

Soldiers Statesmen And July 1914

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when a serbian backed assassin gunned down archduke franz ferdinand in late june 1914 the world seemed unmoved even ferdinand s own uncle franz josef i was notably ambivalent about the death of the hapsburg heir saying simply it is god s will certainly there was nothing to suggest that the episode would lead to conflict much less a world war of such massive and horrific proportions that it would fundamentally reshape the course of human events as acclaimed historian sean mcmeekin reveals in july 1914 world war i might have been avoided entirely had it not been for a small group of statesmen who in the month after the assassination plotted to use ferdinand s murder as the trigger for a long awaited showdown in europe the primary culprits moreover have long escaped blame while most accounts of the war s outbreak place the bulk of responsibility on german and austro hungarian militarism mcmeekin draws on surprising new evidence from archives across europe to show that the worst offenders were actually to be found in russia and france whose belligerence and duplicity ensured that war was inevitable whether they plotted for war or rode the whirlwind nearly blind each of the men involved from austrian foreign minister leopold von berchtold and german chancellor bethmann hollweg to russian foreign minister sergei

sazonov and french president raymond poincaré sought to capitalize on the fallout from ferdinand s murder unwittingly leading europe toward the greatest cataclysm it had ever seen a revolutionary account of the genesis of world war i july 1914 tells the gripping story of europe s countdown to war from the bloody opening act on june 28th to britain s final plunge on august 4th showing how a single month and a handful of men changed the course of the twentieth century

a definitive new account of the catalytic events of july 1914 that led to the outbreak of the first world war

historians have long sought to explain how the world descended into war in the wake of the assassination of archduke franz ferdinand and his wife on june 28 1914 focusing on the interactions between two key leaders one civilian and one military in each of the great powers and serbia this documentary history explores how individuals not monolithic governments and impersonal forces contributed to the rapidly escalating crisis leading to world war i a brief introduction outlines the background for july 1914 followed by seven chapters on events in each of the major nations involved interwoven with over 70 documents including memoirs diaries telegrams press reports and private letters to illustrate how the crisis developed an epilogue addresses the relative roles and influence of civilian and military leaders in leading the nations inexorably along the path to war the volume also contains 14 images and two maps a chronology a glossary of key figures selected bibliography questions for consideration and an index

on 28 june 1914 the austrian archduke franz ferdinand was assassinated in the balkans five fateful weeks later the great powers of europe were at war much time and ink has been spent ever since trying to identify the guilty person or state responsible or alternatively attempting to explain the underlying forces that inevitably led to war in 1914 unsatisfied with these explanations gordon martel now goes

back to the contemporary diplomatic military and political records to investigate the twists and turns of the crisis afresh with the aim of establishing just how the catastrophe really unfurled what emerges is the story of a terrible unnecessary tragedy one that can be understood only by retracing the steps taken by those who went down the road to war with each passing day we see how the personalities of leading figures such as kaiser wilhelm ii the emperor franz joseph tsar nicholas ii sir edward grey and raymond poincare were central to the unfolding crisis how their hopes and fears intersected as events unfolded and how each new decision produced a response that complicated or escalated matters to the point where they became almost impossible to contain devoting a chapter to each day of the infamous july crisis this gripping step by step account of the descent to war makes clear just how little the conflict was in fact premeditated preordained or even predictable almost every day it seemed possible that the crisis could be settled as so many had been over the previous decade almost every day there was a new suggestion that gave statesmen hope that war could be avoided without abandoning vital interests and yet as the last month of peace ebbed away the actions and reactions of the great powers disastrously escalated the situation so much so that by the beginning of august what might have remained a minor balkan problem had turned into the cataclysm of the first world war

origins of the first world war summarizes the policies issues and crises that brought europe to war in 1914 examining the strategic and political problems that confronted each of the great powers and the way in which social and economic factors influenced the decision making process martel discusses the position of each power and their place in the system of alliances which dominated international politics the fourth edition has been revised and updated throughout to incorporate the body of new scholarship that has appeared since the hundredth anniversary of the outbreak of war in a clear and accessible manner it explains how and why the alliance system was

created how alliances led to a network of complicated strategic commitments how an escalating series of international crises from the turn of the century fuelled preparations for war why the peculiarities of the balkan situation are essential in understanding the outbreak of war in 1914 this book also includes an updated guide to further reading who s who of important figures and glossary of key terms and the selection of documents has been expanded to include the key treaties as well as evidence of popular militarism and nationalism concise accessible and analytical it is essential introductory reading for all students interested in the origins of the first world war

this book is a salutary reminder that the realities of british politics before 1914 were more complex and rather different from the whiggish stereotypes about new liberalism and the rise of labour and class politics which have dominated our understanding of late edwardian britain jackson s groundbreaking research shows that from the start of the third home rule bill crisis there was in britain considerable popular interest in the irish issue and that the curragh army mutiny of 1914 was not an isolated incident but part of a wider popular movement a well orchestrated campaign of agitation led by unionist leaders sir edward carson and andrew bonar law had so exploited patriotic and sectarian resentment at the prospect of irish home rule that by 1914 the united kingdom was on the verge of civil war jackson locates this movement at the end of a long nineteenth century where communal and confessional identities were still as powerful as class and where native hostility to catholicism and irish migration still prevailed this work shows that the rhetoric and street theatre of carsonism had as much resonance in britain as protestant ulster where enormous crowds turned out to protest against home rule throughout great britain and not just in the sectarian cauldrons of liverpool and glasgow for jackson the study of these massive demonstrations becomes a way of capturing the opinions of those rendered voiceless by history and shows how the ulster question allowed conservative politicians to bridge the gap between elites and masses and elicit a degree of popular enthusiasm unmatched in the

years before the great war

in the early twentieth century public health reformers approached the task of ameliorating unsanitary conditions and preventing epidemic diseases with optimism using exhibits they believed they could make systemic issues visual to masses of people embedded within these visual displays were messages about individual action in some cases this meant changing hygienic practices in other situations this meant taking up action to inform public policy reformers and officials hoped that exhibits would energize america s populace to invest in protecting the public s health exhibiting health is an analysis of the logic of the production and the consumption of this technique for popular public health education between 1900 and 1930 it examines the power and limits of using visual displays to support public health initiatives

includes literature

the six weeks immediately following the assassination of austrian archduke francis ferdinand offer an especially useful setting for examining the behavior of states in crisis the process of international conflict and the spiralling of a limited war into a general war

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