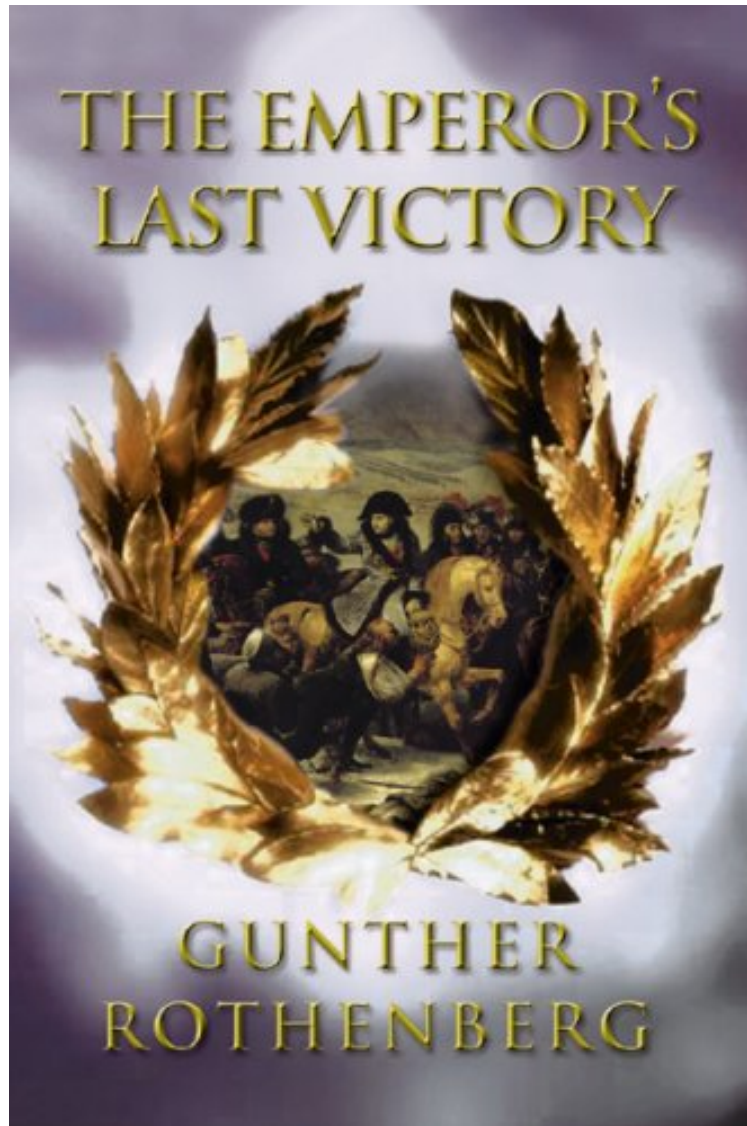


EMPEROR'S LAST VICTORY: Napoleon and the Battle of Wagram

Gunther Rothenburg

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Gunther Rothenburg : EMPEROR'S LAST VICTORY: Napoleon and the Battle of Wagram before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised EMPEROR'S LAST VICTORY: Napoleon and the Battle of Wagram:

7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Serviceable work describing Napoleon's last major victoryBy Steven PetersonThis is a serviceable version of Napoleon's last major victory--at Wagram, as he defeated the Austrian Army

under Archduke Charles. The battle was a monster of its kind, with a huge number of soldiers involved. 300,000 troops fought over a 2 day period; there were about 72,000 casualties (killed, wounded, missing, prisoners), with each side suffering about equally. As the book concludes: "The year after Wagram, Napoleon still looked unbeatable, but Wagram was to be his last decisive victory, the last to break the enemy's will to resist." The book itself traces the Wagram campaign from its early origins. It describes how Napoleon created an army by shuffling a variety of units, some scattered hither and yon. It also describes the Austrian forces, under the leadership of Archduke Charles. The maneuvering before the battles itself is described. Indeed, the lead up to Wagram was most propitious for the Austrian forces. In a battle at Aspern-Essling, Charles managed to bloody the French and experience a tactical victory. Unhappily for the Austrians, however, they did very little (such as fortification) after their modest victory. On the other hand, Napoleon redoubled his labors, brought some additional forces onto the field, and developed a typically ambitious plan of action. At the last instant, Charles decided that he must also show some initiative. Thus, both armies planned to attack the other at about the same time. However, the French generals were better, Napoleon hit his stride during the battle at Wagram, and the end result was a fairly convincing French victory. It was not Austerlitz, but it was a substantial win. Some useful features of the book: there are some decent maps at the beginning (while they could be better, they are serviceable); there is a nice section with short biographies of the major figures; the "order of battle" provides detailed information on the structure and leadership of the armies. The writing is not elegant, but it is serviceable. For a brief description of Napoleon's last big victory, this will serve. A final brief comment. The author died before this book was published, always a sad event. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Lived to fight By Customer So-so book about one of Napoleon's last victories. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Bruce Swanson Rothenberg is a master on Napoleon, and this is a hard to find book for Napoleonic enthusiasts!

In early July 1809 Napoleon crossed the Danube with 187,000 men to confront the Austrian Archduke Charles and an army of 145,000 men. The fighting that followed dwarfed in intensity and scale any previous Napoleonic battlefield, perhaps any in history: casualties on each side were over 30,000. The Austrians fought with great determination, but eventually the Emperor won a narrow victory. It had not been his finest battle, however: the day was carried more by firepower (French artillery fired over 71,000 rounds) and bludgeoning than anything else. Wagram was decisive in that it compelled Austria to make peace. It also heralded a new, altogether greater order of warfare, anticipating the massed manpower and weight of fire deployed much later in the battles of the American Civil War and then at Verdun and on the Somme. This significant battle has rarely been analyzed in any detail. Most of the current literature on it is French and self-serving. Gunther Rothenberg will tell for the first time the story of this immense engagement from both sides, making use of both French sources and the extensive Austrian archives.

About the Author Gunther Rothenberg is the world's leading authority on the Napoleonic Wars. He served with the British, Israeli and US military and taught military history at Purdue University, Indiana, for 25 years. He is the author of six books of military history and regularly contributes to journals on the subject.