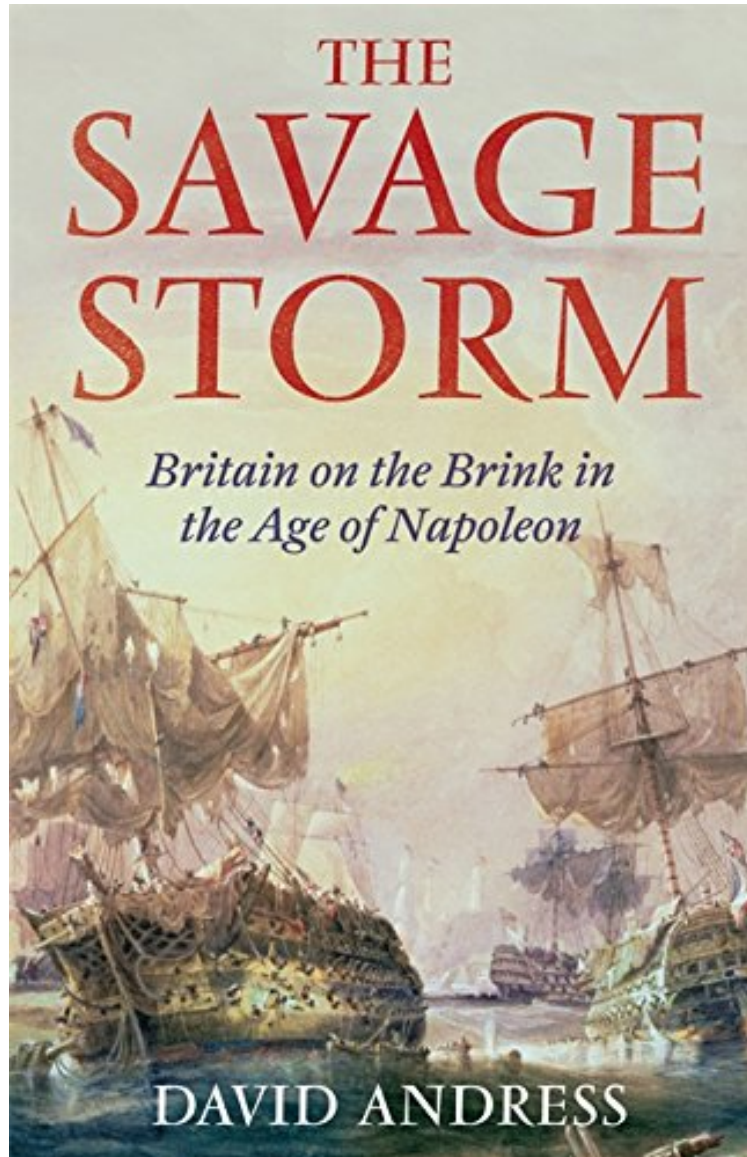


[Download] The Savage Storm: Britain on the Brink in the Age of Napoleon

The Savage Storm: Britain on the Brink in the Age of Napoleon

David Andress

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David Andress : The Savage Storm: Britain on the Brink in the Age of Napoleon before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Savage Storm: Britain on the Brink in the Age of Napoleon:

Britain's defeat of Napoleon is one the great accomplishments in our history. And yet it was by no means certain that

Britain itself would survive the revolutionary fervour of the age, let alone emerge victorious from such a vast conflict. From the late 1790s, the country was stricken by naval mutinies, rebellion in Ireland, and riots born of hunger, poverty and grinding injustice. As the new century opened, with republican graffiti on the walls of the cities, and revolutionary secret societies reportedly widespread, King George III only narrowly escaped assassination. Jacobin forces seemed to threaten a dissolution of the social order. Above all, the threat of French invasion was ever-present. Yet, despite all this, and new threats from royal madness and rampant corruption, Britain did not become a revolutionary republic. Her elites proved remarkably resilient, and drew on the power of an already-global empire to find the strength to defeat Napoleon abroad, and continued popular unrest at home. In this brilliant, sweeping history of the period, David Andress fuses two hitherto separate historical perspectives - the military and the social - to provide a vivid portrait of the age. From the conditions of warfare faced by the British soldier and the great battles in which they fought, to the literary and artistic culture of the time, *The Savage Storm* is at once a searing narrative of dramatic events and an important reassessment of one of the most significant turning points in our history.

From Publishers Weekly
Chronicling Britain's quarter-century as France's principal foe in the Napoleonic Wars, British historian Andress (1789) offers a dual military and sociopolitical history of the turbulent era following the disastrous loss of its American colonies. A deeply divided Britain confronted mass revolt in Ireland, King George III's madness, severe food shortages, the assassination of Prime Minister Spencer Perceval, and the most widespread period of violent and coordinated revolt in England since the Civil Wars of the 1640s. Less than a year before Nelson's stunning victory against the French in 1798's Battle of the Nile, the Royal Navy was almost paralyzed by mass mutiny from sailors whose grievances ranged from miserable wages to inadequate pensions for crippled veterans, while 36 were hanged for their roles in the Nore mutiny, with over 350 sentenced to floggings and deportation. Wellington's defeat of the French in 1812's Battle of Salamanca followed violence on the home front as thousands of British troops marched into Manchester, the Midlands, and West Riding to quell over a dozen riots by aggrieved workers threatened with displacement by industrialization. Although his arguments are occasionally circuitous and his sweeping narrative covers too vast a canvas, Andress proves a perceptive and adroit storyteller. *Illus. (Oct.)* David Andress writes well, charts the British experience of the struggle against Napoleon in a manner that is as thorough as it is enthusiastic, approaches his subject from a refreshing perspective and fills a serious gap in the historiography . . . *The Savage Storm* is a book that . . . should be read by all those interested in Britain's role in the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars?Literary Andress's vivid account of Britain's history during the war years . . . He writes movingly about the reality of war, the experience of the common soldier and especially of the sailor . . . He shows commendable skill in interweaving the two narratives, the military and the political, to offer a convincing overview of the age?BBC History MagazinePraise for 1789'Andress writes with verve, never allowing the pace to slacken, moving swiftly from one character or episode to another. The result is exciting, exhilarating even. Not one chapter fails to delivery sharp insights, illuminating details and entertaining anecdotes'?Sunday TelegraphPraise for 1789'A truly global story . . . This is a compelling, humane account'?IndependentAbout the AuthorDavid Andress is Professor of Modern History at the University of Portsmouth, where he has taught since 1994. He is the author of a number of acclaimed studies of the French Revolution and its international context, including *The French Revolution and the People* (2004), *The Terror* (2005), and *1789* (2008). As well as broadening his writing interests to embrace the British Isles, he is currently editing the Oxford Handbook of the French Revolution.