

# \*\*WORLD WAR ONE\*\*

About: This pathfinder is an annotated bibliography designed to assist in research for the topic of World War One. The list contains non-fiction items that are held by the Troy-Miami County Public Library. The pathfinder guide does not contain *all* books the library has on the subject, but is designed as an introduction to the larger collection of library holdings.

Books about World War One are in call number 940. When looking up a more specific topic within the larger topic of WWI it is best to use the SUBJECT HEADING of "world war, 1914-1918."

## GENERAL HISTORIES

Title: **The First World War**

Author: Keegan, John

Call No: 940.3 KEE

Probably the best single volume history of WWI. John Keegan, a master historian and unparalleled expert in military science, recounts the full history of the war from the fields of Flanders to the Jungles of Africa. The book shows the evolution of the conflict and the strategies involved. It also provides a survey of the world that came to be after the war. A must read for anyone interested in the War to End All Wars.

Title: **World War I: Day by Day**

Author: Westwell, Ian

Call No: 940.302 WES

The "Day by Day" book provides a chronological history of the conflict from the Assassination of the Archduke to the 1918 Armistice. Book points out important details that are crucial for understand the war and the nature of politics and world events around it. The pages are full of images of key figures and documents related to the history of the conflict.

Title: **The Great Influenza: The Epic Story of the Deadliest Plague in History**

Author: Barry, John

Call No: 614.528 BAR

Worldwide, the Spanish Influenza (1918-1920) killed more than the Great War. The epidemic swept over the world and the destruction hearkened to the devastation of plagues in the Middle Ages. This influenced changed the way medical professionals looked at disease and countries addressed public health. The author reviews the history of influenza, its causes, and its impact on both the politics of its day as well as the lasting effects.

## BIOGRAPHIES

Title: **The Last Kaiser: The Life of Wilhelm II**

Author: MacDonogh, G

Call No: B WILHELM II MAC

The book provides a critical examination of the life of the German Kaiser seen as the person most responsible for the outbreak of the continent-wide war. Wilhelm II, first cousin to the British and Russian rulers, dismissed the court advisors of his father and took a more aggressive approach to Germany's foreign policy. The book, published in 2000, looks at what choices he made and why he may have chosen those paths over others.

Title: **General Patton: A Soldiers Life**

Author: Hirshon, Stanley

Call No: B PATTON HIR

Hirshon's biography provides a full view of Patton as both the famed military leader but also as a person. The first half of the book addresses Patton as an officer in WWI as well as his service with Pershing in the Mexican Expeditions before US entry into the European conflict.

Title: **Douglas MacArthur: American Warrior**

Author: Herman, Arthur

Call No: B MACARTH HERM

The author, who writes widely on European history and western thought, describes MacArthur as "the last American public figure to be worshipped unreservedly as a national hero." The beginning chapters cover MacArthur, the son of a Civil War officer, in WWI as an officer with the famed Rainbow Division (42<sup>nd</sup> ID).

## **GENERAL MILITARY**

Title: **Dog-Fight: Aerial Tactics of the Aces of World War I**

Author: Franks, Norman

Call No: 940.44 FRA

World War One was the first major conflict to see the use of the airplane, developed in Dayton Ohio, as a weapon of war. The author describes the evolution of air tactics and maneuvers from the early stages of the air onto the final days. It is chronological in nature and focuses on the work of the aces, flight schools, and new developments in aircraft design that changed the capabilities of what air power was capable of and what missions they could execute. Great read for anyone interested in aerospace history, which has had such a profound impact on our region.

Title: **The Great War at Sea: A Naval History of the First World War**

Author: Sondhaus, Lawrence

Call No: 940.5 SOND

Often overlooked, but critically important, are the naval battles of the First World War. It is this war that saw the modern naval warship enter into service as well as use of the submarines as an effective weapon of war. The author looks at the advantages and disadvantages of both sides and how they leveraged their options in creating naval strategy. The Allied powers, especially the Royal Navy of the British, enjoyed worldwide hegemony thus forcing the Central Powers to be more innovative in their approach.

## **BATTLES**

Title: **The Western Front: Ordinary Soldiers and the Defining Battles of World War I**

Author: Holmes, Richard

Call No: 940.414 HOL

The author is the host of the History Channel documentary that accompanies this book. In it, we are taken into the world of the western front and understand the experiences of soldiers in the trenches. The book reviews the battlefields of France and Belgium from the early stages of the conflict to the static and bloody combat that involved gas, tanks, and other new weapons of war. A great book for understanding the struggles of soldiers on the western front.

Title: **Somme: Into the Breach**

Author: Sebag-Montefiore, Hugh

Call No: 940.4 SEBA

The Battle of the Somme took place from July-November 1916 and it is seen as the epitome of WWI battles, causing over one million casualties. The author looks at the battle not by examining strategy and inept generals, but with a focus on the courage and tenacity of individual soldiers on both sides of the battle lines.

## **POLITICS**

Title: **The Last Days of the Romanovs: Tragedy at Ekaterinburg**

Author: Rappaport, Helen

Call No: 947.08 RAP

The book recounts the last days of the Romanovs, the political family that ruled Russia for 300 years. The death of Tsar Nicholas II and his family by the Bolsheviks was the beginning of Communist control over Russia which would start the Cold War as the Soviet Union. The book draws on archives of British and American sources as well as newly available Russian sources. The book is essential for studying the lasting political effects of the war.

Title: **The Lusitania: Unravelling the Mysteries**

Author: OSullivan, Patrick

Call No: 947.451 OSUL

One of several books the library has on the infamous ship. The sinking of the ocean liner *Lusitania* by the German Navy in 1915 was seen as a crime against all decency and did much to contribute anti-German public opinion in the US—which had been neutral at the start of the conflict. The 184 page text provides the background on why the sinking of this “civilian” craft was so important to the story of WWI and also gives an assessment to what really happened and how it happened on that day in May.

Title: **Dark Invasion: 1915, Germany’s Secret War and the Hunt for the First Terrorist Cell in America**

Author: Blum, Howard

Call No: 940.4 BLUM

Even before the American entry into the war, the European powers were trying to influence activity in the US. This included the use of spies and saboteurs. The book recounts the infamous stories, true and embellished, of German spies and “terrorists” who made their way into the US and hid among the large German population in major cities. The author links the politics and activities to current debates on terrorist cells operating in America’s borders.

Title: **Lawrence in Arabia: War, Deceit, Imperial Folly and the Making of the Modern Middle East**

Author: Anderson, Scott

Call No: B LAWENC ANDE

Scott Anderson is a veteran war correspondent who, in this book, tells the story of the formation of the modern Middle East by looking at the events of WWI. The War saw the Arab Revolt against the Ottomans, who sided with the Germans and Austrians. The Allied powers supported the Arab Revolt as a way to undermine Ottoman power. Anderson focuses on the roles of key players to understand how the Middle East was won and what sort of peace came afterwards, it is from this, the author believes, that we can understand the foundations for the turmoil and political fissures that exist in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## **AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT**

Title: **Devil Dogs: Fighting Marines of World War I**

Author: Clark, George

Call No: 940.412 CLA

Clark discusses the history of the US Marines in battle during WWI, the war in which they received the now famous name of *Tuefel Hunden* (Devil Dogs) by the Germans. The author provides substantive detail on the well know battle of Belleau Woods but also focuses on lesser known battles in the American Campaign.

Title: **The Last of the Doughboys: The Forgotten Generation and Their Forgotten World War**

Author: Rubin, Richard

Call No: 940.4 RUBI

The author speculates that the First World War, and her veterans, are often overlooked if not forgotten by the US because of the Second World War. The author seeks to rectify this by reexamining the war and the sacrifices made by the “doughboys” who fought it. He does this by reviewing the stories of various men and women who fought in the conflict. This ‘personal interest’ approach is common for many WWII books but there are few existing texts on WWI, other than unit histories, that provide the human story of individual soldiers.

Title: **The Yanks are Coming!: A Military History of the United States in WWI**

Author: Crocker, III HW

Call No: 940.4 CROC

While the book does focus on the general military history of the US in WWI, it also reviews how the war birthed America from a frontier backwater to a world superpower. The author finds that while American involvement was inevitable, the nation was not ready for modern war—some generals had been involved in wars against Native Americans, not against mechanized units and airpower. The author also examines how important figures in American history emerged during the conflict; including Harry Truman, George Patton, and Douglas MacArthur.

Title: **Fighting the Flying Circus**

Author: Rickenbacker, Edward

Call No: 940.449 RIC

Ohio’s own Eddie Rickenbacker, American Ace of Aces, provides a memoir of his actions with the 94<sup>th</sup> Pursuit Squadron against some of the best fliers the German Command had. This is of great interest as it is a first hand account of the air war when pilots were considered the Knights of the Sky. The book contains retellings of missions, photos, and also statistics at the end.

## **CAUSES OF THE WAR**

Title: **The Vertigo Years: Europe, 1900-1914**

Author: Blom, Philipp

Call No: 940.28 BLO

The book brings the “wonders, horrors, and fears of the early twentieth century vividly to life” in a review of the 15 years that preceded the war to end all wars. The author paints a picture of what European society was like and the changes it underwent through industrialization and modernization. It was these systems that set the stage for, and birthed, the First World War. The book is important for understanding the cultural, political, and socio-economic systems that were part of the antebellum period.

Title: **The Assassination of the Archduke: Sarajevo 1914 and the Romance that Changed the World**

Author: King, Greg and Woolmans, Sue

Call No: 943.6 KING

The spark that ignited the conflict was the 1914 assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand—who was heir apparent to the Austro-Hungarian throne. The book examines the royal family, the royal life in Europe, and the death that changed the political landscape of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The book also looks at how the event reverberated with the family of the Archduke. Fittingly, the forward for the piece is written by Princess Sophie von Hohenburg, the Great-Granddaughter of the Archduke.

Title: **King, Kaiser, Tsar: Three Royal Cousins who Led the World to War**

Author: Clay, Catherine

Call No: 940.309 CLA

In a seemingly unbelievable twist of fate, and also a fun trivia answer, the leaders of Germany, Great Britain, and Russia were all first cousins--they were born of Queen Victoria's children. The three would find themselves locked in combat during the war; with George of England and Nick of Russia fighting their cousin Willy in Germany. After the war George would remain on the throne, Willy would abdicate, and Nickolas would die at the hands of the Bolsheviks. Clay, in her acclaimed book, looks to piece together this interesting aspect of modern history to show the lives of this first family of Europe and how they led their nations on the road to destruction.