

The First World War History In Writing

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war is now generally regarded as organised conflict waged by armed forces with superior weaponry usually seen as the main reason why one side prevailed this emphasis on the material culture of war is not confined to modern times but reaches as far back as the bronze and iron ages where the superior cutting power of iron and the relative ease of making iron weapons are seen as the reason for the change in civilisations while not denying that weaponry plays a major role in the history of war jeremy black s new book gives due importance to other factors often ignored or undervalued by military historians conflicts such as the vietnam war and the soviet attempt to dominate afghanistan show it is not always the best armed who prevail the willingness of a nation to suffer losses organisational issues such as how troops are organised on the battlefield the nature of force structures and the organisation of societies for conflict and the political context can all make the difference between victory and defeat nor is it correct to assume that war is essentially a struggle between organised regular forces civil conflict terrorism and guerrilla activities are types of warfare which are too often excluded from discussions of military history in war an illustrated world history jeremy black has created a powerful work with a truly world wide scope encompassing warfare from ancient times to medieval from the nineteenth century to the future and from west to east this is a book which will appeal to all interested in military history with many original insights into the course of warfare in all parts of the world and a refreshing tendency to turn accepted interpretations on their head jeremy black offers something that other military historians do not a truly global history of war

a wonderfully engaging accessible introduction to war from ancient times to the present and into the future throughout history warfare has transformed social political cultural and religious

aspects of our lives we tell tales of wars past present and future to create and reinforce a common purpose in this engaging overview jeremy black examines war as a global phenomenon looking at the first and second world wars as well as those ranging from han china and assyria imperial rome and napoleonic france to vietnam and afghanistan black explores too the significance of warfare more broadly and the ways in which cultural understandings of conflict have lasting consequences in societies across the world weaponry black argues has had a fundamental impact on modes of war it created war in the air and transformed it at sea today as twentieth century weapons are challenged by drones and robotics black examines what the future of warfare looks like

the vivid voices that speak from these pages are not those of historians or scholars they are the voices of ordinary men and women who experienced and helped to win the most devastating war in history in which between 50 and 60 million lives were lost focusing on the citizens of four towns louverne minnesota sacramento california waterbury connecticut mobile alabama the war follows more than forty people from 1941 to 1945 woven largely from their memories the compelling unflinching narrative unfolds month by month with the outcome always in doubt all the iconic events are here from pearl harbor to the liberation of the concentration camps but we also move among prisoners of war and japanese american internees defense workers and schoolchildren and families who struggled simply to stay together while their men were shipped off to europe the pacific and north africa enriched by maps and hundreds of photographs including many never published before this is an intimate profoundly affecting chronicle of the war that shaped our world from the hardcover edition

the object of this book is to introduce readers to a whole range of military history which has all the drama dangers horrors and excitement that we associate with stalingrad or the somme battles are acute moments of history whenever and wherever they have been fought through them we can understand how warfare and world history have evolved

what is total war definitions abound but one thing is certain the concept of total war has come to be seen as a defining concept of the modern age in the age of total war celebrated historian jeremy black explores the rise and demise of an era of total war which he defines in terms of the intensity of the struggle the range geographical and or chronological of conflict the nature of the goals and the extent to which civil society was involved he contends that this era roughly 1860 1945 was markedly different from the warfare that characterized earlier periods and that it is very different from the situation that has evolved since with its emphasis on asymmetrical conflict and limited warfare acknowledging that various definitions are problematic and often contradictory black argues that 1860 to 1945 was an era in which the prospect of war and the consequences of it were crucially important for human history he focuses primarily on conflict between western powers including japanese participation in the russo japanese war trends and developments subsequent to 1945 have combined black asserts to make a return to total war unlikely

volume iv of the cambridge history of war offers a definitive new account of war in the most destructive period in human history opening with the massive conflicts that erupted in the mid nineteenth century in the us asia and europe leading historians trace the global evolution of warfare through the age of mass the age of machine and the age of management they explore how industrialization and nationalism fostered vast armies whilst the emergence of mobile warfare and improved communications systems made possible the total warfare of the two world wars with military conflict regionalized after 1945 they show how guerrilla and asymmetrical warfare highlighted the limits of the machine and mass as well as the importance of the media in winning hearts and minds this is a comprehensive guide to every facet of modern war from strategy and operations to its social cultural technological and political contexts and legacies

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the cws prior to world war ii organization for war 1940 1945 research and development procurement and supply of cwa materiel for the armed forces training readiness for gas warfare the cws mission in theaters of operations the 4 2 inch chemical mortar denying enemy observation flame throwers by products form the implements of war

in this concise history of war jeremy black ranges widely giving due attention to non western as well as western traditions the history of war is inextricably bound to the history of the world through a detailed exploration of world scale issues of warfare presented within a chronological framework that spans human history jeremy black skilfully illustrates this fact whilst providing the reader with other astute insights and compelling interpretations of war war a short history is a dramatic move away from the formulaic western approach to military history too narrow in its focus on wars specific to the west and too simple because of an over reliance on a technologically deterministic reading of warfare this approach has been rejected by jeremy black in favour of a global model that takes all factors into account when considering the strengths and weaknesses of a particular military tradition this is a book that is as important for its relevance to current world issues of conflict as it is for its thorough consideration of a monumentally significant aspect of human history history black continuumbooks com

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