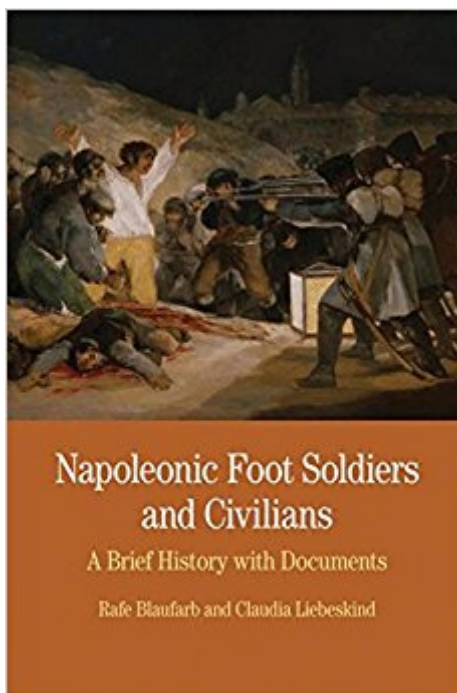




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# Napoleonic Foot Soldiers And Civilians: A Brief History With Documents (Bedford Series In History & Culture)



## Synopsis

By highlighting the experiences of common soldiers and civilians, this volume by Rafe Blaufarb and Claudia Liebeskind presents a broad view of the Napoleonic Wars not found in typical military histories. The introduction recounts the key events of the wars and how they marked a shift in the modern notion of "total war" and provides necessary political and military background on the issues of recruitment and evasion, the military community, combat and its aftermath, the homefront, and demobilization. The rich collection of memoirs, letters, and popular engravings -- from familiar sources such as German infantryman Jakob Walter to an account of a French woman canteen worker -- offers contrasting voices, some offered here in English for the first time. These documents and images explore core civil-military interactions, including foraging, plunder, sexuality, violence, eating, religion, and commerce. Headnotes to the documents, a chronology, questions for consideration, and a selected bibliography provide pedagogical support.

## Book Information

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'This book brings to life a neglected aspect of warfare and does so in a way that will captivate undergraduates' - Stephen Miller, University of Alabama at Birmingham, USA 'The introductory essay gives a solid overview of human experiences during the Napoleonic Wars. Sections on recruitment and evasion, military community, combat, and homefront provide appropriate historical context and background information for students, allowing for a more educated examination and comparison of memoirs' - Alexander Mikaberidze, Louisiana State University, USA 'This volume is a

highly useful and well-balanced collection of soldier and civilian accounts of war and occupation during the Napoleonic period' - Robert Lewis, Grinnell College, USA

RAFE BLAUFARB(Ph.D., University of Michigan) is Ben Weider Eminent Scholar Chair in Napoleonic History and the Director of the Institute on Napoleon and the French Revolution at Florida State University. He is the author of *The French Army, 1750-1820: Careers, Talent, Merit* (2002), *Bonapartists in the Borderlands: French Refugees and Exiles on the Gulf Coast, 1815-1835* (2005), and *Napoleon: Symbol for an Age* (2007). CLAUDIA LIEBESKIND(Ph.D., University of London) is associate professor of history at Florida State University, where she teaches world history, South Asian history, and the history of Islam. She is the author of *Piety on Its Knees: Three Sufi Traditions in South Asia in Modern Times* (1998)."

This is an excellent collection of eye-witness accounts that give readers the other side of the Napoleonic epic: the price paid for grandeur and glory, the views of those paying the price, the occasional joys and daily sorrows of the many who participated in events dominated by a few extraordinary personalities. Perfect for college classes on the topic and also for all readers interested in the always fascinating Napoleonic era.

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