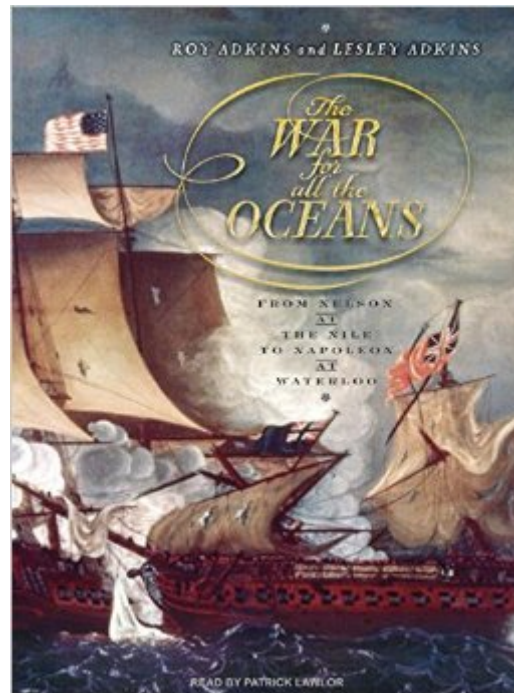


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The War For All The Oceans: From Nelson At The Nile To Napoleon At Waterloo



Synopsis

Roy Adkins, with his wife, Lesley, returns to the Napoleonic War in *The War for All the Oceans*, a gripping account of the naval struggle that lasted from 1798 to 1815, a period marked at the beginning by Napoleon's seizing power and at the end by the War of 1812. In this vivid and visceral account, Adkins draws on eyewitness records to portray not only the battles but also the details of a sailor's life—shipwrecks, press-gangs, prostitutes, spies, and prisoners of war. *The War for All the Oceans* is epic narrative history sure to appeal to fans of Patrick O'Brian and C. S. Forester, as well as all readers of military and social history.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The book is well researched and well written. It is the best historical account I have found for the time period in question. It provides some significant details omitted from other accounts. The book starts with a prologue giving a description of the action between the Brig sloop *Speedy*, under the command of then commander Lord Cochrane, and the Spanish frigate *Gamo* resulting in the amazing capture of the *Gamo*. This is a much better account than what I found in Cochrane's own autobiography (which is surprising considering he was not known for his modesty). The book then proceeds with action starting in 1798 with Captain Sir William Sidney Smith's escape from captivity in Paris, and General Napoleon Bonaparte's descent on Egypt which resulted in the Battle of the Nile (Admiral Nelson victorious), and the defense of Acre (Captain Smith victorious - the only military setback of Napoleon on land prior to his retreat from Moscow). The book is mainly about naval action, but includes details of some significant land campaigns starting with the

aforementioned defense of Acre. It covers various actions up through 1815 including the war between England and the United States (there is a good account, for example, of the Battle of New Orleans). There is some commentary on the political situations of the time period. There are some helpful details on other aspects of the war, including the Hot Press of 1803 when England needed to man its ships in a hurry. Men and boys were snatched off the street, out of theaters, off ships, from their jobs, etc., with no regard to their occupations, naval experience (if any) and other commitments. In some cases there were pitched battles with townsmen. There are also some details of atrocities.

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