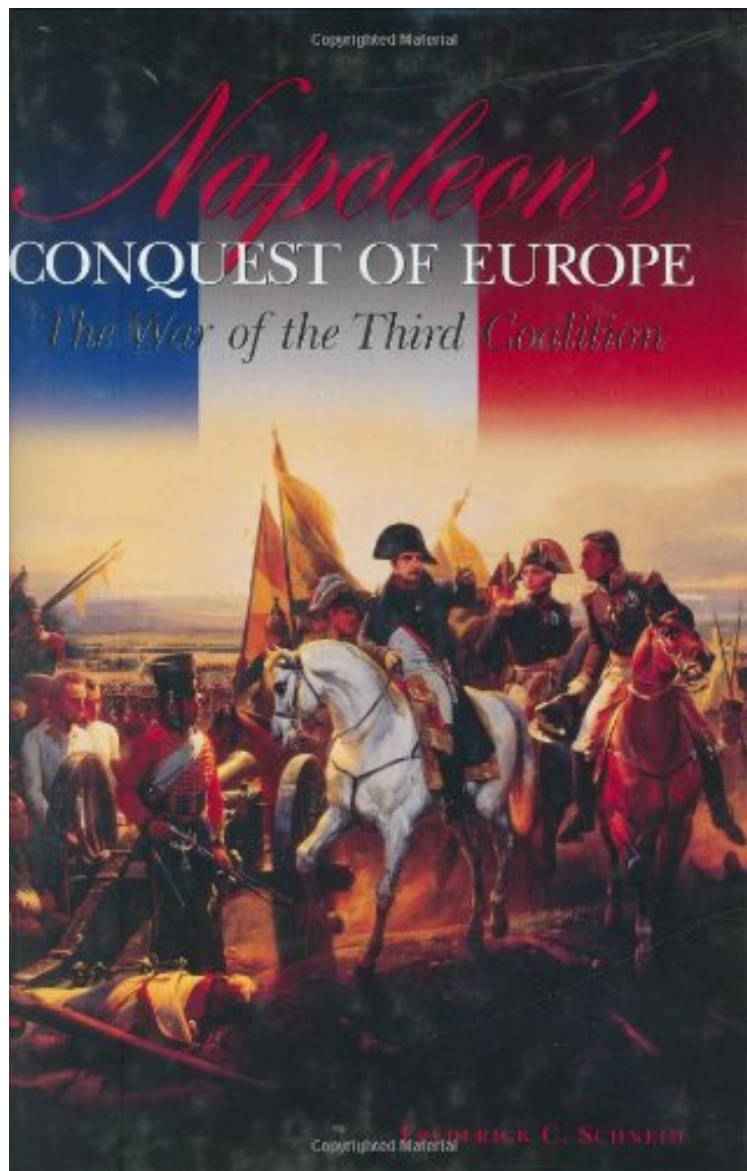


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## **Napoleon's Conquest of Europe: The War of the Third Coalition (Studies in Military History and International Affairs,)**

*Frederick C. Schneid*

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**Frederick C. Schneid : Napoleon's Conquest of Europe: The War of the Third Coalition (Studies in Military History and International Affairs,)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Napoleon's Conquest of Europe: The War of the Third Coalition (Studies in Military History and

International Affairs,):

Poised to strike at England in the summer of 1805, Napoleon found himself facing a coalition of European powers determined to limit his territorial ambitions. Still, in less than one hundred days, Napoleon's armies marched from the English Channel to Central Europe, crushing the armies of Austria and Russia—the first step in his conquest of Europe. In this telling new account, Schneid demonstrates how this was possible. Schneid details how Napoleon's victory over the Third Coalition was the product of years of diplomatic preparation and the formation of French alliances. He played upon the prevailing conditions of the European state system and the internal politics of the Holy Roman Empire to improve France's strategic position. This war must be understood in the context of the French Revolution and its influence on major and minor European states. In some cases, Napoleonic diplomacy returned to France's traditional and historic relationships; in others, he capitalized upon longstanding competition and animosities to gather allies and create wedges. Schneid approaches the campaign from a broad diplomatic, economic, and military perspective, including not only the French perspective, but the points of view of the other powers involved as well. This telling account reveals that the road to Vienna was paved long before Napoleon's armies marched upon the enemies arrayed against them.

"[T]his is a book about the complicated interplay of economics and diplomacy that occurred between 1796 and 1805. While that might seem potentially mundane, here it is not. And that is the strongest recommendation of the work. It should become mandatory reading for those of us in the Napoleonic field, but it would also be useful for giving graduate or upper-level undergraduates a firm understanding of the period's alliance systems and national finances.... Napoleon's Conquest of Europe is an excellent survey of the diplomatic and economic considerations that lead to the great events of 1805. The book would serve upper-level undergraduates, graduate students, buffs and experts equally well and certainly belongs in any good library collection." - H-War "Schneid increases his stature among the rising generation of U.S. historians of the Napoleonic Wars with this comprehensively researched and economically presented analysis of the War of the Third Coalition. Demonstrating command of a broad spectrum of sources, he smoothly integrates policy formation, diplomatic interaction, and military operations in a work meriting recognition as a standard introduction to the war that made Napoleon master of Europe." (Dennis Showalter, Professor of History, Colorado College, author of *The Wars of Frederick the Great and Tannenberg: Clash of Empires*) "An excellent synthesis, and unusual in that it deals in great detail with the factors leading to the formation of the Third Coalition against France (1803-1805) and the ensuing war. In some cases Schneid traces the diplomatic, economic, political, cultural and personal reasons leading to conflict back into the seventeenth century. The battles are crisply and accurately recounted—especially Austerlitz—giving special attention to Napoleon's enemies, which is lacking in most military histories." (Owen Connelly, Professor of History, University of South Carolina, author of *Blundering to Glory: Napoleon's Military Campaigns and Napoleon's Satellite Kingdoms*) About the Author Frederick C. Schneid is Professor of History at High Point University. He is the author of *Napoleon's Italian Campaigns, 1805-1815* (Praeger, 2002) and *Soldiers of Napoleon's Kingdom of Italy: Army, State and Society, 1800-1815* (1995). He serves on the board of directors of the Consortium on Revolutionary Europe and is southern regional director for the Society for Military History.