

Warfare in the Age of Napoleon-Volume 4: The War of the Fifth Coalition, the Peninsular Campaign and the Invasion of Russia, 1809-1812

Theodore A. Dodge

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The fourth volume of a major work on warfare in the Napoleonic age

The author of this substantial multi-volume history, Theodore A Dodge, was not only an historian of stature and note but also a soldier. He wrote several well regarded histories of the campaigns and battles of the Civil War and other works of military history. Perhaps his most outstanding achievement was a series of books, published under the umbrella title 'the Art of War,' focusing on different historical periods as typified by their most notable military commanders-including the campaigns of Alexander, Hannibal and Caesar in the ancient world and the wars of the 17th and 18th century as fought by great captains including Gustavus Adolphus, Frederick and Marlborough. This volume is part of his in depth study of the Napoleonic period, which in its entirety was comprised of four huge volumes that benefited from the inclusion of almost 800 small scale uniform drawings, portraits of notable personalities and numerous theatre, campaign and battlefield maps. This retitled Leonaur edition has been revised to form volumes of approximately equal size reformatted to enable us to enlarge all the illustrations and maps for the benefit of the reader. This series is an excellent history of the campaigns and battles of the Napoleonic Age but it goes far beyond the historical record. Dodge critically examines the strategies and tactics of all the military commanders in such a clear and authoritative manner that the student of military history can clearly understand the errors of those about to suffer defeat and the expertise-or in the case of Napoleon Bonaparte, the military genius-of the victors. This is an invaluable guide to warfare in the age of Napoleon and is highly recommended. The War of the Fifth Coalition, covered in this fourth volume, describes the battles fought at Ratisbon, Abensberg, Eckmuhl, Aspern-Essling, Znaim and Wagram. The tide of war in the Iberian peninsula continued to turn against the French in favour of Britain and its Spanish and Portuguese Allies who were mostly victorious at Oporto, Talavera, Busaco, Fuentes d'Onoro, Albuera and Badajoz. In 1812 the Emperor Napoleon would undertake his most ambitious military enterprise and his greatest folly-the invasion of Russia by an enormous Grand Army, very few of whom would survive the ordeal.

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