

The Guns of August: The Outbreak of World War I; Barbara W. Tuchman's Great War Series (Modern Library 100 Best Nonfiction Books)

By Barbara W. Tuchman

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Selected by the Modern Library as one of the 100 best nonfiction books of all time

***The Proud Tower*, the Pulitzer Prize–winning *The Guns of August*, and *The Zimmerman Telegram* comprise Barbara W. Tuchman’s classic histories of the First World War era**

In this landmark, Pulitzer Prize–winning account, renowned historian Barbara W. Tuchman re-creates the first month of World War I: thirty days in the summer of 1914 that determined the course of the conflict, the century, and ultimately our present world. Beginning with the funeral of Edward VII, Tuchman traces each step that led to the inevitable clash. And inevitable it was, with all sides plotting their war for a generation. Dizzily comprehensive and spectacularly portrayed with her famous talent for evoking the characters of the war’s key players, Tuchman’s magnum opus is a classic for the ages.

Praise for *The Guns of August*

“A brilliant piece of military history which proves up to the hilt the force of Winston Churchill’s statement that the first month of World War I was ‘a drama never surpassed.’”—*Newsweek*

“More dramatic than fiction . . . a magnificent narrative—beautifully organized, elegantly phrased, skillfully paced and sustained.”—*Chicago Tribune*

“A fine demonstration that with sufficient art rather specialized history can be raised to the level of literature.”—*The New York Times*

“[*The Guns of August*] has a vitality that transcends its narrative virtues, which

are considerable, and its feel for characterizations, which is excellent.”—***The Wall Street Journal***

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Editorial Review

Review

“Fascinating . . . One of the finest works of history written . . . A splendid and glittering performance.”

—*The New York Times*

“MORE DRAMATIC THAN FICTION . . . A MAGNIFICENT NARRATIVE . . . elegantly phrased, skillfully paced and sustained . . . The product of painstaking and sophisticated research.”

—*Chicago Tribune*

“A BRILLIANT PIECE OF MILITARY HISTORY which proves up to the hilt the force of Winston Churchill’s statement that the first month of World War I was ‘a drama never surpassed.’ A writer with an impeccable sense of telling detail, Mrs. Tuchman is able to evoke both the enormous pattern of the tragedy and the minutiae which make it human.”

—*Newsweek*

“[A] BEAUTIFULLY ORGANIZED, COMPELLING NARRATIVE.”

—*San Francisco Chronicle*

“AN EPIC NEVER FLAGGING IN SUSPENSE . . . It seemed hardly possible that anything new of significance could be said about the prelude to and the first month of World War I. But this is exactly what Mrs. Tuchman has succeeded in doing . . . by transforming the drama’s protagonists as well as its immense supporting cast, from half-legendary and half shadowy figures into full-dimensional, believable persons.”

—*The Christian Science Monitor*

“EXCELLENT . . . [*The Guns of August*] has a vitality that transcends its narrative virtues.”

—*The Wall Street Journal*

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From the Publisher

To many people, W.W.I seems like ancient history. To me, it is the most fascinating of wars. It is when the modern world began, or, in Barbara Tuchman's opinion, when the 19th Century ended. My late Great Uncle Jimmy, a Brit, joined the Army at the age of 16 by lying that he was 18 after being encouraged to do so by a recruiter. Where did they send him? To Ireland, to train horses for the cavalry! This was the same war that saw the debut of the airplane, submarine, tank, poison gas, machine gun, flamethrower, and hand grenade!

In this Pulitzer Prize-winning history, Tuchman writes about the turning point of the year 1914--the month leading up to the war and the first month of the war. This was the last gasp of the Gilded Age, of Kings and Kaisers and Czars, of pointed or plumed hats, colored uniforms, and all the pomp and romance that went along with war. How quickly it all changed, and how horrible it became. Tuchman is masterful at portraying this abrupt change from 19th to 20th Century. And how she manages to make the story utterly suspenseful, when we already know the outcome, is the mark of a great writer, and a classic volume of history.

Doug Grad, Editor

From the Inside Flap

"More dramatic than fiction...THE GUNS OF AUGUST is a magnificent narrative--beautifully organized, elegantly phrased, skillfully paced and sustained....The product of painstaking and sophisticated research."
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Historian and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Barbara Tuchman has brought to life again the people and events that led up to World War I. With attention to fascinating detail, and an intense knowledge of her subject and its characters, Ms. Tuchman reveals, for the first time, just how the war started, why, and why it could have been stopped but wasn't. A classic historical survey of a time and a people we all need to know more about, THE GUNS OF AUGUST will not be forgotten.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Theresa Davenport:

The experience that you get from The Guns of August: The Outbreak of World War I; Barbara W. Tuchman's Great War Series (Modern Library 100 Best Nonfiction Books) may be the more deep you rooting the information that hide within the words the more you get considering reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to comprehend but The Guns of August: The Outbreak of World War I; Barbara W. Tuchman's Great War Series (Modern Library 100 Best Nonfiction Books) giving you enjoyment feeling of reading. The article writer conveys their point in a number of way that can be understood by means of anyone who read the idea because the author of this reserve is well-known enough. This kind of book also makes your own vocabulary increase well. So it is easy to understand then can go along with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We advise you for having that The Guns of August: The Outbreak of World War I; Barbara W. Tuchman's Great War Series (Modern Library 100 Best Nonfiction Books) instantly.

Deana Broom:

This book untitled The Guns of August: The Outbreak of World War I; Barbara W. Tuchman's Great War Series (Modern Library 100 Best Nonfiction Books) to be one of several books that will best seller in this year, honestly, that is because when you read this guide you can get a lot of benefit upon it. You will easily to buy this specific book in the book retailer or you can order it by means of online. The publisher with this book sells the e-book too. It makes you more readily to read this book, since you can read this book in your Mobile phone. So there is no reason for you to past this reserve from your list.

James Babb:

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Library 100 Best Nonfiction Books) offer you a new experience in reading through a book.

Lenora Dryer:

Is it you who having spare time and then spend it whole day by watching television programs or just resting on the bed? Do you need something totally new? This The Guns of August: The Outbreak of World War I; Barbara W. Tuchman's Great War Series (Modern Library 100 Best Nonfiction Books) can be the answer, oh how comes? A fresh book you know. You are therefore out of date, spending your time by reading in this brand-new era is common not a geek activity. So what these guides have than the others?

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