



The First World War

By Hew Strachan

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The First World War By Hew Strachan

“This serious, compact survey of the war’s history stands out as the most well-informed, accessible work available.” (*Los Angeles Times*)

Nearly a century has passed since the outbreak of World War I, yet as military historian Hew Strachan (winner of the 2016 Pritzker Literature Award) argues in this brilliant and authoritative new book, the legacy of the “war to end all wars” is with us still. The First World War was a truly global conflict from the start, with many of the most decisive battles fought in or directly affecting the Balkans, Africa, and the Ottoman Empire. Even more than World War II, the First World War continues to shape the politics and international relations of our world, especially in hot spots like the Middle East and the Balkans.

Strachan has done a masterful job of reexamining the causes, the major campaigns, and the consequences of the First World War, compressing a lifetime of knowledge into a single definitive volume tailored for the general reader. Written in crisp, compelling prose and enlivened with extraordinarily vivid photographs and detailed maps, The First World War re-creates this world-altering conflict both on and off the battlefield—the clash of ideologies between the colonial powers at the center of the war, the social and economic unrest that swept Europe both before and after, the military strategies employed with stunning success and tragic failure in the various theaters of war, the terms of peace and why it didn’t last.

Drawing on material culled from many countries, Strachan offers a fresh, clear-sighted perspective on how the war not only redrew the map of the world but also set in motion the most dangerous conflicts of today. Deeply learned, powerfully written, and soon to be released with a new introduction that commemorates the hundredth anniversary of the outbreak of the war, The First World War remains a landmark of contemporary history.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

One of the leading historians of WWI offers this superior one-volume version of his massive projected three-volume work, the first volume of which, *To Arms*, clocked in at 1250-plus pages last year. Strachan strenuously avoids the traditional focus on the Western Front (and the British) and the conventional assumptions of generals' stupidity and soldiers' valor. The war as he sees it was a race among generals on all sides to create new weapons and tactics faster than their opponents, a race that the Triple Entente won. It was also a race among soldiers to fight with these new weapons and tactics instead of raw courage and numbers wherever possible. Yet Russia and the Dual Monarchy of the Austro-Hungarian Empire were totally unfit for a large modern war (one reason the czar and his empire fell in 1917) and were a source of fatal weakness to Germany's alliance even before Italy changed sides. The political background (including the rising consciousness of colonial nationalities conscripted for the war), social consequences and diplomatic finagling all face an equal amount of revision, leaving the book organized more thematically than chronologically. Readers already familiar with the sequence of events in strict order will benefit most. But all readers will eventually be gripped, and even the most seasoned ones will praise the insights and the original choice of illustrations. This is likely to be the most indispensable one-volume work on the subject since John Keegan's *First World War*, and will draw serious readers to the larger work.

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From School Library Journal

Adult/High School—Strachan provides a comprehensive and gripping account of one of the most bloody and important wars in human history, bringing to readers a reality beyond its grim reputation. His greatest contribution is to restore the worldwide dimension to this conflict, for it was a war that was fought in Africa, the Middle East, the Pacific, and Eastern Europe, as well as in Western Europe. Furthermore, he shows the widespread effects of the war wherever it was fought, and he delineates the meaning the conflict had for its combatants. Some of his judgments might be debatable, but his accomplishment with this book is not. Well written and well illustrated with photographs, the volume lifts readers' eyes from the mud of Flanders.—*Ted Westervelt, Library of Congress, Washington, DC*

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From [Booklist](#)

One merely has to read daily newspaper accounts of current conflicts in the Balkans or Middle East to confirm that the effects of World War I are still unfolding. Strachan, a history professor at Oxford University, is currently writing a scholarly three-volume history of the war. This work, geared for the general reader, utilizes a traditional narrative approach, but Strachan also provides interesting sidelights that focus on such topics as French treatment of deserters and the attitudes and efforts of African colonial troops. Strachan doesn't shy away from the question of "war guilt." He clearly regards the war as a pan-European blunder, but he also indicts Germany for efforts to upset the European states system that had endured since the Congress of Vienna in 1815. This is a concise, well-written account of the causes, course, and effects of a shattering conflict. Text complemented by maps and rarely seen photographs. *Jay Freeman*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

James Snyder:

Here thing why this kind of The First World War are different and dependable to be yours. First of all reading through a book is good but it really depends in the content of computer which is the content is as delightful as food or not. The First World War giving you information deeper including different ways, you can find any guide out there but there is no book that similar with The First World War. It gives you thrill reading journey, its open up your current eyes about the thing in which happened in the world which is possibly can be happened around you. It is easy to bring everywhere like in recreation area, café, or even in your method home by train. For anyone who is having difficulties in bringing the paper book maybe the form of The First World War in e-book can be your substitute.

Adrian Woodson:

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Johnny Powers:

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Pamela Eckert:

Within this era which is the greater person or who has ability in doing something more are more treasured than other. Do you want to become among it? It is just simple strategy to have that. What you need to do is just spending your time almost no but quite enough to get a look at some books. One of many books in the top checklist in your reading list is definitely The First World War. This book which is qualified as The Hungry Hillside can get you closer in becoming precious person. By looking upward and review this reserve you can get many advantages.

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