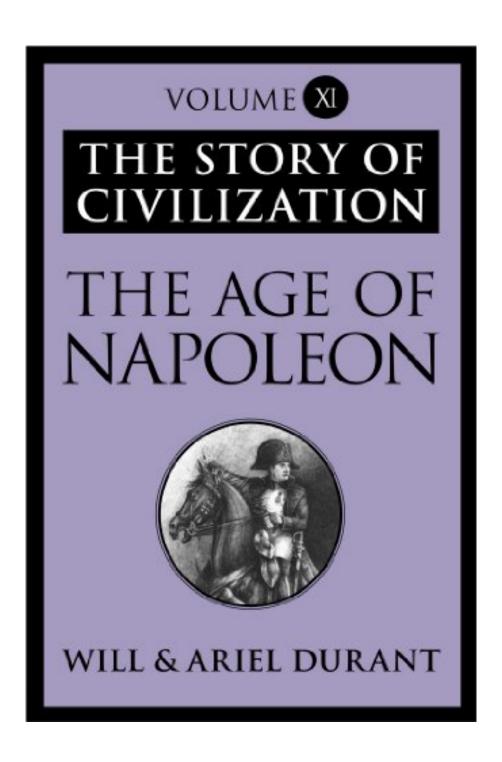


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Amazon.com Review

A sweeping portrait of an age, this book--the 11th and final volume in Will and Ariel Durant's Story of Civilization series--makes Napoleon its hero. The Durants, capable of switching from art to science to warfare with ease and skill, rank among the world's great popular historians. This adroitness requires some condensation: the description of Waterloo, for instance, takes up about three pages. If you want a detailed history of Napoleon's battle orders, look elsewhere, but if you want to understand the age and the man--in that order--The Age of Napoleon is a great place to begin.

About the Author

Will Durant (1885 1981) was awarded the Pulitzer Prize (1968) and the Presidential Medal of Freedom (1977). He spent more than fifty years writing his critically acclaimed eleven-volume series, "The Story of Civilization" (the later volumes written in conjunction with his wife, Ariel). A champion of human rights issues, such as the brotherhood of man and social reform, long before such issues were popular, Durant s writing still educates and entertains readers around the world.

Ariel Durant (1898-1981) was a Russian-born American researcher and writer and the coauthor of the eleven-volum"Story of Civilization"with her husband Will Durant. Ariel and Will Durant were jointly awarded the Pulitzer Prize for General Nonfiction in 1968 and the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1977. Ariel was named the 1977 Woman of the Year by the city of Los Angeles

Stefan Rudnicki is an award winning audiobook narrator, director and producer. He was born in Poland and now resides in Studio City, California. He has narrated more than three hundred audiobooks and has participated in over a thousand as a writer, producer, or director. He is a recipient of multiple Audie Awards and "AudioFile" Earphones Awards as well as a Grammy Award, a Bram Stoker Award, and a Ray Bradbury Award. He received "AudioFile" s award for 2008 Best Voice in Science Fiction and Fantasy. Along with a cast of other narrators, Rudnicki has read a number of Orson Scott Card's best-selling science fiction novels. He worked extensively with many other science fiction authors, including David Weber and Ben Bova. In reviewing the twentieth anniversary edition audiobook of Card s "Ender's Game", "Publishers Weekly" stated, "Rudnicki, with his lulling, sonorous voice, does a fine job articulating Ender's inner struggle between the kind, peaceful boy he wants to be and the savage, violent actions he is frequently forced to take."

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The Story of Civilization, Volume XI: A history of European civilization from 1789 to 1815. This is the eleventh and final volume of the classic, Pulitzer Prize-winning series.

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34 of 37 people found the following review helpful.

Excellent overview of the Napoleonic period

By Ney

The Durant's have done an excellent job in capturing the flavor of the era of Napoleon. The book gives you an excellent overview of military, social, religious, philosophic, and moral attitudes of the day. One should keep in mind, however, that the book is an overview and thus does not deal too deeply with any one subject. This should not be seen as a flaw however but a product of the aim of the work, to summarize the conditions during Napoleon's time. The book is easy to read and is written to be understood by the average reader. A definite must have for any French history or Napoleon buff.

20 of 21 people found the following review helpful.

The Eleventh Volume in The Story of Civilization!

By Guerrilla Reader

In this, the eleventh volume in the critically acclaimed series "The Story of Civilization," Dr. Will and Ariel Durant have compiled a masterly recount of the incredible sequence of events that led Europe out of the Enlightenment and into the Age of Democracy.

The reader is treated to a detailed narration of: The revolution in France. The revolutionary leaders such as Robespierre. Marat. The rise of Napoleon. The fall of Napoleon. The life of Napoleon. The poetry of Wordsworth, Coleridge, Byron and Shelley. The philosophy of Schelling and Hegel. The music of Beethoven. And much, much more including plates and maps.

Written to stand alone or within the landmark series, the Durants have composed a historical retelling in smooth prose which is easy to read and understand by both professional and layperson alike. In short, this book is for everyone interested in European history. A benchmark in a class of its own, I rate this text at five stars. Wonderful!

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

The last volume of a comprehensive study

By Doug Erlandson

It has been several years since I began reading through the volumes of "The Story of Civilization" by Will and Ariel Durant. (Will authored the first several himself. He and his wife collaborated on the last five volumes.) I did not read them in chronological order but, starting with the "The Reformation," I branched out from there. Every volume was a sheer joy to read, and I was actually a bit sad when I finished this project a couple years ago and realized that there were no more volumes to read.

The title of the series ("The Story of Civilization") is accurate. Each volume is far more than a survey of the geopolitical scene of the age. It includes the intellectual and cultural history, the religious history, the arts, and the literature of the age as well. Although this precludes any one thing from being covered in tremendous depth, nothing is covered superficially. With every volume somewhere between 800 and more than a thousand pages in length, this is possible.

The "Age of Napoleon" covers a fairly small number of years of European history compared to some of the other volumes in this set. (For example, the "Age of Faith" covers a span of nearly a thousand years from the time of Constantine to the beginning of the fourteenth century.) But what significant years these were. The Durants detail the years of the French revolution and the rise and eventual fall of Napoleon. They also cover the Hapsburg dynasty during this era in some detail. And, of course, in addition to all this, they discuss the cultural history of the era at some length.

When I came to the end of this volume I only wished that the Durants had been able to write the subsequent history of civilization. However, Will died in 1981, six years after the publication of this final volume. (When it was published in 1975 Will was already in his ninetieth year.) The Durants had given me great pleasure. Their departure from the scene merely made me hungry for more.

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