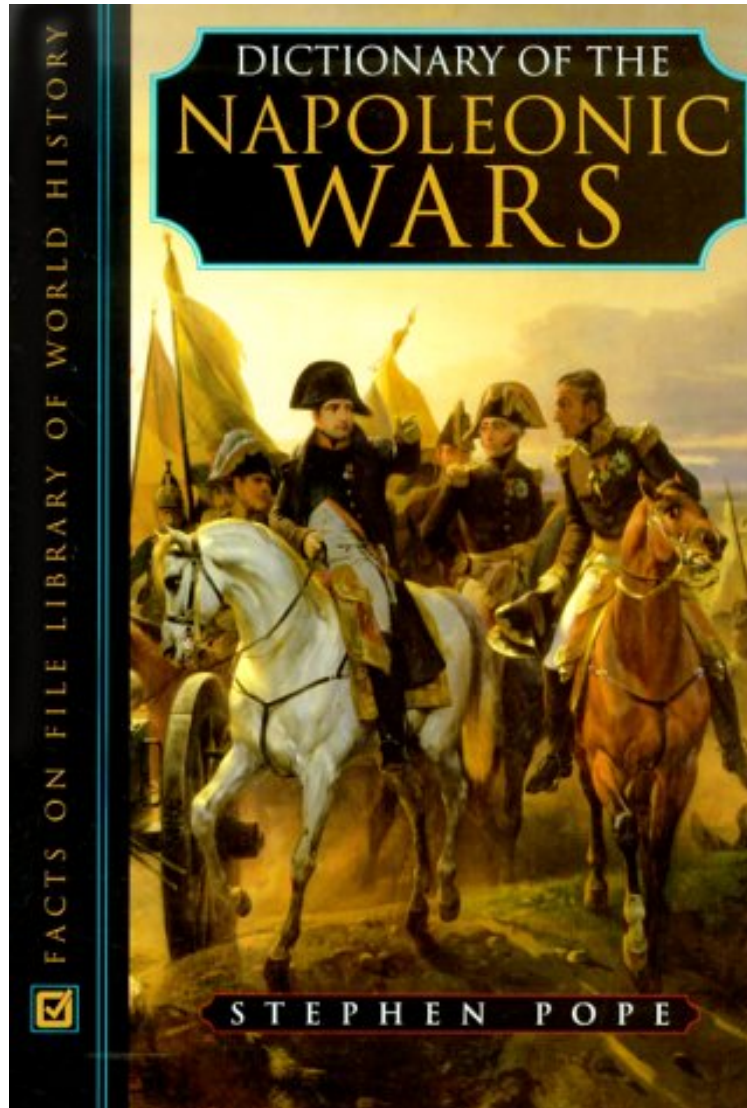


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## Dictionary of Napoleonic Wars

*Stephen Pope*

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**Stephen Pope : Dictionary of Napoleonic Wars** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dictionary of Napoleonic Wars:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Don't Sell Your Chandler! By Tom Holmberg This new dictionary of the Napoleonic era is roughly comparable to that written by David Chandler. Pope has previously written Hornblower's Navy, as well as historical dictionaries of the First and Second World Wars and of the Third Reich. Pope describes his purpose in writing this dictionary as an attempt "to lay out the basic shape and structure of the wars, using dictionary format and rigorous cross-referencing to enable a balance between overview and detail, highlighting

the many links between that particularly exciting slice of the past and our present." (p. 10) The Dictionary of the Napoleonic Wars is divided into four sections. The first, the "Introduction," provides a brief narrative overview of the background and events of the era that Pope defines as 1792 to 1815. The second section is the dictionary itself, which includes more than 1000 entries, ranging in length from a single sentence for "Sappers" to seven pages for "Bonaparte, Napoleon". The book covers the War of 1812 and conflicts fought elsewhere, as well as the European conflict. The third section is a thirteen page "Chronology of the Wars 1792-1815." Finally, a collection of thirty maps is included which range from a political map of Europe in 1812 to a map showing the opening positions of the battle of Borodino. The author states that the maps are "primarily intended to help the reader navigate around those places discussed in the entries, and are therefore most concerned with naming and marking locations." As in any undertaking of this sort the author must steer a precarious course between detailing minutiae and painting the era in too broad strokes. Specialists in the era will likely always be disappointed as to the space devoted or slant given to a particular subject. The book, as the title implies, confines itself mainly to military aspects, with non-military topics receiving, naturally, less attention. Three drawbacks with Pope's Dictionary are a lack of references or bibliography, a lack of an index and a lack of illustrations. At first glance one would question the need for an index, but if readers want to know about Placenoit they will be at a loss. They might look under "Waterloo, Battle of," if they were knowledgeable enough to know to look there, but even then they would not know what other entries to search under. I tried to find some information on the Spanish prison camp on the islet of Cabrera and was unable to locate any entries that mentioned the "death camp" where 9,000 to 16,000 French prisoners were detained (of which only a third survived). I checked under "Cabrera," "Dupont," "Bailen," "Prisoners of War," etc. all to no avail. Is there an entry somewhere in the book on the camp at Cabrera? There's no way to know. Bibliographic references under at least the longer entries would both give the casual reader additional sources of information and also give a more well-read user an idea of what sources the author used to write that entry. No pictures illustrating either portraits of individuals mentioned nor of concepts covered are included. A reader would have to look elsewhere if he wished to know what a mortar looked like, what a hussar wore or to see the difference between a brigantine and a frigate. Not an essential book if you already own Chandler's Dictionary, especially considering the price. Facts on File, the publisher, produces books mainly for the library trade, therefore I'd recommend trying to get your local library to purchase it.

#### A comprehensive guide to the Napoleonic era

From Library Journal The Napoleonic wars of 1792-1815 wrought profound social, political, and military changes. More than two decades of warfare proved the view, writes the author, "of major wars as hothouses of accelerated development and destruction." Now, following David Nichols's equally polished and comprehensive Napoleon: A Biographical Companion (ABC-CLIO, 1999), comes this well-presented and scholarly dictionary of the Napoleonic wars. Pope is the author of other similar historical dictionaries of World War I, World War II, and the Third Reich. Here he has produced more than 1000 alphabetical entries, supplemented by 30 maps, detailing nearly every aspect of Napoleonic warfare. From broad subjects such as strategy, tactics, diplomacy, and propaganda to specific battles, treaties, weapons, naval warfare, and myriad colorful personalities, the book offers a wealth of succinct information. Unfortunately, it has neither a bibliography nor an index, and it offers no recommended reading suggestions to aid the reader. Still, with its excellent, lengthy historical introduction and wide variety of listings, this will be of entertaining value to history buffs. Recommended for public libraries. DCol. William D. Bushnell, USMC, Retired, Sebasteoan Island, ME Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Pope is a former Oxford modern-history scholar who has authored four well-received reference books dealing with history. This present book, first published last year in Great Britain, covers the Napoleonic Wars from 1792 through 1815. Following a lengthy introduction, the bulk of the text is arranged in a dictionary format with more than 1,000 entries. Wide-ranging entries for home fronts, theaters of war, and wars themselves may be several pages in length. Midlength entries cover particular offensives, tactics, types of weapons, armed forces, and so on, while the shortest entries generally survey specific events, leaders, and weapons. A vast number of cross-references designated in small bold print refer users to related topics. There are no illustrations in the text, but 30 maps at the back of the book depict geographic areas and battle plans. These black-and-white maps vary from a half to a full page in size. Preceding the maps is a 12-page chronology covering 1792 to 1815. There are no bibliographies or bibliographic citations. David Chandler's Dictionary of the Napoleonic Wars (Wordsworth, 1999) is the only truly comparable resource. Both works have approximately the same number of entries, although Pope has a slight edge in numbers. Chandler has a substantial bibliography and many illustrations, both lacking in Pope, along with almost three times as many maps and battle plans. For these reasons, Chandler will be more useful for scholars, although Pope is an excellently designed work and would be a worthwhile addition to academic and public libraries. RBBCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved Will be of entertaining value to history buffs. -- Library Journal, May 15, 2000