



Napoleon: His Wives and Women

Christopher Hibbert

Download now

Read Online [➔](#)

Napoleon: His Wives and Women

Christopher Hibbert

Napoleon: His Wives and Women Christopher Hibbert

Christopher Hibbert Introduces US to the many intriguing women behind Napoleon -- from his strong-willed mother and three sisters to his varied wives and mistresses. This lively historical account reveals Napoleon's often neglected private life and passionate relationships, in which he wildly worshiped certain women as often as he disdained others. Vividly evoking the political and social upheavals of post-Revolutionary France, Hibbert captures the vibrant characters who made history, not only on the battlefield but also in the bedroom, including Josephine, the charming Creole from Martinique; the plain and pliant Marie-Louise of Austria; and Marie Walewska, the sumptuous young Polish countess who, despite initial reluctance, was persuaded by her elderly husband to fall in love with Napoleon. Praised by A. N. Wilson as an "outstanding popular historian," Hibbert dramatically brings to life the most intimate influences on Napoleon's turbulent career and character.

Napoleon: His Wives and Women Details

Date : Published November 11th 2002 by W. W. Norton & Company (first published October 21st 2002)

ISBN : 9780393052022

Author : Christopher Hibbert

Format : Hardcover 381 pages

Genre : History, Biography, Nonfiction, Cultural, France, Historical

 [Download Napoleon: His Wives and Women ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Napoleon: His Wives and Women ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Napoleon: His Wives and Women Christopher Hibbert

Jane Austen decried as "The quarrels of popes and kings, with wars and pestilences in every page; the men all so good for nothing, and hardly any women at all."

Battles, military campaigns, politicking. I had just finished reading that book about George V's mistresses which REALLY concentrated on the gals. This one pales by comparison.

However, it does win the prize for one of the most vocabulary-challenging similes I've ever encountered: "When his honeymoon was over, Napoleon had seen to it that his wife was as isolated as a begum in a zenana."

C!NDY L00 says

This is a remarkably well researched book by the respected historian and author Christopher Hibbert. A sensational read for anyone who is interested in the intimate lives and loves of Napoleon. After reading this book, the reader will have learnt the obsessive, selfish, domineering control freak, we knew of his military and political life, was part of his personal life as well as his love interests. It appears Napoleon wasn't as amorous when the woman of his desires wasn't in fear of him and giving into complete submission. Yet we also see a romantic, emotional man who so desired to be loved and respected. I believe the crudeness of his behavior (at times), towards not only women, but men too, was part of his own fearful inadequacies; the so called Napoleon complex. Still, what a fascinating, perplexing personality he seems to have been. Regardless of Napoleon's crudity, rude behavior and at times violent callousness, there were Napoleon's surprising acts of compassion, love and devotion to the people who knew and loved him.[return][return]This objective piece of labor allows the reader to come away with his or her own personal opinions of the private Napoleon and the people in his life. Starting with Napoleon's sometimes fierce, compulsive but always enduring love of Josephine to his respectful, and some say fearful love of his second wife Marie-Louise, in addition to his lusty, conquering affections for his Polish mistress, Marie Walewska. The reader obtains a glimpse of his relationship with his mother and his sisters in a much more provocative light as well. Hibbert also includes a long list of minor mistresses and female acquaintances, in full delicious details.[return][return]Through this earnest study of the private man, Napoleon, we get a peek at the perks, quirks, oddities and passions of a captivating man. `Napoleon: His Wives and Women' is a studious read and an important one too for the hardcore Napoleon reader.

Marsali Taylor says

I read this one straight after the biography of Talleyrand, to get another viewpoint on the period. I wasn't terribly taken with it - it did give a good portrait of Napoleon as far as women were concerned, but I felt it was only half a portrait - his military life was hardly treated at all, so you were rather left wondering why on earth he was elected Emperor. It rather felt like a title or topic dictated by Hibbert's agent / publisher as suitably populist.

Also, Hibbert's writing was very hard to read - long, tangled sentences. I found myself having to re-read rather too often.

Also, his conclusions were sometimes hard to agree with. In places he just quoted what was visibly gossip without comment, and at one point he cast doubt on Napoleon's having had a relationship with Mme de

Montholon - only to say in the next paragraph that she had a child which he accepted as his. Now this may have been for reasons of his own self-esteem, or not to call the lady a liar - but Hibbert didn't explore the contradiction.

However, it was interesting to know more about his sisters and mother.

Not really recommended - a straight biography of any of the people concerned would be more interesting.

Mariam says

????? ???? ????? ? ?????? ?????????? ??????????? ?????????? ... ? ?? ?? ???? ???? ?????.....

Sarah says

Not exactly deep, but very enjoyable. Hibbert was, obviously, an excellent writer, and it seems like he had a lot of fun writing this. The St. Helena portion dragged a bit and Hibbert doesn't really speculate much about his subjects' inconsistencies (most obviously, why did Napoleon remain so buttoned-up for years and then suddenly become so promiscuous?), but that would have required a much more serious book. Good airplane/travel read.

Heidi says

an excellent introduction to the the most influential women in Napoleon's life

Ali says

?? ???? ?????? ?????????? ??? ??? ?????!... ?? ?????? ??? ??? ???? ?????? ?????? ?????????... ??? ?????? ?????? ?????????? ?????? ?? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ... ?? ?????? ?????? ??? ?????? ?? ??? ????? ??????.

Jill Hutchinson says

This book is a bit of a change from the usual Hibbert history.....a little bit gossipy and more, as the title indicates, a study of Napoleon the man and his relationships with his wives, mistresses and his female relatives. He does, however, give enough of the history of Napoleon's rise and fall to provide the framework which affected how the Emperor/General reacted to the female of the species.

He was a petty, cruel, and extremely ambitious man who saw women as servants to his wishes and desires but seemed to garner devotion from them for the most part. He was no great lover according to Hibbert's research of the memoirs/letter/diaries of the women with whom he had affairs. He was obsessed with producing a son to carry on his dynasty and it appears that besides the child produced by Empress Marie-

Louise (his second wife) he also acknowledged at least two other sons resultant from other liaisons. Hibbert also follows the lives and fates of the major players after Napoleon's death which is an interesting addendum to the story. Recommended for those who are interested in the non-military side of the man who helped shape Europe in the beginning years of the 17th century

Amanda says

Oh Napoleon...here's what I take from this book: (1) Napoleon was pretty mean to everyone, (2) Josephine and he did not in fact have a great love story (unlike the miniseries I remember watching as a kid told me they did) until he tossed her aside and lived to regret it and (3) his powerful presence made women swoon, even if he pinched their noses until they potentially bled (see point #1). The book dragged in certain spots, but all in all, I took some interesting things from it.

Marilyn says

It's an interesting little book about Napoleon's domestic life with wives Josephine and Maria Louisa of Austria [mostly Josephine], plus a few ladies on the side like Maria of Poland, and his several sisters and his mother, and his sisters-in-law, and his step-daughter Hortense. I finished it feeling the General was more than a little henpecked by all the women in his family.

I call it a "little" book because I think it skimmed the surfaces of all those relationships. If Hibbert had concentrated on the two wives and his major mistress - the three women on the cover - and skimmed over the other ladies; it would have been more insightful and more interesting. Josephine (the woman with quite a sexual past) married him for protection and found his passion got in the way of her affairs, but she grew to love him passionately. Maria Louisa (the virginal teen) was frightened of him, loved him, and then forgot about him when he was no longer emperor. Maria Walewska of Poland went to his bed for the sake of Poland's independence, and lost her heart to him. What did they see in him? Hibbert doesn't say.
