

Chapter 1 : The Peninsular War (books)

The Peninsular War () was a military conflict between Napoleon's empire and Bourbon Spain (with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland allied with the Kingdom of Portugal), for control of the Iberian Peninsula during the Napoleonic Wars.

The Columbia Encyclopedia, 6th ed. By a secret convention reached at Fontainebleau Oct. A French army under Andoche Junot occupied Nov. Napoleon then began a series of maneuvers to secure Spain for France. On the pretext that they were reinforcements for Junot, large numbers of French troops entered Spain and seized Pamplona and Barcelona Feb. Meanwhile, a palace revolution Mar. The War Continues The Spanish rose in revolt throughout the country. In Portugal, where revolt had also broken out, a British expeditionary force under Arthur Wellesley later duke of Wellington landed in Aug. With Sir John Moore as commander in chief, the British invaded Spain, thus beginning a long series of seesaw campaigns. Napoleon hastened to Spain, stormed Madrid Dec. Zaragoza, which Palafox had held for two months at a huge cost in lives, fell in Feb. Nevertheless, the French controlled all of Spain in , with the exception of the numerous guerrilla bands operating out of the mountains, which continuously sapped French forces. There were atrocities on both sides. He briefly occupied Madrid Aug. Placed in command of all the allied forces in the peninsula, Wellesley took the offensive in May, , routed the French under Joseph Bonaparte and Marshal Jourdan at Vitoria June 21 , and pushed them back into France. In October Wellesley invaded France. He laid siege to Bayonne, heroically defended by Soult, and had reached Toulouse when, on Apr. The "guerrilla" warfare carried out by irregular Spanish forces added a new term to the military vocabulary and served as a model for future insurgencies. In Latin America the war served as detonator for the independence revolutions of the Spanish colonies. Bibliography There are histories of the Peninsular War by W. Cite this article Pick a style below, and copy the text for your bibliography.

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Peninsular War, Spanish Guerra de la Independencia ("War of Independence"), (), that part of the Napoleonic Wars fought in the Iberian Peninsula, where the French were opposed by British, Spanish, and Portuguese forces.

What Was The Peninsular War? The Peninsular War was a military conflict that took place between and A monument to the Peninsula War in Cascais, Portugal. The Peninsular War was a battle fought from to The center of interest was the control of the Iberian Peninsula. Warfare engagement escalated when the French army turned against their ally Spain. On the other hand, the British army supported Portugal and opposed French and Spain. With the Pact, Napoleon embarked on a mission to make economic war against the British by striking at its trade base. The Portuguese were to close the British ports. Portuguese did not comply making Napoleon order General Andoche Junot mobilize an army of 30, to march through Spain into Portugal. Napoleon and his army occupied Spain appointed his brother Joseph Bonaparte as the ruler. However, the Spanish rose against the invaders in Madrid leading to the commencement of Spanish Independent War. Frenchmen ruthlessly suppressed the Madrid revolt. Spaniards resulted in guerilla warfare and succeeded in expelling Joseph Bonaparte in August. The Peninsula could have finally submitted at that time were it not for guerillas and dissensions among the French. The British forces had by then conquered Lisbon. Wellington led more successful combats through Northern Spain and entered France. By March , French army which by now had lost many soldiers and other resources was defeated. On April 13, , report of the capture of Paris and abdication of Napoleon reached the already demotivated soldiers. On April 18, Wellington and Soult signed a convention. Peace negotiations started taking place leading to the signing of the Peace of Paris agreement on May 30, Aftermath Of The War All the countries involved in the war had been pillaged and ruins were all over. There was political, economic, and social turbulence. The French Empire lost an estimated , men. King Joseph was welcomed by the Spanish who wanted to work with him to bring liberty and modernization. The war led to emergence of large-scale guerrilla warfare tactic. For the first time, the British troops were involved in the war on land. The consequence of the war led to the Spanish Constitution of Brazil also gained independence from Portugal. A stage that led to the rise of the Duke of Wellington to prominence nationally and internationally was set. This page was last updated on June 4,

Chapter 3 : Napoleon In The War For The Spanish Peninsula: A Massive Operation

The Spanish uprising that followed encouraged Britain to send an expeditionary force to the Iberian Peninsula. The ensuing war was to play a major part in Napoleon's.

To give time for the bulk of his army to get free, Johnston detached part of his force to make a stand at a large earthen fortification, Fort Magruder, straddling the Williamsburg Road from Yorktown, constructed earlier by Magruder. The Battle of Williamsburg was the first pitched battle of the Peninsula Campaign, in which nearly 41,000 Union and 32,000 Confederates were engaged. They assaulted Fort Magruder and a line of rifle pits and smaller fortifications that extended in an arc southwest from the fort, but were repulsed. Confederate counterattacks, directed by Maj. He had been concerned that the Confederates would leave their fortifications and attack him on the Yorktown Road. The brigade of Brig. Kearny ostentatiously rode his horse out in front of his picket lines to reconnoiter and urged his men forward by flashing his saber with his only arm. There, sharp firefights occurred until late in the afternoon. He personally led the 24th Virginia Infantry on a futile assault and was wounded by a bullet through the shoulder. As the 24th Virginia charged, D. He called off the assault after it had begun, but Hancock ordered a counterattack. McClellan miscategorized his first significant battle as a "brilliant victory" over superior forces. However, the defense of Williamsburg was seen by the South as a means of delaying the Federals, which allowed the bulk of the Confederate army to continue its withdrawal toward Richmond. But McClellan had high hopes for his turning movement, planning to send other divisions those of Brig. The work was continued by torchlight through the night and the only enemy resistance was a few random shots fired by Confederate pickets on the bluff above the landing, ending at about 10 p. Smith to protect the road to Barhamsville and Smith assigned the division of Brig. Wade Hampton, to the task. On May 7, Franklin posted Brig. Slocum and Philip Kearny. Whiting employed artillery fire against the gunboats, but his guns had insufficient range, so he disengaged around 2 p. Union troops moved back into the woods after the Confederates left, but made no further attempt to advance. Although the action was tactically inconclusive, Franklin missed an opportunity to intercept the Confederate retreat from Williamsburg, allowing it to pass unmolested. Stanton and Secretary of the Treasury Salmon P. Lincoln believed that the city of Norfolk was vulnerable and that control of the James was possible, but McClellan was too busy at the front to meet with the president. Exercising his direct powers as commander in chief, Lincoln ordered naval bombardments of Confederate batteries in the area on May 8 and set off in a small boat with his two Cabinet secretaries to conduct a personal reconnaissance on shore. Troops under the command of Maj. Wool, the elderly commander of Fort Monroe, occupied Norfolk on May 10, encountering little resistance. The Confederate defenders, including marines, sailors, and soldiers, were supervised by Navy Cmdr. Drewry, the owner of the property that bore his name. An underwater obstruction of sunken steamers, pilings, debris, and other vessels connected by chains was placed just below the bluff, making it difficult for vessels to maneuver in the narrow river. The battle lasted over three hours and during that time, Galena remained almost stationary and took 45 hits. Her crew reported casualties of 14 dead or mortally wounded and 10 injured. Monitor was also a frequent target, but her heavier armor withstood the blows. Contrary to some reports, the Monitor, despite its squat turret, did not have difficulty bringing its guns to bear and fired steadily against the fort. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. The two wooden gunboats remained safely out of range of the big guns, but the captain of the USS Port Royal was wounded by a sharpshooter. McClellan positioned his main army to focus on the northeast sector, for two reasons. White House, the plantation of W. He moved slowly and deliberately, reacting to faulty intelligence that led him to believe the Confederates outnumbered him significantly. By the end of May, the army had built bridges across the Chickahominy and was facing Richmond, straddling the river, with one third of the Army south of the river, two thirds north. This disposition, which made it difficult for one part of the army to reinforce the other quickly, would prove to be a significant problem in the upcoming Battle of Seven Pines.

Chapter 4 : What Was The Peninsular War? - calendrierdelascience.com

The Crimean War of was a classic example of the peninsula's lure. In December , a diplomatic clash arose between Russia and France over the status of a handful of Christian shrines and churches in the Holy Land, then under Ottoman Turkish rule.

Europe in By the year France had achieved domination over the great majority of continental Europe. The tide began to turn in when Napoleon created a new enemy by usurping the Spanish throne in favour of his brother Joseph. The Spanish uprising that followed encouraged Britain to send an expeditionary force to the Iberian Peninsula. Consolidation, The road to war began in the autumn of when Napoleon moved French troops through Spain to invade Portugal. After feeding more than , troops into Spain under the pretext of supporting the invasion, Napoleon deposed the existing Spanish monarch in April in order to place his own brother Joseph on the throne. Although the ensuing Spanish uprising can hardly have come as a surprise to Napoleon, he failed to see that the revolt could never be completely suppressed. Britain now had a new ally in Spain and in August landed an expeditionary force under the command of Lt. Sir Arthur Wellesley at the mouth of the Mondego river in Portugal. Junot was defeated, though an opportunity to inflict further damage on the French was lost as the out-ranked Wellesley was replaced first by Burrard and then by Dalrymple. Napoleon meanwhile had transferred command of the pursuit to Soult and returned to Paris, never again to lead an army in the Peninsula. In April Wellesley, freed from criticism over the Convention of Sintra, returned to Portugal and assumed command of all British-Portuguese forces. Immediately, he implemented three innovations in army organization: After defeating Soult at Porto on 12th May, Wellesley crossed the border into Spain, joined forces with the Spanish general Cuesta, and marched eastwards. On 27th July, French armies under Joseph attacked the allies north of Talavera. The British-Portuguese lines held throughout the Battle of Talavera , finally compelling Joseph to abandon the battlefield. The victory had, however, been costly and, with Soult threatening to cut the road to Portugal, Wellesley was forced to fall back. French armies continued to threaten Wellington throughout the latter months of , but at no time were able to catch him at a disadvantage. The turning point of the war had been reached. Attack, On 8th January Wellington began to advance through Spain. Ciudad Rodrigo fell on 19th January followed, after a costly assault, by Badajoz on 6th April. The two armies shadowed each other over the next few weeks until Marmont attempted to out-flank Wellington on 22nd July. Wellington seized the opportunity to attack and in the ensuing Battle of Salamanca won a crushing victory. Wellington entered Madrid on 6th August and penetrated as far as Burgos before being forced to withdraw to Salamanca and then to Ciudad Rodrigo when threatened by a combined French force under Soult, Joseph and Suchet. With Prussia re-entering the war against France on 16th March, Napoleon was unable to spare fresh troops for the Peninsula as he prepared to counter-attack in the east. The difficulties facing the French commanders, Joseph and Jourdan, mounted as their armies became increasingly pinned down by allied regular and guerrilla forces. In May Wellington returned to the offensive, striking northwards towards Burgos without allowing the French armies the chance to concentrate. From Burgos, Wellington outflanked Joseph by wheeling through the mountains to the north. Joseph finally took up a defensive position in the valley of the Zadorra river, only to see his forces routed on 21st June in the Battle of Vitoria. On 7th October Wellington crossed the Bidassoa into France; on 10th November the French defences along the line of the Nivelle were broken. Soult counter-attacked again on 10th December after Wellington had crossed the Nive. In the meantime, the continental allies were closing in on the French border from the east following victories at Dennewitz in September and Leipzig in October. On 27th February , having succeeded in drawing Soult away from Bayonne, Wellington attacked and defeated the French Marshal at Orthez. The last battle of the Peninsular War was fought on 10th April as Wellington cleared the French from the Calvinet Ridge overlooking the city of Toulouse. After six years, the Peninsular War was over. By , , French troops had been sucked into the Peninsula, and yet only 70, could be spared to confront Wellington; the remainder were pinned down elsewhere by the threat of local insurrections and the actions of guerrillas. With the French unable to concentrate their forces against the British-Portuguese army, Wellington was able

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to move on to the offensive. The definitive history of the War. Less substantial than Weller, though useful for its notes on the battle sites as they exist today. Recently reprinted, this book gives a more complete account of the War than most. Prospective travellers to Spain might like to read our Travel Journal.

The Peninsular War, , was a military conflict between Napoleon's empire and the allied powers of the Spanish Empire, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the Kingdom of Portugal, for control of the Iberian Peninsula during the Napoleonic Wars.

It featured many different styles of war, from the pitched battles most associated with Napoleon and his opponents to guerrilla attacks and amphibious landings. Sieges played a greater part in the Peninsular War than in any other part of the Napoleonic Wars. Centuries of warfare and military engineering had left Spain with many strongly defended towns and fortresses. As troops advanced across the Peninsula, they were compelled to take them or leave enemy forces at their rear. Such was the importance and frequency of siege warfare that Lieutenant Colonel John T. Jones, a British engineer, calculated the number of soldiers needed to besiege a garrison of a particular size. The size is also reflected in the enormous amount of artillery ammunition used by the British in besieging French positions; 70, rounds in the siege of San Sebastian alone.

Harassing Shipping By the time the British arrived in the Peninsula, the Royal Navy had already achieved dominance at sea. Victory at Trafalgar in had cost the British their greatest admiral in the form of Nelson. The French made no attempt to challenge them as part of the Peninsular War. The British Navy had three tasks in the war. The safe transportation of men and supplies; landing amphibious attacks; and harassing enemy shipping. As they had done for centuries, British crews took to the essentially piratical action with great success. Coastal traffic, the fastest and most efficient way to transport goods around much of Spain, was disrupted by British raiders. French ships, threatened with superior British forces if they set out to sea, were often compelled to surrender, as happened at Cadiz in June It proved vital in the Peninsula. Thousands of Spaniards under dozens of different leaders fought against French occupation. There was not a clear distinction between guerrilla and regular forces. Some of the early groups were trained soldiers from dispersed units, such as those led by Juan Diaz Porlier, El Marquesito. As British, Portuguese, and patriotic Spanish troops advanced, guerrilla groups found themselves no longer behind French lines. At that point, many joined the regular army, contributing to both the infantry and cavalry. The guerrillas were very effective. They killed soldiers, disrupted supply lines, and distracted troops from other tasks. Their presence and the difficulty of pinning them down undermined French morale. They could also be incredibly brutal, due to their ill-feeling against the invaders. It led to atrocities and counter-atrocities on both sides, including the murder of prisoners and civilians. Pitched battles in the Napoleonic era involved a combination of infantry, cavalry, and artillery. Infantry was by far the largest part of an army. Massed ranks of men fired immense volleys of muskets, with devastating effect. The limited range of both guns and artillery meant battles were fought at relatively close quarters. Gunfire was followed by fighting with bayonets. For all the glamor that mounted charges held, the main role of cavalry was to harass the wings and pursue fleeing enemies. Both sides had their battlefield successes, but the Allies had a significant advantage. The leading French general of the era, Napoleon, was usually busy elsewhere in Europe. The foremost British commander, on the other hand, was leading the Allies in the Peninsula. Battlefield casualty rates ranged from 0. Some battles were little more than tests of strength or fighting retreats. Others saw large armies crippled, turning the course of the war.

Amphibious Landings Using their dominance of the seas, the British landed troops from ships and launched coastal raids by marines all over occupied Spain. Before the Peninsula War, Popham had not always bathed in glory. He planned a disastrous raid on Ostend in and launched an unauthorized expedition to South America in Despite his failures, Popham was set loose in the Spanish Peninsula. There, the importance of coastal positions enabled him to launch a string of successful raids from mid They diverted French troops from other duties and captured Santander, a strategically significant victory because it shortened the British supply line. Philip Haythornthwaite , The Peninsular War:

Chapter 6 : The Peninsular War

The war for the Spanish Peninsula in 1808, was as draining to Napoleon's military efforts as Russia was disastrous. It featured many different styles of war, from the pitched battles most associated with Napoleon and his opponents to guerrilla attacks and amphibious landings.

Visit Website Did you know? The series ran from until 1953, and its final episode was the most-watched in television history. By the end of the decade, two new states had formed on the peninsula. In the south, the anti-communist dictator Syngman Rhee enjoyed the reluctant support of the American government; in the north, the communist dictator Kim Il Sung enjoyed the slightly more enthusiastic support of the Soviets. Neither dictator was content to remain on his side of the 38th parallel, however, and border skirmishes were common. Nearly 10,000 North and South Korean soldiers were killed in battle before the war even began. As far as they were concerned, this was not simply a border dispute between two unstable dictatorships on the other side of the globe. Instead, many feared it was the first step in a communist campaign to take over the world. For this reason, nonintervention was not considered an option by many top decision makers. As the North Korean army pushed into Seoul, the South Korean capital, the United States readied its troops for a war against communism itself. At first, the war was a defensive one—a war to get the communists out of South Korea—and it went badly for the Allies. Also, it was one of the hottest and driest summers on record, and desperately thirsty American soldiers were often forced to drink water from rice paddies that had been fertilized with human waste. As a result, dangerous intestinal diseases and other illnesses were a constant threat. By the end of the summer, President Truman and General Douglas MacArthur, the commander in charge of the Asian theater, had decided on a new set of war aims. Now, for the Allies, the Korean War was an offensive one: Initially, this new strategy was a success. An amphibious assault at Inchon pushed the North Koreans out of Seoul and back to their side of the 38th parallel. This was something that President Truman and his advisers decidedly did not want: They were sure that such a war would lead to Soviet aggression in Europe, the deployment of atomic weapons and millions of senseless deaths. As President Truman looked for a way to prevent war with the Chinese, MacArthur did all he could to provoke it. For Truman, this letter was the last straw. On April 11, the president fired the general for insubordination. Still, the fighting continued along the 38th parallel as negotiations stalled. Finally, after more than two years of negotiations, the adversaries signed an armistice on July 27, 1953. Nearly 5 million people died. Almost 40,000 Americans died in action in Korea, and more than 1 million were wounded.

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Northern and Southern leaders alike had recognized from the war's onset the Peninsula's strategic position. The Virginia Peninsula, bordered by Hampton Roads and the Chesapeake Bay as well as the James and York Rivers, was one of two major approaches to the Confederate capital at Richmond.

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The Peninsular War (1807-1814) was a military conflict between France and the allied powers of Spain, the United Kingdom and Portugal for control of the Iberian Peninsula during the Napoleonic Wars.

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The Peninsula Campaign (also known as the Peninsular Campaign) of the American Civil War was a major Union operation launched in southeastern Virginia from March through July 1862, the first large-scale offensive in the Eastern Theater.