



0. Vanity Fair - Story Preface

1. NAPOLEONIC WARS
2. NAPOLEON ABDICATES
3. WATERLOO OVERVIEW
4. WATERLOO ILLUSTRATED
5. WATERLOO HIGHLIGHTS
6. A CLOSED SOCIETY
7. BECKY SHARP
8. ILLUSTRATIONS in VANITY FAIR
9. EAST INDIA COMPANY
10. BRITAIN AND INDIA

This colorized image of British officers impressing Americans is based on an illustration from *Dewey and Other Naval Commanders* by Edward S. Ellis, A.M. (See [Chapter XI](#)—"Causes of the War of 1812.") Online, courtesy Project Gutenberg.

*Is it advisable to raise so ruthlessly
the veil which hides the rottenness
pervading modern society?*

Anonymous Reviewer
Vanity Fair
1848

During the War of 1812, British troops in America burned the nation's capital. This mostly forgotten "Second War of Independence" started—in large part—because His Majesty's Navy needed more men to fight against France in the Napoleonic Wars. ("His Majesty"—George III—had, by this time, gone mad. His son, the future George IV, became Prince Regent in 1811.)

Stopping American ships on the high seas, ostensibly looking for deserters, His Majesty's officers *also* impressed thousands of Yankee men into British service. And, from time to time, Britain would appropriate American ships bound for French ports.

Willing to wage war to end the impressing of its sailors and the taking of its ships, the U.S. Congress shocked the world in the summer of 1812 by declaring war on Britain.

Fighting on another front was the last thing England needed. Since 1792, the country and its allies were doing their best to keep Napoleon from realizing his dream of a far-flung French Empire. By 1812, Napoleon's troops had already reached Moscow!

How did all the battles on different continents affect British life? Did people not born into affluent, aristocratic families have a chance to better themselves? What would an innately intelligent person have to do to improve her (or his) position in society?

The answers to those questions may surprise you.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Vanity-Fair>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Vanity-Fair>



Britain's King George III

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

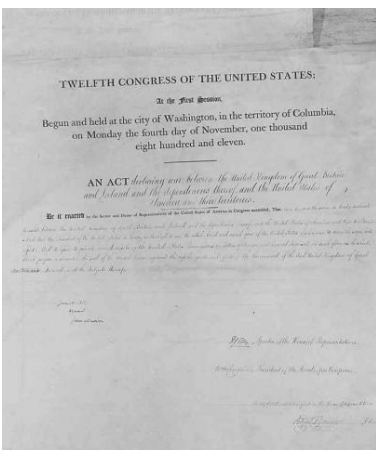
View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Britain-s-King-George-III>



The King's Son, George IV

Image online, courtesy the National Portrait Gallery website.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/The-King-s-Son-George-IV>



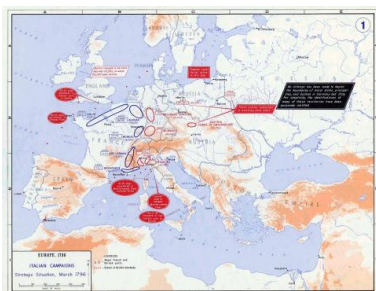
America's Declaration of War against Britain

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/America-s-Declaration-of-War-against-Britain>



Map of Europe 1796: The Italian Campaign

Image online, U.S. Military Academy Map Collection.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Map-of-Europe-1796-The-Italian-Campaign>



1812: Napoleon in Russia

Image online, courtesy Dr. Neil Rosenstein via the jta.org website.

PD

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/1812-Napoleon-in-Russia>



Vanity Fair

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Vanity-Fair0>

Bonaparte, Napoleon - Biography

Clip from "Napoleon," a four-hour series by [David Grubin](#). The mini-series, produced by David Grubin Productions in association with Devillier Donegan Enterprises, originally aired on PBS during November of 2000 as part of the series on [Empires](#). Copyright, Grubin Productions, all rights reserved. Clip provided here as fair use for educational purposes.

Written and Directed by David Grubin

Produced by David Grubin and Allyson Luchak

Edited by Seth Bomse and Susan Fanshel

Cinematography by James Callanan

Music by Michael Bacon

Narrated by David McCullough

The entire program runs 240 minutes.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Bonaparte-Napoleon-Biography>

Bonaparte, Napoleon - Egyptian Campaign

Clip from "Napoleon," a four-hour series by [David Grubin](#).

The mini-series, produced by David Grubin Productions in association with Devillier Donegan Enterprises, originally aired on PBS during November of 2000 as part of the series on [Empires](#). Copyright, Grubin Productions, all rights reserved. Clip provided here as fair use for educational purposes.

The entire documentary runs 240 minutes.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Bonaparte-Napoleon-Egyptian-Campaign>

