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978-1-108-04398-4 - History of the Expedition to Russia, Undertaken by the Emperor  
Napoleon, in the Year 1812: Volume 1  
Phillippe-Paul and Comte De Ségur  
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### **History of the Expedition to Russia, Undertaken by the Emperor Napoleon, in the Year 1812**

The French general and historian Philippe-Paul, Comte de Ségur (1780–1873) served as a member of Napoleon's personal staff during the Russian campaign. He had joined the cavalry in 1800 and had distinguished himself during earlier episodes of the European war; this led to him being chosen for several diplomatic missions. His two-volume account of the invasion of Russia, first published in French in 1824, has been through many editions and has been translated into many languages. It is both a military history and an eyewitness account. This English translation was first published in 1825 and remains immensely valuable to historians' understanding of Napoleon's ultimately disastrous Russian strategy. Volume 1 begins with the reasons behind the decision to invade and includes the Battle of Borodino, in which over seventy thousand people were killed. It concludes on 12 September 1812, two days before Napoleon's army reached Moscow.

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VOLUME 1

PHILLIPPE-PAUL, COMTE DE SÉGUR



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N A P O L E O N

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**HISTORY**

OF THE

**EXPEDITION TO RUSSIA,**

UNDERTAKEN BY THE

**EMPEROR NAPOLEON,**

IN THE YEAR 1812.

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BY GENERAL, COUNT PHILIP DE SEGUR.

Quamquam animus meminisse horret, luctuque refugit,  
Incipiam—.

VIRGIL.

IN TWO VOLUMES,  
WITH A MAP AND FIVE ENGRAVINGS.

VOL. I.

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LONDON:  
TREUTTLE AND WURTZ, TREUTTLE, JUN. AND RICHTER,  
30, SOHO-SQUARE.

1825.

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TO THE  
VETERANS OF THE GRAND ARMY.

COMRADES,

I HAVE undertaken the task of tracing the History of the Grand Army and its Leader during the year 1812. I address it to such of you as the ices of the North have disarmed, and who can no longer serve their country, but by the recollections of their misfortunes and their glory. Stopped short in your noble career, your existence is much more in the past than in the present; but when the recollections are so great, it is allowable to live solely in them. I am not afraid, therefore, of troubling that repose which you have so dearly purchased, by placing before you the most fatal of your deeds of arms. Who is there but knows, that from the depth of his obscurity the looks of the fallen man are involuntarily directed towards the splendor of

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his past existence—even when its light illuminates the shoal on which the bark of his fortune struck, and when it displays the fragments of the greatest of shipwrecks?

For myself, I will own, that an irresistible feeling carries me back incessantly to that disastrous epoch of our public and private calamities. My memory feels a sort of melancholy pleasure in contemplating and renewing the painful traces which so many horrors have left in it. Is the soul, also, proud of her deep and numerous wounds? Does she delight in displaying them? Are they a property of which she has reason to be proud? Is it rather, that, after the desire of knowing them, her first wish is to impart her sensations? To feel, and to excite feeling, are not these the most powerful springs of our soul?

But in short, whatever may be the cause of the sentiment which actuates me, I have yielded to the desire of retracing the various

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sensations which I experienced during that fatal war. I have employed my leisure hours in separating, arranging, and combining with method my scattered and confused recollections. Comrades! I also invoke yours! Suffer not such great recollections, which have been so dearly purchased, to be lost; for us they are the only property which the past leaves to the future. Single, against so many enemies, ye fell with greater glory than they rose. Learn, then, that there was no shame in being vanquished! Raise once more those noble fronts, which have been furrowed with all the thunders of Europe! Cast not down those eyes, which have seen so many subject capitals, so many vanquished kings! Fortune, doubtless, owed you a more glorious repose; but, such as it is, it depends on yourselves to make a noble use of it. Let history inscribe your recollections; the solitude and silence of misfortune are favourable to her labours: and let truth, which is always present in the long nights of adversity, at last enlighten labours that may not prove unproductive.

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As for me, I will avail myself of the privilege, sometimes painful, sometimes glorious, of telling what I have seen, and of retracing, perhaps with too scrupulous attention, its most minute details; feeling that nothing was too minute in that prodigious Genius and his gigantic feats, without which we should never have known the extent to which human strength, glory, and misfortune may be carried.

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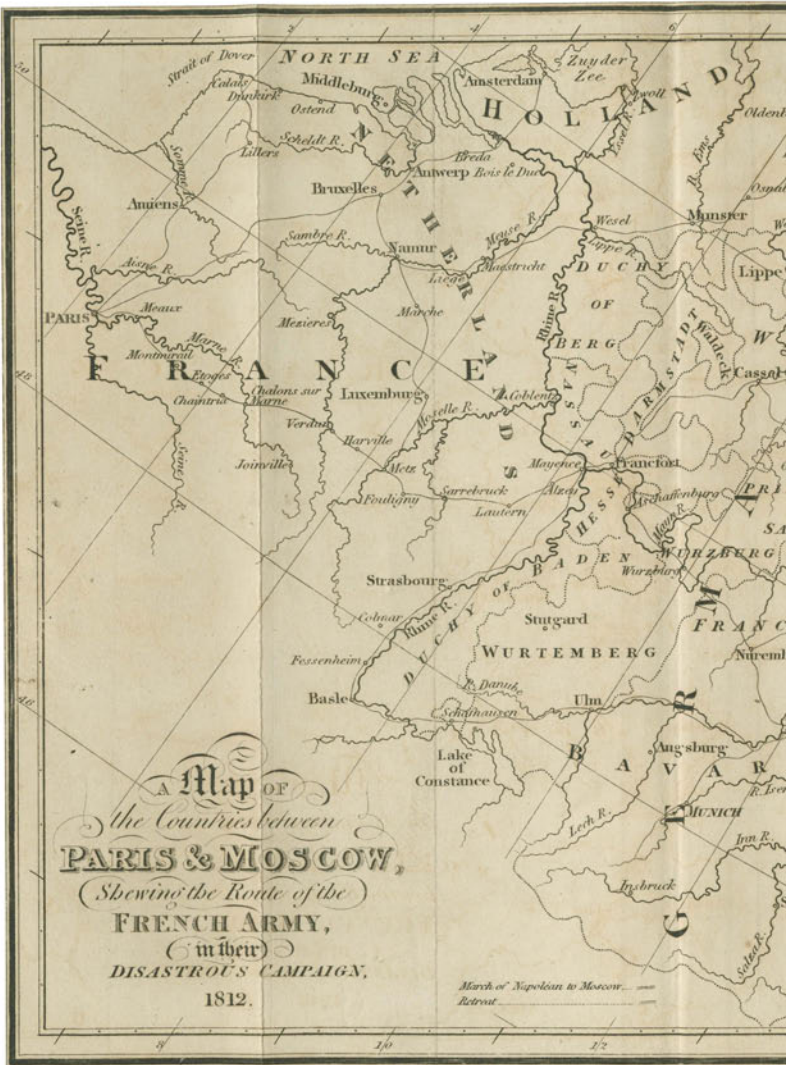
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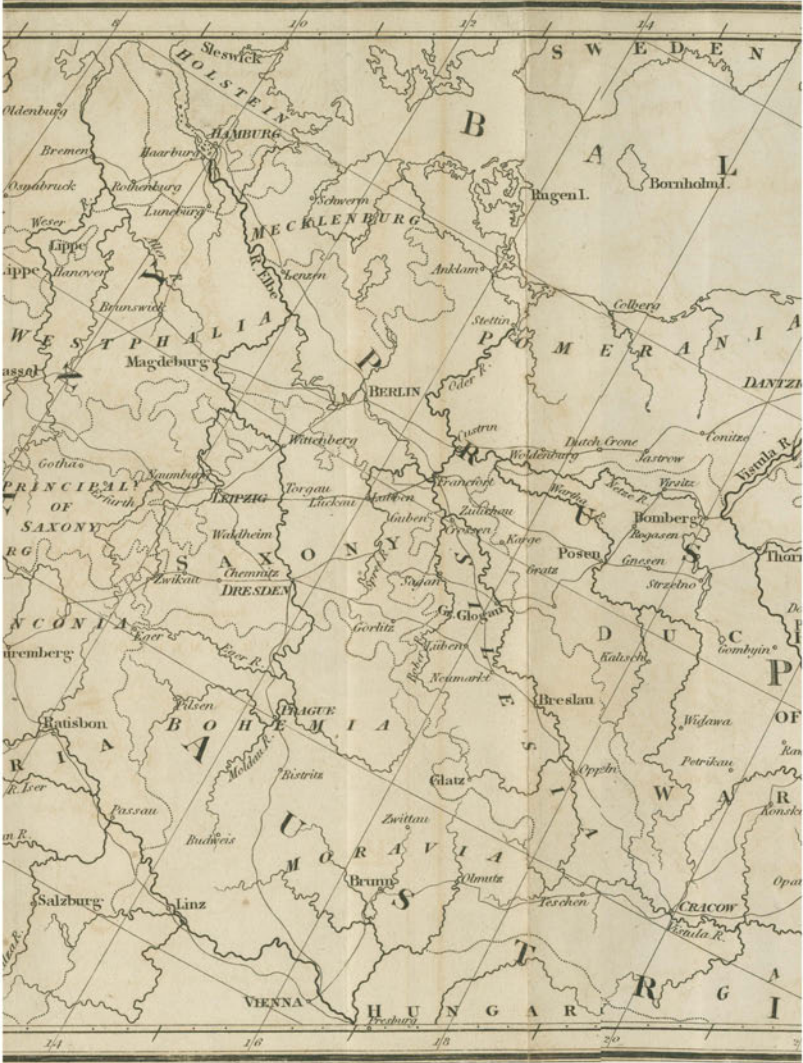
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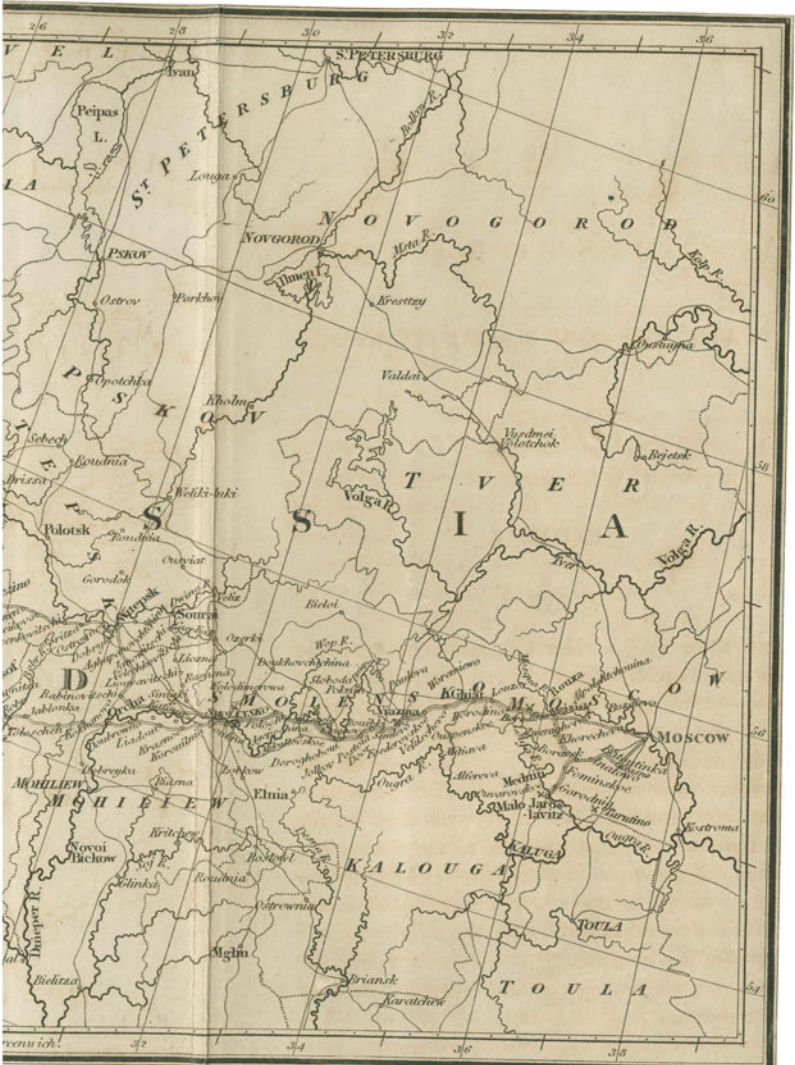


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