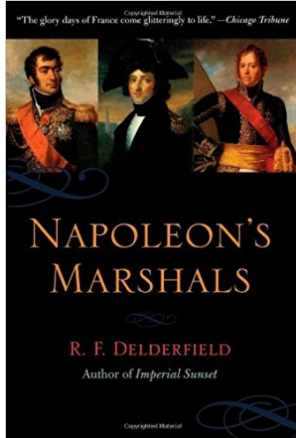


The Napoleon Series Reviews

Delderfield, R.F. *Napoleon's Marshals*. New York: Cooper Square Press, 2002. 240 p. ISBN# 9780815412137. Paperback. \$19.



Delderfield has an intimate style of addressing the reader and it is almost like having a conversation (albeit one-sided) with a very knowledgeable person. He is honest about his own opinions about the various Marshals and writes them into the narrative with candor (such as his dislike for Marshalls Murat, Marmont or Bernadotte, admiration for Lannes.) He writes chronologically and covers all the Marshals relevant to a particular time/battle/campaign and at first it seems overwhelming for a novice. But gradually, you get a sense of the people, their styles, strengths and personalities. Napoleon himself appears with reference to the Marshals and their actions. The accuracy of the history, I do not doubt, but it is more a framework to set up these men. My original interest stemmed from reading *Desiree* by Annemarie Selinko, which has Bernadotte in it. I was fascinated by the role that the Marshals played in Napoleon's war and reign and this book seemed a natural opening. In any case it served the purpose that I was hoping for - a starting point for understanding the men around Napoleon.

Reviewed by [Lavanya Ramanujan](#)

Placed on the Napoleon Series: June 2018