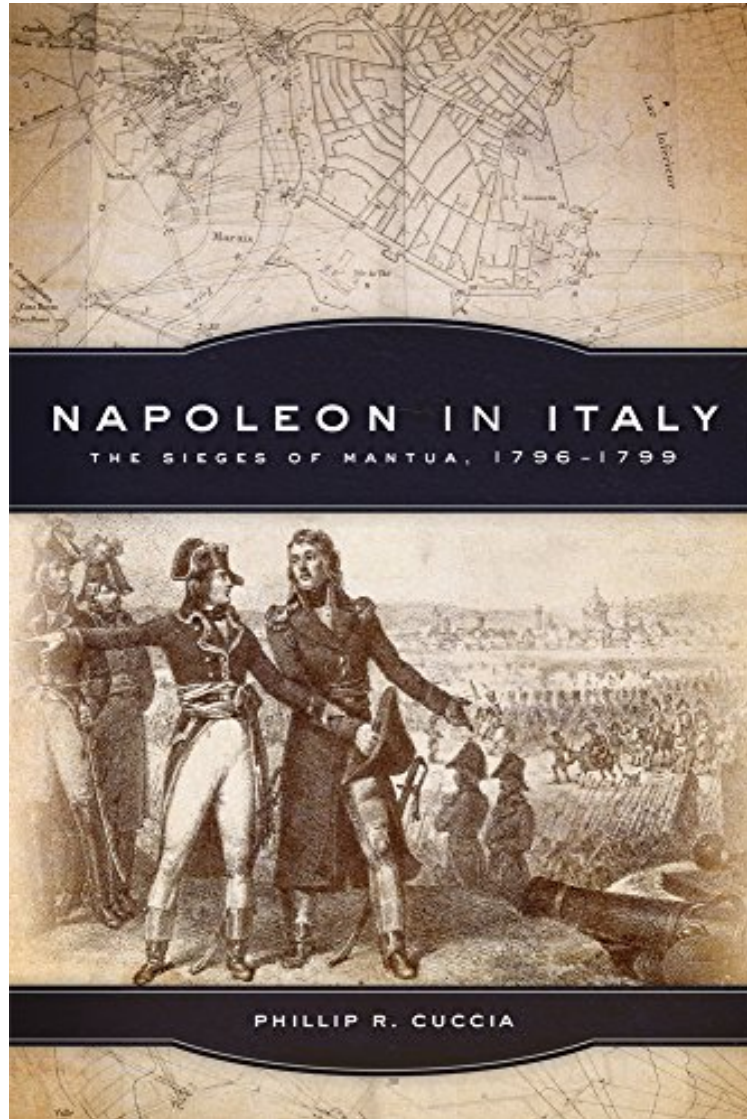


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Napoleon in Italy: The Sieges of Mantua, 1796–1799 (Campaigns and Commanders Series)

Phillip R. Cuccia

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Phillip R. Cuccia : Napoleon in Italy: The Sieges of Mantua, 1796–1799 (Campaigns and Commanders Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Napoleon in Italy: The Sieges of Mantua, 1796–1799 (Campaigns and Commanders Series):

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Outstanding!By SteveIn The Sieges of Mantua, Colonel Cuccia has delivered a massive amount of historical facts placed in a wonderful and easily flowing style that engages the reader

from page one. His attention to detail draws one into the region and more especially the city of Mantua under siege. The carefully placed details of what was happening inside as well as outside of the fortress lead me to a sympathetic understanding of both the protagonists and the besieged. Although the book centers on the sieges, be ready for a broad and comprehensive study of Bonaparte's campaign strategies for the entire Lombard Plain. I highly recommend this book to both lay persons (such as myself) and academics who are interested and enjoy factual history. Thanks to Colonel Cuccia for a greatly interesting and very enjoyable read. 3 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Well written. By Jerry F. A very well written and researched chronicle of a major part of the Napoleonic War. A must read for war buffs and historians alike. 9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Invitingly Well-Written Account Of A Campaign That Invented Modern Warfare By Paul Berg Cuccia's invitingly-written account draws you into the mind of this world changing military leader Napoleon during his crucial northern Italian offensive, where his military and political styles were tested and matured. The siege of Mantua was a template for today's wars of hearts and minds engaging whole populations, not just soldiers; the military scholar will think of Vicksburg and perhaps Falluja. Cuccia's writing is based on years of research, and it shows in his fastidious documentation and thorough annotation, what scholars value. Non-experts and mere aficionados like myself are as likely to be attracted to his clear, readable prose and supple way with a narrative; Cuccia knows how to create a convincing narrative out the big bundle of disorganized research notes he must surely have begun with. One more thing. Military education today in both the academies and the War Colleges has been migrating away from studies of classic historical figures such as Napoleon, a mistake. Reading Cuccia will convince you how Napoleon's gift for testing, reviewing and recreating strategy in the face of changing conditions on the battlefield and among the local population is as relevant to contemporary warcraft as counterinsurgency studies and Sun Tzu. A must read.

In the center of Mantua, in northern Italy, a covered bridge stretches over the narrow Rio where vendors sell fish from pushcarts just as locals did more than two hundred years ago when Napoleon Bonaparte laid siege to the city. Four cannon balls protruding out of an adjacent wall offer a tacit monument to the sufferings of townspeople during the 1796–1797 siege, when the city, held by Austrian troops, finally fell under French control. Two years later, Mantua was again barraged, this time by a combined Austrian and Russian army, which took it back after four months. In *Napoleon in Italy*, Phillip R. Cuccia brings to light two understudied aspects of these trying periods in Mantua's history: siege warfare and the conditions it created inside the city. Drawing on underutilized military records in Austrian, French, and Italian archives, Cuccia delves into these important conflicts to integrate political and social issues with a campaign study. Unlike other military histories of the era, *Napoleon in Italy* brings to light the words of soldiers, leaders, and citizens who experienced the sieges firsthand. Cuccia also shows how the sieges had consequences long after they were over. The surrender and proposed court-martial of François-Philippe de Foissac-Latour, the French general in charge of Mantua in 1799, sheds new light on Napoleon's disdain for defeat. Foissac-Latour faced Napoleon's ire, expulsion from the army, and harsh public criticism. *Napoleon in Italy* is not only the story of Mantua's strategic importance. Mantua also symbolized Napoleon's voracious determination to win and Austria's desperation to retain its possessions. By placing the sieges of Mantua in an eighteenth-century international context, Cuccia introduces readers to a broader understanding of siege warfare and of how the global impacts the local.

“Drawing on research in French, Austrian, private, and numerous Italian archives, Colonel Cuccia's authoritative study of the sieges of Mantua during Napoleon's conquest of Italy will be the standard work on the subject for decades. The author's firsthand knowledge of the terrain, exhaustive research, and military background have enabled him to produce the definitive work on a well-known but little-studied aspect of the Napoleonic Wars.” Michael V. Leggiere, author of *The Fall of Napoleon: The Allied Invasion of France, 1813–1814*