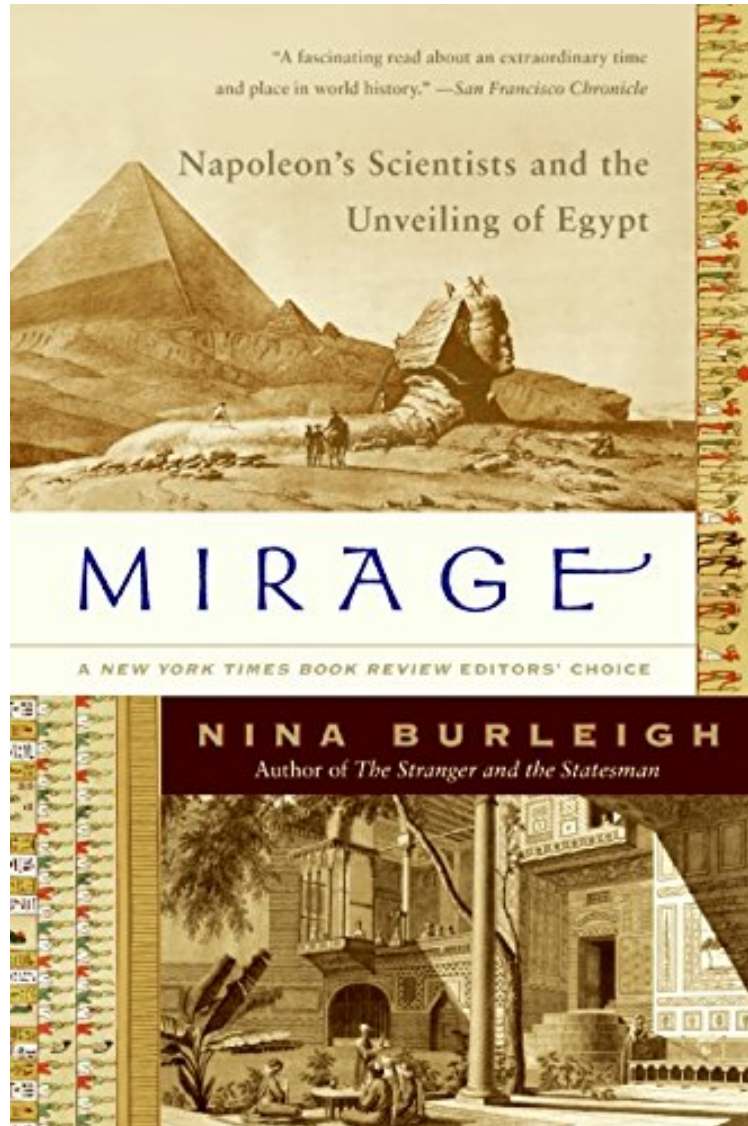


[Ebook pdf] Mirage: Napoleon's Scientists and the Unveiling of Egypt

Mirage: Napoleon's Scientists and the Unveiling of Egypt

Nina Burleigh

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Nina Burleigh : Mirage: Napoleon's Scientists and the Unveiling of Egypt before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mirage: Napoleon's Scientists and the Unveiling of Egypt:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By David K Fascinating subject matter but not well written
1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. I like the emphasis on the characters the big N By Brewer G Interesting book. Several reviewers have panned this work. I'm not hung up on the absolute historical correctness of all the boo-boo's Napoleon made in Egypt. I like the emphasis on the characters the big N. took with him. Since there is

no test at the end of the book or a professor to please this makes for an easy, interesting, casual read. I can't vouch for all the negative review points being made and really don't care. The 'savants' he took are an interesting and are about what one would expect of 'scientist types' from that era. Worth reading if you don't want a text book version of the Invasion of Egypt. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Love Napoleon stuff By Walton M Chalmers Love Napoleon stuff. Loved this, in particular! Can't wait for next stay in Paris to ID the streets named after savants...

Two hundred years ago, only the most reckless or eccentric Europeans had dared to traverse the unmapped territory of the modern-day Middle East. But in 1798, more than 150 French engineers, artists, doctors, and scientists—even a poet and a musicologist—traveled to the Nile Valley under the command of Napoleon Bonaparte and his invading army. Hazardous hunger, hardship, uncertainty, and disease, Napoleon's "savants" risked their lives in pursuit of discovery. The first large-scale interaction between Europeans and Muslims in the modern era, the audacious expedition was both a triumph and a disaster, resulting in finds of immense historical and scientific importance (including the ruins of the colossal pyramids and the Rosetta Stone) and in countless tragic deaths through plague, privation, madness, or violence. Acclaimed journalist Nina Burleigh brings readers back to the landmark adventure at the dawn of the modern era that ultimately revealed the deepest secrets of ancient Egypt to a curious continent.

From Publishers Weekly When 28-year-old Napoleon invaded Egypt in 1798, his band of 50,000 soldiers and sailors was accompanied by 151 Parisian scientists and artists, who laid the groundwork for what became Egyptology. Ten of these remarkable men are the focus of Burleigh's narrative. Among them, three of the most prominent were the lowborn, pugnacious mathematician Gaspard Monge, a dedicated revolutionary who invented descriptive geometry; the painfully shy chemist Claude-Louis Berthollet, who invented new ways to make gunpowder and steel; and the witty artist and diplomat Dominique-Vivant Denon, who produced 200 architecturally precise sketches of Egyptian ruins and a bestselling travelogue; later he became Napoleon's first director of the Louvre Museum. The survivors of the team brought home a vast body of knowledge, but surrendered their greatest discovery, the Rosetta Stone, to conquering British troops. The result of the savants' work was the 24-volume *Description of Egypt*, magnificently illustrated with engravings and maps, which helped launch Egyptomania and the rape of the Nile, though Burleigh's discussion of this is scanty. Still, Burleigh (*A Very Private Woman*) offers an absorbing glimpse of Napoleon's thwarted bid for a grand French empire and its intellectual fruits. 8 pages of bw photos. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. With an easy style and an eye for striking detail, Burleigh concentrates on 151 French scientists, scholars and students who joined the expedition, tempted by hero worship of Napoleon and the prospect of scientific adventure. (Associated Press) Burleigh spotlights the Indiana Jones-esque scientists who joined Napoleon's Egyptian invasion during the late 18th century. (People) About the Author Nina Burleigh is the author of four books. She is a noted journalist whose articles have appeared in *Time*, the *Washington Post*, *New York* magazine, *Elle*, and many other publications. She lives in New York City.