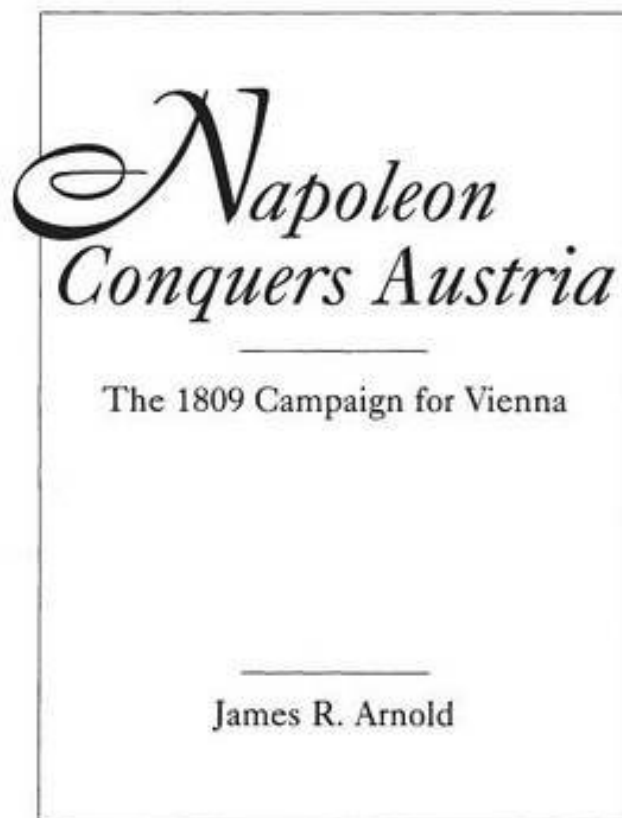


(Free pdf) Napoleon Conquers Austria: The 1809 Campaign for Vienna

Napoleon Conquers Austria: The 1809 Campaign for Vienna

James R. Arnold

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James R. Arnold : Napoleon Conquers Austria: The 1809 Campaign for Vienna before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Napoleon Conquers Austria: The 1809 Campaign for Vienna:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. One of the better books on Napoleonic battles By Aussie Reader I found 'Napoleon Conquers Austria' to be a well researched and written book covering the 1809 campaign for Vienna.

The author presented the campaign in such a fluid style that I lost track of time whilst reading the book. His account of the Battle of Wagram was excellent and there was 13 maps to assist the reader to follow the action. I think that the maps could have been better presented but they were sufficient, the illustrations (19) were interesting with some recent photos of the battlefields. Overall this was an easy to read account of this famous campaign and it was an enjoyable journey to take. I would recommend it to anyone who enjoys Napoleonic history. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Fun to read By David P. Wester How it is I do not know but the majority, vast majority, of books on this exciting period put me to sleep. Not Mr. Arnold. He has a fluid style which manages to entertain as well as inform. Why not 5 stars? The maps are crude and the Order of Battle does not include number of effectives present per regiment.

This is the first English language account of the 1809 campaign for Vienna to weave stories of individual persons into the larger motif of the struggle to dominate Europe. The book explores three themes: the decline of Napoleon's powers, the rise of German nationalism, the end of the era of cavalry dominance of the battlefield and the ascendance of artillery. The campaign for Vienna led to Napoleon's first defeat on the battlefield. In May, Napoleon sat with his defeated army at the end of a long and imperiled line of communications. At the moment of crisis, he displayed his formidable talents and prepared a masterful counterstroke. The Battle of Wagram? a battle of unprecedented lethality? was a triumph for Napoleon and led to a peace which he dictated. In 1809 the world's undisputed military genius? Napoleon Bonaparte? confronted his implacable continental foe, the Hapsburg Empire. During the Vienna campaign of that year, Napoleon suffered his first defeat since becoming Emperor, but rebounded to win Wagram, a battle of unprecedented lethality. Referring to the strategic importance of the battles he fought, Napoleon reflected: My power is dependent on my glory, and my glory on my victories. My power would fall if I did not base it on still more glory and still more victories. Conquest made me what I am; conquest alone can keep me there. Even in the midst of a life and death campaign struggle against Austria, Napoleon continued to make nearly every decision of state on a daily basis. During his bath, while being shaved, when eating his meals, aides presented petitions and requests for his tireless attention: a second lieutenant asks to retain his French citizenship while serving in the Dutch army? Granted. Emperor Alexander I of Russia asks that an English prisoner of war who is a relative of his personal surgeon be released? Granted. If genius lies in the attention to detail, here was genius at work. The sun rose on April 24, 1809, to illuminate a continent at war. From Poland to Spain, some 600,000 soldiers awakened to duty. Nowhere was the concentration of forces greater than in the Danube Valley where Napoleon had determined to launch his blow against the Austrian Generalissimus, Erzherzog (Archduke) Karl. If Karl triumphed, most of Europe stood poised to pounce. Napoleon and the French Empire would be attacked from all quarters. If Karl failed, all Europe? except England and perhaps Portugal and Spain? would make whatever accommodations were necessary to survive under Napoleonic hegemony. The ensuing campaign led to Napoleon's first defeat at Aspern-Essling. So, at the end of May, Napoleon sat with his battered army at the end of a long and imperiled line of communications while Europe erupted around him. Yet, at the moment of supreme crisis, Napoleon displayed his formidable talents and prepared a masterful counterstroke. French and Austrian alike suffered horrific losses at Wagram, but at battle's end, Napoleon's commanding presence produced a French triumph. It was a victory so complete that the Emperor forced Austria into unwilling alliance and even took the daughter of the Austrian Kaiser to be his new wife. For one last time, the French conqueror redrew Europe's map.

"Arnold writes a solid military history, looking closely at the strategy and tactics employed by both sides. His strength is following the major units as they are employed in battle and writing a clear and well-informed account of the battle. He draws on excellent archival sources and most of the standard works on the topic....is a useful work of special interest to military history buffs, war-gamers, and military historians."-Choice... "[T]he style is accessible and the illustrations are fresh and well chosen....[E]njoyable and well written."-War in History... "The style is accessible and the illustrations are fresh and well chosen....E"njoyable and well written."-War in History?... "[T]he style is accessible and the illustrations are fresh and well chosen....[E]njoyable and well written."-War in History? Arnold writes a solid military history, looking closely at the strategy and tactics employed by both sides. His strength is following the major units as they are employed in battle and writing a clear and well-informed account of the battle. He draws on excellent archival sources and most of the standard works on the topic....is a useful work of special interest to military history buffs, war-gamers, and military historians.-Choice... "[T]he style is accessible and the illustrations are fresh and well chosen....[E]njoyable and well written."-War in History From the Publisher Arnold writes a solid military history, looking closely at the strategy and tactics employed by both sides. His strength is following the major units as they are employed in battle and writing a clear and well-informed account of the battle. He draws on excellent archival sources and most of the standard works on the topic....is a useful work of special interest to military history buffs, war-gamers, and military historians. From the Back Cover In 1809 the world's undisputed military genius - Napoleon Bonaparte - confronted his implacable continental foe, the Hapsburg Empire. During the Vienna campaign of that year, Napoleon suffered his first defeat since becoming Emperor, but rebounded to win Wagram, a battle of unprecedented lethality.

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