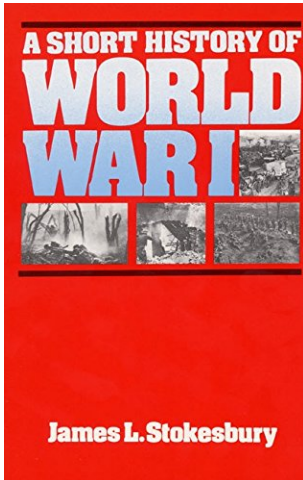


[PDF] A Short History Of World War I

James L. Stokesbury - pdf download free book



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About the Author James L. Stokesbury is the author of A Short History of World War I, A Short History of World War II, A Short History of the Korean War, and A Short History of the American Revolution. Before his death in 1995 he was a professor of history at Acadia University in Nova Scotia, Canada.

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The World War I lasted from about 1914 AD until 1918 AD. It was directly triggered by the assassination of Franz Ferdinand by a Serbian nationalist in Sarajevo, Bosnia. It then ended with memorable precision, at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918. A year before his death in 1898, Otto von Bismarck prophesied that when war again came to Europe it would be over "some damn foolish thing in the Balkans." Seventeen years later, Archduke Franz Ferdinand was assassinated in At the end of World War I, the map of Europe was redrawn. Once powerful empires were broken up and new nations were created in their place. The war also tested Australia's commitment to Great Britain. Although Australia displayed a strong sense of loyalty to Britain by committing troops and resources, the Australian public was divided over the issue of conscription. Today, the sacrifice of those who fought and died in World War I is commemorated in many nations around the world -- including Australia. 9A. What were the causes of World War I? 1 There were a number of short-term and long-term factors. In 1815, Europe had united to defeat French Emperor Napoleon. For a century since that time, there had been no major war in Europe. Countries had organized themselves in a complex system of alliances. After Napoleon's defeat, the United Kingdom, France, Prussia, Russia, and Austria met in Vienna. These nations decided that if power in Europe was balanced, then no nation would become so powerful as to pose a threat to the others. The most important of these were the German Confederation. In 1871, after World War I saw the introduction of modern technology into the military arena: The tank, airplane, machine gun, submarine, and -- most lethal of all -- poison gas, all received their first widespread use. Professor Stokesbury analyzes these technological innovations and the war's complex military campaigns in lucid detail. Apled France in one of the great upsets of the century -- in fact, of modern history. All these wars had either been short, or in the case of colonial ones, far away, and they were correspondingly attractive. In the first decade of this century, soldiers still dressed in colorful uniforms, and war appeared a useful shortcut to diplomacy, a handy problem-solving device. Two things changed that. One was technology, the second was the growth of an interlocking system of alliance. World War I (or the First World War, often abbreviated as WWI or WW1) was a global war originating in Europe that lasted from 28 July 1914 to 11 November 1918. Contemporaneously known as the Great War or "the war to end all wars", it led to the mobilisation of more than 70 million military personnel, including 60 million Europeans, making it one of the largest wars in history. It is also one of the deadliest conflicts in history, with an estimated 9 million combatant deaths and 13 million civilian