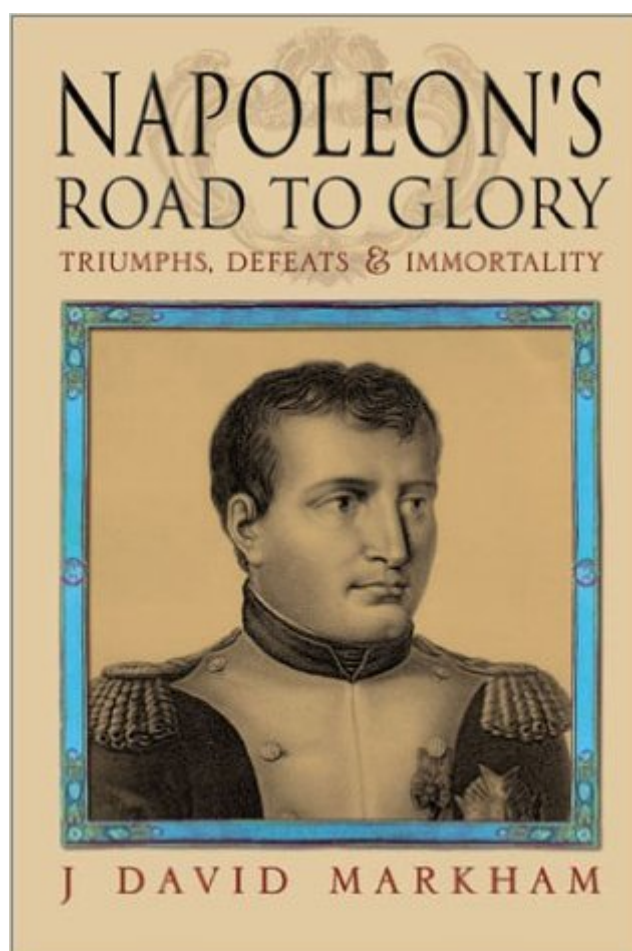


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# Napoleon's Road To Glory



## Synopsis

A stunning new biography that will put previous and current Napoleonic biographies in the shade. It is the single-volume account of Napoleon's whole career. Puts to rest some of the myths surrounding Napoleon. His research is sound, his scholarship outstanding and his historical analysis well thought out; his account is a fine blend of scholarship and story telling. Ben Weider, President, International Napoleonic Society; author, *Assassination at St. Helena Revisited*. J. David Markham, a leading Napoleonic expert and an international writer and lecturer, brings the Emperor to life in an accurate, well-researched text that will be accessible to all, with extensive footnotes to aid further study. Markham's insight makes this book very enjoyable reading. John G. Gallaher, President, Napoleonic Alliance; author, *The Iron Marshal*. Far more than a simple recitation of facts, Markham provides excellent historical analysis, explaining why Napoleon made his decisions, and what their consequences were. David Markham has given the man and the events a totally original and new spin that is a veritable tour de force. Prince Gregory Troubetzkoy, International Napoleonic Society; author, *In the Service of the Tsar: The Memoirs of Denis Davidov, 1806-1814*. If you read only one book on Napoleon, *Napoleon's Road to Glory* should be that book.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 256 pages

Publisher: Brassey's UK (May 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1857533275

ISBN-13: 978-1857533279

Product Dimensions: 9.6 x 6.3 x 1.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.5 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (11 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,743,439 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #473 in [Books > History >](#)

[Military > Napoleonic Wars](#) #1034 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Europe >](#)

[France](#) #4079 in [Books > History > Europe > France](#)

## Customer Reviews

When I received a review copy of David Markham's new book, I was reluctant to read it. My first thoughts were with over 250,000 books on the man and the era, what could justify spending my time reading a book that so many others have covered so well already? I then thought about what I really wanted in a book about Napoleon - something that would be easy to read, covers all the important

facts, and so well organized I could use it as a general reference book. I am happy to report that Mr. Markham delivers all of these and more!"*Napoleon's Road to Glory*" is organized chronologically into six parts, plus a prologue and an epilogue. Each part covers a different period of Napoleon's life: the Revolution, the Consulate, his glory years (1805 - 1809), his years of missteps (the Continental Blockade, Spain, and Russia), his downfall (1813 - 1815), and exile. Each section consists of several chapters that cover a different topic. For example in the section titled "A Republican Emperor," there are chapters on why Napoleon declared himself emperor; on his victories over the Austrians, Russians, and Prussians; the domestic reforms he made at home (such as education and religion); his love life; and his need to set up a dynasty so that his accomplishments would be carried on after his death. Although the chapters are relatively short and can easily be read in a 15 minute sitting, each is packed with relevant information and provides a superb summary of the salient points. Those looking for a quick reference book will be pleased by its logical organization and detailed index - both of which permits the reader to find information quickly"*Napoleon's Road to Glory*" is written from a decidedly pro-napoleon perspective. Mr.

*Napoleon's Road to Glory* is a well-written and well-researched biography that could easily replace Felix Markham's classic biography of the French emperor to become the new standard biography of Napoleon I. One important way that David Markham, unlike the earlier Markham, improves upon the presentation of the older biography is by supplying numerous endnotes that provide readers with reference points for future research into certain key and fascinating aspects of Napoleon's compelling life. Moreover, David Markham's book does not suffer from the problems of obvious authorial bias that plague books such as Alan Schom's *Napoleon Bonaparte*. I am especially pleased to see that he included sections on Napoleon's religious policies and vision of European unity (highlighted even more in his *Napoleon for Dummies*), as well as comparisons of Napoleon to earlier leaders like Alexander the Great. David Markham provides an overview of Napoleon's settlement with the Catholic Church, including an overview of the background of the situation inherited by Napoleon before Markham addresses how Napoleon sought to resolve the religious divisions of the French Revolution. Moreover, Markham, who bases most of his material on Napoleon and the Jews from Ben Weider's work, explains that Napoleon's proclamation declaring Palestine an independent Jewish state even served as part of David Ben Gurion's argument that the United Nations should recognize Israel in 1947, roughly one hundred and fifty years after Napoleon planned to issue his proclamation! Markham reminds us that Napoleon was after many kinds of peace: domestic, foreign, and religious. Napoleon reopened the University of Pavia and granted its

professors liberal stipends.

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