



Understanding World War I: A Concise History

By Joseph V Micallef

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It started with a botched murder. By the time it ended, over 16 million people had lost their lives. Seventy million men took up arms; nine million of them never returned home. More than four times that number had been wounded. It was supposed to be the war to end all war. Instead, the Great War began a cycle of violence that would shape the 20th century, bring about another world war within a generation, spawn a cold war that would divide the continent of Europe for half a century, and leave echoes that still reverberate in the 21st century.

In this concise yet comprehensive history of World War I, the conduct of the war is reviewed, from the trenches of the Western Front to the frozen fields of the Eastern Front, from the war in the multiple theaters of the Middle East to the war in Africa, China, and the South Pacific. This was the first war fought in three dimensions: on land and sea, beneath the waves, and in the air. It heralded the beginning of air power and the emergence of submarine warfare.

It was the first war of the industrial age. It mobilized the industrial might and the scientific genius of the developed nations and galvanized their populations into total war. It redrew the map of Europe, reshuffled its colonies, and brought four great empires to an inglorious end. It heralded the rise of a new world order as millions of American dough boys crossed the Atlantic in defense of European liberty. It underscored the twilight of the old world while the new world flexed its industrial and financial power. By the end of the war, 90% of the world's population had chosen sides making the Great War a truly global war.

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This 4 1/2 hour DVD is the perfect accompaniment to the book, providing additional detail and an historical overview of WWI, featuring rare B&W and color archival footage, informative maps,

and expert commentary from noted historians.

NTSC, Color & B&W, Playable in All Regions, Run Time: 4 1/2 hours.

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Editorial Review

Review

Reading it leads to a surprisingly comprehensive understanding of the First World War ... this short book deals with every facet of the conflict its historical setting, its economics, its politics, its psychology and not just its military aspects. Few authors could so authoritatively put the story of World War I inside the history of western civilization.

This brief work...is the best shortcut I know of this momentous conflict ... if you have to settle for just one book, this is it. --General Merrill A. McPeak, USAF (RET.)

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