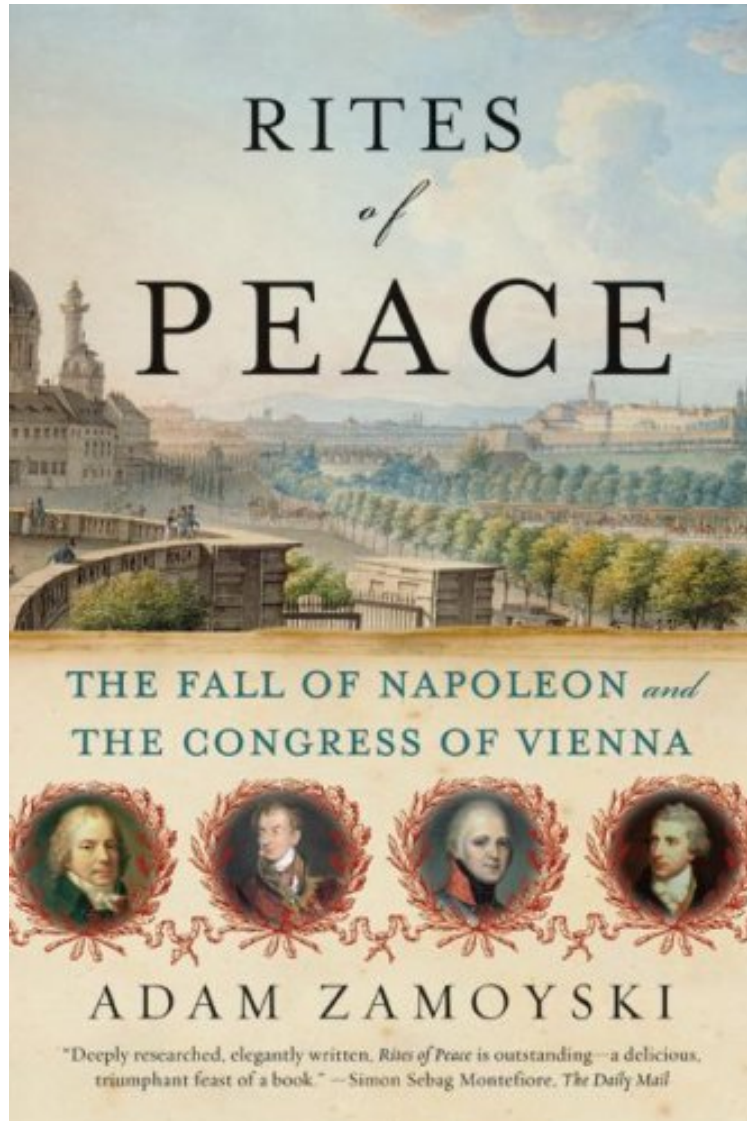


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Rites of Peace: The Fall of Napoleon and the Congress of Vienna

Adam Zamoyski

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Adam Zamoyski : Rites of Peace: The Fall of Napoleon and the Congress of Vienna before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rites of Peace: The Fall of Napoleon and the Congress of Vienna:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Use of Original SourcesBy Kindle CustomerZamoyski does an excellent job of weaving original sources into an overall narrative of the principal proceedings in Europe during the 1813-1815 period around the conclusion of the Napoleonic Wars. He captures not only the words of the principal actors, but also their behaviors and likely feelings during these tense negotiations. The book fails to garner 5

stars simply by virtue of the fact that the author simply cannot resist capturing too much of some of the parenthetical disputes that arose during the conference. But overall, the author did a good job of sticking to the matter at hand despite the obvious pull he must have felt to venture into a wider range of topics. Highly recommended for anyone who wants to have a basic understanding of this poignant moment in European history. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. He skillfully inserts eye witness accounts and experiences of participants into the narrative in such a way that its like being there. He brings history and its participants to life. There was never a dull moment reading this book. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great book that shows that there is nothing new, everything happened before and nobody learns. Great is the description of the missing silver teaspoons. it shows that everybody, whatever class, can't resist temptation.

Following Napoleon's defeat and exile in 1814, the future of the European continent hung in the balance. Eager to negotiate a lasting, workable peace, representatives of Britain, Austria, Prussia, and Russia—along with a host of lesser nations—gathered in Vienna for an eight-month-long political carnival, combining negotiations with balls, tournaments, picnics, artistic performances, and other sundry forms of entertainment for the thousands of assembled aristocrats. While the Congress of Vienna resulted in an unprecedented level of European stability, the price of peace would be shockingly high, with many crucial questions ultimately decided on the battlefield or in squalid roadside cottages amid the vagaries of war. Internationally bestselling author Adam Zamoyski's *Rites of Peace* is a meticulously researched, masterfully told account of these extraordinary events and their profound historical consequences, featuring a cast of some of the most influential and powerful figures in history.

From Booklist This sequel to Zamoyski's fine *Moscow 1812* (2004) shifts from military to diplomatic affairs surrounding the defeat of Napoleonic France and the disposal of its empire. Zamoyski narrates their course from 1813, when Russia's Alexander I decided to continue the war rather than settle with Napoleon, to 1815 and the latter's final Waterloo. The enigmatic personality of Alexander, a mystic, a self-regarding liberal, and a maladroit negotiator, joins Zamoyski's well-drawn portraits of the czar's chief interlocutors: Austria's Metternich, Prussia's Hardenberg, and Britain's Castlereagh. The intimacy of this cavalcade, which followed the allied armies into France, adjourned to London for a fête, and got down to brass tacks in the landmark Congress of Vienna, cues Zamoyski for the atmospheric details of travel, fashion, dances, and assignations. Zamoyski more centrally attends to the great power fundamentals of redrawing Europe's map as they played out in tête-à-têtes among the principals and with France's crafty cynic Talleyrand. Underscoring the influence of personality on history, Zamoyski's fast-moving chronicle will enthrall the diplomacy audience. Taylor, Gilbert `Deeply researched, elegantly written, gleaming with the political and sexual depravity of the Congress that decided the fate of Europe, Zamoyski's "Rites of Peace" is outstanding - a delicious, triumphant feast of a book.' Daily Mail `Impressively detailed diplomatic history; it deals with the fate of nations and dynasties and the doings of emperors, kings and princes. The author keeps up a strong narrative drive, guiding the reader through the tortuously involved negotiations of the Congress.' The Economist `Zamoyski's...account of the labyrinthine twists of diplomacy is both masterly and exhaustive...I closed the book full of admiration for its author.' Sunday Times About the Author Adam Zamoyski was born in New York and educated at Oxford. He is the author of *Moscow 1812*. He lives in London.