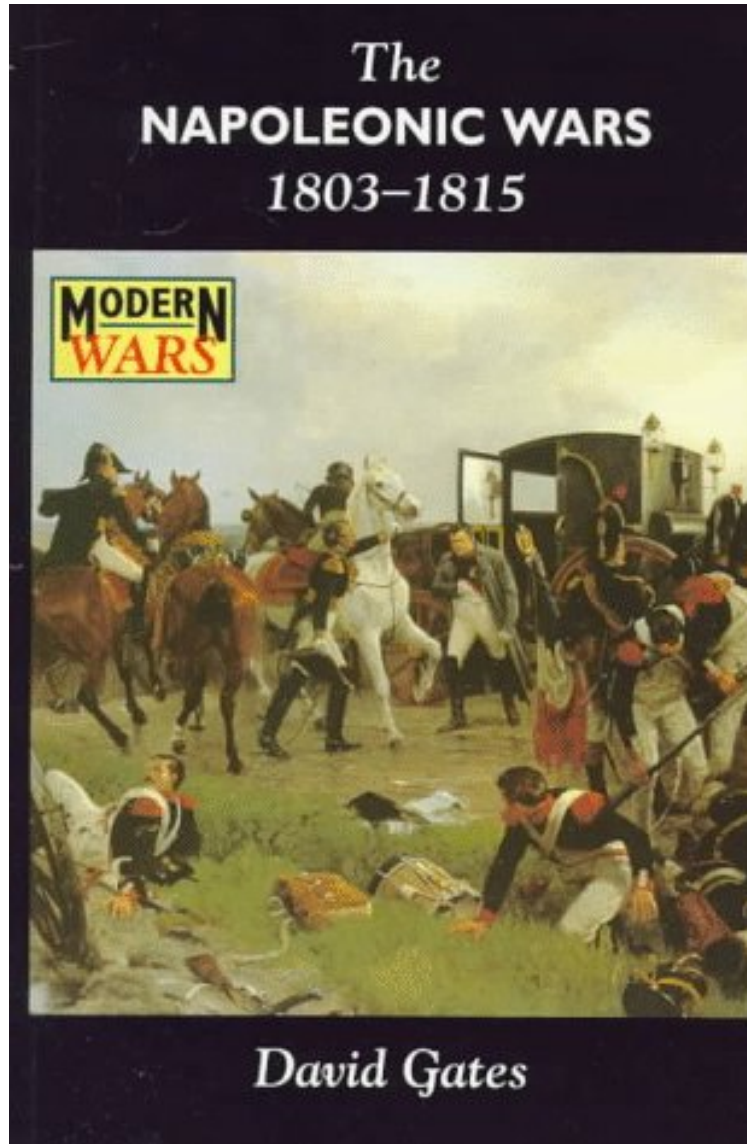


[Read free ebook] The Napoleonic Wars 1803-1815 (Modern Wars)

## The Napoleonic Wars 1803-1815 (Modern Wars)

*David Gates*

*DOC | \*audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#1406915 in Books David Gates 1997-10-31 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.10 x .90 x 6.10l, 1.15 #File Name: 0340614471324 pages The Napoleonic Wars 1803 1815 | File size: 24.Mb

**David Gates : The Napoleonic Wars 1803-1815 (Modern Wars)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Napoleonic Wars 1803-1815 (Modern Wars):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Excellent general overview of the Napoleonic Wars By AW In The Napoleonic Wars, 1803-1815, David Gates provides an excellent overview of the Napoleonic era. The book is primarily a survey of the period. The emphasis is on breadth and not necessarily depth, and I would recommend it to those looking for greater exposure and understanding of the general storyline of the Napoleonic Wars, or those who

are familiar with the period but wish to add a solid survey work to their collection. The book is well written and I greatly appreciated Gates's organizational structure. The book generally follows a chronological approach, beginning with the breakdown in French-British relations after the Treaty of Amiens and ending with a brief summary of the postwar political situation after Napoleon's final defeat and exile. Interspersed within these chronological chapters are topical chapters that cover specific socio-economic, political, or military trends that are necessary for understanding the greater context of the chronological narrative. This is, in my opinion, an ideal format for covering such a lengthy and complex time period. However, such an approach does suffer from the occasional need in the topical chapters to mention events that have not yet been covered as part of the chronological narrative. There were times that I felt previous knowledge of the Napoleonic Wars was an advantage, as some topics are only afforded superficial coverage. Generally speaking though, this was not a major issue and a newcomer to the topic should do very well with the book. Gates has a fantastic introductory chapter in which he clearly specifies his own approach to the book, with frank admission that his interest is in the military and political development throughout the era. This focus definitely permeates the work, with only relatively light coverage of sociological aspects. Gates also takes us to a philosophical place prior to diving into the era--he reminds us not to confuse "history" with "fact," as all of history is filtered through the sieves created by those who write it down and organize it. I believe that Gates does an excellent job of covering the time period in a neutral fashion, but some may consider him to have a pro-Napoleon slant. He does on several occasions specifically criticize the approach of authors and works that could be considered hostile to Napoleon (for example, Esdaile's *The Wars of Napoleon* and--to a far lesser extent--Connelly's *Blundering to Glory*). That said, he does not necessarily defend Napoleon or his policies, but rather attempts to refute the logic or arguments presented by these authors. He also on rarer occasions rebuts other authors' support of Napoleon; the most conspicuous example being his disagreement with Hamilton-Williams's (*The Fall of Napoleon*) assertion that Napoleon's downfall was caused by traitors and conspirators. Here Gates emphasizes for us that Napoleon's martial policies and his efforts to prolong a war that France had long since lost enthusiasm for must certainly be considered when examining his demise. Though I enjoyed Gates's writing style, I often found battle descriptions dizzyingly confusing. Though the battle narrative itself is solid, it is very difficult to understand battle narrative without strong maps to help the reader visualize troop positioning and movements. Unfortunately, the maps in the book are awful. There are far too few of them and they are not overly informative on the rare occasions they are added to the narrative. But that is often a critique I have of military history books. You may want to have a military atlas handy while reading this book. One thing I found particularly odd about the battle narratives was how differently Gates treated them from one coalition war to another. For example, he spent many pages detailing the Battles of Jena and Auerstedt in the War of the Fourth Coalition, with comprehensive analysis on troop movements and incremental developments in the carnage. But other epic battles such as Vitoria (Spain) and Borodino (the 1812 Invasion of Russia) only manage a paragraph or two, without the same level of detail. A criticism related to the organizational aspect of the book is its lack of headings within chapters. I appreciate these in historical non-fiction, as I believe it helps keep the chronological and topical themes segmented into understandable components. Most of the chapters in this book do not have any headings or subheadings to help segment the topics/themes. In the few chapters that did utilize them, there was only one or two. If there is only going to be one heading halfway through a chapter, why even have one at all at that point? On the other hand (from an organizational perspective), I thought the author's use of chapter endnotes was excellent, and I liked how he weaved varying perspectives into his work (such as those of Esdaile and Connelly that I described above). For someone with a high degree of familiarity with the Napoleonic Wars, you won't find a great deal "new" in this account, but it is certainly valuable as a concise overview. I thought Chapter 3 "The War at Sea" was especially enjoyable primarily because I did learn a great deal from this chapter. The naval war within the Napoleonic Wars is rather mundane from a pitched battle standpoint, as there was only one real engagement of any significance (Trafalgar). Nevertheless, there is a story to tell about the navies of this period, and this topical chapter did a nice job of providing an overview of the naval conflict. This was a thoroughly enjoyable read and I was very pleased with the book. Its organization is excellent, as is the writing style. The maps are poor and that makes some of the battle narrative less engaging than it could have been. But the chronological chapters are still very informative and generally easy to follow and the political, economic, and military analyses in the topical chapters are thoughtful and interesting. David Gates has done a superb job with this work. I would recommend this book to anyone looking for a general overview of the Napoleonic Wars.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. All You Need to Know about Napoleonic Battles  
By Judith K. Binney  
This is truly a military history, with all details on the various fronts of various campaigns. It demystifies a lot of it, but I would have hoped to have a more political context to put it all into: the why's and strategies on all sides. Also more psychology of Napoleon as he forges through the action. That's probably another book.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good for the series it is part of.  
By Nicholas Roberts  
David Gates writes a neutral and encompassing book on the Napoleonic Wars in this volume. These modern war series are not meant to be all encompassing but rather as introductions that cover every aspect of the war. Therefore Gates covers the causes, the campaigns, the economic and social impacts, and the future effects of the war. If you are looking for an in depth analysis of the war's campaigns I would not suggest this book. It basically scratched the surface of all the

different topics dealing with the wars of Napoleon. Nevertheless it is informative and interesting and includes a great bibliography if you want to know more information.

There is a mass of literature on Napoleon and his times, yet there are but a handful of scholarly works that seek to cover the Napoleonic Wars in their entirety, and fewer still that place the conflict in any broader frameworks. This new study redresses the balance. Drawing on recent findings and applying a "total" history approach, it covers the causes and effects of the conflict and its place in the evolution of modern warfare.

"This is a compact, stimulating, and at times surprisingly polemical account."--The International History About the Author David Gates is the Deputy Director of the Center for Defence and International Security Studies at the University of Lancaster.