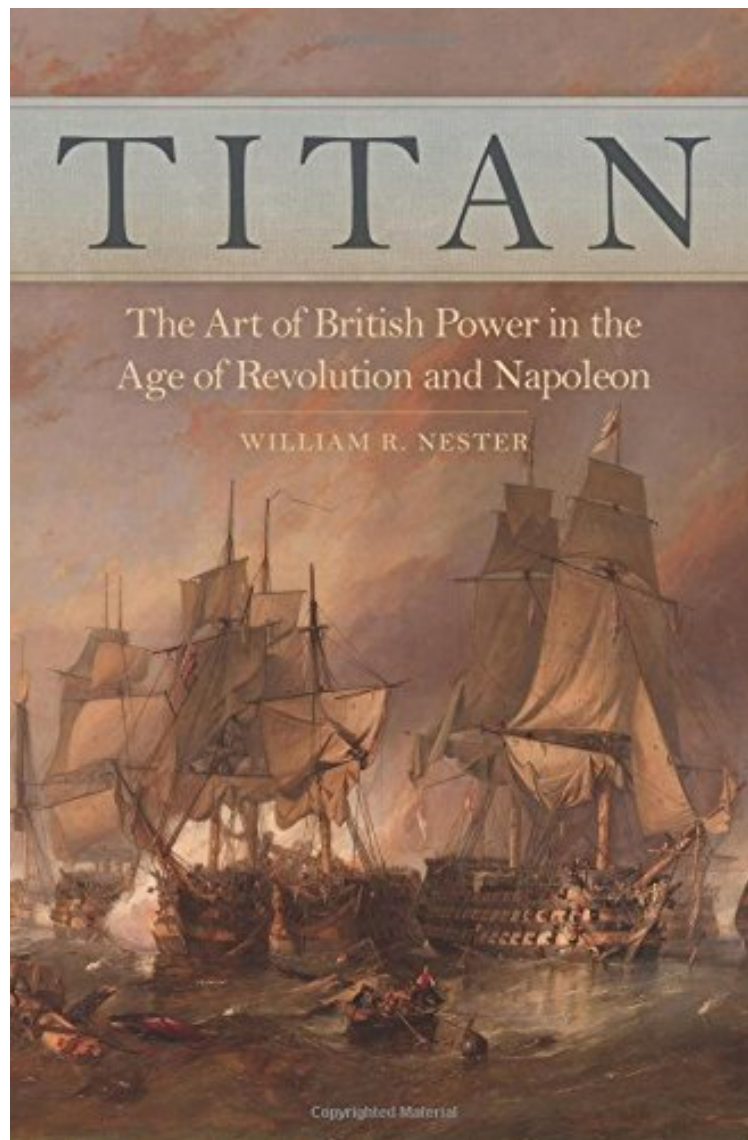


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Titan: The Art of British Power in the Age of Revolution and Napoleon

William R. Nester

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William R. Nester : Titan: The Art of British Power in the Age of Revolution and Napoleon before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Titan: The Art of British Power in the Age of Revolution and Napoleon:

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excerpt from the review on StrategyPage.Com 'This is not just about “hard” power, that is the Royal Navy and, as time went on, the British Army, but also about Britain’s arguably more important “soft” power, in the form of policy, diplomacy, finance, and even special operations. Neither a diplomatic history of the wars nor a military one, the reader will find much of both between its covers. But the reader will also learn a great deal about British domestic politics and how they shaped policy and strategy.' One of the most interesting parts of the book is the discussion of finance as a tool of war and diplomacy that runs through the whole of it, so we gain an understanding of how the British managed to never run out of money, despite expending sums that even seem staggering, and also how those pounds bought allies and armies that led to the final fall of Napoleon.' For the full review, see StrategyPage.Com

When the leaders of the French Revolution executed Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette in 1793, they sent a chilling message to the hereditary ruling orders in Europe. Believing that monarchy anywhere presented a threat to democratic rule in France, the leaders of the revolution declared war on European aristocracies, including those of Great Britain. For more than twenty years thereafter, France and England waged a protracted war that ended in British victory. In *Titan*, William R. Nester offers a deeply informed and thoroughly fascinating narrative of how England accomplished this remarkable feat. Between 1789 and 1815, British leaders devised, funded, and led seven coalitions against the revolutionary and Napoleonic governments of France. In each enterprise, statesmen and generals searched for order amid a complex welter of bureaucratic, political, economic, psychological, technological, and international forces. Nester combines biographies of great men—the likes of William Pitt, Horatio Nelson, and Arthur Wellesley—with an explanation of the critical decisions they made in Britain’s struggle for power and his own keen analysis of the forces that operated beyond their control. Their efforts would eventually crush France and Napoleon and establish a system of European power relations that prevented a world war for nearly a century. The interplay of individuals and events, the importance of conjunctures and contingency, the significance of Britain's island character and resources: all come into play in Nester's exploration of the art of British military diplomacy. The result is a comprehensive and insightful account of the endeavors of statesmen and generals to master the art of power in a complex battle for empire.

"In *Titan*, William R. Nester offers a compelling and comprehensive account of a turbulent period in the development of Britain as a great power, a period that shaped the early decades of American history."—Jeremy Black, author of *Fighting for America: The Struggle for Mastery in North America, 1519–1871*