



The Campaigns of Napoleon

David G. Chandler

Download now

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

The Campaigns of Napoleon

David G. Chandler

The Campaigns of Napoleon David G. Chandler

Napoleonic war was nothing if not complex—an ever-shifting kaleidoscope of moves and intentions, which by themselves went a long way towards baffling and dazing his conventionally-minded opponents into that state of disconcerting moral disequilibrium which so often resulted in their catastrophic defeat.

The Campaigns of Napoleon is an exhaustive analysis and critique of Napoleon's art of war as he himself developed and perfected it in the major military campaigns of his career. Napoleon disavowed any suggestion that he worked from formula (“*Je n'ai jamais eu un plan d'opérations*”), but military historian David Chandler demonstrates this was at best only a half-truth. To be sure, every operation Napoleon conducted contained unique improvisatory features. But there were from the first to the last certain basic principles of strategic maneuver and battlefield planning that he almost invariably put into practice. To clarify these underlying methods, as well as the style of Napoleon's fabulous intellect, Mr. Chandler examines in detail each campaign mounted and personally conducted by Napoleon, analyzing the strategies employed, revealing wherever possible the probable sources of his subject's military ideas.

The book opens with a brief account of Bonaparte's early years, his military education and formative experiences, and his meteoric rise to the rank of general in the army of the Directory. Introducing the elements of Napoleonic “grand tactics” as they developed in his Italian, Egyptian, and Syrian campaigns, Mr. Chandler shows how these principles were clearly conceived as early as the Battle of Castiglione, when Napoleon was only twenty-six. Several campaigns later, he was Emperor of France, busily constructing the *Grande Armée*. This great war machine is described in considerable detail: the composition of the armies and the *élite* Guard; the staff system and the methods of command; the kind of artillery and firearms used; and the daily life of the *Grande Armée* and the all-seeing and all-commanding virtuoso who presided over every aspect of its operation in the field.

As the great machine sweeps into action in the campaigns along the Rhine and the Danube, in East Prussia and Poland, and in Portugal and Spain, David Chandler follows closely every move that vindicates—or challenges—the legend of Napoleon's military genius. As the major battles take their gory courses—Austerlitz, Jena, Fried-land—we see Napoleon's star reaching its zenith. Then, in the Wagram Campaign of 1809 against the Austrians—his last real success—the great man commits more errors of judgment than in all his previous wars and battles put together. As the campaigns rage on, his declining powers seem to justify his own statement: “One has but a short time for war.” Then the horrors of the Russian campaign forever shatter the image of Napoleonic invincibility. It is thereafter a short, though heroic and sanguinary, road to Waterloo and St. Helena.

Napoleon appears most strikingly in these pages as the brilliant applier of the ideas of others rather than as an original military thinker, his genius proving itself more practical than theoretical. Paradoxically, this was both his chief strength and his main weakness as a general. After bringing the French army a decade of victory, his methods became increasingly stereotyped and, even worse, were widely copied by his foes, who operated against him with increasing effectiveness toward the end of his career. Yet even though his enemies attempted to imitate his techniques, as have others in the last century and a half, no one ever equaled his success. As these meticulous campaign analyses testify, his multifaceted genius was unique. Even as the end approached, as David Chandler points out, his eclipse was “the failure of a giant surrounded by pygmies.”

“The flight of the eagle was over; the ‘ogre’ was safely caged at last, and an exhausted Europe settled down once more to attempt a return to former ways of life and government. But the shade of Napoleon lingered on irresistibly for many years after his death in 1821. It lingers yet.”

 [Download The Campaigns of Napoleon ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Campaigns of Napoleon ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Campaigns of Napoleon David G. Chandler

From reader reviews:

Clarence Hamm:

As people who live in typically the modest era should be change about what going on or data even knowledge to make these people keep up with the era which is always change and move ahead. Some of you maybe will update themselves by looking at books. It is a good choice for you personally but the problems coming to you actually is you don't know which one you should start with. This The Campaigns of Napoleon is our recommendation so you keep up with the world. Why, as this book serves what you want and want in this era.

Floretta Simmons:

Information is provisions for folks to get better life, information presently can get by anyone with everywhere. The information can be a know-how or any news even an issue. What people must be consider any time those information which is in the former life are difficult to be find than now's taking seriously which one is acceptable to believe or which one the resource are convinced. If you get the unstable resource then you get it as your main information you will see huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen in you if you take The Campaigns of Napoleon as your daily resource information.

Ann Edwards:

Many people spending their time period by playing outside together with friends, fun activity using family or just watching TV all day every day. You can have new activity to shell out your whole day by examining a book. Ugh, do you consider reading a book can actually hard because you have to use the book everywhere? It ok you can have the e-book, getting everywhere you want in your Mobile phone. Like The Campaigns of Napoleon which is getting the e-book version. So , why not try out this book? Let's see.

Elsie Wallace:

Reading a reserve make you to get more knowledge from this. You can take knowledge and information from the book. Book is published or printed or descriptive from each source that filled update of news. In this particular modern era like currently, many ways to get information are available for a person. From media social including newspaper, magazines, science e-book, encyclopedia, reference book, new and comic. You can add your understanding by that book. Ready to spend your spare time to spread out your book? Or just in search of the The Campaigns of Napoleon when you desired it?

Download and Read Online The Campaigns of Napoleon David G.

Chandler #TI0WZP31OEK

Read The Campaigns of Napoleon by David G. Chandler for online ebook

The Campaigns of Napoleon by David G. Chandler Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Campaigns of Napoleon by David G. Chandler books to read online.

Online The Campaigns of Napoleon by David G. Chandler ebook PDF download

The Campaigns of Napoleon by David G. Chandler Doc

The Campaigns of Napoleon by David G. Chandler Mobipocket

The Campaigns of Napoleon by David G. Chandler EPub