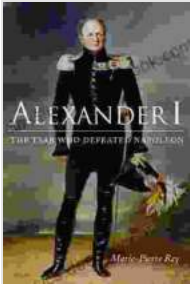


Alexander I: The Tsar Who Defeated Napoleon in Slavic East European and Eurasian Studies



Alexander I: The Tsar Who Defeated Napoleon (NIU Series in Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies)

by Marie-Pierre Rey

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

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Alexander I, the Tsar of Russia from 1801 to 1825, played a pivotal role in the defeat of Napoleon Bonaparte during the Napoleonic Wars. His military and diplomatic strategies were instrumental in turning the tide of the war against Napoleon, and he is widely regarded as one of the most important figures in Slavic East European and Eurasian studies.

Early Life and Accession to the Throne

Alexander I was born in Saint Petersburg, Russia, on December 23, 1777. He was the eldest son of Tsar Paul I and Maria Feodorovna. Alexander received a liberal education and was strongly influenced by the Enlightenment ideals of his tutor, the Swiss philosopher Frédéric-César de La Harpe. In 1796, Alexander's father was assassinated, and Alexander succeeded him to the throne at the age of 23.

Domestic Reforms

Alexander I began his reign with a series of ambitious domestic reforms. He abolished serfdom in the Baltic provinces, granted greater autonomy to the nobility, and established a new system of education. Alexander also reformed the Russian army and navy, making them more efficient and powerful.

Foreign Policy

Alexander I's foreign policy was based on a desire to expand Russian influence in Europe and Asia. He allied with Great Britain and Austria against France in the Napoleonic Wars, and he played a key role in the defeat of Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815. After Napoleon's defeat, Alexander became the dominant figure in European affairs, and he played a leading role in the Congress of Vienna, which redrew the map of Europe.

The Holy Alliance

In 1815, Alexander I founded the Holy Alliance, a conservative alliance of European states that aimed to prevent future revolutions and wars. The Holy Alliance was based on the principles of Christian morality and monarchical rule, and it was opposed to the spread of liberalism and nationalism. Alexander I was the leader of the Holy Alliance, and he used it to suppress revolutionary movements in Europe.

Later Years and Death

In the later years of his reign, Alexander I became increasingly autocratic and conservative. He suppressed dissent and limited the freedoms of the Russian people. Alexander I died in Taganrog, Russia, on December 1,

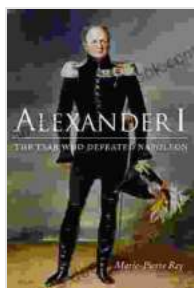
1825, at the age of 47. The cause of his death is unknown, but it is believed that he may have been poisoned.

Legacy

Alexander I is remembered as one of the most important figures in Slavic East European and Eurasian studies. His military and diplomatic achievements helped to defeat Napoleon and establish Russia as a major power in Europe. Alexander I's domestic reforms also had a lasting impact on Russian society, and his legacy continues to be debated by historians today.

References

- Alexander I, Tsar of Russia: A Historical Biography by Richard Pipes
- Alexander I: The Man Who Defeated Napoleon by Alexander Mikaberidze
- The Holy Alliance: Europe's First Peace System by William Langer



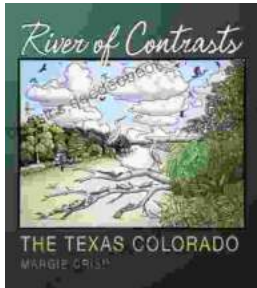
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