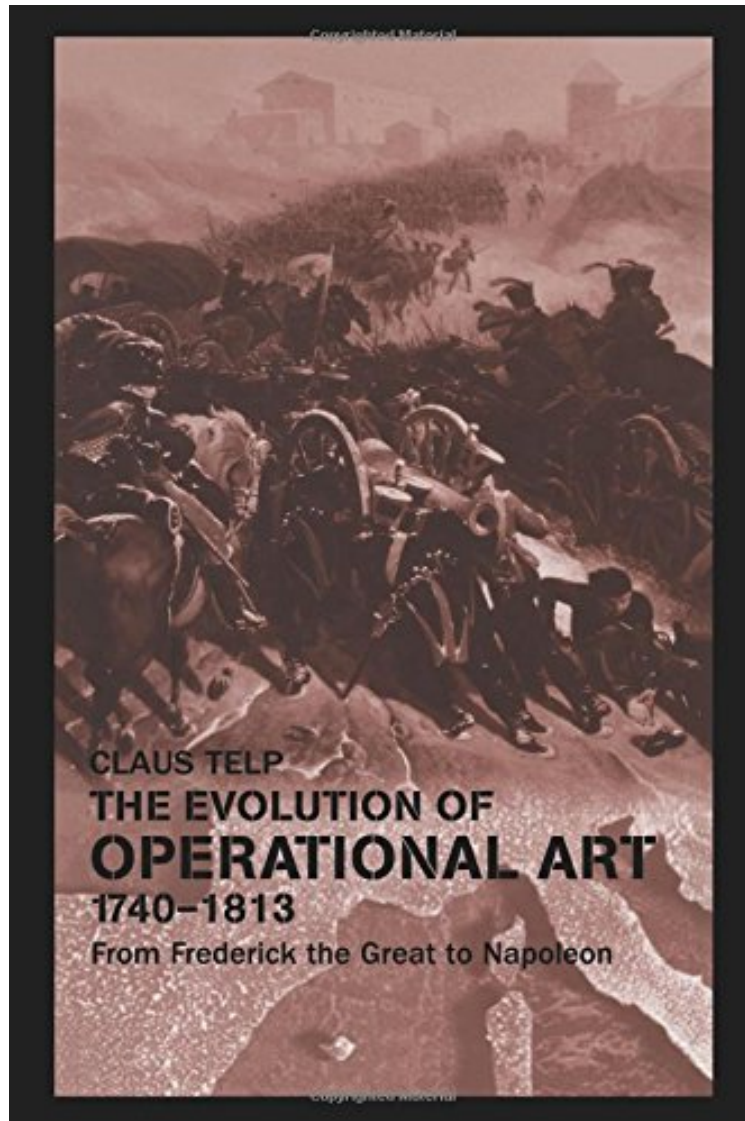


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## The Evolution of Operational Art, 1740-1813: From Frederick the Great to Napoleon (Military History and Policy)

*Claus Telp*

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**Claus Telp : The Evolution of Operational Art, 1740-1813: From Frederick the Great to Napoleon (Military History and Policy)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Evolution of Operational Art, 1740-1813: From Frederick the Great to Napoleon (Military History and Policy):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. One of the Best Books on this EraBy John HamillThis is one of the

best books available for understanding warfare during this period. Starting with Frederick the Great, Telp discusses warfare of the era, which was generally bound to advances along a single road. French loss in the Seven Years War spurred innovation. Divisions composed of all the combat arms, followed by corps composed of all arms, allowed wider advances along several roads. A division or corps could hold its own while other units advanced elsewhere. Advances along a broader front also confused the enemy. Staff development was necessary to try to control armies by this point, and it also became more common to give subordinates discretion. In the wars of the French Revolution, the French used poorly trained skirmishers operationally to confuse the enemy and force him to disperse. Napoleon combined innovations with operations, staff, and supply with effective combined arms tactics to produce decisive victory, with Telp using the 1806 campaign as an example. In 1813, in contrast, the Prussians had adopted many of the French innovations, and war once again became attritional. If the book has faults, it is that it largely limits itself to the French and Prussian armies. The book is short but dense and packed with great insights. For 1806 especially, I feel like I understand the war better than ever before. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Complex Roots of "Operational Art" By Albert A. Nofi A summary of the review on StrategyPage.Com: 'Originally published in 2005 and now available in softcover, this work gives us a revealing look at how the practice of war grew from the age of Frederick to that of Napoleon. Dr. Telp (Sandhurst) opens a discussion of the political, technical, and organizational restraints on operations in Frederick's time and the many new ideas that came to the fore by the outbreak of the wars of the French Revolution. He next looks at the evolution of "operational art" during the Revolutionary and Napoleonic regimes down to 1806. Telp follows this with a chapter on the Jena Campaign, looking at how the new French ideas overwhelmed the dated Prussian military system. There follow chapters on the reform of the Prussian Army and on the Campaign of 1813, during which Napoleon was defeated. Telp makes frequent comparisons between the practice and problems faced by the two armies, and offers surprising insights refuting many commonly held ideas about both armies which were largely the product of nationalist pride. This is a very important read for anyone interested in the "French Wars" or in the evolution of the operational art.' For the full review, see StrategyPage.Com

Operational art emerged from the campaigns of Frederick the Great to the end of the Napoleonic Wars. It was the result of three dynamic interrelationships: between military and non-military factors such as social, economic and political developments; between military theory and practice; and between developments in military theory and practice in France and Prussia. In the period 1740-1815 a major change in the complexity of warfare took place. This was reflected by an increase in the complexity of the analysis of warfare via the introduction of the operational level between the strategic and tactical levels. The evolution of operational art, driven by these three dialectical processes, evolved in stages. In the first stage, Revolutionary France had experimented with operational art though with limited success. Then, Napoleon had used it with remarkable success against an adversary clinging to outdated modes of warfare and organisation. In the final stage, Napoleon's operational art was successfully challenged by the Prussian brand.

"...this work gives us a revealing look at how the practice of war grew from the age of Frederick to that of Napoleon... This is a very important read for anyone interested in the "French Wars" or in the evolution of the operational art." - The NYMAS About the Author Claus Telp obtained a PhD in War Studies at King's College London, and is senior lecturer in war studies at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.