This is the second time I've read this book. The first was a copy I borrowed a few years ago, and now I've purchased one for my own library. I try to collect good books I really loved reading, and "War an peace" easily falls into this category. It is an epic novel in the truest sense of "epic". Stretching over a period of several decades, it masterfully describes the history of Russia from the end of the 18th century and into the first third of the 1800s. At more than 1600 pages, it is definitely one of the longest novels out there, but unlike many much shorter bo... War and peace. COUNT LEO TOLSTOY was born in 1828 on the family estate of Yasnaya Polyanina in the Tula province. He studied Oriental languages and law at the University of Kazan but left before completing a degree. Published in Penguin Books 2006. Translation, "On War and Peace," and notes copyright (c) Anthony Briggs, 2005. Introduction copyright (c) Orlando Figes, 2005. All rights reserved. Writing from this perspective, Tolstoy saw a parallel between the Russia of the 1860s and the Russia that had arisen in the wars against Napoleon. War and Peace was originally conceived and drafted as a novel about the Decembrists, a group of liberal army officers who rose up in a failed attempt to impose a constitution on the Tsar in December 1825. War and Peace is also a historical novel. Napoleon himself is one of its main characters and a huge part of the book was about him. It's very impressive that Tolstoy was able to depict him very accurately in this novel. Besides him, Tolstoy was also very accurate about his descriptions of the historical events during that time like the Battle of Borodino, Napoleon's invasion of Moscow and others. This book doesn't just narrate the trials, problems and conflicts between the different characters in the novel but also provides philosophical insights to historical events. It's Between War and Peace book. Read 5 reviews from the world's largest community for readers. An emperor bows abjectly before his conquerors on the deck of ... Matthew Moten, a professor of history at West Point, Between War and Peace explores the endings of fourteen American wars, from the Revolution to the first Gulf War. Here, with incisive insight, narrative flourish, and strategic detail, some of America’s leading historians examine the progress of America’s wars: their initial aims often quite different from their ends, their predominant strategies, their final campaigns, the painful journeys out of war, and the ramifications of the wars’ ends for the nation’s future.