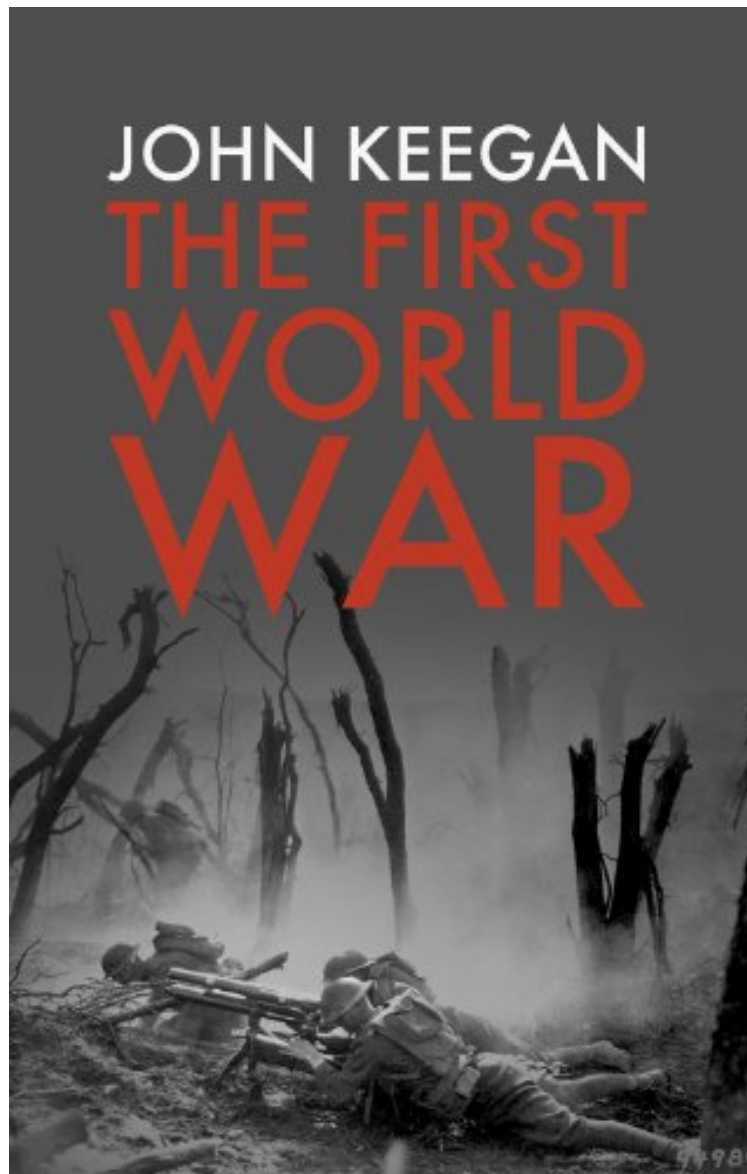


(Ebook pdf) The First World War

The First World War

Von John Keegan

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Von John Keegan : The First World War before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The First World War:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Ereignisgeschichte par excellenceVon Michael DienstbierViel Kritik hat John Keegan fr sein magnus opum ber den Ersten Weltkrieg einstecken mssen. Zu einseitig sei seine Konzentration auf Schlachten und Generle. Dieser Einwand

hat zweifelsohne seine Berechtigung, ist aber für die Bewertung der Qualität dieser Darstellung ziemlich irrelevant. Wer an einer "Geschichte von unten" interessiert ist sollte "The First World War" halt im Bücherregal stehen lassen. Alle anderen erwartet eine auf 500 Seiten zusammengepackte Gesamtdarstellung der "Urkatastrophe" (Kennan) des 20. Jahrhunderts. Wie von einem britischen Historiker nicht anders zu erwarten, liegt der Schwerpunkt der Darstellung auf der Beschreibung der Ereignisse an der Westfront, ohne jedoch die anderen Schauplätze zu vernachlässigen. In den ersten Kapiteln widmet sich Keegan der Analyse der ersten Monate des Krieges, von dem anfänglich schnellen Vormarsch der deutschen Armee, getreu dem Schlieffen Plan, bis hin zur Schlacht an der Marne und dem beginnenden Schützengrabenkrieg im November 1914. Danach widmet er sich den anderen Schauplätzen des Krieges (der Krieg in den afrikanischen Kolonien, Gallipoli, Russland sowie die Schlachten am Isonzo zwischen Österreich-Ungarn und Italien) werden mehr als nur angerissen. Der Schwerpunkt des Buches liegt, wie gesagt, auf der Beschreibung der Ereignisse auf der obersten politischen wie militärischen Ebene sowie auf der detaillierten Beschreibung von Schlachten. Das verwundert nicht, da Keegan von Haus aus Militärhistoriker ist. Herausragend ist das sprachliche Niveau der Darstellung. Klar, flüssig und manchmal sogar poetisch ("On the Somme he had sent the flower of British youth to death and mutilation; at Passchendaele he had tipped the survivors into the slough of despond." (395)), beschreibt Keegan die Jahre 1914 bis 1918. Fazit: Absolut empfehlenswert für Einsteiger und Fortgeschrittene. Ereignisgeschichtlich eine der besten Darstellungen über den Ersten Weltkrieg. Einen Stern Abzug gibt es für die dann doch manchmal betriebenen detaillierte Beschreibung der Schlachten.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Outstanding development of complex subject
 Von Tetsu John Keegan has written an outstanding overview of World War I. He has succeeded in connecting the many separate events that took place throughout the 1914-18 period and ties them together into a readable and understandable whole. He deals on the highest levels of command and examines this structure. While people might be interested in the experiences of Rifleman Bloogs, these experiences may have little in common with what was going on back at the higher levels of command and it is there that the most examination must be done. We know about the huge casualty rates but Keegan tells us how the soldiers happened to be at a particular place at a particular time and facing a particular enemy. There are other books in print that give a particular point of view but Keegan has given us an excellent work to establish a basic understanding of World War I. Other writers and works can give added detail but Keegan lays the foundation to understand what happened and sometimes why.

2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Disappointing, but ultimately worthwhile
 Von Tom Cleaveland I share many of the complaints that previous reviewers have mentioned: 1) This book needs more maps. The description of the opening battles in 1914 is difficult to follow if one is not familiar with European geography. 2) The writing is turgid in places. Keegan's description of the Battle of the Somme repeats the phrase "The Germans were fighting for their lives" at least twice in close succession. Well, of course they were! 3) The analysis is thin in critical areas, particularly in analyzing pre-war events. Lack of communication was a problem, but it appears that the political systems of the European powers placed control of events in the hands of the people who had no incentive to practice restraint, and who had clearly performed no serious thought as to how new weaponry (particularly the machine gun!) would affect the conduct of war: the military commanders. Despite the problems, I didn't have much trouble finishing the book. This book was my first comprehensive history of WWI, and has stimulated my curiosity about that war. I think Mr. Keegan is to be complimented on releasing this book. For Americans, WWI is a forgotten war, and I thank him for a sobering and thought-provoking look at this conflict that destroyed men, nations, and ideals without mercy.

Kurzbeschreibung The First World War created the modern world. It destroyed a century of relative peace and prosperity and saw a continent at the height of its success descend into slaughter. It unleashed both the demons of the twentieth century - political hatred, military destruction and mass death - and the ideas which continue to shape our world today: modernism in the arts, new approaches to psychology and medicine, and radical ideas about economics and society. John Keegan's definitive account unforgettably portrays the unfolding military conflict on land, sea and in the air. But at its heart, too, is the terrible cost of this conflict's ferocity - the loss which remains personal and individual despite its unparalleled scale.

Despite the avalanche of books written about the First World War in recent years, there have been comparatively few books that have concentrated on delivering the big picture--a comprehensive account of the war and its campaigns from start to finish--and this book fills the gap superbly. As readers familiar with John Keegan's previous books, such as *The Face Battle*, *Six Armies in Normandy*, and *The Second World War*, will know, Keegan is a historian of the old school. He has no earth-shattering new theories to challenge the status quo, no first-person accounts to tug on the emotions; what he does have, though, is the gift for talking the lay person through the twists and turns of a complex narrative in a way that is never less than accessible or engaging. Keegan never tries to ram his learning down your throat. Where other authors have struggled to explain how Britain could ever allow itself to be dragged into such a war in 1914, Keegan keeps it practical. The level of communications that we enjoy today just didn't exist then, and so it was much harder to keep track of what was going on. By the time a

message had finally reached the person in question, the situation may have changed out of all recognition. Keegan applies this same "cock-up" theory of history to the rest of the war, principally the three great disasters at Gallipoli, the Somme, and Passchendaele. The generals didn't send all those troops to their death deliberately; they did so out of incompetence, ineptitude, and because they had no idea of what was actually going on at the front. Whether deliberate or not, though, the end result was nearly one million dead British and Commonwealth soldiers. The First World War is not afraid to point the finger at those generals who deserve it, but even Keegan has to admit he doesn't have all the answers. If it all seems so obviously futile and such a massive waste of life now, he asks, how could it have seemed worthwhile back then? Why did so many people carry on, knowing they would die? Why indeed. --John Crace

Pressestimmen "Magisterial in its scope, beautifully written and literally unputdownable... I cannot recommend Keegan's book too highly." (Julian Critchley Scotsman) "Nobody describes a battle as Keegan does, vividly relating the unfolding events to the contours of the field of combat... This book is a kind of war memorial. As first-hand memory fades, The First World War honours the dead as only true history can." (Niall Ferguson Sunday Times) "John Keegan's The First World War can take its place alongside the other defining works he has written... The best and most approachable introduction to the war." (David Horspool Guardian) "A splendidly readable account of the war on all fronts, from its political and cultural origins to its bloody conclusion... Compelling." (Max Wilkinson Financial Times) "Excellent... The First World War tells the story with passion, sanity and the military historian's eye for overall strategy." (Andrew Roberts Mail on Sunday)