

# The End of Empire: Napoleon's 1814 Campaign

George F. Nafziger



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"The End of Empire" is a continuation of Nafziger's definitive military studies of the Napoleonic era beginning with the 1812 campaign and progressing through the 1813 campaign. Having suffered a massive reversal of fortunes in Russia Napoleon found himself confronted, in Germany, by the combined forces of Russia, Prussia, and Austria. After the disaster of Leipzig Napoleon's German allies fell away and he was forced to fall back, beyond the borders of France. Offered a negotiated peace on the basis of a return to the pre-1792 borders, Napoleon chose to continue to fight, trusting in his star. He was, however, desperate for troops and short of horses and cash. Cornered and threatened by three armies invading from the north, northeast, and east, every chance to stop the Allies had to be taken and there was desperate battle after desperate battle. Of all his campaigns, Napoleon's 1814 campaign was one of his most brilliant. Eventually, after several terrible defeats, the Allies refused to engage him in battle when he confronted them. Instead they pushed their other two armies forward, slowly driving him back as he rushed to block the advance of the other armies on Paris. This strategy proved successful and eventually Napoleon was obliged to abdicate when his marshals refused to fight further. "The End of Empire" includes a detailed text, specially commissioned maps and the author's trademark extensive orders of battle.

#### REVIEWS

"... fascinating. Nafziger does not shy away from describing Napoleon's occasional mishaps ..." Military History Monthly 'George Nafziger has consulted all authorities, considered the evidence, and gives a sound narrative and analysis of the fighting, with clear maps and good illustrations.' Soldier Magazine, July 2015

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