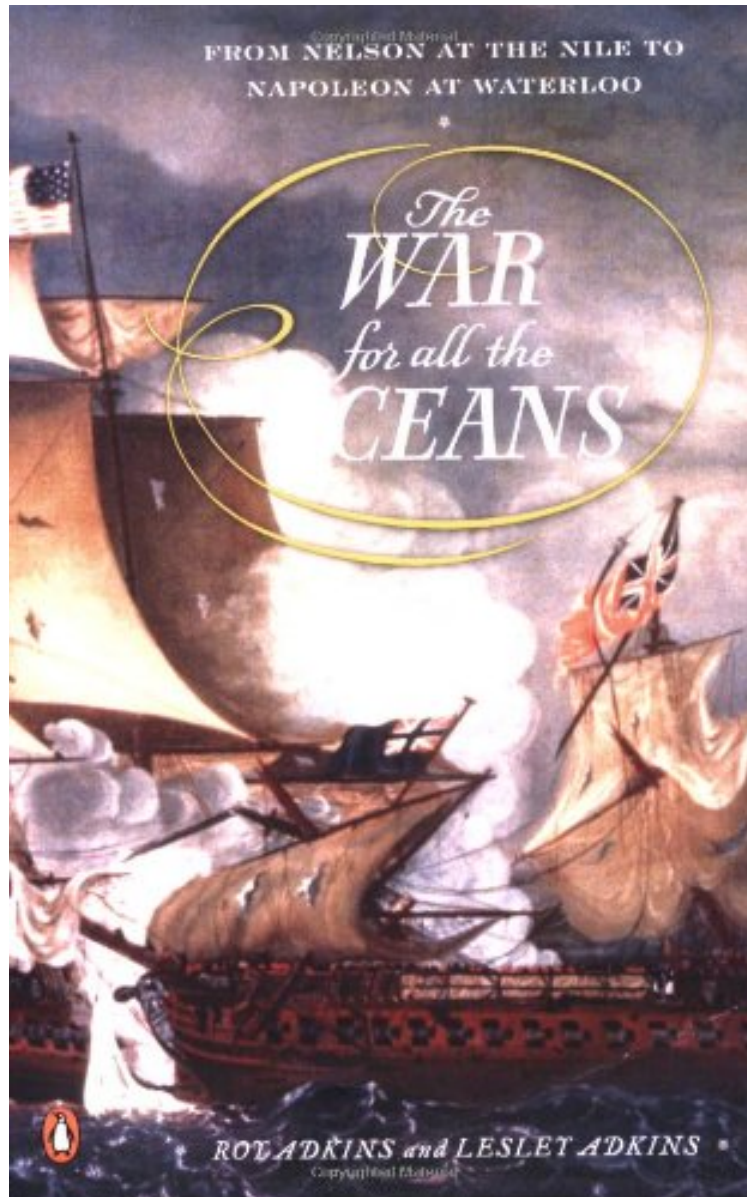


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The War for All the Oceans: From Nelson at the Nile to Napoleon at Waterloo

Roy Adkins, Lesley Adkins
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Roy Adkins, Lesley Adkins : The War for All the Oceans: From Nelson at the Nile to Napoleon at Waterloo
before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The War for All the Oceans: From Nelson at the Nile to Napoleon at Waterloo:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great First Hand Accounts, But...By Thomas Reiter This book is an excellent collection of first person accounts and quotes about naval warfare during the Napoleonic Wars, and includes many interesting stories and incidents that took place during the war (raids, escapes, battles, etc.). The accounts are almost exclusively from the English perspective. That said, that is about all that this book is--there is little narrative history connecting the various first person accounts, and even less analysis of the British navy's overall strategy or anything else for that matter. While the book is full of first hand accounts of thrilling British naval victories (almost always victories), the author doesn't really provide any explanation as to the reasons behind their success. As mentioned, the author does not provide much of an explanation or analysis about British naval strategy, although perhaps this is for the best, because I'm not sure how much I trust the author as a historian: at one point he claims that if the British had not been distracted by the Napoleonic Wars during its war with America (in 1812), then the US would have been quickly defeated and turned into a British colony again...Also, rather incredibly for an account of naval warfare during this period, the author does not provide a detailed account of Trafalgar, the decisive naval battle during this period. He describes the battle in a few short paragraphs and then refers readers in the footnotes to another book that he has written about Trafalgar for more information. Pretty cheeky approach and not one that would lead me to read any of this author's books in future. In summary, very good collection of first hand accounts about naval warfare during this period, but otherwise lacking in significant ways.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The War for all the Oceans By Paul I ordered this book expecting a 10,000 foot overview/ linear history of the British naval wars. It was not the overview I would have liked, but that lack was more than offset by the extensive use of first hand contemporary diary accounts. You are placed on the deck in the middle of the action. The gory details of combat reality emphasize the suffering of those who have gone before us. This will make a fantastic companion book to a dry linear naval history book.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Did they really have to forgoe Trafalgar? By Customer Otherwise an excellent and very enjoyable book. One gets a sense of two totalitarian nations locked in combat (most of the common sailors weren't allowed off the ships that fought off Trafalgar two years later) with the result of some very high social costs for the lower class.

A brutal, action-packed account of the sea battles of the Napoleonic War by the author of the bestselling *Nelson's Trafalgar* and co-author of the forthcoming *Gibraltar: The Greatest Siege in British History* (March 2018) As he did with his much lauded *Nelson's Trafalgar*, Roy Adkins (now writing with wife Lesley) again thrusts readers into the perils and thrills of early-nineteenth-century warfare. From its very first page, this is an adventure story--a superb account of the naval war that lasted from Napoleon's seizure of power in 1798 to the War of 1812 with the United States. Providing a ringside seat to the decisive battles, as well as detailed and vivid portraits of sailors and commanders, press-gangs, prostitutes, and spies, *The War for All the Oceans* is "a rollicking, patriotic account of the Napoleonic wars that will go down well with Master and Commander fans" (*The Telegraph*).

From Publishers Weekly Husband and wife Roy Adkins (*Nelson's Trafalgar*) and Lesley Adkins (*Empires of the Plain*) team up for this vivid account of the naval campaigns of the Napoleonic Wars (1798–1815). Contending that the wars were won at sea, the authors trace the nautical action from the Battle of the Nile (1798), where a British fleet destroyed the French fleet and stranded Napoleon's army in Egypt, to the decisive Battle of Trafalgar (1805), where the British overwhelmed a combined French and Spanish fleet supporting an invasion of Britain. The narrative concludes with an account of the protracted war of attrition that followed Trafalgar and ended with Bonaparte's final defeat at Waterloo in 1815. This low-grade conflict—coastal blockades and shipping raids—caught neutral nations like the United States in the middle and ultimately led the Americans to declare war on England in 1812—a conflict that was never more than a sideshow for the British. This rollicking saga ranges from the Mediterranean to the Indies, East and West, and ends with Britain in control of the world's sea lanes—the foundation for her future empire. Meticulously researched—drawing on extensive and intimate eyewitness accounts from contemporary journals, letters and memoirs—this lively narrative will delight students and fans of nautical history. (Aug. 20) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From Booklist In the nineteenth century, the British created the greatest maritime-based empire in world history. That empire was made possible by the domination of the Royal Navy, which was forged in the late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth centuries in the fires of the Napoleonic Wars. The Adkins, who are both historians and archaeologists, have written a narrative history of British naval conflicts from 1798 to 1815. In that span, the Royal Navy engaged almost every major naval power, including France, Spain, Holland, and even the U.S. Naturally, the Adkins describe the exploits of naval icons, including Nelson and Hood, but their account is most engrossing when they utilize eyewitness accounts of ordinary seamen to capture the intensity of battle as well as the grind of day-to-day life aboard a warship. The Adkins display such superb technological knowledge of their subject that they can be excused for their occasional delving into "Britannica Rules the Waves" enthusiasm. A superior work of maritime history that both scholars and general readers should enjoy.

Freeman, Jay "Hazardous but often abortive operations, fireships and rocket batteries, primitive torpedoes . . . such daredevilry comes alive—a drama of blazing ships and broadsides and the awesome power of the elements, which

even the finest of the many modern fiction interpreters of the era could hardly improve on.” —The Sunday Times (London) “One of the many strengths of this book is the way that it is not just the captains and commanders who speak to us through the numerous firsthand accounts that the authors weave into their narrative, but also the seamen and the prostitutes—thus conveying a sense of the Great War’s human dimensions, as well as the official history, the black humor as well as the bravery, the devilry as well as the sheer dogged determination to survive and win this hellish war.” —Salon “Engrossing . . . The Adkinses display such superb technological knowledge of their subject . . . A superior work of maritime history that both scholars and general readers should enjoy.” —Booklist “In this vivid history, the husband-and-wife historians . . . illuminate aspects of life at war and on the home fronts, quoting from diaries, letters, and journals. Sumptuous storytelling re-creates the first worldwide war. . . . This real-life action will delight fans of fictional heroes from the same wars—Horatio Hornblower (C.S. Forester) and Richard Sharpe (Bernard Cornwell).” —Kirkus “Meticulously researched—drawing on extensive and intimate eyewitness accounts from contemporary journals, letters and memoirs—this lively narrative will delight students and fans of nautical history.” —Publishers Weekly “A rollicking, patriotic account of the Napoleonic wars that will go down well with Master and Commander fans.” —The Telegraph “Lesley and Roy Adkins deserve our gratitude for allowing some of these ‘sturdy souls’ to speak again so vividly.” —The Observer (London) “Very readable and lively. There are tales of derring-do alongside portraits of characters such as the brilliant, eccentric naval commander Sir Sidney Smith.” —Financial Times “The stories in this book evoke the romance of seafaring in the age of wooden ships and muzzle-loading guns. All the original firsthand texts are well-selected and written with verve and clarity. This is fine entertainment.” —Naval History “A fascinating study . . . In this action-packed and highly readable book, the narrative rattles along like a C.S. Forester or Patrick O’Brian novel, with a wealth of detail about naval life . . . making this one of the most authoritative but accessible studies of Nelson’s navy available.” —The Geographical Journal “A first-class book, wide in scope and gripping in detail. From diseases to prostitutes to military action, Adkins brings knowledge and power to the subject. It would be difficult to find a more creative book on the British navy during its most tumultuous period.” —Oxford Times “Full of gripping eyewitness accounts of what happened . . . We won’t spoil the ending but Nelson plays a blinder.” —Motor Boat Yachting “Roy and Lesley Adkins have written a marvelous narrative history. . . . There is no question that sea power contributed mightily to Napoleon’s defeat, and this fine book drives home that point colorfully.” —History Book Club “Another masterly work from the Adkinses . . . a breathtaking journey through one of the most glorious periods.” —The Herald Express