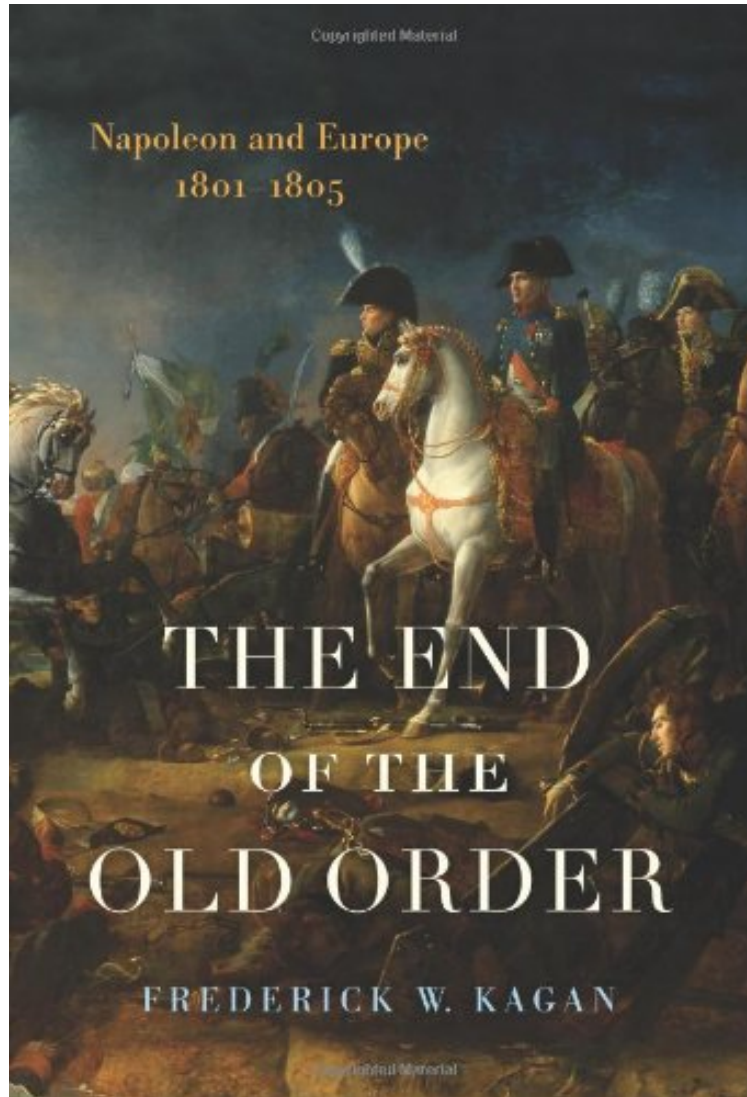


[Free download] The End of the Old Order: Napoleon and Europe, 1801-1805 (v. 1)

The End of the Old Order: Napoleon and Europe, 1801-1805 (v. 1)

Frederick Kagan

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#2258423 in Books 2006-07-10Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 1.77 x 6.22 x 9.24l, #File Name: 0306811375808 pages | File size: 58.Mb

Frederick Kagan : The End of the Old Order: Napoleon and Europe, 1801-1805 (v. 1) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The End of the Old Order: Napoleon and Europe, 1801-1805 (v. 1):

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Not for the light of heartBy Nicholas RobertsKagan's description of the 1805 campaign in Europe was excellent. If you are a newcomer looking to explore Napoleon however I may not suggest this book. This book goes into intricate detail about the political and military patterns of this war. You actually get through almost a third of the 600 pages before the war even begins! All the to-ings and fro-ings of the political leaders are covered through the entire beginning of the book.When you get to the real military stuff a good chunk is

devoted to describing Napoleon's war plans and assumptions as well as the Russian and Austrian high command's war plans. A lot of attention is focused on Mack and Archduke Charles and their assumptions and feelings about the war. He covers the strategic and tactical orders of the campaign in great detail. The story is often told through individual regiments rather than whole corps. Before Austerlitz there is a long chapter regarding the Austrian plan for 'victory' as well as Napoleon's plans. When the battle occurs the detail is the same. Other fronts such as Massena and Charles in Italy are covered various chapters. In summary, if you are looking for a good detailed account of the 1805 campaign this is for you. If you are looking for an into you might need something less 'meaty.' Another quick comment, this story is not written through experience of soldiers. It is mainly written through movement of troops and political negotiations. 21 of 30 people found the following review helpful. Diplomacy and War like Chess By coldwarm In this volume (and the 3 that will follow) Kagan sets out to write a military/diplomatic history of the Napoleonic period. The first 200 pages give an overview of how the war of the First Coalition came about. Then there are some 100 pages devoted to the French and allied war plans and the rest of the book covers the war itself. This is a work of explanation and interpretation and the focus is on the diplomats and generals who made the important decisions. There is no spotlight on the idiosyncracies of individuals perse, but only if it is important to explain some decision taken by that person. Likewise the descriptions of battles are explanatory. There is no blood and guts. All in all it is a bit like a game of chess and the best explanatory book i have read about Napoleonic Europe. The author, in contrast to most other books about this time, devotes an equal amount of space to the French and the Allies and is evenhanded in the condemnation or praise he bestows on the belligerents. It is simply not true as an other reviewer has it that this is the old Napoleon as Ogre story all over again. Knowing the author's very rightleaning political views i indeed started reading this book with some trepidation, but was pleasantly suprised that Kagan did'nt let those views cloud his judgement. Repeatedly Kagan stresses that it was'nt Napoleon who wanted this war but Tsar Alexander. Of course you can take exception with the author's interpretation of motives and events but that applies to every thesis. At least Kagan doesn't parrot every other author and his analysis is based on thorough archival investigation. This is not a book for the novice but if you want to know the ins and outs of Napoleonic Europe, have an analytical bend and value clear and uncluttered prose this is the book for you. Highly recommended. Hats off for Frederick Kagan and counting down to the next volume. 23 of 36 people found the following review helpful. An interesting thesis By 1. According to Frederick Kagan it was the mistakes made by European nations and not Napoleon's brilliance that lead to France dominating Europe in the first decade of the nineteenth century. First according to Kagan distrust among Britain, Prussia, Austria, and Russia made them form an alliance too late, and in Prussia's case to opt out until the very last moment. Kagan is especially critical of Tsar Alexander I for alienating potential allies by his overly idealistic version of postwar Europe in which both Prussia and Austria would have diminished power in exchange for greater influence of the smaller states in Central Europe. Kagan is also critical of the Austrian leadership for putting too many soldiers in Italy instead of Germany and at General Mack for not retreating from his overextended forces from Ulm. Also Archduke Charles failed to move sufficient forces from Italy to help Mack in Germany. Kagan is especially harsh on Tsar Alexander I for overextending his forces in Italy, around Prussia, and the Balkans, while failing to concentrate them in southern Germany in order to cooperate better with the Austrians. Finally Tsar Alexander I ordered Kutuzov to on the offensive prematurely before the disasterous Austro-Russian defeat at Austerlitz. Although I strongly disagree with Frederick Kagan's personal politics, he does write excellent military history.

Perhaps no person in history has dominated his or her own era as much as Napoleon. Despite his small physical stature, the shadow of Napoleon is cast like a colossus, compelling all who would look at that epoch to chart their course by reference to him. For this reason, most historical accounts of the Napoleonic era—and there are many—tell the same Napoleon-dominated story over and over again, or focus narrowly on special aspects of it. Frederick Kagan, distinguished historian and military policy expert, has tapped hitherto unused archival materials from Austria, Prussia, France, and Russia, to present the history of these years from the balanced perspective of all of the major players of Europe. In *The End of the Old Order* readers encounter the rulers, ministers, citizens, and subjects of Europe in all of their political and military activity—from the desk of the prime minister to the pen of the ambassador, from the map of the general to the rifle of the soldier. With clear and lively prose, Kagan guides the reader deftly through the intriguing and complex web of international politics and war. *The End of the Old Order* is the first volume in a new and comprehensive four-volume study of Napoleon and Europe. Each volume in the series will surprise readers with a dramatically different tapestry of early nineteenth-century personalities and events and will revise fundamentally our ages-old understanding of the wars that created modern Europe.

"Brilliant...[Kagan's] ability to humanize Napoleon...renders a much more interesting and compelling figure than is usually depicted...Indispensable." -- Choice, May 2007 "Kagan employs a very readable narrative style...[And] the epic story is told, as it should be, from multiple viewpoints." -- Library Journal, 11/15/2006 "The strength of Kagan's book is the mix of diplomatic and political investigation...A very fine and full account of the battles." -- New Criterion, May 2007

About the Author Frederick W. Kagan is a Resident Scholar at the American Enterprise Institute. He is the author

of *The Military Reforms of Nicholas I*, and a co-author with Donald Kagan of *While America Sleeps*.