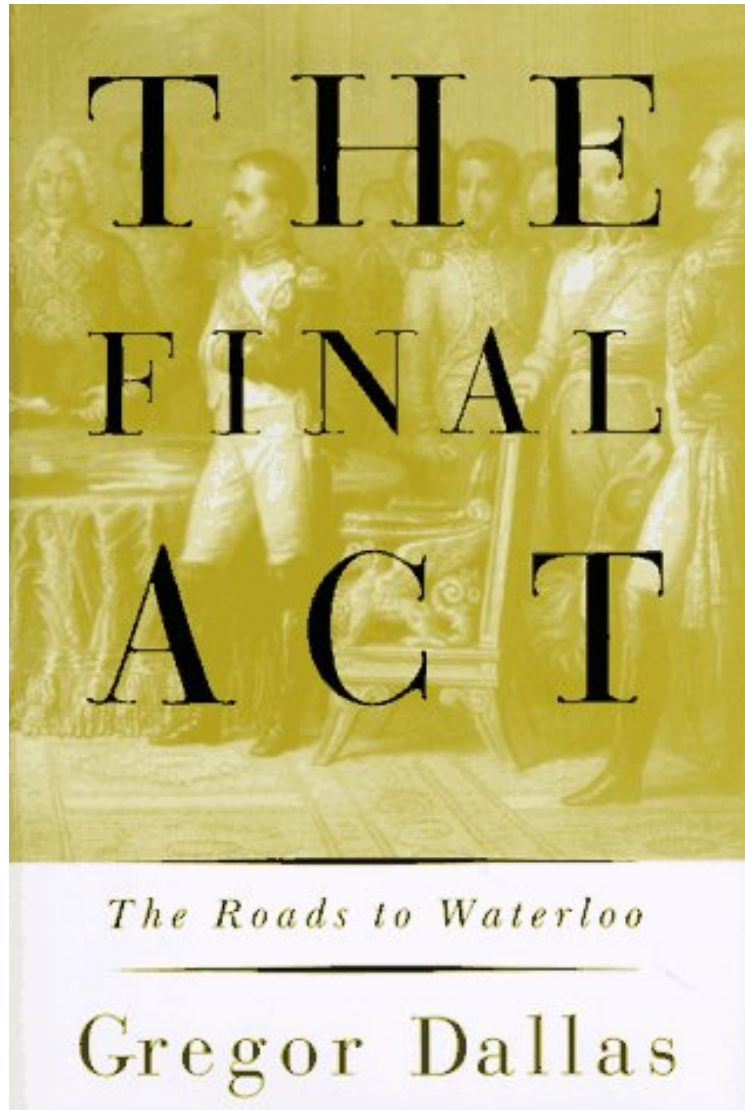


(Download pdf ebook) The Final Act: The Roads to Waterloo

The Final Act: The Roads to Waterloo

George Dallas

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George Dallas : The Final Act: The Roads to Waterloo before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Final Act: The Roads to Waterloo:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Interesting events but much wasted narrativeBy HistoryShowsUsI enjoyed the narrative that was detailed here showing the interactions between the representatives of the major powers as to the disposition of territory in shaping Europe. This concept of something called Europe was almost unknown until this time and how they got to this point was fascinating. It was also a real eye opener on the brutal diplomacy of these representatives and the incredible amount of power they had to be able to dictate what countries could be shaped

and what countries could be literally cut up into pieces that essentially made them cease to exist. What took away from the narrative was the constant attention paid to the extra marital relationships that a few of the diplomats had on the side with what were mostly high ranking females that were nothing more than spectators who used this event as an excuse to have big parties. Because these ladies wielded a lot of influences I waited for much of the book to see what actual role they played in shaping policy only to find that it was not revealed that it ever happened. Yes some policy was agreed (and disagreed) on based on negotiations that were conducted in the after hours party time but the affairs of the diplomats that occurred with the ladies had little to do with the story. Especially wasted was the first section of the book and the lengthy narrative of what was happening with the royal family in England that ended up having no real effect on the Congress of Vienna. Tho interesting the number of people involved eventually made the first portion of the book tedious and confusing. This would have been a much more enjoyable read if less attention had been paid to events and relationships that had little to do with the actual Congress. 9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Excellent summary of events leading to Napoleon's fall. By Charles Reilly. Dallas' version of the events leading to the fall of Napoleon, particularly the Congress of Vienna, are presented in detail here with remarkable clarity. Also, his accounts of the British Parliament's opposition to Wellington's and Castlereagh's policies are given new light. Samuel Whitbread's fall from grace is both startling and revelatory and precedes Castlereagh's own horrible end. The cunning and ruthless Talleyrand and his ally, Fouché, are always lurking in the shadows, switching from one side to the other depending on the circumstances. According to Dallas' "Final Act", it's a wonder that Napoleon could function at all with this cast of characters swirling over his head like vultures. An excellent work for anyone interested in Napoleon's final one-hundred days. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Must-read for Anyone Interested in 1810s Europe. By A Customer. Congress of Vienna is always obscured by the Battle of Waterloo, probably the most overrated of all events in world's history. The diplomatic conference held in Austrian capital few months earlier, although less spectacular than Napoleon's last battle, had more lasting impact on the future of Europe. While political and diplomatic intrigues might not arouse readers' imagination with same intensity as the drama that unfolded in Belgian battlefields, book by Gregor Dallas actually turns out to be not only very informative but also a very exciting and entertaining read. Mr. Dallas approaches this subject by putting the Congress in the broader context of early 19th Century Europe and treating the conference as nothing more than a chapter in the story that began with Napoleon's abdication in Spring of 1814. Diplomatic drama that occurred in Vienna is accompanied with short biographies of all major participants, as well as numerous vignettes, anecdotes and accounts of economic, social and political conditions in major European capitals. The well-known protagonists of these events - Alexander, Metternich, Castlereagh, Talleyrand and Napoleon - are portrayed with great deal of detail, but even the minor or less known characters receive the same treatment. Love life of European elite is given the same attention as the diplomatic intrigues, and in many ways reader, as well as the characters, can't make a clear distinction between the two. In segments that deal with British internal politics reader might even find some interesting parallels with most recent events in Britain, thus making this book much closer to the modern audience than its subject might indicate. Because of all that, this book is not only very informative, but also very entertaining and exciting. However, at times a reader might get impression that British politics and British personalities receive too much attention at the expense of rest of Europe. I was also somewhat disappointed when I didn't find the actual text of the treaty. However, despite those minor flaws this book is a must-read for anyone interested in early 19th Century Europe or foundations of modern diplomacy.

Europe, 1814-1815. The continent grapples with an uneasy peace. The fires of revolution have been banked, the ardor of Napoleonic expansion dimmed. No diplomatic event in history has such a stellar cast: Tsar Alexander, Talleyrand, Wellington, Castlereagh, and Metternich, along with a supporting cast of rogues, mistresses, clairvoyants and spies, they turned Vienna into a theater of intrigue that shaped the face of Europe for the century to come. And in the shadows--Napoleon, who would rise again to challenge them at Waterloo. 50 photos. 3 maps.

.com A fascinating account of the Congress of Vienna, *The Final Act* describes the international intrigues surrounding the diplomatic confab of 1814-15. Gregor Dallas has wonderful groups of characters to work with, including Tsar Alexander, Talleyrand- Périgord, Castlereagh, Wellington, and Metternich. Even Beethoven makes an appearance, debuting his Seventh Symphony in Vienna that winter. The author successfully exploits this lively cast, and his penchant for reporting personal gossip helps make this popular history quite interesting. The figure of Napoleon looms constantly in the background as an exile at Elba, and Dallas spends the final sections of his book describing the general's escape and downfall at Waterloo. The Congress of Vienna as chronicled in history textbooks has always seemed like a dull interlude unfortunately thrust into the middle of the thrilling Napoleonic epic. Thanks to Dallas, it will never seem boring again. From Library Journal. An uneasy peace settled over Europe as Napoleon sat exiled in Elba and the Allies prepared for their Congress in Vienna. This is the "final act" of the title and the focus of this well-written narrative history. By focusing on the social and cultural worlds of the European elites in 1814-15, Dallas (At the Heart of a Tiger, Carroll Graf, 1993) has created one of the most readable diplomatic histories of the period. Never before was such a cast of players assembled at one time in one place: Czar Alexander I, Talleyrand, Castlereagh,

Metternich, Wellington, and Blucher. All were gathered to ensure the peace of Europe and implement their hidden agenda: to set boundaries and eliminate republicanism. Logically divided into geographic sections covering London, Paris, Vienna, and, ultimately, Waterloo, Dallas's work will set the standard for other books of this type. Strongly recommended. David Lee Poremba, Detroit Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Kirkus sA broad, colorful, engaging panorama of a crucial moment in the shaping of modern Europe, tracing the fall of Napoleon and the wily maneuvers of the victors to carve up his collapsed empire. Dallas (*At the Heart of a Tiger: Clemenceau and His World 1841-1929*, 1993) has extraordinary material to work with, and he makes the most of it. The long, costly struggle of England, Russia, and their allies to vanquish Napoleon seemed, with his exile to the island of Elba in 1814, to be over. In the aftermath of the war, the mutually suspicious victors convened the Congress of Nations in Vienna to establish national boundaries, carve out zones of influence, and firmly reassert the place of monarchs in an increasingly republican world. A remarkable cast of characters gathered to map out the new Europe, among them Tsar Alexander of Russia, by turns a mystic and a determinedly shrewd expansionist; Talleyrand, France's representative, a man bright and adaptable enough to have survived both the Revolution and Napoleon's reign; Castlereagh, a moody, brilliant figure who had almost singlehandedly created the British Foreign Service; and Metternich, Austria's Machiavellian foreign minister. Then, incredibly, Napoleon broke loose, quickly rallied his armies, and set out to reclaim his empire. That quest ended at Waterloo, in the most pivotal battle of the 19th century in Europe. Dallas's portraits of leading figures, while frankly opinionated, are deeply informed. He uses his considerable research admirably, offering vivid, fresh depictions of Paris, London, and Vienna, and of the drawing rooms, counting houses, and battlefields that figured in the vast drama. His argument that the treaty that emerged from Napoleon's downfall largely created modern Europe--and the tensions that would lead to even bloodier wars--is persuasive. A gripping and highly original work of popular history. (50 illustrations, 3 maps, not seen) -- Copyright ©1997, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.