

100th Anniversary of world war I

Commemorate the 100th Anniversary of WWI with one of these great books:

fiction

The Air We Breathe / Andrea Barrett

Call #: BARRETT Andrea

Detached from the rest of the country on the eve of World War I, the tuberculosis-stricken residents of an Adirondack lakeside sanatorium are housed in accordance with their economic status and languish in their isolation before an enterprising patient initiates a weekly discussion group.

Birdsong / Sebastian Faulks

Call #: FAULKS Sebastian

Published to international critical and popular acclaim, this intensely romantic yet stunningly realistic novel spans three generations and the unimaginable gulf between the First World War and the present. The young Englishman Stephen Wraysford passes through a tempestuous love affair with Isabelle Azaire in France and enters the world beneath the dark trenches of No Man's Land.

Fall of Giants / Ken Follet

Call #: FOLLET Ken

It is 1911. The Coronation Day of King George V. The Williams, a Welsh coal-mining family, is linked by romance and enmity to the Fitzherberts, aristocratic coal-mine owners. Lady Maud Fitzherbert falls in love with Walter von Ulrich, a spy at the German Embassy in London. Their destiny is entangled with that of an ambitious young aide to U.S. President Woodrow Wilson and to two orphaned Russian brothers, whose plans to emigrate to America fall foul of war, conscription and revolution.

Gifts of War / Mackenzie Ford

Call #: FORD Mackenzie

Against the broader landscape of England in wartime, Gifts of War captures the era and the fates of men and women caught in the sweep of history. A vivid tale of romance, adventure, and intrigue, the novel is a remarkable narrative that explores what made War World I so tragic, so revolutionary, and so exciting.

A Farewell to Arms / Ernest Hemingway

Call #: HEMINGWAY Ernest

In 1918 Ernest Hemingway went to war. Out of his experiences came A Farewell to Arms. Hemingway's description of war is unforgettable. He recreates the fear, the comradeship, the courage of his young American volunteer and the men and women he meets in Italy with total conviction. In it Hemingway has also created a love story of immense drama and uncompromising passion.

A Very Long Engagement / Sébastien Japrisot

Call #: JAPRSIOT

Five wounded French soldiers are brought to the front at Picardy by their own troops, forced into the no-man's land between the French and German armies, and left to die in the cross fire. Their brutal punishment has been hushed up for more than two years when Mathilde Donnay begins a relentless quest to find out whether her fiancé might still be alive.

The Sojourn / Andrew Krivak
Call #: KRIVAK Andrew

Jozef Vinich was uprooted from a 19th-century mining town in Colorado by a family tragedy and returns with his father to an impoverished shepherd's life in rural Austria-Hungary. When World War One comes, Jozef joins his adopted brother as a sharpshooter in the Kaiser's army.

All Quiet on the Western Front / Erich Maria Remarque
CALL #: REMARQUE Erich Maria

Paul Bäumer enlisted with his classmates in the German army of World War I. Youthful, enthusiastic, they become soldiers. But despite what they have learned, they break into pieces under the first bombardment in the trenches.

To the Last Man: A Novel of the First World War/ Jeff Shaara
Call #: SHAARA Jeff

Gen. John J. "Black Jack" Pershing commands all American forces in France in 1917-1918 and must prepare his army for a new kind of war while resisting French and British efforts to absorb his troops into their depleted, worn-out units. Two aviators, American Raoul Lufbery and German Manfred von Richthofen (the Red Baron) fly primitive aircraft in an air war that introduces new ways to die.

Stella Bain/ Anita Shreve
Call #: SHREVE Anita

When an American woman, Stella Bain, is found suffering from severe shell shock in an exclusive garden in London, surgeon August Bridge and his wife selflessly agree to take her in. A gesture of goodwill turns into something more as Bridge quickly develops a clinical interest in his houseguest.

My Dear I Wanted to Tell You / Louisa Young
Call #: YOUNG Louisa

From the day in 1907 that eleven-year-old Riley Purefoy meets Nadine Waveney, daughter of a well-known orchestral conductor, he takes in the difference between their two families: his, working-class; hers, "posh" and artistic. Just a few years later, romance and these differences erupt simultaneously with the war in Europe. In a fit of fury and boyish pride, Riley enlists in the army and finds himself involved in the transformative nightmare of the twentieth century.

Non-fiction

Elsie and Mairi Go to War: Two Extraordinary Women on the Western Front / Diane Atkinson
CALL #: 940.475 A84

When they met at a motorcycle club in 1912, Elsie Knocker was a thirty year-old motorcycling divorcee dressed in bottle-green Dunhill leathers, and Mairi Chisholm was a brilliant eighteen-year old mechanic, living at home borrowing tools from her brother. Little did they know, theirs was to become one of the most extraordinary stories of the First World War.

The Lost History of 1914 / Jack Beatty

Call #: 940.3 Bea

In *The Lost History of 1914*, Jack Beatty offers a highly original view of World War I, testing against fresh evidence the long-dominant assumption that it was inevitable. "Most books set in 1914 map the path leading to war," Beatty writes. "This one maps the multiple paths that led away from it."

Unjustly Dishonored: An African American Division in World War I / Robert H. Ferrell

Call #: 940.403 F46

For nearly one hundred years, the 92nd Division of the U.S. Army in World War I has been remembered as a military failure. The division should have been historically significant. It was the only African American division of the American Expeditionary Forces in France. Unfortunately, the entire division received a blow to its reputation from which it never recovered.

To End All Wars: A Story of Loyalty and Rebellion/ Adam Hochschild

Call #: 940.3 H61

World War I stands as one of history's most senseless spasms of carnage, defying rational explanation. In a riveting, suspenseful narrative with haunting echoes for our own time, Adam Hochschild brings it to life as never before. He focuses on the long-ignored moral drama of the war's critics, alongside its generals and heroes.

An Illustrated History of the First World War / John Keegan

Call #: 940.3 K42

Matching nearly 500 photographs, maps, and prints to a thoughtful, interpretive text, renowned military historian John Keegan again turns his attention to "the war to end all wars."

The Myth of the Great War: A New Military History of World War I / John Mosier

Call #: 940.3 M67

Based on previously unused French and German sources, this challenging and controversial new analysis of the war on the Western front from 1914 to 1918 reveals how and why the Germans won the major battles with one-half to one-third fewer casualties than the Allies, and how American troops saved the Allies from defeat and a negotiated peace with the Germans.

Five Lieutenants: The Heartbreaking Story of Five Harvard Men Who Led America to Victory in World War I / James Carl Nelson.

Call #: 940.4 Nel

Five young Harvard men took up the call to arms in the spring of 1917 and met differing fates in the maelstrom of battle on the Western Front in 1918. Delving deep into the motivations, horrific experiences, and ultimate fates of this Harvard-educated quintet—and by extension of the brilliant young officer class that left its collegiate and post-collegiate pursuits to enlist in the Army and lead America's rough-and-ready doughboys—*Five Lieutenants* presents a unique, timeless, and fascinating account of citizen soldiers at war.

Cataclysm: The First World War as Political Tragedy / David Stevenson

Call #: 940.3 S72

David Stevenson's widely acclaimed history of World War I changes forever our understanding of that pivotal conflict. Countering the commonplace assumption that politicians lost control of events, and that the war, once it began, quickly became an unstoppable machine, Stevenson contends that politicians deliberately took risks that led to war in July 1914.

The First World War: A Concise Global History / William Kelleher Storey
CALL #: 940.3 S75

In a compact but comprehensive and clear narrative, this book explores the First World War from a genuinely global perspective. Putting a human face on the war, William Kelleher Storey takes into account individual decisions and experiences as well as environmental and technological factors such as food, geography, manpower, and weapons. He argues that the war profoundly changed the ways in which people imagined the landscape around them and thought about technology and the environment.

Conscience: Two Soldiers, Two pacifists, One Family: A Test of Will & Faith in World War I / Louisa Thomas
Call #: 940.3162 T55

Sons of a Presbyterian minister and grandsons of missionaries, the Thomas brothers shared a rigorous moral code, Princeton educations, and a faith in the era's spirit of hope. Their upbringing prepared them for a life of service, but the war challenged their notions of citizenship, faith, and freedom and threatened to tear their family apart.

The War That Ended Peace: The Road to 1914 / Margaret MacMillan
Call #: 940.311 Mac

The century since the end of the Napoleonic wars had been the most peaceful era Europe had known since the fall of the Roman Empire. Europe believed it was marching to a golden, happy, and prosperous future. But instead, complex personalities and rivalries, colonialism and ethnic nationalisms, and shifting alliances helped to bring about the failure of the long peace and the outbreak of a war that transformed Europe and the world. The War That Ended Peace brings vividly to life the military leaders, politicians, diplomats, bankers, and the extended, interrelated family of crowned heads across Europe who failed to stop the descent into war.

The Month That Changed the World: July 1914 / Gordon Martel

Martel scrutinizes the month-long diplomatic crisis that began with the assassination of Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand and ended with the first volleys of the "war to end all wars." Historical explanations as to how relatively minor local tensions in the Balkans boiled over into full-scale pan-European war are many, yet ... such explanations often seem insufficient. Martel embraces the complexity of the historical moment and presents a thoroughly ... detailed blow-by-blow account of the flurry of diplomatic activity that... ultimately plunged the world into war.

July 1914: Countdown to War / Sean McMeekin
CALL #: 940.311 McM

When an assassin gunned down Archduke Franz Ferdinand in late June 1914, no one could have imagined the shocking bloodshed that would soon follow. Historian Sean McMeekin reveals World War I might indeed have been avoided entirely had it not been for the actions of a small group of statesmen in the month after the assassination. Whether they plotted for war or rode the whirlwind nearly blind, these men sought to capitalize on the fallout from Ferdinand's murder, unwittingly leading Europe toward the greatest cataclysm it had ever seen. A deeply-researched account of the genesis of World War I, July 1914 tells the gripping story of the month that changed the course of the 20th century.

Catastrophe 1914: Europe Goes to War / Max Hastings
Call #: 940.311 Has

Max Hastings gives us a conflict different from the familiar one of barbed wire, mud and futility. He traces the path to war, making clear why Germany and Austria-Hungary were primarily to blame, and describes

the gripping first clashes in the West, where the French ... suffered 27,000 men dead in a single day [and] the British fought an extraordinary holding action against oncoming Germans, one of the last of its kind in history.

The Sleepwalkers: How Europe Went to War in 1914 / Christopher Clark

Call #: 940.311 Cla

Drawing on new scholarship, Clark offers a fresh look at World War I, focusing not on the battles and atrocities of the war itself, but on the complex events and relationships that led a group of well-meaning leaders into brutal conflict. Clark traces the paths to war in a minute-by-minute, action-packed narrative that cuts between the key decision centers in Vienna, Berlin, St. Petersburg, Paris, London, and Belgrade, and examines the decades of history that informed the events of 1914 and details the mutual misunderstandings and unintended signals that drove the crisis forward in a few short weeks.

The Great War and Modern Memory / Paul Fussell

Call #: 820.9 F87g

Exploring the work of Siegfried Sassoon, Robert Graves, Edmund Blunden, David Jones, Isaac Rosenberg, and Wilfred Owen, Fussell supplies contexts, both actual and literary, for those writers who--with conspicuous imaginative and artistic meaning--most effectively memorialized World War I as an historical experience. Dispensing with literary theory and elevated rhetoric, Fussell grounds literary texts in the mud and trenches of World War I and shows how these poems, diaries, novels, and letters reflected the massive changes--in every area, including language itself--brought about by the cataclysm of the Great War.

The Great and Holy War: How World War I Became a Religious Crusade /Philip Jenkins

Call #: 940.31 Jen

The Great and Holy War offers the first look at how religion created and prolonged the First World War. At the one-hundredth anniversary of the outbreak of the war, historian Philip Jenkins reveals the powerful religious dimensions of this modern-day crusade, a period that marked a traumatic crisis for Western civilization, with effects that echoed throughout the rest of the twentieth century.

Some Desperate Glory: The First World War the Poets Knew / Max Egremont

Call #: 821.912 Egr

Wilfred Owen with his flaring genius; the intense, compassionate Siegfried Sassoon; the composer Ivor Gurney; Robert Graves, who would later spurn his war poems; the nature-loving Edward Thomas; the glamorous Fabian Socialist Rupert Brooke; and the shell-shocked Robert Nichols--all fought in the war, and their poetry is a bold act of creativity in the face of unprecedented destruction. **Some Desperate Glory** includes a chronological anthology of the poets' works, telling the story of the war not only through the lives of these writers but also through their art. **This unique volume unites the poetry and the history of the war--so often treated separately--granting readers the pride, strife, and sorrow of the individual soldier's experience coupled with a panoramic view of the war's toll on an entire nation.**

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Annotations courtesy of Goodreads.com

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