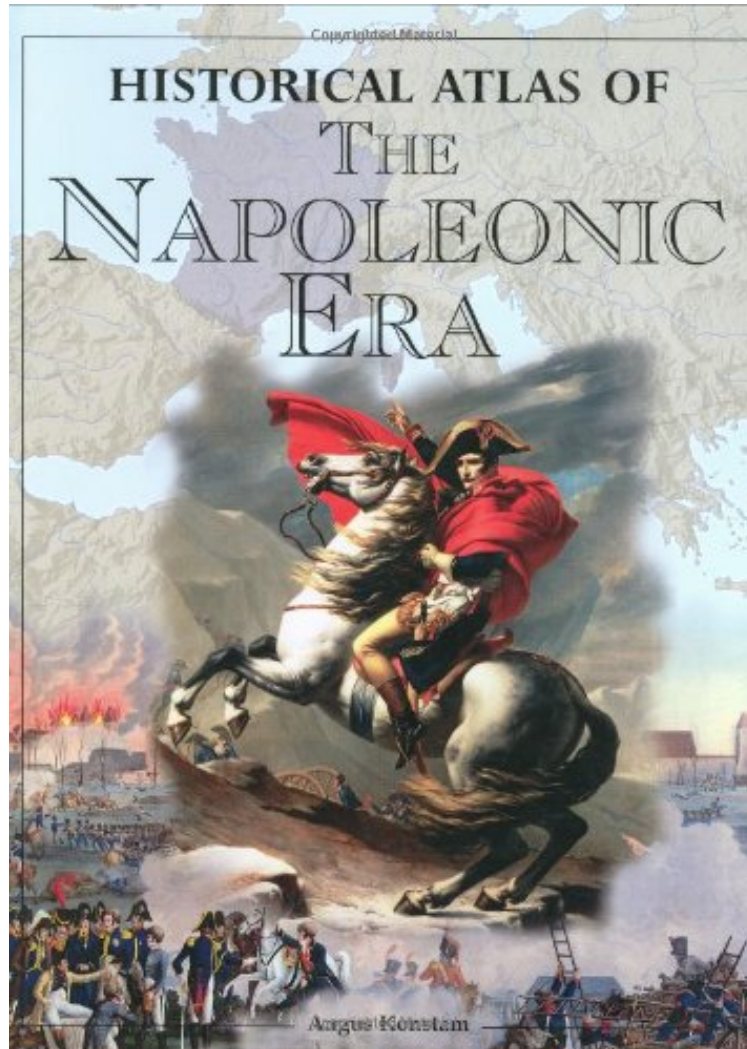


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Historical Atlas of the Napoleonic Era

Angus Konstam

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The French Revolution sent shockwaves through Europe, as the continent's monarchs tried to stamp out the tide of republicanism. France was surrounded by enemies but fought them off, largely through the achievements of Napoleon Bonaparte, the Republic's youngest general. Within a decade he had become Consul, First Consul, and finally Emperor, creating a new dynasty and a new order in Europe. From 1803 until 1809 he seemed unbeatable, vanquishing his foes one after another, but his invasion of Russia in 1812 proved disastrous and he faced a growing coalition of enemy powers. His defeat at the Battle of Waterloo marked the close of the Napoleonic era, but not the end of the Napoleonic legend. This book charts Napoleon's rise and fall and analyses the weaponry and rival armies that were to transform 19th Century Europe.

From the Back CoverFrom humble Corsican origins, Napoleon Bonaparte came to stand alongside the most recognizable figures of history. His achievements place him among the greatest captains in history - military geniuses such as Alexander the Great and Julius Caesar. To most French people he is the great hero who steered France toward greatness. He was also the leader who betrayed the French Revolution in exchange for the imperial mantle. A consummate politician and showman, he did much to nullify this about-face by portraying himself as a liberal conqueror, spreading the ideals of the Revolution throughout a Europe ruled by absolutist monarchs. He has also been described as the enemy of mankind, a despot who ruled Europe as a dictator, and ruthlessly crushed those who stood in his path. Napoleon Bonaparte dominated the period from the French Revolution until 1815 so completely that the era has become known as the Napoleonic Age. For much of this time he remained the Master of Europe, controlling the destiny of millions of people, from the Baltic Sea to the Mediterranean, and from the English Channel to the Russian steppes. Following his death in 1821, Napoleon Bonaparte and his legacy have been viewed in many ways: from the pale mimicry of imperial grandeur in France during the mid-nineteenth century to the abiding fascination in his military and civil achievements. Tyrant or hero, genius or madman, there is no escaping the ramifications of his life. This book examines this crucial period in world history, and looks into the career of the man who still captivates our imagination.