



# World War One: A Short History

By Norman Stone

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In *World War One*, Norman Stone, one of the world's greatest historians, has achieved the almost impossible task of writing a terse and witty short history of the war. A captivating, brisk narrative, *World War One* is Stone's masterful effort to make sense of one of the twentieth century's pivotal conflicts.

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### Editorial Review

#### From Publishers Weekly

Stone is as unconventional as he is brilliant, and this provocative interpretation of the Great War combines impressive command of the literature with a telling eye for relevant facts and a sensitive ear for telling epigrams. Stone presents a Europe that in 1914 bestrode the world like the proverbial colossus. Four years later, the continent faced a spectrum of disasters: shattered economies, shattered societies, shattered lives and shattered illusions. Stone demonstrates the contingent nature of the war's outbreak and analyzes the continued failure to achieve decision on the Western Front until 1917. Stone specializes in Great War Russia, does a first-rate job of presenting the consequences of the collapse of four empires: Hapsburg, German, tsarist and Ottoman. He challenges current interpretations of the postwar treaties, presenting them as a list of failures. The attempt to integrate the world economy collapsed. The postwar expansion of colonial empires proved ephemeral. The League of Nations declined into irrelevance. Stone reserves his harshest criticism for the punitive terms imposed on a Germany convinced neither of its defeat nor the injustice of its cause. That, he asserts convincingly, laid the groundwork for a second, more terrible conflict. Photos, maps. (May)

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#### From [Booklist](#)

For readers trepidatious about plowing through a weighty standard World War I history, there is the brief alternative Michael Howard offered in *The First World War* (2002) and now Stone's précis. Setting the table for 1914, Stone defines the lineups of the Entente and Central Powers, their underlying conflicts of interest, and their military preparations for a general European war. That done, he paraphrases the strategic thinking of German leaders—better war now than wait for France and Russia to complete their armament programs—that induced them to risk an international explosion in 1914. From the illusions of rapid victory in one campaign, Stone elides to the hopeful successor strategies shattered by trench warfare, rendering his synopses of failed offensives East and West in vernacular language that conveys history's summary judgments of generals' performances. A concise anticipator of his audience's implicit questions, such as what protracted a seemingly futile war, Stone, with distinctive wryness, introduces WWI's origin, conduct, and consequences with emphasis on essentials. --Gilbert Taylor

### Review

#### *Military Review*

“Stone’s book is a good overview of the war and worth reading.”

#### *H-Net Reviews*

“The narrative has a rich sense of immediacy, accentuated with intimate details, as if Stone knew each figure personally.... Throw in a handful of references to poems, films, and novels both contemporary and modern, as Stone does, add dashes of jaunty, scornful judgments, and the result is indeed a literary tour de force. The phrase ‘cannot put it down’ does indeed come to mind.”

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#### William Vogt:

Now a day individuals who Living in the era where everything reachable by connect to the internet and the

resources in it can be true or not need people to be aware of each details they get. How a lot more to be smart in having any information nowadays? Of course the answer then is reading a book. Examining a book can help persons out of this uncertainty Information specially this World War One: A Short History book since this book offers you rich info and knowledge. Of course the info in this book hundred per cent guarantees there is no doubt in it everybody knows.

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**Carmine Caulfield:**

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