

against a tyrant, abandoning her previous position as the defender of order against anarchy, which she had occupied since 1792. The Republicans had talked of freeing the masses in England from the government of a corrupt oligarchy: Bonaparte made no pretence of any such philanthropic aim, and merely spoke of destroying the power and wealth of Great Britain because she stood in his way. All through his career it is most notable how a hatred for this country pervades and explains all his widespread schemes. From the day when, as a young artillery officer, he drove our garrison out of Toulon, to the day when he saw the broken columns of his Old Guard rolling down the hillside of Waterloo, it was always England that stood before him as the enemy of his schemes and the final object at which his blows were levelled. His invasion of Egypt in 1798 had been aimed against our Indian empire, and we had foiled him. His policy after the rupture of the Peace of Amiens had always before it as its ultimate end the maritime and commercial ruin of England. He strove to accomplish it first by open invasion and maritime war, later by the more circuitous method of compelling all Europe to unite in the league of the "Continental System" and join him in his boycotting of English trade. All his wars with Austria, Prussia, and Russia were to a great extent indirect blows at the insular enemy whom he could not attack on her own soil, for all the confederacies against him were fomented and consolidated by the application of English gold. To win the fight of Friedland or Wagram meant to him that he could force another state into adopting a commercial policy hostile to England, not merely that he could seize territory or impose vassalage on the defeated foe. The final end of all his plans was to crush Great Britain, and the other episodes of the war were but means to that end, only necessary because England's continental allies must be subdued before England herself could be touched.