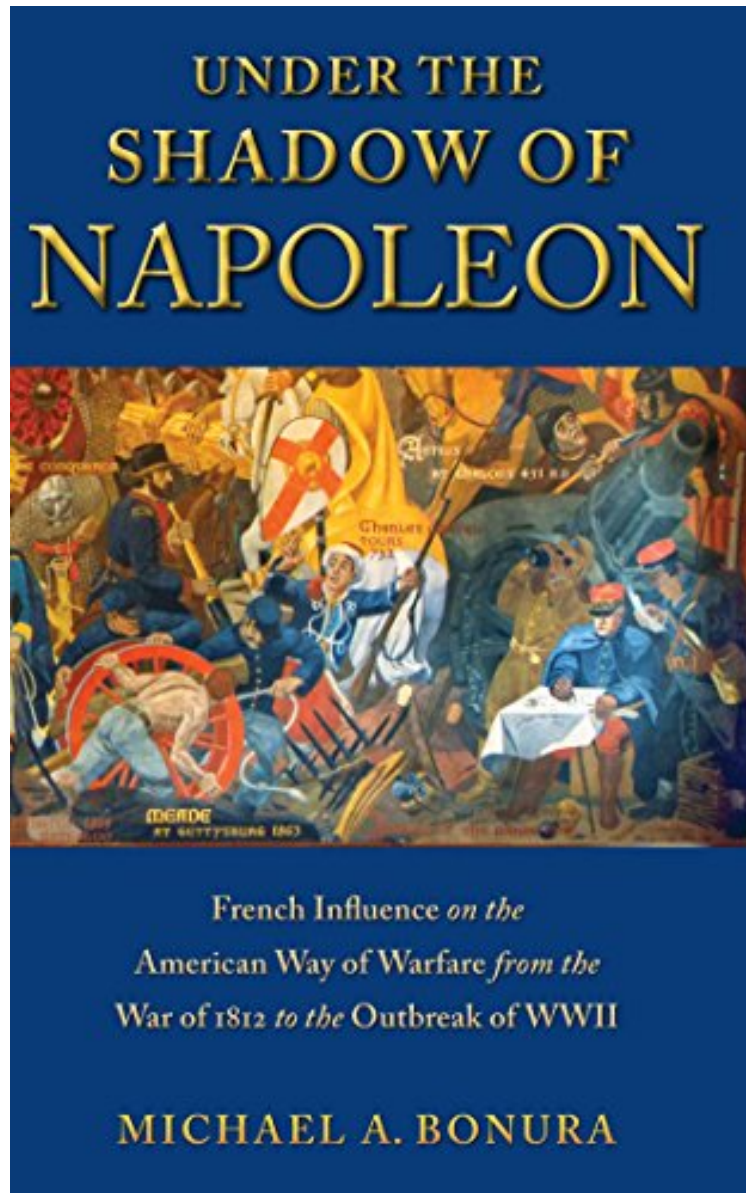


(Mobile book) Under the Shadow of Napoleon: French Influence on the American Way of Warfare from Independence to the Eve of World War II (Warfare and Culture)

## **Under the Shadow of Napoleon: French Influence on the American Way of Warfare from Independence to the Eve of World War II (Warfare and Culture)**

*Michael Bonura*

*DOC | \*audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub*



DOWNLOAD



+

READ ONLINE

#2204481 in Books NYU Press 2012-05-07 2012-05-07 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.02 x .88 x 5.981, 1.20 #File Name: 0814709427318 pages | File size: 55.Mb

**Michael Bonura : Under the Shadow of Napoleon: French Influence on the American Way of Warfare from Independence to the Eve of World War II (Warfare and Culture)**

before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Under the Shadow of Napoleon: French Influence on the American Way of Warfare from Independence to the Eve of World War II* (Warfare and Culture):

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A masterpiece on the subject. By Francois-Marie Patorni A masterpiece on the subject. Francois-Marie Patorni, scholar on the history of the French in New Mexico (newmexicofrenchhistory.com). 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. For the History Fan! By Brokerature If you're familiar with Dan Carlin's Hardcore History podcast, then you'll know that there are history fans, and there are Historians. This book will appeal to both, I think, but this review is for the history fans. Bonura overlays how scientific communities adopt new theories and replace old ones (a concept of Thomas Kuhn's) on top of how the American military adopted and replaced their tactics and doctrines. That is necessarily a simplification, but what is more important as a fan is how Bonura makes his point. The book takes things that seem normal, given our perspective, and shows just how revolutionary they were at the time. Imagine for a moment the difference between an army that had to be kept in the field through threats, brutality, or the promise of rape and plunder. Now contrast that army with one that is much more like what we have today, an essentially volunteer force, capable of independent thought and action. There is really no contest in the effectiveness of these two armies, but it's not something that is obvious on the surface. Bonura brings these details that sometimes feel lost to the surface. The battle illustrations are short but impressive, with maps for the detail-oriented (like me), and each is used to further the book's argument about how ideas change in a military context. Highly recommended for history fans, particularly Napoleon buffs. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. An Excellent Book By Last Marshal 1815 *Under the Shadow of Napoleon* is a well-researched book using the West Point special collections, and various military sources. Its structure follows a theory to practice and practice to theory analysis. Bonura invokes Thomas Kuhn and Carl Von Clausewitz in his study. The book is an intellectual study of war and how French theories and practices of the French Revolution influenced military thought and doctrine from Winfield Scott to George C. Marshall. Bonura cites the Mexican-American war as a watershed conflict in American military thought. He used several major battles to demonstrate the mix of theory and practice of French thought. The often overlooked battle of Chapultepec highlighted how Scott's infusion of French military thought led to an American victory. Bonura also uses Dennis Hart Mahan, Alfred Thayer Mahan's father, and, the much maligned, Henry Halleck as examples of the dominance of French military thought prior to the civil war. Only the defeat of France in 1940, brought the hegemony of French thought over the military to an end. The book is well written and enjoyable to read. Bonura leads the reader using Kuhn's scientific revolution analysis in effectively making the point of development by accumulation for the transformation of American military thought.

The way an army thinks about and understands warfare has a tremendous impact on its organization, training, and operations. The central ideas of that understanding form a nation's way of warfare that influences decisions on and off the battlefield. From the disasters of the War of 1812, Winfield Scott ensured that America adopted a series of ideas formed in the crucible of the Wars of the French Revolution and epitomized by Napoleon. Reflecting American cultural changes, these French ideas dominated American warfare on the battlefields of the Mexican-American War, the American Civil War, the Spanish-American War, and World War I. America remained committed to these ideas until cultural pressures and the successes of German Blitzkrieg from 1939 - 1940 led George C. Marshall to orchestrate the adoption of a different understanding of warfare. Michael A. Bonura examines concrete battlefield tactics, army regulations, and theoretical works on war as they were presented in American army education manuals, professional journals, and the popular press, to demonstrate that as a cultural construction, warfare and ways of warfare can be transnational and influence other nations.

"This is one of the most compelling works to date on the early and ongoing development of a professional US Army... For these reasons, and despite the flaws of its overall thesis, I highly recommend *Under the Shadow of Napoleon*. Studies of the intellectual history of the US Army are few and far between, and Bonura's thorough, well-written account of tactical level developments can be placed alongside the strategic studies by Russell Weigley and Brian Linn. That's not bad company." Thomas A. Brusolino Jr., US Army School of Advanced Military Studies, Michigan War Studies (MiWSR.com) "As an active serving officer and a trained historian, Michael Bonura has written an excellent volume analyzing the French method and Napoleonic system of war as it applied to the American method of warfare during the formative years. Tracing the impact of this system upon the education of cadets and officers trained at West Point and the other military schools, on the army administration, its publications and military exercises as well as in the actual wars fought by America, Bonura has produced an invaluable study in understanding the evolution of America's method of war."