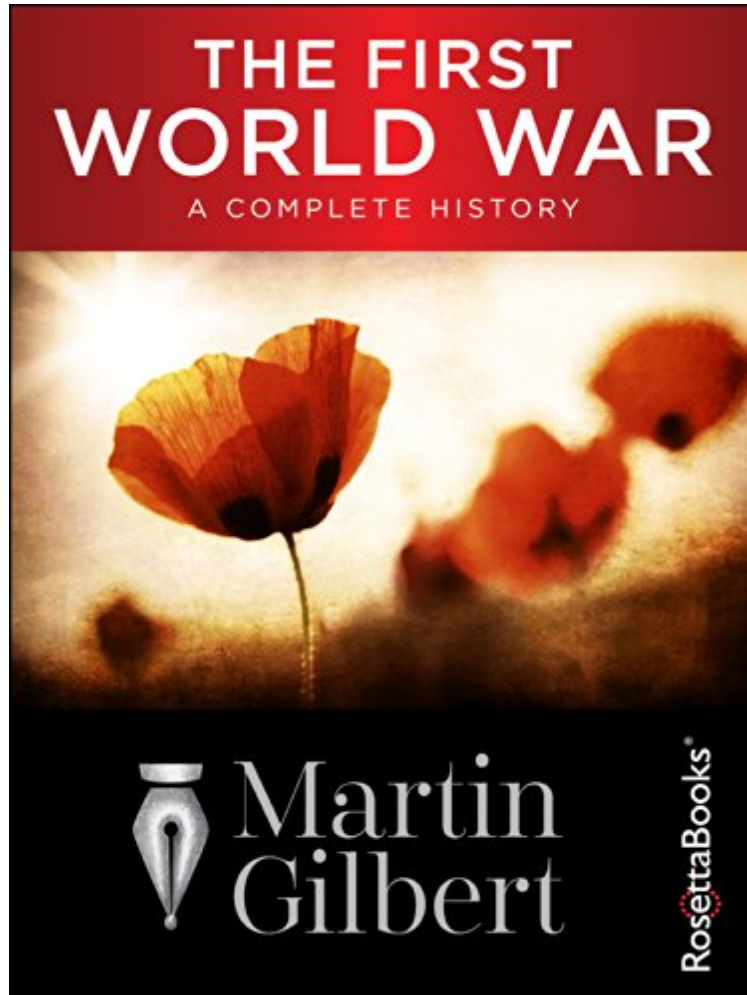


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The First World War: A Complete History (English Edition)

Von Martin Gilbert

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Von Martin Gilbert : The First World War: A Complete History (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The First World War: A Complete History (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. History as exciting as any novelVon Ein KundeI always understood that the First World War was started by the assasination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo, but I never knew how an obscure event like that could have resulted in a world war.Since living in Europe, however, I've driven past and come across several world war one battlefield sites. It irked me that I didn't know enough about the war to know the meaning of the memorials I was seeing.I am usually averse to text book style recitations of history, because they get tied down with the facts and figures of the event. These get boring quickly.So I picked up Martin Gilbert's book and flicked through it. Within a minute I was caught up in the

action. Although it's full of facts and figures, the book is written like a novel. The author never loses sight of the fact that people are the centre of every victory and every loss. It's the first book of history which I've read which is anecdotal. Halfway through the book, I was caught up in the driving narrative. By the end, for the first time, I was able to feel I really understood the enormity of what had happened around where I now live. If only all history books were written like this. I was very impressed and plan to now read the Second World War story he has written. I hope that it's as good.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Good General History, probably worth an extra half star. Von Greg Oakes While not a "Complete History" (I dare say that the publisher describes the book as such and not the author), I would recommend this book to specific audiences. This would be an excellent text for high school students and other interested, but not necessarily obsessively so, general readers wanting a competent and humanistic look at the First World War. Although the book is anglo-centric, Gilbert does manage a reasonable job on the Eastern Front. He does not, however go into too much detail about the French, beyond the Marne, Verdun and the Mutinies. Similarly, the role of non-British Dominion forces, such as the Australians, tends to be downplayed (for example, numerous British Corps commanders are mentioned, yet Sir John Monash, commander of the Australian Corps after it was established in 1918, does not rate a mention). However, he does manage to cover most theatres of war (particularly where the British were fighting), in a sensible amount of detail. He includes a decent series of maps which are sensibly located at the back of the book. Where Gilbert succeeds best is in his ability to humanize the events taking place. He does this by drawing on the narratives of individuals caught up in events greater than themselves. Many of these surface later in history, including Hitler, De Gaulle, Rommel, etc. He also draws on the war poets to help illustrate the psychology and spirit of the men in the field. Gilbert also draws on the diaries of British war nurses and Austrian painter Oskar Kokoshka which, again, give differing perspectives which increase the depth of the narrative. In summary, I would heartily recommend this book to the general reader or someone needing a general reference to the Great War.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A VERY COMPREHENSIVE OVERVIEW OF WORLD WAR I Von TED B. This is an excellent book to read after reading Robert K. Massie's "Dreadnought, Britain, Germany, and the Coming of the Great War" which seems to just stop after England declares war on Germany in August 1914. Gilbert gives us a brief introduction to the war (not as good an introduction as Massie's, but adequate), and covers the various campaigns of the war in detail, enough so that the reader has a very good understanding of the different forces affecting those soldiers at war and those civilians and politicians back home. The author keeps the war on a "personal" level, treating us to mini-biographies of some of the players, and then, pages later, describing how they were killed. Apparently there were quite a few poets in the English army since every now and then, Gilbert quotes from them, especially the ones who get killed. And there are many of them, since this is mostly deadly trench warfare. Gilbert keeps to realistic detail which helps us read his book not as a history but an account of the war and those who fought it and what they actually went through. For this and for the fact that he keeps the reader alerted to the overall military and political "big picture" I have to give him five stars. The book is a complete and interesting picture of the war for the general reader. I enjoyed reading it and felt I now have a better understanding of how European life and attitudes were so different back then, and how the boundaries of Europe had to end up where they are today.

Kurzbeschreibung They called it the War to End All Wars, but it was only the beginning of the global conflicts that rocked the 20th Century. The First World War redrew national boundaries, eliminated monarchies, and left millions of soldiers and civilians dead, and its impact has continued to shape the Western political and social landscape since. In this sweeping narrative, best-selling historian Martin Gilbert provides a view of the conflict that's both global and personal, drawing on eyewitness accounts, contemporary reporting, and first-hand documentation. It offers an immediate, compelling voice to familiar historical events, bringing new facets of the conflict to life and personalizing the tale with gripping survivor testimonies.

About the Author Sir Martin Gilbert is a leading British historian and the author of more than eighty books. Specializing in 20th century history, he is also the official biographer of Winston Churchill and has written a best-selling eight-volume biography of the war leaders' lives. Born in London in 1936, Martin Gilbert was evacuated to Canada with his family at the beginning of World War II as part of the British government's efforts to protect children from the brutal bombings of the Luftwaffe. He was made a Fellow of Merton College, Oxford, in 1962. He is the author of several definitive historical works examining the Holocaust, the First and Second World Wars, and the history of the 20th century. In 1990, Gilbert was designated a Commander of the Order of the British Empire, and was awarded a Knighthood in 1995. Oxford University awarded him a Doctorate in 1999. Today, he is a sought-after speaker on Churchill, Jewish history, and the history of the 20th century, and he travels frequently to lecture at colleges, universities, and organizations around the world.

Pressestimmen "For the general reader who wants to know both what happened (on the field and off) and how it felt for the men who did the fighting, this is the best single-volume history of the First World War that has yet been written." "An incomparable record of how ordinary and extraordinary men and women endured the unendurable." - Kirkus

Werbetext 'One of the first books

that anyone should read in beginning to try to understand this war and this century' New York Times Book