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Sommario/riassunto

Following the destruction of Napoleon's huge armies of 1812 in the wintry wastes of European Russia, his hegemony of Europe was teetering on the abyss. He set about re-establishing his dominance with his vast abilities of organisation, combing depots and previous drafts and deserters for further manpower, and juggling his resources from the draining war in Spain, to create a new Grande Armee. His enemies were not idle: the Russians pushed the remaining French units back from successive river lines into Eastern Prussia, freeing that power from the yoke of French dominance. The Prussians in their turn activated reservists and reformed their army from the restrictions of the treaty following the disasters of 1806. The Austrians in the south itched to revenge themselves against the French and stood waiting for an opportune time to intervene. Napoleon carried out his campaigning in the manner of old, attempting to use the superior mobility of the

French to bring the main enemy army to battle and destroy them therefore ensuring peace; however, hamstrung by his lack of cavalry, he might beat his opponents but could not destroy them. His sub-ordinate generals, who could not match him for strategy or his ability to get the best out of the raw troops, were beaten when away from their master. As the net closes on Napoleon, he finds himself at Leipzig, at the Battle of Nations, and so to fight the defining battle of his first reign. The Special Campaigns series was written in the early years of the turn of the twentieth century to provide detailed assessments of the historic campaigns of the past for the benefit of the officers of the British Army. They were all written by surviving or recently retired officers of the Army who shared their wealth of experience and insight to a new generation, each officer having had a specialist area of expertise. Colonel Maude was an authority on the campaigns of Napoleon, and wrote three volumes for the series. Author - Colonel Frederic Natusch Maude, C.B., late R.E. (1854-1933)
