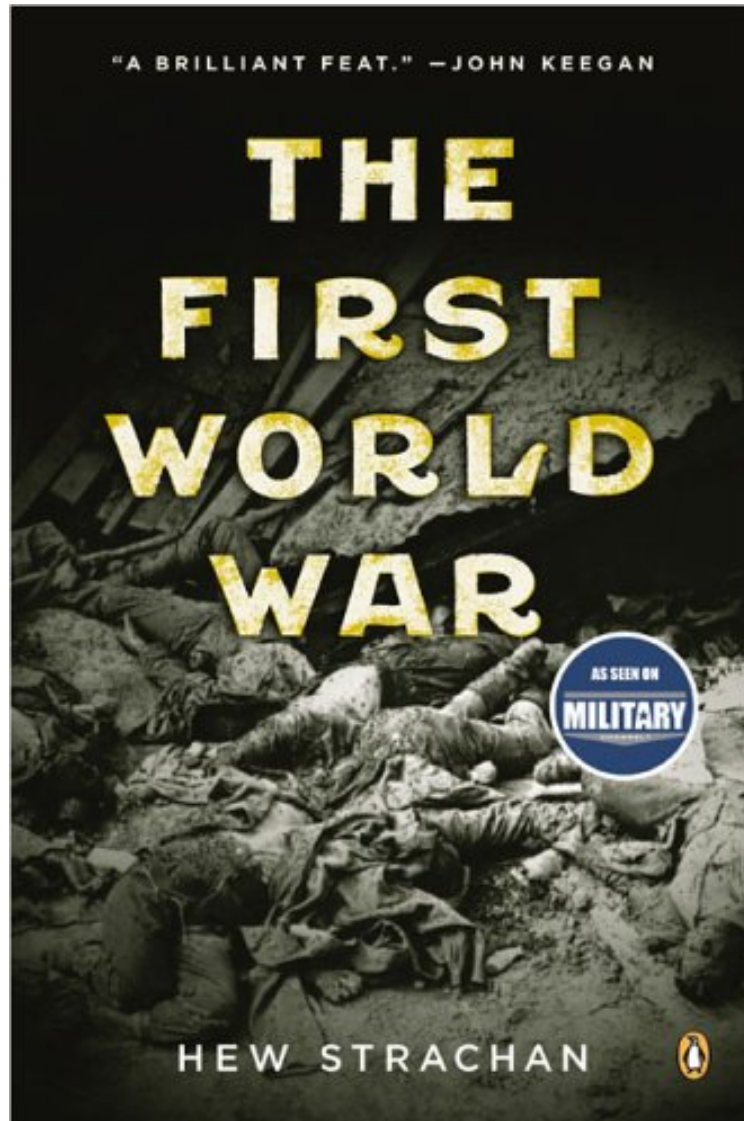


The First World War

Hew Strachan

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Hew Strachan : The First World War before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The First World War:

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Not the best book on WWI By JenniferI was recently assigned this book for one of my graduate courses in History. The first half of the book almost seems completely separate and not connected to the material in the second half of the book. It fails to paint a wholistic picture of WWI, but rather, zeroes in on odd details only known by those who have specialties in particular battles. As you read more, the book does get

better, but only marginally. There are also quite a few typos and grammatical errors in this book. Overall I'm disappointed. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Joseph J. Fox Very readable 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Highly recommend By Paul T. Davis This program spent a lot of time about the parts of the war that have been ignored by most authors. Extremely well done in my opinion.

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.

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. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. 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 Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. 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 Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved