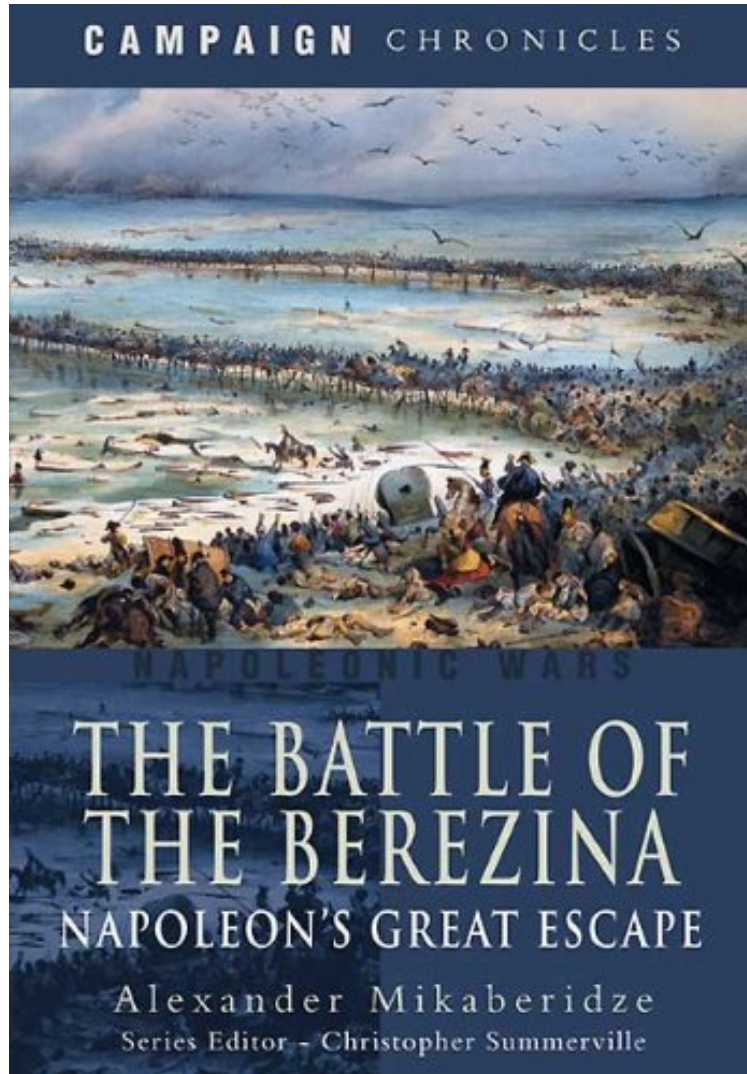


The Battle of the Berezina: Napoleon's Great Escape

Alexander Mikaberidze

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Alexander Mikaberidze : The Battle of the Berezina: Napoleon's Great Escape before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Battle of the Berezina: Napoleon's Great Escape:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Another Brilliant History by Alexander Mikaberidze of Napoleon in Russia in 1812!By Gilberto VillahermosaThis is the third of Alexander Mikaberidze's books on Napoleon in Russia that I've read in a row. To date I have found all his works well researched, well written, and endlessly interesting. Mikaberidze makes us of original Russia, French, German, Dutch, and even English sources to weave a powerful and compelling story. His "The Battle of the Berezina" is filled with interesting details and drama. The Battle of the Berezina heralded the end of Napoleon's vaunted army of more than 600,000 men that had invaded Russia in June

1812. This book is recommended for those interested in Napoleon, the Napoleonic Wars, the French 1812 Campaign in Russia, and the armies of Russia and Europe in the early 19th Century. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. *How Napoleon's Disastrous Invasion of Russia Ended With Napoleon's Escape* By Alan Salazar Alexander Mikaberidze has exhaustively researched the Battle of Berezina, using both French and Russian sources. He writes a fascinating tale about one of the more obscure battles during the Napoleonic Wars, and explains how Napoleon was able to escape from a more crushing defeat following his disastrous invasion of Russia in 1812. Mikaberidze has a wonderful grasp of Russian sources that explodes many of the myths about this battle. Anyone interested in this period of time will appreciate his scholarship and writing ability. Looking forward to the other books he has written, including one on the Battle of Borodino, and Napoleon's occupation of Moscow. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. *A DETAILED STUDY IN ENGLISH* By J. Evans There are many works covering the 1812 campaign and all address the crossing at the Berezina River but none go into the detail provided by this work. Mr. Mikaberidze has provided us with great in-depth study that is, fortunately, not written in a too academic style. The author has struck a great balance in his coverage between the Allied (French) and Russian forces which greatly aided in understanding the decision making process on both sides. He has also provided a nice mixture of strategic/tactical movements and personal accounts. Cons: Not many really. An order of battle could have been included, but that is easy to find in many other works (and notoriously difficult to confirm). My only complaint would be in regards to maps, something this work shares with just about every other campaign history I've ever read. It is extremely frustrating to try and follow unit movements and not be able to find the mentioned locations on the map. This is a common problem from which the reviewed work is not exempt. Overall: Highly recommended, academic in its coverage yet readable. I know of no other work in English that covers the topic even remotely as well.

In the winter of 1812, Napoleon's army retreated from Moscow under appalling conditions, hunted by three separate Russian armies, its chances of survival apparently nil. By late November Napoleon had reached the banks of the River Berezina - the last natural obstacle between his army and the safety of the Polish frontier. But instead of finding the river frozen solid enough to march his men across, an unseasonable thaw had turned the Berezina into an icy torrent. Having already ordered the burning of his bridging equipment, Napoleon's predicament was serious enough: but with the army of Admiral Chichagov holding the opposite bank, and those of Kutusov and Wittgenstein closing fast, it was critical. Only a miracle could save him ... In a gripping narrative Alexander Mikaberidze describes how Napoleon rose from the pit of despair to the peak of his powers in order to achieve that miracle. Drawing on contemporary sources - letters, diaries, memoirs - he recreates one of the greatest escapes in military history - a story often half-told in general histories of the Russian campaign but never before fully explored. **REVIEWS** "In a gripping narrative, Alexander Mikaberidze describes how Napoleon rose from the pit of despair to the peak of his powers... Drawing on contemporary sources- letters, diaries, memoirs, he recreates one of the greatest escapes in military history- a story often half-told in general histories of the Russian campaign but never fully explored." Spartacus Review, 04/2010

About the Author Alexander Mikaberidze is an assistant professor of history at Mississippi State University. He holds a law degree from the Republic of Georgia and a Ph.D. in history from Florida State University, where he worked at the Institute on Napoleon and the French Revolution. He serves as president of the Napoleonic Society of Georgia.