

Contents

<i>List of Maps</i>	xiii
<i>A Note on the Use of Names</i>	xv
Prologue: The Bridge at Arcola	1

THE OUTSIDER, 1769–1792

1 The Pleasure of Recognition	
Imaginary Landscapes	11
Carlo and Paoli	14
‘A Violent Enthusiasm for Liberty’	19
The Choice	22
A ‘Vigorous and Rude’ Education	26
2 ‘You Will Be My Avenger’	
‘A Sombre and Cantankerous Youth’	33
Death of the Father	38
A Corsican in France, a Frenchman in Corsica	42
3 Corsica in Revolution	
An Island in Turmoil	53
Working towards the Revolution	58
The Return of the <i>Babbo</i>	66
Denunciations	72
4 Ambition Awakened	
The Republican	76
‘I Wanted You to Be Free’	83

The Easter Sunday Murders	88
Buonaparte, Paris and the Revolution	92

THE REVOLUTIONARY, 1792–1796

5 Disillusion	
Increasing Tensions	105
The Expedition to Sardinia	106
The Rupture	113
‘Perpetual Infamy’	120
‘It Is Better to Eat Than Be Eaten’	122
6 The Jacobin	
Refugees	127
The Situation in the Midi	130
The Siege of Toulon	133
‘Ville Infame’	140
Italy – the First Plans	145
7 Shifting Political Sands	
Arrest	151
‘My Tender Eugénie’	159
Paris: The Decisive Months	163
8 The Political Appointee	
General Vendémiaire	171
‘Seizing the Moon with His Teeth’	178
‘A Proud Cajoler’	184

THE CONQUERING HERO, 1796–1798

9 Innovation	
First Impressions	195
An Army of Brigands	199
Defeating Piedmont	204
‘The Moral Force of Victory’	209
10 Conquest and Pillage	

The Entry into Milan	219
‘I Thought Only of You’	223
The Price of Liberty	225
Lombardy in Revolt	227
Liberating Italian Art	234
‘My Life is a Perpetual Nightmare’	238
Castiglione	245
11 Artists and Soldiers, Politics and Love	
Rebirth – Arcola	248
Exploiting Victory	254
Love and Self-Pity	258
Breaking Free	265
Rivoli	268
12 The Apprenticeship of Power	
Invading the Papal States	273
‘Turn Their Thoughts towards the Idea of Liberty’	277
‘Has the Rhine Been Crossed?’	282
The Liberator of Italy	286
The Veronese Easter	293
The Court at Mombello	296
13 Bonaparte the ‘Italique’	
Defending ‘Liberty and its Friends’	304
Entering the Political Fray: The Coup of Fructidor	311
‘Drunk with Happiness’	314
‘A Pure and Great Giant of Glory’	320

THE CIVILIZING HERO, 1798–1799

14 A Grandiose Exile	
The Decision	333
The Philosopher General	343
Moments of Doubt	347
15 Confronting Egypt	
Toulon	351

The Crossing	354
Malta	356
‘Like Fish on the Plains of Saint-Denis’	361
Sand, Melancholy and Suicide	367
16 Conciliation and Terror: Governing Egypt	
Tearing Away the Veil	375
Adapting	378
Disaffection	383
Distractions	385
The Plague	390
Repression	391
17 Prisoner of his Conquest	
The Battle of the Nile	395
The Revolt of Cairo	401
The Decision to Invade Syria	407
18 The Limits of Imagination	
‘All Human Effort against Me is Useless’	412
The Massacre at Jaffa	416
Fear and Contagion	422
The Siege of St John of Acre	424
19 The End of the Dream	
Retreat and Revenge	430
Aboukir: Defeat Atoned	439
The Flight from Egypt	442

SEIZING POWER, 1799

20 The Return of the Saviour	
Like an ‘Electric Shock’	449
‘The Man Who Would Save France’	452
France on the Eve of the Coup	462
The ‘Sword’	468
Negotiating a Role	470
The Plot	480

21	The Coup as Farce	
	The First Act	483
	The Second Act	490
	Denouement	495
	The Final Scene	502
	Epilogue	
	In Search of the Saviour	505
	In Search of Bonaparte	514
	<i>Notes</i>	521
	<i>Select Bibliography</i>	599
	<i>Acknowledgements</i>	627
	<i>Index</i>	629