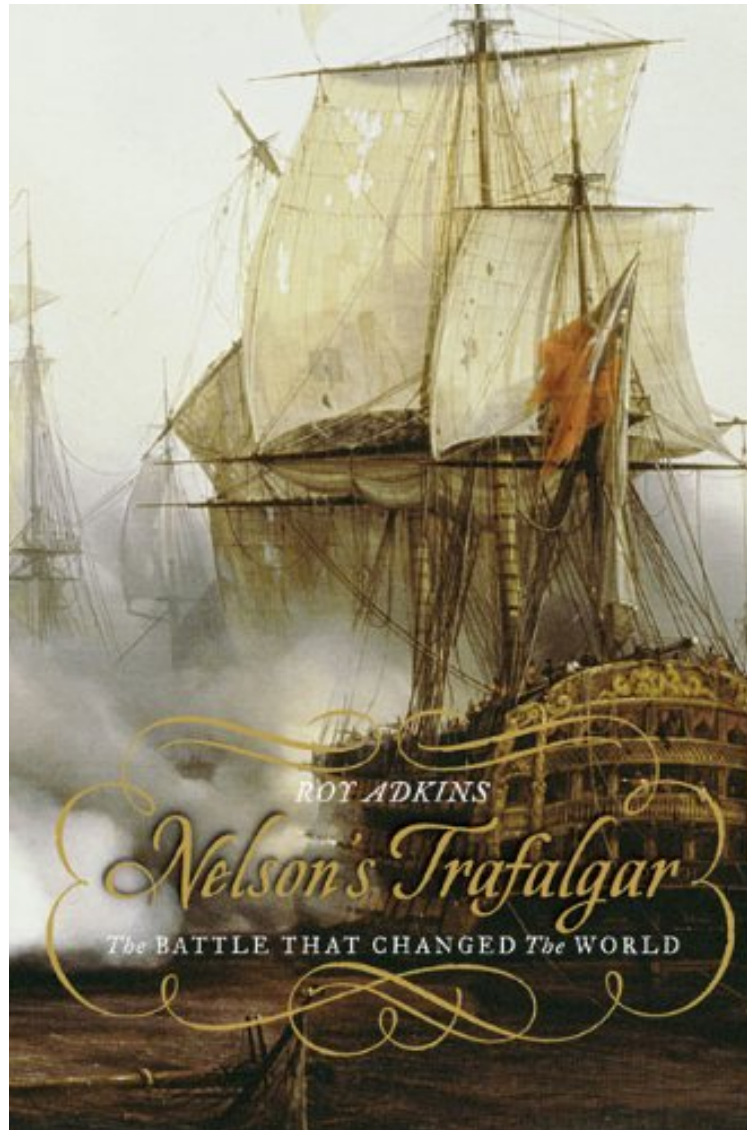


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Nelson's Trafalgar: The Battle That Changed the World

Roy Adkins

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#403664 in Books Roy Adkins 2006-10-31 2006-10-31 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.40 x .90 x 5.601, .89 #File Name: 0143037951432 pages Nelson s Trafalgar The Battle That Changed the World | File size: 47.Mb

Roy Adkins : Nelson's Trafalgar: The Battle That Changed the World before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Nelson's Trafalgar: The Battle That Changed the World:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Kindle okay, but not greatBy SkookumPeteThe book's content has been adequately reviewed by others, so I'll only point out the ridiculousness of the subtitle in the American edition, obviously insisted on by the marketing geniuses. While acknowledging the significance of the battle in Britain's

development as a naval power, Adkins himself makes no claims that it "changed the world" more than did any other decisive engagement. The Kindle text itself is free of typos and reasonably well formatted. End notes are properly linked, as are the explanatory footnotes, which necessarily become endnotes as well; however, rather than being marked with asterisks and daggers, these are given their own numbering sequence, so that the numbered references in the text can be rather confusing. More significantly, the diagrams seem to have been placed exactly where they appeared in the printed book, even in the middle of paragraphs, and the captions are then placed at the ends of those paragraphs, so that they are often disconnected from the diagrams. The result is a strange muddle. The maps and plans are included, but the plates are not, although a "List of Illustrations" is included so that we can know what we're missing! The original index is also included, sans page numbers; since entries aren't linked to anything, it is essentially useless. Overall, the Kindle edition is not as much of a mess as some other Penguin efforts, and certainly worth the lower price, but they still don't seem to quite get the concept of flowing text.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. There are many good citations and "eyewitness" comments to provide the points of ...By PapparosieThe book is well written and flows well. There are many good citations and "eyewitness" comments to provide the points of both sides. The story /history offers a fair juxtaposition on how each of the combatants viewed the events both leading up to the battle and the actual event. The book has a lot of filler and if you have read any of the Patrick O'Brian novels the history of language and the hardships of sailors in those days will be familiar to you and in my case I skipped many paragraphs to get to the details of the battle. Some of the soap opera stuff involving Nelson, Bonaparte and Villeneuve is again worth skipping over. Bottom line is it is a fun read. If you are a historian there are "better" treatises available. If you are new to the history of Trafalgar, this is a fun primer to get you interested in reading more.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A well-written study of a horrific sea battleBy IscollisonThis was a superb book, a biography of a famous battle, the story of the men (and women) who fought it and their ships. Adkins effectively weaves personal accounts of the battle with historical analysis as well as his own insights. Ordinarily I don't like to read books of military strategy but Nelson's Trafalgar is so much more than that. It's the telling detail that bring it to life, the individual accounts and the author's knowledge of life aboard a ship-of-the-line. This book should appeal to those landlubbers who aren't familiar with all the salty jargon sailors and geeks like to throw around, yet the author never condescends. If, like this American, you sometimes wonder what all the fuss over Trafalgar is all about, this book is for you. If I were to only ever read one nonfiction book about the Napoleonic wars at sea, this would be the one.

An explosive chronicle of history's greatest sea battle, from the co-author of the forthcoming *Gibraltar: The Greatest Siege in British History* (March 2018) In the tradition of Antony Beevor's *Stalingrad*, Nelson's Trafalgar presents the definitive blow-by-blow account of the world's most famous naval battle, when the British Royal Navy under Lord Horatio Nelson dealt a decisive blow to the forces of Napoleon. The Battle of Trafalgar comes boldly to life in this definitive work that re-creates those five momentous, earsplitting hours with unrivaled detail and intensity.

From Publishers WeeklyStarred . This illustrious introduction to the Battle of Trafalgar from an archeologist and historian is one of the best in generations for the nonseafaring reader curious about the nautical epic, and it also handsomely rewards those whose study of the battle goes back a generation or two. The battle itself and its aftermath form most of the narrative, interspersed with details of gunnery, ship handling, discipline, construction, damage control and shipboard health and medicine (not for the weak of stomach). The author gives full credit to the heroism of both sides—the dismantled Spanish flagship *Santa Ana*; the crew of the British *Belleisle*, also reduced to a wreck; and the aptly named French *Redoubtable*, from whose tops a stray bullet killed Nelson. Also given in more than usual detail is the weeks-long aftermath of storms, which sank most of the British prizes and during which the British further distinguished themselves by rescuing and landing enemy survivors. "If blood be the price of Admiralty, Lord God we ha' paid in full," Kipling wrote decades later, and this narrative of one of the bloodier occasions in winning that Admiralty is fully worthy of its subject. (On sale Aug. 22) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From BooklistAdkins' account focuses on the day of the Battle of Trafalgar, October 21, 1805, commenting upon the technology and tactics of sailing-ship navies and the readiness of the particular fleets that met at Trafalgar. An explanation of the strategic situation of France's threatened invasion of Britain frames the center stage of the narrative, a broadside-by-broadside description of which ship was where during the battle. Amid this structure, Adkins incorporates excerpts from survivors' accounts, which retain their gory power to appall. Trafalgar was a slaughter, a consequence of the near impossibility of sinking a wooden ship-of-the-line; hence, the British commander's decision to gain victory by closing with and killing enemy gunners. Writing in the traditional way about Nelson, Adkins knowledgeably narrates events for readers just discovering the blood-and-guts chronology of Trafalgar. Gilbert TaylorCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved "Captures the din, confusion, and sheer carnage of the battle. Mr. Adkins reminds us that 'in the cramped gun decks the noise of the battle could be felt as much as heard: a maddening sensation of pressure on the skull.'" —The Wall Street Journal "Wonderful. . . . Blazing . . . [Nelson's Trafalgar] is at least the equal of [Antony Beevor's] *Stalingrad* in blood, pace and detail, but it also boasts a welcome twist to the genre with a lacing of black humour." —The Independent on Sunday (London)

“Hugely satisfying. Those who share my appetite for particulars will delight in this book.” —The Boston Globe
“Excellent. . . . Adkins is at his best on the nuances of seamanship and the minutiae of life within the wooden walls.”
—The Independent “This illustrious introduction to the Battle of Trafalgar from an archaeologist and historian is one of the best in generations for the non-seafaring reader curious about the nautical epic, and it also handsomely rewards those whose study of the battle goes back a generation or two.” —Publishers Weekly (starred review) “Masterful in explaining why Nelson’s men were so much more efficient. . . . Adkins has written a compelling account.” —Bernard Cornwell, Mail on Sunday (London)“Well-written and makes good use of first-hand accounts.”—Literary “Vivid, scrupulous, immensely moving, this is a terrific yarn.” —Christopher Hirst, The Independent (London)“Adkins’s painstaking digging, sifting, arranging and questioning take him everywhere on Nelson's fleet . . . His account of the battle is a gripping album of snapshots from the quarterdecks and gun decks of the ships themselves . . . A most eclectic but engaging book.”—The Spectator