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*Henry Houssaye*

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**Henry Houssaye : Napoleon and the campaign of 1814**, before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Napoleon and the campaign of 1814,:

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. The 1814 Campaign in FranceBy Nicholas RobertsWritten in the late 19th century this is the French point of view regarding the invasion by Allied forces. The book covers the military campaigns, the personalities involved, the military build up, and the peace process. The writer starts out on a rough note talking about how amazing the Marie Louises fought against the combined Allied forces and how badly the Allied troops treated the civilians of France. Overall most of these accusations on both ends seem to be accurate. At about 400 pages it is one of the largest and most in depth accounts of the invasion covering every major battle. Unfortunately it does not go into the other campaigns such as those of MacDonal in Belgium, and mainly concentrates around Napoleon's campaign. If you are interested in learning more about the 1814 campaign in France from a French point of view this is a perfect book.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Dated Study But Well Worth ReadingBy Kirk R. LowryNapoleon and the Campaign of 1814 was written by the renowned French historian Henry Houssaye and first published in 1888. The book commences with a description of the state of France in January of 1814 and concludes with the abdication of Napoleon. While essentially concerned with the perspective of French participants details and observations about the enemies of Napoleon are plentiful.From the vantage point of contemporary scholarship the work suffers from a lack of specific attributions of statements and the absence of reference to the sources of information; no footnotes and no bibliography. As well, understanding the specific movements of men and material in military operations is difficult to conceive without a detailed knowledge of the

geography of north eastern France and, thus, the complete absence of maps proves frustrating. If the original edition included such information I do not know, but no such details are included in the Leonaux edition. Surprisingly and unfortunately the opening phase of the campaign is mentioned only in passing and, thus, there is no description of the battles of Champaubert, Montmirail, Chateau-Thierry, Vauchamps, Mormant, Montereau or the battle which was not fought at Troyes. One may wonder if there is anything positive to write about the book, but, yes the book rewards the reader with a stirring accounting of the events following the signing of The Treaty of Chaumont by Austria, Britain, Prussia and Russia. Houssaye renders moving descriptions (which are well translated) of the dilemmas faced by the participants in the struggle and the incredible drama of situations political and military makes it difficult to pause when reading. Though there are many insights into personalities and pithy observations about the controversial, such as Marmont and Talleyrand, an objective balance is maintained. Perhaps most appreciated are both critical but respectful observations about Napoleon as Emperor, commander and a man.

A fine history from a great historian There have been many historians of the Napoleonic Age, but inevitably some-as a result of their scholarship and their ability to communicate their ideas and research in a thorough, clear and above all entertaining and engrossing way-become highly regarded and their names and works endure. Henry Houssaye is one such. His work will be well known to students of the later period of the First Empire and this book-concerning the battles leading to the fall of Paris, the Emperors abdication and the Bourbon Restoration-is a fine example of his craft. Houssaye's talent was not simply to explain and analyse the often complex strategies, tactics and movements of opposing armies in the field, but to take the reader inside the heads of the leading protagonists. Were that not sufficient Houssaye also brings colour and character to his writing by recounting the exploits and experiences of the humbler participants of these monumental events. A well rounded piece of research and writing with deserved classic status.