



World War I

H.P. Willmott

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A dramatic new illustrated account of the first global conflict.

World War I Details

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From Reader Review World War I for online ebook

Fehaylitz says

Både tyngre og mer omfattende enn det jeg trodde den skulle være. Men jeg har lært mye nytt.

Heather says

I love this book from a visual standpoint. In true DK Publishing fashion, the photographs and graphics take center stage making this a very visually appealing read. It is not a quintessential reference book, but rather a good introduction to WWI that shows some of the small details that are overlooked in typical reference books.

Kerry Johanson says

I wanted to read a book about WWI because I really knew nothing about it. This was well done and had many fascinating pictures but like another reviewer I don't have enough understanding of military maneuvers to understand the details about any of that. There were a number of other things I learned that were also fascinating that were affected by the war.

Audrey says

In general, this is a very good introduction to the first world war. It is certainly worth the read. It is very thorough, and the pictures and quotes throughout really serve to give you an idea of what was going on. It did, however, have the problem of getting lost in the details. I am not familiar enough with either military tactics or the geography of France for the detailed descriptions of each major battle to mean much to me. I would have liked to know, for example, why the Eastern Front was so much more mobile than the Western, or why, in 1918, the Germans were suddenly able to advance miles in one day over the Somme battlefield, while the British had (in 1916) sacrificed hundreds of thousands of lives over the course of nearly six months to gain that much. Perhaps because of the complicated nature of the answers, the book did not really give satisfactory answers to such questions. For this reason, I find that I understand little more about WHY World War I was fought the way it was than I did before. However, the descriptions of Europe before and after the war are excellent, and it includes every theatre of the war, not just the more prominent ones.

Shyamali Mandal says

Good

Timons Esaias says

I picked this up in one of the Smithsonian museums (the 2009 edition), thinking they probably wouldn't be offering it if it were too cheesy, and because of the wonderful selection of well-reproduced photographs and illustrations. I had rather low expectations for the text, which was secondary for me. This being the hundredth anniversary of the last year of the War, I decided to read it, ten pages a day, to refresh my memory.

I was pleasantly surprised. I found a few typos, but I wasn't finding obvious errors. Willmott tries not to be too editorial in his opinions of the commanders and political figures, but he lays the evidence down pretty clearly. Kings, Emperors, and Prime Ministers get very little coverage. He is rather generous to Woodrow Wilson, noting that Germany and Austria-Hungary grasped the offered 14 Points when they agreed to the Armistice, but Wilson immediately added extortionate demands. The book is good at explaining that Germany and its allies were unravelling completely and suddenly, so that the details of the process hardly mattered. What I'd complain about is that it is insufficiently clear that the 14 Points ended up being meaningless in the actual negotiations and surrenders.

The selection of topics and illustrations is impressively efficient and wide-ranging. I also like the inclusion of several pages of information on war memorials and museums around the world. If you want a sense of the War and its period, this is a sound choice.

Nathaniel says

I picked this up when I heard a story about Harry Patch, the last veteran of WWI, and realized that I only knew the basics about the war. Sadly, he passed away before I finished the book (it was not a quick read - think textbook with extra pictures). The book was a good overview of all theaters of the conflict and major political events. Someone who is not familiar with history will likely find this book too deep and someone very familiar with WWI will likely find it too simplistic, but it was at a good level for someone in between. Personally, I appreciated all the pictures, though I would have liked more maps to space out the chronology of the battles. A good pick if you'd like to learn more about WWI, but not something you'd likely recommend to your friends as a "must read" (unless they wanted to know more about WWI, of course).

Gary Brecht says

Owning this book is like having access to a museum. Photos, maps, and illustrations accompany an excellent narrative on the major events and battles of the Great War. This book does more than simply recount the battles. It informs us of the cultural changes that resulted as a consequence of the 4-year conflict. For example, the role of women, the effects on civilian populations due to the naval blockade, the disastrous appearance of the Spanish flu, and other tangential matters are touched upon. For those interested in world history this book is a "must have."

Evan says

So far I've found this is a great book describing the battles and events of World War I. It opens with a good summation of the events leading to the outbreak of war and then leads into descriptions of the battles and good/bad decisions made from all sides - each one explained in chronological order and in good concise detail. Plus it's got a lot of great insights into the equipment each army used down to the uniforms and standard issued armaments and a myriad of other details plus great maps and diagrams and descriptions of the battle laid out in graphic detail. The maps aren't necessarily the best - they can be quite confusing at times - but they still give the book much more depth than your ordinary text book which usually assumes you either know the terrain or have your own map book next to you. And each page is filled with period context pictures filling in all the gaps in your imagination. So far it's been a great read.

Sebastien says

I am endlessly fascinated by WWI. This book has a ton of information, and lots of well-chosen photos. Nice lay-out.

Strawberry says

Von diesem Buch hätte sich mein Geschichtslehrer mal eine Scheibe abschneiden können. Ich kann mich noch an endlose öde Stunden erinnern, in denen es um die Gründe für den Kriegsausbruch ging und später dann um den Abschluss des Vertrags von Versailles. Doch was während der vier Kriegsjahre passiert ist, darüber haben wir kaum gesprochen.

Ich bin jedenfalls sehr froh, dass ich mich für den Dorling Kindersley Bildband entschieden habe und nicht nur ein kleines Buch aus der Beck'schen Reihe genommen habe. Es ist wirklich gut geschrieben und durch die Menge an Bildmaterial sehr anschaulich. Im Großen und Ganzen ist es chronologisch aufgebaut und dann noch einmal kapitelweise in die einzelnen Kriegsschauplätzen aufgeteilt. Zusätzliche Infokästen informieren über wichtige Personen.

Ich kann dieses Buch jedem empfehlen, der sich für Geschichte interessiert.

Risto says

An excellent illustrated overview on the Big War. Covers basics of backgrounds, events and aftermath. Enjoyed every page! Can recommend to anyone interested in WW1.

Mark Tuminello says

As others have said, this is a great intro/summary of the events leading up to and during the first world war. What I think is missing is more of the human element. I suppose Dan Carlin has ruined me for dryer books like this.

Kristinn Valdimarsson says

Þessi bók er góð sem inngangsrít fyrir þá sem hafa litla þekkingu á WWI og einnig má nota hana sem handbók því henni er skipt niður í skýr tímabil og í henni eru nokkuð góð kort (þó þau séu einföld). Meira gagn gerir hún hins vegar ekki því þó textinn flæði vel þá er aldrei farið djúpt í neina atburði. Líkt og með aðrar bækur frá DK sem ég hef lesið þá er bókin skemmtilega uppsett og myndræn nokkuð sem gerir hana aðlaðandi fyrir lestrarhesta.

Martin says

Very well written with excellent graphic design. I'm putting it right up there with Keegan's book as the best single-volume summary of WWI. No one book can cover everything or go into enough depth on any discrete topic when covering an event as vast and complex as the Great War, but this book is quite good at covering most topics of importance at a meaningful depth.

I bought this book from a close out bargain table at B&N. I wish I'd bought several copies to give to friends.
