

World War I

Recommended List of Books

General History:

General History

1. Marshall, S.L.A. *World War I*. New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2001.

Marshall explores the Great War as a historian and as a Brigadier General.

2. Halpern, Paul G. *Naval History of World War I*. Routledge: Naval Institute Press, 1995.

Halpern discusses naval engagements involving navies from all the countries that participated in the war. He also explores riverine submarine warfare in the Danube River and the strategies of operations that may not have occurred.

3. Farwell, Byron. *The Great War in Africa: 1914-1918*. New York: Norton, W.W. & Company, Inc., 1989.

Farwell discuss the Allied fight against the German colonies in East Africa. He uses anecdotes to emphasize the soldiers' experiences of disease and bush fighting.

4. De Groot, Gerard. *The First World War*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2001.
De Groot discusses in depth the various fronts of World War I, including the battles at sea. De Groot also discusses the diplomatic and social origins of the war.



5. Lloyd Clark, *World War I: An Illustrated History*, (Helicon Publishing, 2001).

Clark discusses World War I with the useful visual aids like maps, photos, documents, posters, and newspaper

articles. Clark focuses on several aspects of the war such as weapons and tactics, key battles and events, and quotes from soldiers telling what they saw and experienced on the front.

6. Gary Sheffield, *Forgotten Victory*, (Headline Book Publishing, 2001).
Sheffield presents reappraisal of World War I by comparing the realities of the war to numerous types of stereotypes and myths from various films, books, and documentaries.

7. Edited by Tom Donovan, *The Hazy Red Hell – Fighting Experiences on the Western Front, 1914-1918* (London: Book Club Associates, 1999).

Collection of 50 first hand experiences of battles and trenches on the Western Front covering the first months of war to the last month of World War I.

8. James E. Edmonds, *Military Operations, France, and Belgium, 1914-1918*, (London, 1925-48).

The author James E. Edmonds wrote a multi-volume of the British military history on World War I focusing on the Western Front. The series look at various campaigns such as the Somme, Gallipoli, Egyptian, and Palestine that the British took part. The volumes also discuss weaponry including tank usage.

9. James E. Edmonds, *A Short History of World War I*, (Oxford, 1951).

The author James E. Edmonds was commissioned to compile an accounting of World War I from the British perspective for an official history. Edmonds' work looks at all of the factions involved in World War I. Edmonds focused mainly on the Western Front, all of his other

documentation on the other fronts are somewhat short summaries.

10. Marc Ferro, *The Great War 1914-1918*, (London, 1973).

Ferro looks at World War I from the perspectives of the millions of soldiers and their families at home.

11. Martin Gilbert, *The First World War: A Complete History*. (New York: Henry Holt & Co., 1994).

Gilbert's history on the First World War covers all the major fronts in the war and even looks at the various events that occurred. The author also discusses the introduction of new technologies in warfare such as submarines, airplanes, poison gases, and tanks. The author discusses the war in a chronological manner that allows the reader to follow along the events of World War I.

12. John Keegan, *The First World War*. (London: Hutchinson, 1998).

Keegan describes the various theaters of operation and even explores the minds of Joffe, Haig and Hindenburg, and the generals involved. Keegan describes the diplomatic efforts to avoid war.

13. Robert Green, *World War I*, (Farmington Hills, MI: Gale Group, 2007). Green uses personal profiles of soldiers, politicians, and generals on both sides of the conflict to create a history of World War I.

Economic

14. Keynes, John Maynard. *The Economic Consequences of Peace*. New York: Harcourt, Brace and Howe, 1920.

Keynes critiques the resolutions drawn up by the victors of World War I in the Treaty of Versailles. He correctly foresees the economic and social consequences the harsh reparations caused.

15. Ferguson, Niall. *The Pity of War: Explaining World War I*. New York: Basic Books, 2000.

Ferguson uses economic and financial data and connects them to political and military events. The author's focus is on the British side of the Western Front.

Literature

16. Bergonzi, Bernard. *Hero's Twilight: A Study of the Literature of the Great War*. London: Constable, 1965.

Bergonzi's book looks at various writers both civilian and soldiers on the front's writings. Some of the writers and works discussed in this book are fictional, autobiographies and poetic. Some writers looked at in this book are H.G. Wells, Charles Sorley, Wilfred Owen, Edmund Blunden and D.H. Lawrence.

17. Fussell, Paul. *The Great War and Modern Memory*. USA: Oxford University Press, 1975.

Fussell uses literature and poetry of the age to explain how British soldiers perceived the war.

Biography and Memoirs

18. Blunden, Edmund. *Undertones of War, 1928*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1956.

Undertones of War is an autobiography written by the poet Edmund Blunden. Blunden wrote his combative experiences down that showed his struggle and despair to survive a terrible war while in the trenches.

19. Clay, Catrine. *King, Kaiser, Tsar: Three Royal Cousins Who Led the World to War*. New York: Walker & Co., 2007.

This is a story of the events that led cousins George V of England, Wilhelm II of Germany, and Nicholas II of Russia to go to war with and against each other. The author uses previously unpublished royal letters and diaries to chronicle their overlapping struggle for power.

20. *Letters from the Front, 1898-1945*.

Edited by Michael E. Stevens, Sean P. Adams, and Ellen D. Goldlust. Madison, WI: Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 1992.

This is the first volume in the *Voices of the Wisconsin Past Series*, which tells the stories of men and women who served in the Spanish-American War, World War I, and World War II. The reader will see the perspectives on the war from farmers, factory workers, and office workers from Wisconsin.

21. Vaughn, David K., Hughes, George, and Hughes, Gerard. [Flying for the Air Service: The Hughes Brothers in World War I](#). Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin UP, 1998.

The author follows the journey of George and Gerard Hughes, as they become pilots in the young American Air Service. Vaughn uses letters and comments from the brothers to examine the early years of American war aviation.

22. Arthur, Max with an introduction by Martin Gilbert, [Forgotten Voices of the Great War: A History of World War I in the Words of the Men and Women Who Were There](#). Guilford, Conn.: Globe Pequot Press, 2004.

Arthur uses the Imperial War Museum Sound Archive to recreate first-hand accounts of the war as told by American, British, Canadian, French, and German soldiers and civilians.



23. Pendergast, Tom. [World War I: Primary Sources](#). Farmington Hills, MI: Gale Group, 2001.

Pendergast has created a collection of excerpted speeches, novels, poems, letters, artwork, and diary entries with an introduction to each text for historical/chronological context.

24. Wigle, Shari Lynn. [Pride of America, We're With You: The Letters of Grace Anderson, U.S. Army Nurse Corps](#).

[World War I](#). Rockville, MD: Seaboard Press, 2007.

Wigle pieces together Grace Anderson's experiences during World War I with letters and diary entries. The author focuses on the human side of war and the difficulty of the postwar years.

Post War Effects:

25. Kramer, Alan. [Dynamic of Destruction: Culture and Mass Killing in the First World War](#). Oxford: Oxford UP, 2007.

Kramer uses eyewitness accounts to help him explain the psychological impact of the atrocities committed by all the major players in World War I.

26. Andelman, David A. [A Shattered Peace: Versailles 1919 and the Price We Pay Today](#). Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, Inc, 2008.

Andelman explains the peace conference at Versailles as one of the most important moments in history. He shows that the repercussions of Versailles still affect us today by focusing on smaller countries such as Vietnam and Korea rather than France, Britain, and Germany.

27. Persico, Joseph E. [Eleventh Month, Eleventh Day, Eleventh Hour: Armistice Day 1918: World War I and Its Violent Climax](#). New York: Random House, 2005.

Persico follows the lives of ordinary soldiers, as well as Corporal Adolph Hitler, Captain Harry Truman, and Colonels Douglas MacArthur and George Patton through the final hours of World War I.

Trenches:

28. Ellis, John. [Eye Deep in Hell: Trench Warfare in World War I](#). Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1977.

Ellis describes in detail how the trenches were made and their numerous characteristics. Ellis goes into detail of the soldier's lives in the trenches and the battles they fought. Trench warfare claimed more than six million lives.

29. Edited by Dr. Gary Scheffield, War on the Western Front: in the trenches of World War I. Osprey Publishing 2007.

This book examines the day-to-day lives of various soldiers like the American Doughboy, German Storm trooper, British Tommy and the French Poilu. Book also looks at the improvements on weaponry, including the introduction of the tank. This book also examines the trenches themselves and the battles the soldiers fought.

30. Bull, Stephan. Battle Tactics Trench Warfare. Casemate Havertown PA 2003. Bull describes in detail trench warfare and its various components as well as the people and weapons involved in the war.



Miscellaneous:

31. Debauche, Lesile Midkiff. Reel Patriotism: The Movies and World War I. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin UP, 1997.

Debauche examines the role the American film industry played in World War I. The author illustrates how films helped the government recruit support for the war effort including rationing, buying war bonds, and enlistment.

32. Weintraub, Stanley. Silent Night: The Story of the World War I Christmas Truce. New York: Penguin, 2002.

Weintraub describes the Christmas of 1914 when for one day, the soldiers of France, Germany and Britain forgot the war and came together to celebrate. The author explains how the event came to pass, what happened during the truce, and why it never happened again.