Volume I of The Cambridge History of the Napoleonic Wars covers the international foreign political dimensions of the wars and the social, legal, political and economic structures of the Empire. Leading historians from around the world come together to discuss the different aspects of the origins of the Napoleonic Wars, their international political implications and the concrete ways the Empire was governed. This volume begins by looking at the political context that produced the Napoleonic Wars and setting it within the broader context of eighteenth-century great power politics in the Age of Revolution. It considers the administration and governance of the Empire, including with France’s client states and the role of the Bonaparte family in the Empire. Further chapters in the volume examine the war aims of the various protagonists and offer an overall assessment of the nature of war in this period.

Michael Broers is Professor of Western European History and Fellow of Lady Margaret Hall, University of Oxford. He has written extensively on Napoleonic Europe. His previous publications include the first two volumes of his three-volume life of Napoleon published in 2014 and 2018 and The Napoleonic Empire in Italy, 1796–1814: Cultural Imperialism in a European Context (2005) which won the Prix Napoléon.

Philip Dwyer is Professor of History and founding Director of the Centre for the Study of Violence at the University of Newcastle, Australia. He has published widely on the Revolutionary and Napoleonic era. His publications include a three-volume biography of Napoleon and Violence: A Very Short Introduction (2021). He is the general editor of a four-volume Cambridge World History of Violence (2020), and co-editor of The Darker Angels of Our Nature: Refuting the Pinker Theory of History & Violence (2021).
THE CAMBRIDGE HISTORY OF
THE NAPOLEONIC WARS

General Editor
Alan Forrest, University of York

The Cambridge History of the Napoleonic Wars is a definitive history of the Napoleonic Wars drawing on a wealth of modern scholarship and leading expertise in the field. It offers a comprehensive account of the Wars from their origins in eighteenth-century diplomacy to the memory and political legacy they left behind. The three volumes cover the grand strategies of the combatants, the campaigns they fought, and the composition of the forces at their disposal; they analyse their conflicting ideologies, alliances and diplomacy, and the varieties of resistance and occupation; and they assess their legacy for future generations. They challenge conventional assumptions about the nature of war in the period and apply methodologies derived from social and cultural history as well as from the new military history of recent years. These volumes take full account of the latest research and present a history of the Napoleonic Wars for the twenty-first century.

Volume I
Politics and Diplomacy
EDITED BY MICHAEL BROERS AND PHILIP DWYER

Volume II
Fighting the Napoleonic Wars
EDITED BY BRUNO COLSON AND ALEXANDER MIKABERIDZE

Volume III
Experience, Culture and Memory
EDITED BY ALAN FORREST AND PETER HICKS
THE CAMBRIDGE
HISTORY OF
THE NAPOLEONIC WARS

*  

VOLUME 1

Politics and Diplomacy

*  

Edited by

MICHAEL BROERS
University of Oxford

PHILIP DWYER
University of Newcastle, New South Wales
Contents

List of Figures and Tables page viii
List of Maps ix
List of Contributors to Volume x
Acknowledgements xii

General Introduction 1
ALAN FORREST

Introduction to Volume 1 15
MICHAEL BROERS AND PHILIP DWYER

PART I
THE ORIGINS OF THE NAPOLEONIC WARS 21

1 · Great Power Politics in the Second Half of the Eighteenth Century 23
HORST CARL

2 · British Colonial Politics in an Age of European War and Creole Rebellion 45
BRUCE LENMAN

3 · War in the Eighteenth Century 67
JEREMY BLACK

4 · The Age of Revolutions: Napoleon Bonaparte 88
ANNIE JOURDAN
## Contents

5 - From Cosmopolitanism to *la Grande Nation*: French Revolutionary Diplomacy, 1789–1802  
PETER MCPHEE  

6 - The French Revolutionary Wars  
LYNN HUNT  

### PART II  
**NAPOLEON AND HIS EMPIRE**  

7 - The Bonapartes  
MICHAEL BROERS  

8 - The Napoleonic Elites  
ISSER WOLOCH  

9 - Administration, Police and Governance  
MICHAEL ROWE  

10 - Law, Justice, Policing and Punishment  
XAVIER ROUSSEAUX AND ANTOINE RENGLET  

11 - Napoleonic Wars and Economic Imperialism  
SILVIA MARZAGALLI  

12 - Napoleon and the Church  
AMBROGIO CAIANI  

13 - Napoleon’s Client States  
NICOLA TODOROV  

### PART III  
**WAR AIMS**  

14 - French Preponderance and the European System  
THIERRY LENTZ  

15 - Habsburg Grand Strategy in the Napoleonic Wars  
CHARLES INGRAO AND JOHN FAHEY
Contents

16 · Prussian Foreign Policy and War Aims, 1790–1815 332
   SAM MUSTAFA AND SAMANTHA SPROVIERO

17 · British War Aims, 1793–1815 352
   JOHN BEW AND JACQUELINE REITER

18 · Alexander I’s Objectives in the Franco-Russian Wars, 1801–1815 372
   MARIE-PIERRE REY

19 · Ottoman War Aims 390
   VIRGINIA AKSAN

20 · Spain and Portugal 410
   EMILIO LA PARRA

21 · War Aims: Scandinavia 427
   RASMUS GLENTHØJ

Bibliographical Essays 449

Index 475
Figures and Tables

Figures

10.2 Elite gendarme from the Imperial Guard of the *Grande Armée*, by Hippolyte Bellangé. Lithography, 1843.  
10.4 Criminal sentences across the Grand Empire in 1811 (130 criminal courts). © Xavier Rousseaux.  
10.5 Plan of the *maison centrale de détention* in Gent (John Howard, *The State of Prisons in England and Wales with Preliminary Observations, and an Account of some Foreign Prisons and Hospitals* [London, 1792]).  
10.6 Sketch of the guillotine of the Simplon Département by the Geneva architect Joseph-Louis Brolliet (16 April 1812), State Archives Geneva, ADL B 788.

Table

13.1 Comparative military effort and French control
Maps

13.1 The unequal burden of conscription in the Kingdoms of Italy, Naples and Westphalia in 1811 and 1812.  page 290
21.1 Scandinavia and the Baltic area in 1807. Cartography by Per Jørgensen.  428
Contributors to Volume I

Virginia Aksan is Professor Emeritus of History at McMaster University, Canada.
John Bew is Professor in History and Foreign Policy at King’s College, London.
Jeremy Black is Professor of History at the University of Exeter.
Ambrogio Caiani is Senior Lecturer in History at the University of Kent.
Horst Carl is Professor of History at the Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies, University of Freiburg, Germany.
John Fahey is Assistant Professor of History at Georgia Military College, USA.
Rasmus Glenthøj is Lecturer at the Institute for History, University of Southern Denmark.
Lynn Hunt is Professor Emeritus of History at the University of California, Los Angeles.
Jeremy Ingrao is Professor Emeritus of History at Purdue University, USA.
Annie Jourdan is Associate Professor of European Studies at the University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands.
Emilio La Parra is Professor of Contemporary History at the University of Alicante, Spain.
Bruce Lenman is Emeritus Professor of Modern History at the University of St Andrews, Scotland.
Thierry Lentz is Director of the Fondation Napoléon in Paris.
Silvia Marzagalli is Professor of Modern History at the Côte d’Azur University, France.
Peter McPhee is Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Melbourne.
Sam Mustafa is Professor of History at the School of Humanities and Global Studies, Ramapo College of New Jersey.
Jacqueline Reitter is an independent historian specialising in late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century British political, military and naval history.
Antoine Renglet is post-doctoral researcher at the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium, and at the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation at the Goethe University, Germany.
Marie-Pierre Rey is Professor of Russian and Soviet History at the Sorbonne University, Paris I.
Xavier Rousseaux is Research Director at the Centre for Law & Justice History and Professor of History at the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium.
Michael Rowe is Reader in European History at King’s College, London.
List of Contributors to Volume I

Samantha Sproviero is an independent historian specialising in gender in late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century Prussia.

Nicola Todorov teaches history at the University of Guyana.

Isser Woloch is Moore Collegiate Professor Emeritus of History at Columbia University.
Acknowledgements

A collective project that brings together the thoughts and analysis of some eighty historians from around the world can be a somewhat daunting enterprise, and as editors we would like to express our thanks to colleagues at Cambridge University Press for their patience and quiet professionalism in overseeing it as it has edged towards fruition. The History editor at Cambridge, Michael Watson, has shown faith in the project from the outset, and to those of his colleagues on the editorial and production side who have worked with us on the resultant volumes, and especially to Ruth Boyes, Emily Sharp, Emily Plater, and our copy-editors, Jo North, Charles Phillips and Margaret Humbert, we owe a debt of gratitude.

Special thanks are due to the Fondation Napoléon in Paris and to its president Victor-André Masséna for their generous financial and logistical support in the preparation of these volumes, and to Roger Depledge, Pamela Selwyn and Adrian Shaw for their translations. We would also like to express our appreciation to the Society for Military History for letting us test reaction to some of the organising principles of these volumes in a Round Table at their 2019 conference in Columbus, Ohio.

In memoriam, Katherine Aaslestad (1961–2021) who passed away while the work was in press. Her chapter appears in Volume III. Two other colleagues, Geoff Ellis (1940–2017) and Dennis Showalter (1942–2019), were intrinsic parts of this project, as they were to the wider world of Napoleonic studies. That world is diminished by their passing and our project the poorer for the chapters they did not live to complete.