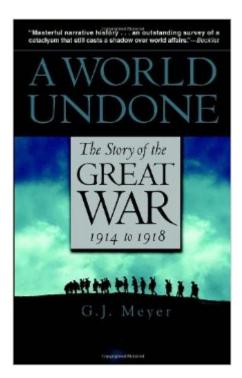
The book was found

A World Undone: The Story Of The Great War, 1914 To 1918





Synopsis

The First World War is one of historyâ [™]s greatest tragedies. In this remarkable and intimate account, author G. J. Meyer draws on exhaustive research to bring to life the story of how the Great War reduced Europeâ [™]s mightiest empires to rubble, killed twenty million people, and cracked the foundations of the world we live in today. The First World War is one of historyâ [™]s greatest tragedies. In this remarkable and intimate account, author G. J. Meyer draws on exhaustive research to bring to life the story of how the Great War reduced Europeâ [™]s mightiest empires to rubble, killed twenty million people, and cracked the foundations of the world we live in today. The Great War reduced Europeâ [™]s mightiest empires to rubble, killed twenty million people, and cracked the foundations of the world we live in today. From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

Paperback: 816 pages Publisher: Delacorte Press; Reprint edition (May 29, 2007) Language: English ISBN-10: 0553382403 ISBN-13: 978-0553382402 Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 1.5 x 8.2 inches Shipping Weight: 1.9 pounds (View shipping rates and policies) Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews (387 customer reviews) Best Sellers Rank: #45,590 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #45 in Books > History > Military > World War I #475 in Books > History > Europe #1226 in Books > History > World

Customer Reviews

The first chapter of the book "A World Undone: The Story of the Great War, 1914 to 1918" by G.J. Meyer begins with a detailed narrative of that fateful date in Sarejevo when an Austrian archduke and his wife are gunned down by a nineteen year-old Serbian nationalist. I was alarmed when I realized that this entire chapter was strikingly identical to the first chapter of Edmond Taylor's "The Fall of the Dynasties, 1905-1922", which is one of my favorite but an oft-overlooked work of the time period. Thus, I was not surprised when I turned to Meyer's bibliography and found Taylor's work cited as a source for this chapter. At that point, I was fearful that "A World Undone" was going to be nothing more than a pitiful mashing of previous historical works relating to the time period (similar to Joseph Persico's "Eleventh Hour, Eleventh Day, Eleventh Month.")Despite the frequency of texts throughout Meyer's book with stark similarity to existing literature, "A World Undone" does have several redeeming qualities. The author does provide some analyses that deviate from the status quo, such as depicting Moltke the younger as the executor of an impossibly doomed Schleiffen Plan rather than the meddler who transformed an intrinsic path towards victory into defeat. Meyer also balances the traditional views of the Great War with contemporary accounts that have emerged in the last decade, such as his acknowledgement of the Entente's self-delusion that Germany's casualties were substantially greater than their own, when in fact the opposite was true (as cited by John Mosier's "The Myth of the Great War").

G. W. Meyer takes on an enormous task in this book. He tries to tell not just what happened leading up to and through WWI, but the important historical background to give the events context. He pairs a Background chapter with what we can call each 'Events' chapter. This is an extremely creative way to write about what is already a huge tableau. It provides the unfamiliar reader some context, but is inevitably frustrating to those who have gone deeper. By the structure of the work, Meyer has taken on the task, for example, of summarizing the over 1000 year history of the Hapsburg Empire in ten or fifteen pages. So, over-generalizations and the occasional plain error creep in. For an example, at one point Meyer states that Russia had never been made to compromise with other European states--apparently glossing over their defeats by Napoleon and the entire Crimean War. These grate on the reader who has read more on each of these Background chapters. That being said, in a book for a general audience for whom this is perhaps their first introduction to European history of the period, this is an enormous achievement. Meyer takes a lens from far above what is happening, attempting to show the over-arching reasons why certain things happened. He is more likely to discuss the idea of Ludendorff creating a flexible defense, rather than having troops in a rigid and fixed front line, than he is to talk about what happened at a certain hill or dale. You get the overview--why were the Germans almost successful in 1918 after years of stalemate--rather than they took this town or this fort. When a city is mentioned, he tells you why this place was important.

Download to continue reading...

A World Undone: The Story of the Great War, 1914 to 1918 Poilu: The World War I Notebooks of Corporal Louis Barthas, Barrelmaker, 1914-1918 World War One: 1914-1918 (Campfire Graphic Novels) A Shipyard at War: Unseen Photographs from John Brown's Clydebank, 1914-1918 Undone: A Story of Making Peace With an Unexpected Life Bait & Switch: Alphas Undone, Book 1 The Great War at Sea: A Naval Atlas, 1914-1919 A History of US: War, Peace, and All That Jazz: 1918-1945 A History of US Book Nine Wings of War: Airborne Warfare 1918-1945 The Great Circus Train Wreck of 1918:: Tragedy on the Indiana Lakeshore (Disaster) Great Circus Train Wreck of 1918, The: Tragedy on the Indiana Lakeshore (Disaster) The War That Ended Peace: The Road to 1914 The Grand Old Man of Maine: Selected Letters of Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain, 1865-1914 (Civil War America) Propaganda for War: The Campaign Against American Neutrality, 1914-1917 The Sleepwalkers: How Europe Went to War in 1914 Catastrophe 1914: Europe Goes to War Classic Military Aircraft: The World's Fighting Aircraft 1914-1945 The Assassination of the Archduke: Sarajevo 1914 and the Romance That Changed the World O Sisters Ain't You Happy?: Gender, Family, and Community Among the Harvard and Shirley Shakers, 1781-1918 (Women and Gender in Religion) Making Modernism Soviet: The Russian Avant-Garde in the Early Soviet Era, 1918-1928

<u>Dmca</u>