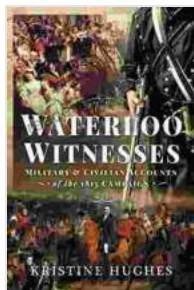


The Waterloo Campaign of 1815: A Comprehensive Historical Account

The Waterloo Campaign of 1815 was a pivotal moment in European history, marking the final defeat of Napoleon Bonaparte and the end of the Napoleonic Wars. This article offers a comprehensive overview of the campaign, drawing from both military and civilian accounts to provide a detailed and engaging narrative of this momentous event.

Prelude to the Campaign

After his escape from exile on the island of Elba in 1815, Napoleon returned to France and quickly regained control of the country. The European powers, alarmed by his return, formed the Seventh Coalition against him. The Duke of Wellington, commander of the British and allied forces, and Gebhard Leberecht von Blücher, commander of the Prussian forces, were tasked with defeating Napoleon and restoring peace to Europe.



Waterloo Witnesses: Military and Civilian Accounts of the 1815 Campaign

by Kristine Hughes

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 5905 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 497 pages

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The Campaign Begins

The campaign began on June 15, 1815, when Napoleon's army crossed the border into Belgium. Wellington's army was stationed in the Netherlands, while Blücher's army was in Germany. Napoleon hoped to defeat the two armies separately before they could unite.

The Battle of Ligny

On June 16, Napoleon attacked Blücher's army at Ligny. The battle was fiercely contested, but the French eventually prevailed. Blücher was wounded and his army retreated.

The Battle of Quatre Bras

On the same day, Napoleon sent a detachment of his army to attack Wellington's army at Quatre Bras. The battle was inconclusive, but it prevented Wellington from reinforcing Blücher at Ligny.

The Battle of Waterloo

On June 18, Napoleon's army faced Wellington's army at Waterloo. The battle was one of the most famous and decisive battles in history. The French initially made some progress, but the British and allied forces held their ground. In the afternoon, Blücher's army arrived on the battlefield and attacked the French from the east. Napoleon's army was outnumbered and outmaneuvered, and he was forced to retreat.

Aftermath of the Campaign

Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo marked the end of his reign and the end of the Napoleonic Wars. He was exiled to the island of Saint Helena, where he died in 1821. The European powers restored the pre-war Free

Download, and peace was established in Europe for the next several decades.

Military and Civilian Accounts

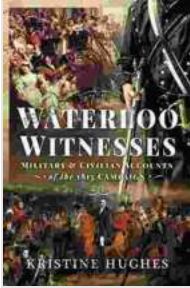
The Waterloo Campaign has been the subject of numerous books, articles, and films. Both military and civilian accounts offer valuable insights into the events of the campaign.

Military accounts provide detailed analyses of the battles, strategies, and tactics used by both sides. They offer insights into the decision-making process of the commanders and the challenges faced by the troops on the ground.

Civilian accounts provide a different perspective on the campaign. They offer firsthand accounts of the battles, the occupation of Brussels by the French, and the aftermath of the war. These accounts provide a glimpse into the human toll of the campaign and the impact it had on the lives of ordinary people.

The Waterloo Campaign of 1815 was a watershed moment in European history. It marked the end of the Napoleonic Wars and the beginning of a new era of peace and stability. The campaign was a complex and multifaceted event, and both military and civilian accounts offer valuable insights into its causes, course, and consequences.

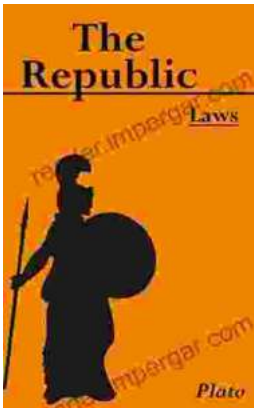
This article has provided a comprehensive overview of the campaign, drawing from both military and civilian sources. By examining the key battles, strategies, and personalities involved, we have gained a deeper understanding of this pivotal event.



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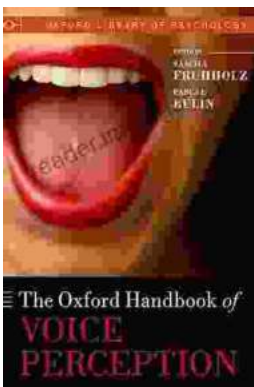
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