World War I

Non-Fiction
about the Great War

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Overviews

Hochschild, Adam. To End All Wars: a story of loyalty and rebellion, 1914-1918.
Hochschild brings the Great War to life as never before. He focuses on the long-ignored moral drama of the war's critics, alongside its generals and heroes.

Keegan, John. The First World War.
Probing the mystery of how a civilization at the height of its achievement could have propelled itself into such a ruinous conflict, Keegan takes us behind the scenes of the negotiations among Europe’s crowned heads (all of them related to one another by blood) and analyzes the military conflicts of WWI. See Also by Keegan: An Illustrated History of the First World War.

Livesy, Anthony. Great Battles of World War I.
A survey of the war's major battles and tactics with many charts, photos and illustrations.

G. J. Meyer draws on exhaustive research to bring to life the story of how the Great War reduced Europe's mightiest empires to rubble, killed twenty million people, and cracked the foundations of the world we live in today.

This challenging and controversial analysis of the war on the Western Front from 1914 to 1918 reveals how and why the Germans consistently defeated the French and the British with one-half to one-third fewer casualties than the Allies, and how American troops in 1918 saved the Allies from defeat and a negotiated peace with the Germans.

A succinct history of the Great War by a renowned historian.

Tuchman, Barbara. The Guns of August.
In this Pulitzer Prize-winning account, renowned historian Barbara W. Tuchman re-creates the first month of World War I: thirty days in the summer of 1914 that determined the course of the conflict, the century, and ultimately our present world.

Willmott, H.P. World War I.
An integrated history of the war in which text, illustrations, graphics, maps, and timelines combine to give a unique portrait of World War I.

Specific Histories

Brown, Carrie. Rosie’s Mom: forgotten women workers of the First World War.
Although the World War II posters of Rosie the Riveter remind us of the women who contributed to the nation's war effort in the 1940s, the women workers of World War I are nearly forgotten. By the end of the war, more than a million American women had become involved in war production. They prove that women could be
trained in technical fields, forced hazardous industries to adopt new health and safety measures, and they had made a powerful argument for women's voting rights.

**Carter, Miranda. George, Nicholas and Wilhelm: three royal cousins and the road to World War I.**
Carter uses the cousins' correspondence and a host of historical sources to tell the tragicomic story of three men and their tiny, glittering, solipsistic world that was often preposterously out of kilter with its times, struggling to stay in command of politics and world events as history overtook it.

**Heyman, Neil M. Daily life during World War I.**
What was life really like for the ordinary soldier, sailor, airman, and civilian during World War I? Was it different for the British, French, and Americans than it was for the Germans? This title brings to life the military and civilian experiences of ordinary people on both sides of the war.

**Macintyre, Ben. The Englishman’s Daughter.**
In the first terrifying days of WWI, four British soldiers found themselves trapped behind enemy lines on the western front. They were forced to hide in a tiny French village, whose inhabitants made the courageous decision to shelter the fugitives. Betrayed after an illegitimate child was born, the soldiers were tried as spies and executed by the Germans. Who betrayed them? This is the mystery the author explores.

**MacMillan, Margaret. Paris 1919: six months that changed the world.**
A scintillating view of those dramatic and fateful days when much of the modern world was sketched out, when countries were created--Iraq, Yugoslavia, Israel--whose troubles haunt us still.

**Massie, Robert K. Castles of Steel: Britain, Germany and the winning of the Great War at sea.**
Over the course of four years, the lines on the Western Front moved scarcely at all. For the true story of military upheaval, we must look to the sea. Massie elevates to its proper historical importance the role of sea power in the winning of the Great War. See also, **Dreadnought: Britain, Germany and the coming of the Great War.**

**Persico, Joseph E. Eleventh month, eleventh day, eleventh hour: Armistice Day, 1918, World War I and it’s violent climax.**
Persico powerfully reconstructs Armistice Day as an emblem of the war.

**Preston, Diana. Lusitania: an epic tragedy.**
An account of the 1915 sinking of the Lusitania offers a portrait of early twentieth-century maritime history and the terrible impact of the disaster on the course of World War I.

**Rubin, Richard. The Last of the Doughboys : the forgotten generation and their forgotten world war.**
In 2003, Rubin managed to find dozens of American veterans of World War I and interview them. They were the final survivors of the millions who made up the American Expeditionary Forces. Self-reliant, humble, and stoic, they kept their stories to themselves for a lifetime, then shared them at the last possible moment, so that they, and the World War they won, might at last be remembered.

**Toland, John. No Man’s Land: 1918, the last year of the Great War.**
It's the story of 1918, the year the Germans launched a series of massive offensives to break the stalemate on the Western Front--a vivid chronicle from diaries, newspapers, and interviews.