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Blundering to Glory: Napoleon's Military Campaigns

Owen Connelly

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Owen Connelly : Blundering to Glory: Napoleon's Military Campaigns before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Blundering to Glory: Napoleon's Military Campaigns:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By bierhausser excellent book. 12 of 14 people found the following review helpful. A Little Disappointing By Kostya_2000 I started out very involved and interested in Connelly's premise, but as the book went on, he strained his credibility. With such misleading statements as, "Massena scored a victory over [Wellington] at Bussaco in September 1810," Connelly made me wonder just how strenuously he had checked his facts and just what he may have twisted to suit his argument. Bussaco was a clear defeat for Massena, who had thrown five assaults at the British/Portuguese troops and been repulsed in every case. The allies were not only left in possession of the battlefield but had lost approximately 1,000 men to Massena's 4,000. How Connelly could count that as a victory for Massena is beyond me. Unless, of course the fact that, two days AFTER the battle, Massena's drive to outflank the allies caused Wellington to start his strategic withdrawal toward the Lines of Torres Vedras, is what Connelly calls a "victory." And it made me wonder, what else did Connelly change or leave out...what may he have glossed over because it didn't suit his argument? One reviewer here complained that Connelly covered Napoleon's early battles extensively but barely covered what some consider to be Napoleon's most brilliant display of genius: the battles of 1814. Was 1814 glossed over, perhaps, because it was damaging to Connelly's argument? Who knows? It's too bad, really. This book had great promise, but it lost me through sheer sloppiness. My recommendation: Read it for its interesting approach, but don't expect to be convinced by the end of it. 12 of 16 people found the

following review helpful. Napoleon in a Nutshell By Jan Jeffl first read this little gem in 1992 I've just finished my 4th enjoyable reading. Personally, I can't think of a more readable, economical, introduction to the Napoleonic wars. Following an introductory chapter on Bonaparte, each chapter examines a separate campaign (Italy, Austerlitz, Spain, Russia etc). Professor Connelly's lifetime of scholarship in this field is well reflected throughout to include a comprehensive bibliography and a very good bibliographic essay examining works published since the first edition of this book. Whether you agree or disagree with his thesis (Napoleon the opportunist) this work is well worth the price. I also recommend Connelly's FRENCH REVOLUTION/NAPOLEONIC ERA, a short but well-done college text examining the military, political and cultural events of that period. Prior to attacking David Chandler's massive opus The CAMPAIGNS of NAPOLEON, also see David Gates' The NAPOLEONIC WARS, Charles Esdaile's The WARS of NAPOLEON Gunther Rothenberg's ART of WAR in the AGE of NAPOLEON. All three are available in paperback. Happy reading!

A complete account of the Napoleonic campaigns that explores the tactical methods Napoleon employed to achieve victory. He is characterised in this book as a scrambler, who never had a plan that he did not change or compromise, but always emerged victorious, blundering to glory.

Owen Connelly has written a magnificent book....The text moves right along, does not bog down in favorite emperor stories, and offers the most plausible explanation of Napoleon's many-sided military character that it has been my pleasure to read....Students at all levels...will sit entwined with the fast-moving text....This is a great book. All historians would do well to read it. (American Historical)Students of all levels, as well as the public at large, will sit entwined within the fast moving texttttt (Modern Europe)Blundering to Glory is an excellent primer or introduction to Napoleon and his military impact on the era, and it also offers ideas to challenge scholars and students of the periodddd (Napoleon Journal)A thoroughly stimulating and enjoyable volume. Connelly examines all the campaigns with exemplary conciseness, and the same is to be said of his treatment of the battles. . . . Whether this book entertains or (occasionally) infuriates, it makes a reader think. (Journal Of The Society For Army Historical Research)Readers will find this book useful to have in their library. Connelly gently but surely draws the readers into questioning whether or not Napoleon ever had a strategic aim. (Journal Of The Royal Artillery)This is a concise, clear, authoritative account presented in a felicitous literary style. Of the many works on Napoleon's thirty-year career, this is the best brief account. (Canadian Military History)Students of all levels, as well as the public at large, will sit entwined within the fast moving text (Modern Europe)Blundering to Glory is an excellent primer or introduction to Napoleon and his military impact on the era, and it also offers ideas to challenge scholars and students of the period (Napoleon Journal)Connelly's summaries of the action are clear and concise; his description of the social and political context in which Napoleon fought is exquisite; his portrayal of the personalities of Napoleon's marshals is lively and insightful; and his portrait of Napoleon's ambition and drive to win is superb. (Military)About the AuthorOwen Connelly is McKissick Dial Professor of History at the University of South Carolina. A past president of the Society for French Historical Studies, he was a member of the Institute for Advanced Studies, Princeton University. He served as an infantry officer in the Korean War and as an instructor at the U.S. Army Florida Ranger Camp.