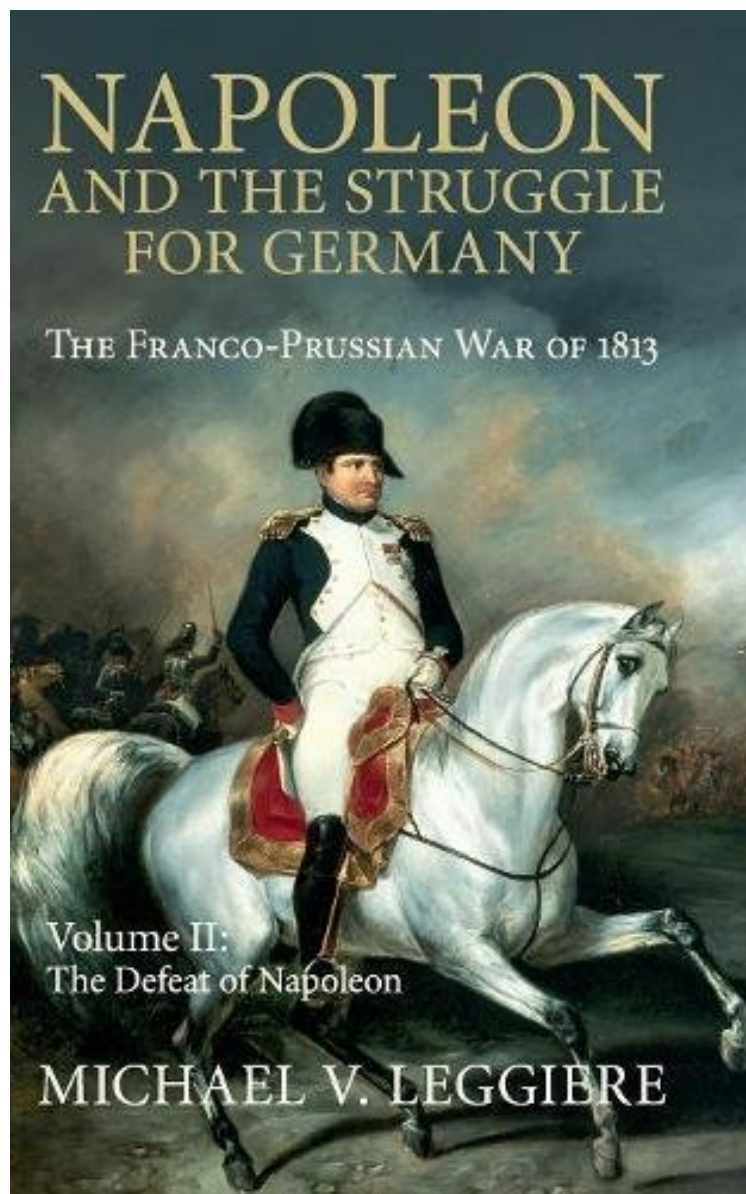


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Napoleon and the Struggle for Germany: The Franco-Prussian War of 1813 (Cambridge Military Histories) (Volume 2)

Michael V. Leggiere

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Michael V. Leggiere : Napoleon and the Struggle for Germany: The Franco-Prussian War of 1813 (Cambridge Military Histories) (Volume 2) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and

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5 of 8 people found the following review helpful. If you want a detailed account of the movements of ...By R. B. MacHattonIf you want a detailed account of the movements of the various armies involved in the Napoleonic wars of 1813 in Germany this is your book. But if you are looking for an account of the actual combat then look elsewhere.2 of 4 people found the following review helpful. but at the same time easy to readBy Andrew LeeverI found this book very detailed, but at the same time easy to read. Loved it.13 of 19 people found the following review helpful. Half a Book.By Joseph KeyOne day this book will be a very valuable resource for an historian looking to write a complete account of the 1813 campaign in Germany. For the reader today looking for the above this is not the book. Mr. Leggiere book is notable more for what is not there than for what is there. Mr. Leggiere's first book dealt with Napoleon's operations around Berlin in 1813. So to avoid repetition he refers you to that book for these operations. So he doesn't deal with the battles of Grossbeeren or Denewitz. Fair enough. What's not so fair is that he leaves out all discussions of the operations of the Bohemian Army and the great battle of Dresden and it's aftermath. These subjects are mentioned only in passing. Also ignored is Napoleon and the French army, which he refers to as the Imperials. {As an aside I can certainly understand why the author uses this term, but whenever I read it I'm put in mind of Star Wars}. The author promises us a third volume in which he will deal with the Austrians and those battles which were neglected in this volume. In short this what I call a "Theses history". Meaning a work that purports to cover a particular subject, in this case Napoleon's 1813 campaign, but is more about putting forth an author's theories, than giving us a campaign history.In my review of Mr. Leggiere first volume I used the analogy of a pastrami sandwich with piles of meat between two slices of bread. For your everyday military historian the meat is the story of battles, generals, etc., while the bread is the politics and diplomacy of the period covered, and which is generally only covered to provide context for the military operations. Mr. Leggiere is what I call an academic historian, for want of a better term. For him the politics and diplomacy of the period is the meat while the military operations are the bread surrounding the meat. Two examples will suffice to show the differences between the two approaches. A staple to any military history are early chapters going into detail on strength and organization of the various forces involved, their leaders, tactics, etc. Mr. Leggiere in neither of his works bothers to even deal with these things. Then there are the battle maps. The author provides 4 maps for the battle of Leipzig, which I must say are well done, but they are operational maps that show the whole battlefield, and his coverage rarely goes below corps level.Now that I've talked about what Mr. Leggiere hasn't done lets talk about what he's done. This is basically a history of the Army of Silesia commanded by Blucher, while it consisted of a number of Russian corps, it's generally thought of as the Prussian Army. The author goes into great detail on it's operations while basically ignoring the two flanking armies. This reinforces the books focus on Prussia and her aims and operations in the campaign. For what it does, deal with the politics and diplomacy of the period, the book does very well. But for anyone to refer to this book as the definitive account of this campaign is ludicrous.I give this book three stars in the hope that Mr. Leggiere's future book on this campaign will fill in enough of the books holes to justify this rating. This is not a book for the casual reader or military fan. This book is for those who have a special affinity for this period

The first comprehensive history of the decisive Fall Campaign of 1813, which determined control of Central Europe following Napoleon's catastrophic defeat in Russia the previous year. Using German, French, British, Russian, Austrian and Swedish sources, Michael V. Leggiere provides a panoramic history which covers the full sweep of the struggle in Germany. He shows how Prussia, the weakest of the Great Powers, led the struggle against Napoleon and his empire. By reconstructing the principal campaigns and operations in Germany, the book reveals how the defeat of Napoleon in Germany was made possible by Prussian victories. In particular, it features detailed analysis of the strategy, military operations, and battles in Germany that culminated with the epic four-day Battle of Nations at Leipzig and Napoleon's retreat to France. This study not only highlights the breakdown of Napoleon's strategy in 1813, but constitutes a fascinating study in coalition warfare, international relations, and civil-military relations.

"Leggiere does an outstanding job of describing the interactions of a complex, internally-divided alliance whose armies nevertheless repeatedly managed to outmaneuver and outfight Napoleon! The operational analysis, particularly of Leipzig, is also unusually clear. This volume will - indeed must - be consulted by anyone seeking to understand the nature of war in the Napoleonic era." Dennis E. Showalter, author of *Frederick the Great: A Military History*"Michael Leggiere offers a fascinating dissection of the 1813 campaign, both military and diplomatic, that culminated in Napoleon's defeat at Leipzig. He emphasizes the role played by Prussia, still eager to avenge the humiliation of Jena, and military historians will especially relish his mastery of strategy, tactics and operational art." Alan Forrest, author of *Napoleon: Life, Legacy, and Image: A Biography*"Professor Leggiere has contributed immeasurably to the English-language scholarship on the Napoleonic 1813 campaign in Germany with this balanced sequel to his excellent operational and political study. The climatic fall 1813 campaign has long been ready for a reassessment and Leggiere

has answered this need with a comprehensive operational-political history of Napoleon's great defeat from the perspective of the victors." John T. Kuehn, author of *A Military History of Japan: From the Age of the Samurai to the 21st Century* About the Author Dr Michael V. Leggiere earned his Ph.D. from Florida State University in 1997 after completing work at FSU's Institute on Napoleon and the French Revolution. His first book, *Napoleon and Berlin: The Franco-Prussian War in North Germany, 1813* (2002) inaugurated that Press's 'Campaigns and Commanders' series and won the La Société Napoléonienne Internationale 2002 Literary Award. His article, 'From Berlin to Leipzig: Napoleon's Gamble in North Germany, 1813', which appeared in the January 2003 volume of the *Journal of Military History*, won the Society for Military History's 2004 Moncado Prize for excellence in military history. Dr Leggiere's second book, *The Fall of Napoleon: The Allied Invasion of France, 1813-1814* (Cambridge University Press, 2007) won the La Société Napoléonienne Internationale 2008 Literary Award. Dr Leggiere's third book, *Blücher: Scourge of Napoleon*, was published in February 2014. Dr Leggiere has conducted extensive archival research in Paris, Vienna, and Berlin in 1994, 1995, 1998, 2001, 2002, 2004 and 2009, and topographic research in Germany, France, and Poland in 1998, 2002 and 2013. Dr Leggiere is an active member of the Society for Military History, serving on the Board of Directors of the Consortium on the Revolutionary Era. In 2005 he received La Société Napoléonienne Internationale Legion of Merit Award for Outstanding Contributions to Napoleonic Studies.