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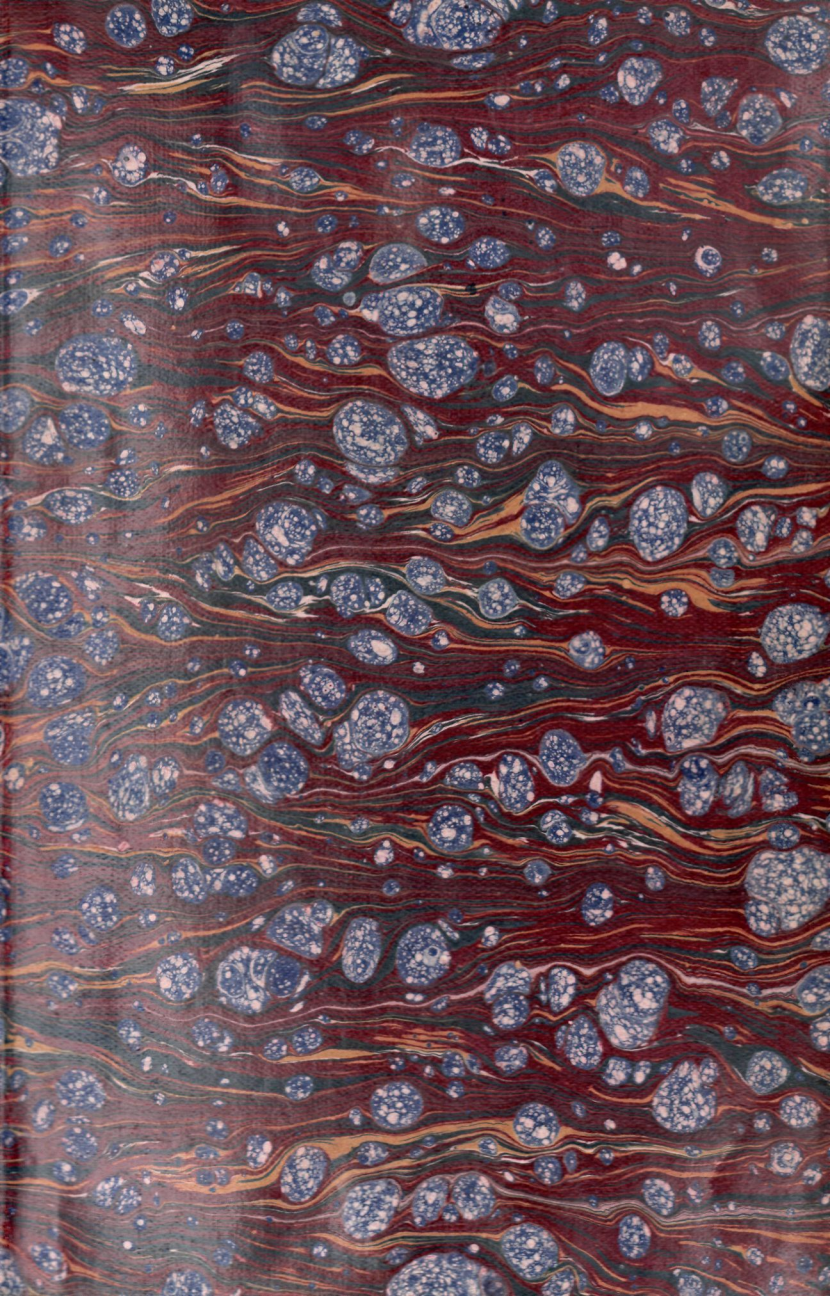
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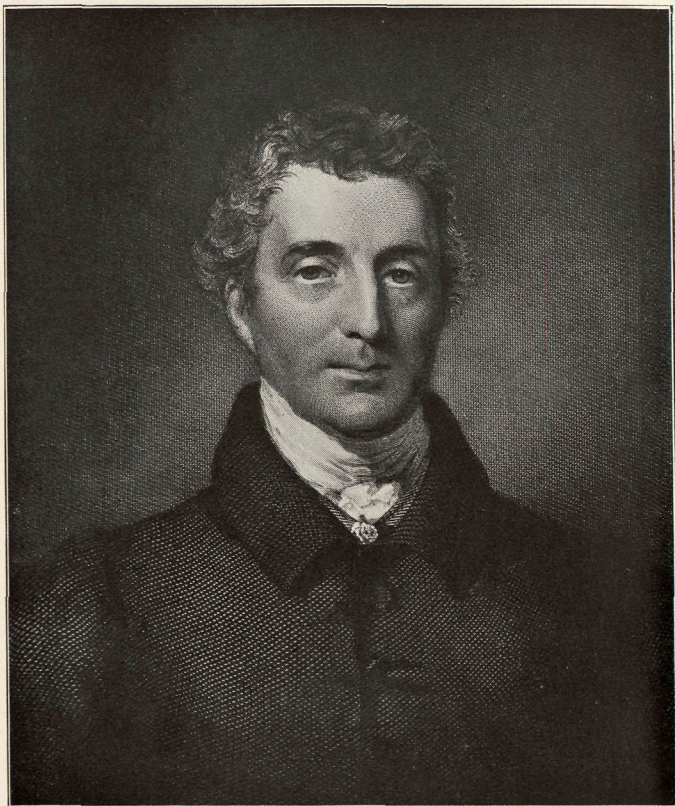
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HOW ENGLAND SAVED EUROPE







WELLINGTON

*From an engraving after the painting by G. HAYTER*

# HOW ENGLAND SAVED EUROPE:

THE STORY OF THE  
GREAT WAR (1793-1815)

BY

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AUTHOR OF "DEEDS THAT WON THE EMPIRE"  
"FIGHTS FOR THE FLAG," ETC.

*WITH PORTRAITS, FACSIMILES, AND PLANS*

IN FOUR VOLUMES

VOLUME III

THE WAR IN THE PENINSULA

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"England has saved herself by her exertions, and will, as I trust, save Europe by her example."—PITT'S LAST PUBLIC WORDS.

"A people which takes no pride in the noble achievements of remote ancestors will never achieve anything worthy to be remembered with pride by remote descendants."—MACAULAY.



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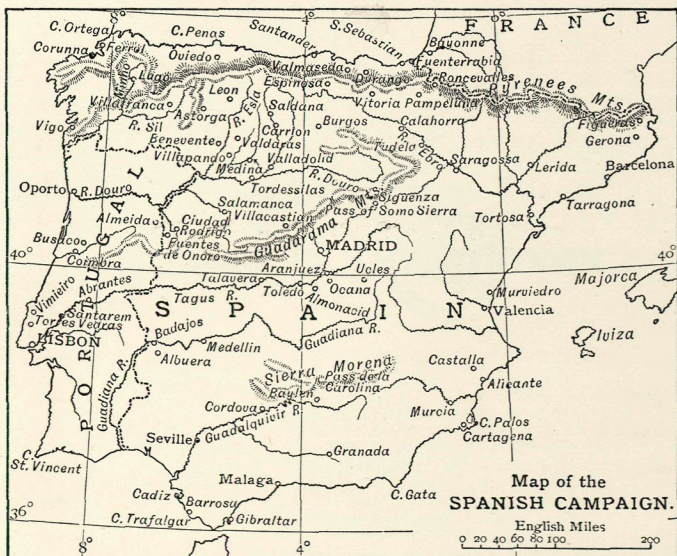
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PERIOD V  
*THE WAR IN THE PENINSULA*

VOL. III.

A



## PERIOD V.—THE WAR IN THE PENINSULA

(From the entrance of the French into Spain, October 18, 1807, to Wellington's passage of the Bidassoa, October 7, 1813.)

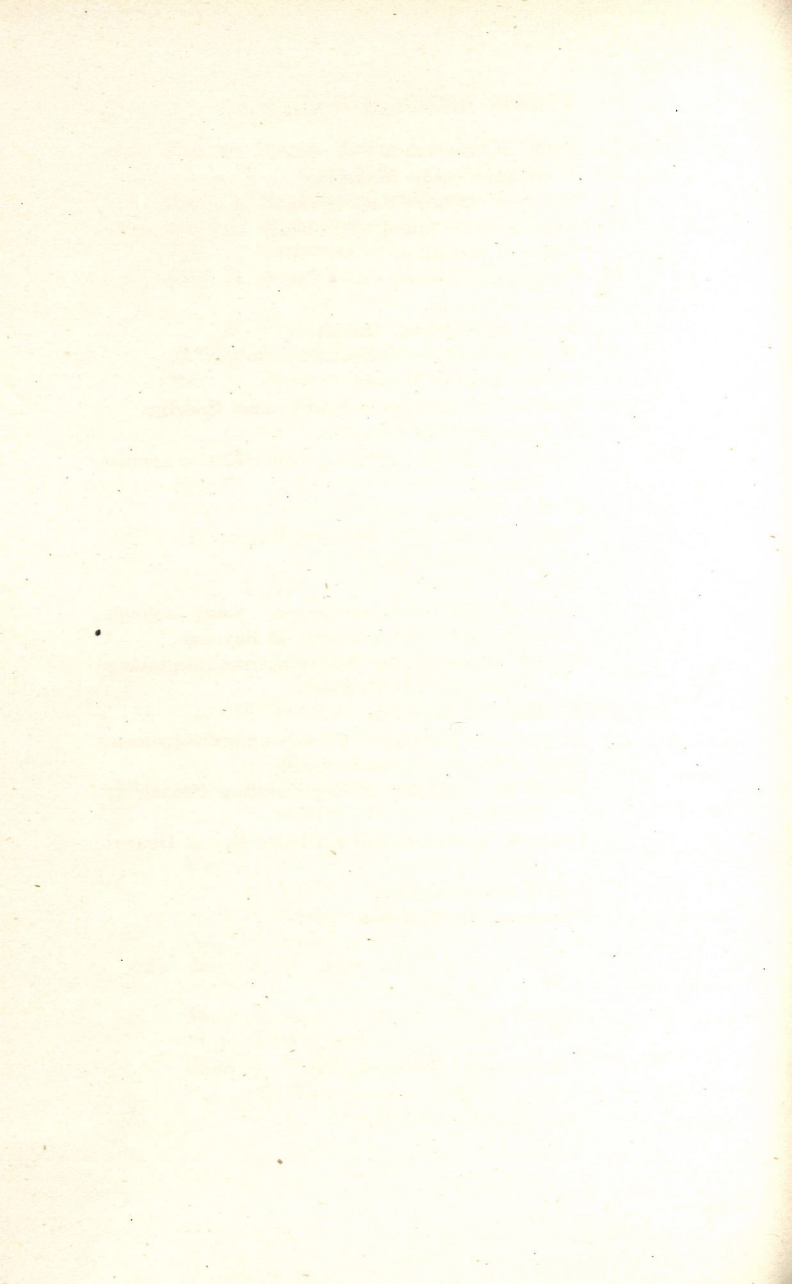
### CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE

1807. Oct. 18. French army enters Spain on the march to Lisbon.  
 „ 27. Treaty of Fontainebleau for partition of Portugal.  
 Nov. 27. Junot enters Lisbon.
1808. Jan. Spanish fortresses on the frontier seized by the French.
- Mar. 18. Riots at Aranjuez.  
 „ 19. Charles IV. abdicates in favour of his son.  
 „ 23. French under Murat enter Madrid.
- April 11. Ferdinand leaves Madrid for France.
- May 2. Insurrection at Madrid; Murat named Lieutenant-General of Spain.  
 „ 6. Treaty of Bayonne; Charles and Ferdinand surrender Spanish throne to Napoleon.  
 „ 24. Asturian deputies sent to ask aid from England.
- June 6. Napoleon bestows Spanish crown on Joseph.
- July 20. Joseph makes state entry into Madrid; Dupont surrenders at Baylen.  
 „ 30. Joseph abandons Madrid.
- Aug. 1. British troops under Wellesley land at Mondego Bay.  
 „ 17. Battle of Roliça.  
 „ 21. „ „ Vimiero.  
 „ 30. Convention of Cintra.
- Oct. 26. Moore begins his march from Lisbon.

1808. Nov. 10. French defeat Spanish at Gammonal; at Espinosa, Nov. 11; at Tudela, Nov. 23.  
 Dec. 4. Napoleon enters Madrid.
1809. Jan. 16. Moore defeats French at Corunna.  
 Feb. 21. Surrender of Saragossa.  
 Mar. 1. American Non-intercourse Act against England and France.  
 „ 28. Soult storms Oporto.  
 April 12. French fleet destroyed in Basque Roads.  
 May 12. Passage of the Douro; Wellesley enters Spain.  
 July 21-22. Battle of Aspern.  
 „ 26. „ „ Wagram.  
 „ 27-28. „ „ Talavera.  
 Aug. Walcheren expedition.  
 Oct. 11. Peace of Vienna between Austria and France.
1810. April 2. Marriage of Napoleon and Maria Louisa; Massena appointed to command of army in Portugal.  
 July 3. Isle of Bourbon and Mauritius captured, leaving France without a colony.  
 „ 11. French capture Ciudad Rodrigo.  
 Aug. 18. Decree ordering all English manufactures on the Continent to be burned.  
 „ 28. Surrender of Almeida to the French.  
 Sept. 27. Battle of Busaco.  
 Oct. 12. Wellington enters the lines of Torres Vedras.
1811. Mar. 6. Massena retreats from Santarem.  
 „ 7. Battle of Barossa.  
 „ 11. Betrayal of Badajos to the French.  
 May 3-5. Battle of Fuentes d'Onore.  
 „ 10. English capture Almeida.  
 „ 16. Battle of Albuera.  
 Oct. 28. Surprise of French at Arroyo de Molinos.
1812. Jan. 8. Wellington begins siege of Ciudad Rodrigo; captures it, 19th.  
 Mar. 16. Siege of Badajos begun; stormed, April 6th.  
 May 19. Hill captures Almaraz.  
 June 17. Wellington enters Salamanca.  
 „ 18. War between England and the United States; Napoleon invades Russia.



1812. July 22. Battle of Salamanca.  
 Aug. 13. Wellington enters Madrid.  
 „ 17. Napoleon captures Smolensko.  
 „ 24. Siege of Cadiz raised by French.  
 Sept. 7. Battle of Borodino.  
 „ 15. French enter Moscow.  
 „ 19. Siege of Burgos.  
 Oct. 19. French retreat from Moscow.  
 „ 21. Wellington begins retreat from Burgos.  
 Nov. 1. French re-enter Madrid.  
 „ 18. Retreat from Burgos ends at Ciudad Rodrigo.  
 „ 26-28. Passage of the Beresina.  
 Dec. 19. Napoleon returns to Paris ; sixth coalition against France.
1813. April 10. French evacuate Madrid.  
 May 2. Battle of Lutzen ; of Bautzen, May 24.  
 June 4. Armistice of Pleswitz.  
 „ 21. Battle of Vittoria.  
 July 13. Siege of San Sebastian begun ; Soult assumes command of French army at Bayonne.  
 „ 25. Failure of assault on San Sebastian ; beginning of battles of the Pyrenees.  
 „ 27-28. Battles of Sauroren.  
 Aug. 10. Austria joins Russia and Prussia against Napoleon.  
 „ 26. Siege of San Sebastian resumed.  
 „ 27. Battle of Dresden ; Blücher defeats French at Katzbach.  
 „ 29. Defeat of Vandamme at Kulu ; of Ney at Dennewitz.  
 Sept. 10. Fall of San Sebastian.  
 Oct. 7. Passage of the Bidassoa.



# HOW ENGLAND SAVED EUROPE:

THE STORY OF THE GREAT WAR

(1793-1815)

## CHAPTER I

### NAPOLEON AND SPAIN

NAPOLEON has supplied the world with many contradictory explanations of his fatal policy in Spain, some of them addressed to his contemporaries, some of them to posterity. Most of them, it may be added, are pure inventions. For Napoleon lied as diligently to posterity as he did to those immediately about him, whom it was his interest for the moment to deceive.

Perhaps the nearest approach he ever made to frankness as to his Spanish policy is in the explanation he offered to Metternich on August 25, 1808. "I went to Spain," he said, "because that country, instead of putting its money into the navy which I required against England, spent it all in reinforcing

its army, which could only be used against me. . . . And then the throne was occupied by Bourbons. They are my personal enemies. They and I cannot occupy thrones at the same time in Europe." Napoleon's motive was, in short, compounded of suspicion, hate, and unashamed selfishness. He hated the Bourbons and the English. He suspected, with the mistrust natural to the Corsican side of his nature, that even so servile an ally as Spain had hitherto been might some day turn against him. For Spain the single end of existence was to be Napoleon's tool. Had it treasures? Not to expend them on "the ships which I required," says Napoleon, was an inexpiable offence! Then he wanted a new crown for the head of a Bonaparte. Above all, Spain must become French to complete the zone of the Continental system.

As a mere study in colossal and artistic duplicity, no chapter of Napoleon's career, perhaps, quite compares with his Spanish diplomacy in 1808. During those fateful nineteen days at Tilsit, when the two Emperors arranged a new Europe, partitioning kingdoms and shifting nations and governments like pawns on a chessboard, there can be no doubt that Spain was surrendered to Napoleon exactly as Finland was to Alexander. But Napoleon arranged the Spanish comedy with the skill of a great artist. Spain was to begin by being his accomplice; it was to end by becoming his victim. He gave Portugal the

choice of declaring war against England or of being attacked by France. Before an answer to his ultimatum was received, he had agreed with Spain for the partition of Portugal. One-third was to be given as a principality to Godoy; another third was to form a principality for a cadet of the Spanish House; the remaining third was to be kept in hand as a counter in the diplomatic game, when next a peace had to be negotiated. Portugal was thus to be as remorselessly partitioned as Poland had been.

To carry out this ingenious bit of vivisection, 30,000 men under Junot were to march across Spain and seize Lisbon. Junot, however, received instructions from Napoleon to make a military survey of Spain as he crossed it, and to put French garrisons into every place in Portugal he occupied. Napoleon, in a word, was not merely about to cheat his accomplice of its share of the spoil; he was already arranging to plunder it of its own possessions.

On October 28, 1807, Napoleon writes to his Minister of War:—"I desire my troops shall arrive at Lisbon as soon as possible, to seize all English merchandise. I desire they shall, if possible, go there as friends, in order to take possession of the Portuguese fleet." Junot was instructed by Napoleon himself to issue a proclamation declaring that "the shedding of blood is repugnant to the noble heart of the Emperor Napoleon, and if you will receive us as auxiliaries, all will be well." By these means,



Napoleon explains cynically, "Junot may contrive to get to Lisbon as an auxiliary. The date of his arrival will be calculated here to a couple of days, and twenty-four hours later a courier will be sent to inform him that the Portuguese proposals have not been accepted, and he is to treat the country as that of an enemy." "Eight or ten ships of war and all those dockyards," Napoleon coolly adds, "would be an immense advantage to us."

Napoleon understood how much depended on the speed of Junot's march. If Lisbon could be reached in time, not only would the city become a prey, but the Portuguese fleet would be seized; and, added to a Russian squadron of twelve sail of the line on its way to that port, would become, with the Spanish fleet, the left wing of that stupendous, if somewhat visionary, fleet of not less than 180 ships of the line, which, in the chambers of Napoleon's plotting brain, was already taking form. So Junot was charged to press on without regard to the suffering or the lives of his troops; and, as the French general saw glittering before him the air-drawn likeness of a kingly crown, he obeyed these instructions literally.

Over 200 miles of mountain passes, through hunger and tempest, he hurried his troops, until of a column which at Alcantara had numbered 25,000 men, only 2000 were left to limp into Lisbon, footsore, ragged, sickly, more like a procession of incurables from

some great hospital than a march of soldiers. Some dropped in the streets, says Southey, others lay down in the porches till the passers-by gave them food. Lisbon was a city of 300,000 inhabitants, with a garrison of 14,000 troops; a powerful British squadron under Sir Sidney Smith lay at the entrance of the Tagus ready to help. But the mere imagination of Napoleon's power, like some mighty and threatening phantom, seemed to enter Lisbon with Junot's footsore and ragged grenadiers, and the city fell without a stroke.

Meanwhile the King of Spain, by a solemn treaty, was assured of a share not only of Portugal, but of all her colonies. With a touch of sardonic humour Napoleon even invented a new title for the monarch whom he proposed to discrown. The King of Spain was to have the title of "the Emperor of the two Americas!" It was easy to be generous of glittering syllables to the dupe whom it was intended to plunder of a kingdom.

The domestic troubles and scandals of the Spanish court gave Napoleon his opportunity. Charles IV. was a senile cripple. The Queen was a false and shameless wife. Her lover, Godoy, practically ruled Spain. The heir-apparent, Ferdinand, was a son without affection and without character. The Spanish court was a witches' dance of intrigues and hatreds—Ferdinand plotting against his father; the shameless Queen, with her lover and the dishonoured King,