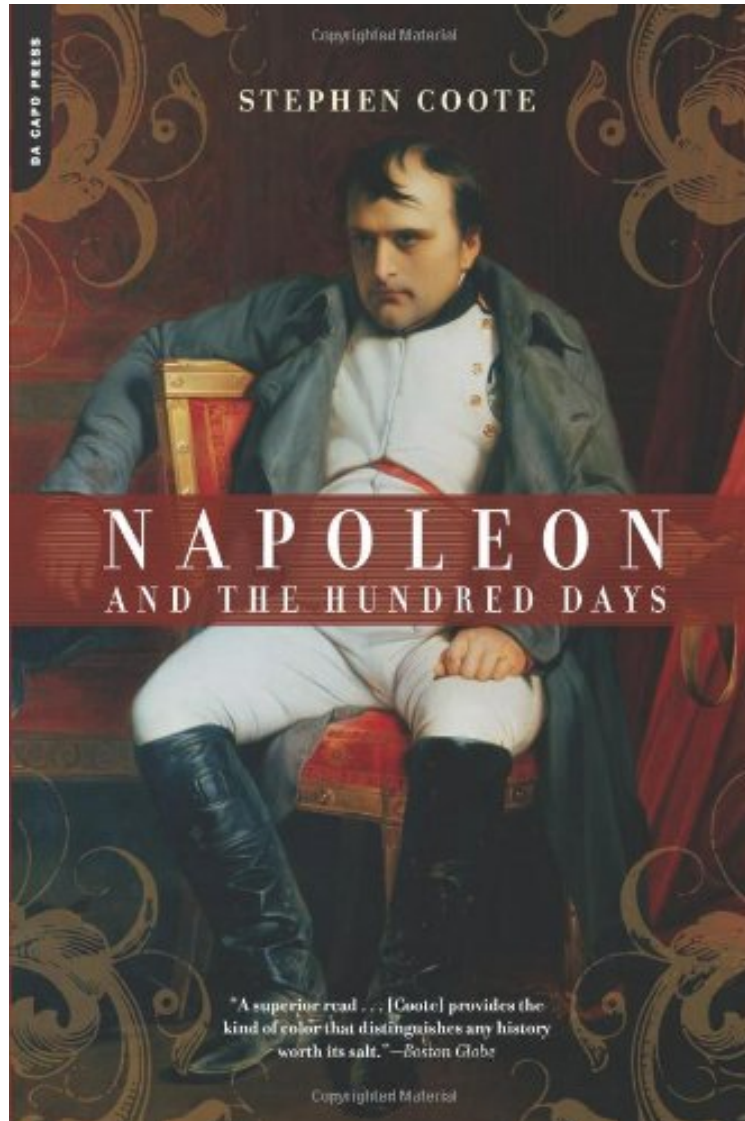


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## Napoleon and the Hundred Days

*Stephen Coote*

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**Stephen Coote : Napoleon and the Hundred Days** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Napoleon and the Hundred Days:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very enjoyable. Worth the time to read.By Glenn D. RobinsonVery enjoyable book on the span of history of Napoleans exile to Elba and the reconquest of France. Because King Louis XVIII failed to honor the agreement of annual payments to Napoleon for upkeep, wages, and such, Napoleon used this and others to escape and take over the French Government. The Bourbonists had come back from England and tried to recreate pre-1789 France which the average citizen apparently did not want. Once back in power, Napoleon strove to

undo all the changes in the law and to enact better laws (our state of Louisiana still uses the Napoleonic Codes). All good things come to an end and his ended at Waterloo. He had ideas to escape to America (his brother did), but this was not to be. He died on the island of St. Helena 6 years later. A well written book and well researched. 2 of 4 people found the following review helpful. From Elba to St. Helena By Christian Schlect A melodramatic rendering of the final days of Napoleon's rule. The English author, Stephen Coote, plows ground already fully developed by many first-rate historians. He seems to keep accurately to the basic plot line, while lending his own often over-wrought descriptive take to whatever matter is at hand. Not a bad book for an airline flight, but not a top-flight history. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fit only for compost lining By Customer Only the second book I have ever thrown in the rubbish bin, the first was Alan Schom's biography of Napoleon, and if I'd realised Coote was a student of Schom's I wouldn't have bought the book in the first place. I actually got it from a discount bin for \$5 and it was still seriously overpriced. Both Schom and Coote have a fixation with Napoleon's "mental disorders" and the size of his penis. I made it about half-way through, more out of morbid curiosity before throwing it away in disgust. And this point, the 100 days hadn't actually started.

Vienna, 1815: As the political leaders of Europe assemble to determine the fate of the continent after defeating Napoleon, the alarming news arrives that Napoleon has escaped captivity. Bonaparte had returned, and it would be just one hundred days before he met his enemies in a final, epic battle. In *Napoleon and the Hundred Days*, Stephen Coote vividly re-creates the rise and fall of Bonaparte's empire, and brings to life the characters who shaped it. With the eye of an historian and the dramatic style of a novelist, Coote describes how the path to war became inevitable and how, at the Battle of Waterloo, the fatigued but ever arrogant Napoleon met his match. This is a dazzling portrait of the legendary emperor, whose genius, courage, and tenacity won--and lost--him a vast empire.

From *Publishers Weekly* This literary, almost novelistic treatment of the 100 days between Napoleon's escape from Elba and his capitulation after Waterloo uses the period as a lens through which to examine his character in general. By so doing, Coote (*A Play of Passion: The Life of Sir Walter Raleigh*) manages to give the reader a panoramic view of the emperor's life, not simply a focused study of the events of the Hundred Days. From Napoleon's unwillingness to concede the impossibility of even his most far-fetched plans to his megalomaniacal identification of Europe's destiny with his own, Coote illustrates the increasingly disastrous consequences of Bonaparte's temperament and character by comparing episodes of his return to power (such as the Additional Act, the Champs de Mai and the battle of Waterloo) to those of his initial rise (the Code Napoleon, the coronation in Notre Dame and the battle of the Bridge of Lodi). Throughout, Coote's prose is a delight, and his knack for description and characterization make men like Talleyrand, Fouché and Louis XVIII almost palpable (of Fouché, he writes, "dressed in plain black clothes amid all the brilliant decor and brighter uniforms of the palace and its courtiers, Fouché gave the uncomfortable impression of being a monk disguised in evening dress, of being something other than what he seemed"). Overall, this accessible work is reminiscent of the finest classical Roman histories and biographies. Although Coote's volume will be of great interest to those already familiar with Napoleonic history, he provides enough background information to make such familiarity unnecessary. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From *Booklist* A fittingly impetuous conclusion to his controversial impact on history, Napoleon's return to power in 1815--nullified by the Battle of Waterloo--was chronicled in Napoleon biographer Alan Schom's *One Hundred Days* (1993). Coote (Samuel Pepys, 2001) traverses the same terrain in a more popular, less scholarly manner, spicing a fast-moving story with pithy characterizations of the main figures involved. Napoleon's escape from exile and return to France with several hundred followers confronted officials of the shakily restored Bourbon regime, from local prefects to the ministers of Louis XVIII, with a decision about whether to turn coats or not. Coote smoothly dramatizes Napoleon's progress to Paris where, reenthroned as emperor, he politically posed as the liberal that the wars he previously conducted had prevented him from being. Singed by experience, the victors of 1814 rejected the new and improved Napoleon, declared him an outlaw, and mobilized. Sketching in attributes of Napoleon--charisma and egotism--that propelled the madcap adventure, Coote delivers a splendidly flowing rendition of the tragic affair. Gilbert Taylor Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved "[Coote] combines a historian's skills with a novelist's flair." -- *Bookviews.com*, March 2007