

City University of New York (CUNY)

## CUNY Academic Works

---

Open Educational Resources

City College of New York

---

2022

### The Era of the Great War

Barbara Syrrakos  
*CUNY City College*

[How does access to this work benefit you? Let us know!](#)

More information about this work at: [https://academicworks.cuny.edu/cc\\_oers/393](https://academicworks.cuny.edu/cc_oers/393)

Discover additional works at: <https://academicworks.cuny.edu>

---

This work is made publicly available by the City University of New York (CUNY).  
Contact: [AcademicWorks@cuny.edu](mailto:AcademicWorks@cuny.edu)

***The Era of the Great War***  
**Department of History**  
**The City College of New York**

**SYLLABUS TEMPLATE: Add/remove sources, assignments and requirements to suit needs**

**Materials for the Course**

This is a no-book-purchase class. All materials will be available either on BlackBoard, through an online link, or via library electronic materials.

Most weeks, we will be consulting the following edited volume, available electronically through the campus library:

- Strachan, Hew. *The Oxford Illustrated History of the First World War*. Oxford University Press, 2016. [https://cuny-cc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CUNY\\_CC/gc81bt/cdi\\_askewsholts\\_vlebooks\\_9780191640407](https://cuny-cc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CUNY_CC/gc81bt/cdi_askewsholts_vlebooks_9780191640407)

And this online reader is very good for maps, timelines and basic biographies of key players, for reference:

- Neiberg, Michael S. *The World War I Reader*. New York: New York University Press, 2006. [https://cuny-cc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CUNY\\_CC/gc81bt/cdi\\_askewsholts\\_vlebooks\\_9780814759325](https://cuny-cc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CUNY_CC/gc81bt/cdi_askewsholts_vlebooks_9780814759325)

To keep at hand: [BBC - BBC World War One](#) BBC WWI Archive Collection, video and audio.

**COURSE CALENDAR**

**Week One: Material Culture and the French war poster: *Grande Matinée***

Introductions, Syllabus, orientation to BlackBoard.

Discussion: Why The Great War is relevant: Debates and ongoing research

**For Thursday: *The World Ante Bellum* and Overture: A PowerPoint survey in images**

Read brief excerpts from Florian Illies: *1913* (on BlackBoard under Content)

Read the short short story by Guillaume Apollinaire, "The Blue Eye" from *The Poet Assassinated* pp. 106-109 [The poet assassinated : and other stories : Apollinaire, Guillaume, 1880-1918 : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive](#)

Optional: Listen to (15 minutes) [BBC Radio 4 - 1913: The Year Before, The Great Change](#) .

Optional: Review [A global guide to the first world war - interactive documentary | World news | The Guardian](#)

## **Week Two: Contemporary Reporting**

Quotidian reporting: What can we absorb about the past at a glance and with a little sleuthing?

For in-class Discussion. Choose one of the press items below. Submit in class 1-2 pages about what you learned from your article and what questions it raised for you. What did you learn, even with a little research? Cite your sources (press items, scholarly items, museum sources).

- [Melting Glaciers Have Exposed Frozen Relics of World War I - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\).](#)
- [In Turkey, a Watery Grave Becomes a Park - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](#)
- [The Harlem Hellfighters Were War Heroes. Then They Came Home to Racism. - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](#)
- [Biden Declares Mass Killings of Armenians a Genocide - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](#)
- [Gavrilo Princip, assassin who sparked WWI, gets statue in Belgrade | News | DW | 29.06.2015](#)

## **Week Three: Kings and Origins**

Carter, Miranda: *George, Nicholas and Wilhelm: Three Royal Cousins and the Road to World War 1*. New York: Vintage Books, 2011. On BlackBoard

Chapter 15: "Celebrations and Warnings 1911-14", pp 334-356

Chapter 16: "July 1914", pp 357-378

Neiberg, Michael S. *The World War I Reader*. New York: New York University Press, 2006. [https://cuny-cc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CUNY\\_CC/gc81bt/cdi\\_askewsholts\\_vlebooks\\_9780814759325](https://cuny-cc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CUNY_CC/gc81bt/cdi_askewsholts_vlebooks_9780814759325)

"The Willy-Nicky Telegrams, 1914", pp 114-120

### **For Thursday: The Press and War**

[Heir to Austria's Throne Is Slain \(nytimes.com\)](#)

[How the Guardian played down the assassination that sparked world war | First world war | The Guardian](#)

Glean what you can from: Durham, Edith M.: *The Serajevo Crime*. London: George Allen & Unwin, Ltd., 1925. (on BlackBoard)

"The Serajevo Murderers" pp 75-95

#### **Week Four: 1914-15**

In Strachan: "The Origins of the War" by Samuel R. Williamson, Jr., pp 11-28

In Strachan: "Manoeuvre Warfare: The Eastern and Western Fronts, 1914-15" by Dennis E. Showalter, pp 39-53

Tuchman, Barbara W. *The Guns of August*. New York: Macmillan, 1962. [The guns of August : Tuchman, Barbara Wertheim : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive](#) Excerpts.

**Optional:** In Strachan: "The Strategy of the Central Powers 1914-1917", by Holger Afflerbach, pp 28-38

**Optional:** In Strachan: "The Strategy of the Entente Powers 1914-1917, by Dennis Showalter, pp 39-53

#### **For Thursday:**

In Strachan: "Turkey's War" by Ulrich Trumpener, pp 80-91

Churchill, Winston. *The World Crisis : an Abridgment of the Classic 4-Volume History of World War I*. New York: Scribner, 1992. [https://cuny-cc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CUNY\\_CC/o05rus/alma990030861140106138](https://cuny-cc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CUNY_CC/o05rus/alma990030861140106138) SELECT CHAPTERS XXXV, XXXVI, XXXVII ON Balkans, Dardanelles, consequences of 1915

[The Battle of Gallipoli: Winston Churchill, Mustafa Kemal, and the battle that shaped the future of Europe. \(slate.com\)](#)

**Optional:** Eksteins, Modris: *Rites of Spring: The Great War and the Birth of the Modern Age*. Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2000.

Chapter VII: "Journey to the Interior" pp 208-219.

#### **Week Five: 1915-16**

In Strachan: "Eastern Front and Western Front, 1916-1917" by Robin Prior and Trevor Wilson, pp 179-190

In Strachan: "The War in the Air" by John H. Morrow, Jr., pp 264-276

On Gallipoli, and poetry: [Double palimpsest: History and myth in the poetry of the Gallipoli campaign - Richard Hibbitt, Berkan Ulu, 2021 \(sagepub.com\)](#) Peer-reviewed article which includes overview of Gallipoli campaign plus poems

#### **For Thursday:**

Toynbee, Arnold Joseph. *Armenian Atrocities, the Murder of a Nation, by Arnold J. Toynbee ... with a Speech Delivered by Lord Bryce in the House of Lords*. England: Hodder & Stoughton, 1915.

[https://cuny-cc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CUNY\\_CC/1m7m00f/cdi\\_hathitrust\\_hathifiles\\_uc2\\_ark\\_13960\\_t3\\_9z9844h](https://cuny-cc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CUNY_CC/1m7m00f/cdi_hathitrust_hathifiles_uc2_ark_13960_t3_9z9844h) Excerpts.

The Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute photo collection: [Genocide Museum | The Armenian Genocide Museum-institute \(genocide-museum.am\)](#)

“Germans Pierce East Verdun Line”, *New York Times*: [TimesMachine: June 2, 1916 - NYTimes.com](#)

“Shoulder Arms” Charlie Chaplin film of WWI, 44 minutes on YouTube [Shoulder Arms, 1918 starring Charlie Chaplin - YouTube](#) First comedy about the war, Verdun battles 1916.

### **Week Six: 1917**

In Strachan: “Socialism, Peace, and Revolution, 1917-1918”, by John Horne, pp 226-237

In Strachan: “The Entry of the USA into the War and its Effects” by David Trask, pp 238-251

Merridale, Catherine: *Lenin on the Train*. Metropolitan Books, 2017. **Excerpts.**

Trotsky, Leon, and Max Eastman. *History of the Russian Revolution*. Chicago, Ill: Haymarket Books, 2008. [https://cuny-cc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CUNY\\_CC/1midkti/alma9994391281806138](https://cuny-cc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CUNY_CC/1midkti/alma9994391281806138)  
**excerpts**

### **For Thursday:**

*The Letters of T. E. Lawrence* (David Garnett, ed.): New York: Doubleday, Doran & Company, Inc., 1939. **Excerpts**

Lawrence, T. E.: *The Seven Pillars of Wisdom: A Triumph*. Garden City and New York: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1938. [Originally published in 1926.] **Selections.**

### **The Arab View**

Margaret MacMillan *Paris 1919* on Faisal I King of Syria and Iraq and Lawrence alliance and **Paris Peace Treaty pp 390-95.**  
MacMillan, Margaret, and Richard Holbrooke. *Paris 1919: Six Months That Changed the World*.  
Westminster: Random House Publishing Group, 2007. [https://cuny-cc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CUNY\\_CC/1m7m00f/cdi\\_askewsholts\\_vlebooks\\_9780307432964](https://cuny-cc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CUNY_CC/1m7m00f/cdi_askewsholts_vlebooks_9780307432964)

Optional: “Lawrence of Arabia” full film [Lawrence Of Arabia 🎬 \(1962\) - Full HD - Legendado. - YouTube](#)

### **Week Seven**

**Discussion and Review on Tuesday; and on Thursday in-class written exam**

### **Week Eight: 1918**

In Strachan: “War Aims and Peace Negotiations” by David Stevenson, pp 204-215

In Strachan: “The Allied Victories, 1918” by Tim Travers, pp 277-289

### **For Thursday:**

July 16: New York Times reporting on Assassination of Tsar Nicholas II and family [HOW NICHOLAS ROMANOFF WAS CONDEMNED TO DEATH; Remarkable Dispatch to The Mew York Times from Its Special Correspondent in Siberia and Russia Printed in Full for First Time--Ex-Czar's 1905 Abdication CHARGES IN THE INDICTMENT. FELT DEATH WAS NEAR. NICHOLAS BEFORE HIS JUDGES. THE DEATH SENTENCE. CZAR'S ABDICATION OF 1905. - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](#)

Rosa Luxemburg: [Rosa Luxemburg: What Does the Spartacus League Want? \(December 1918\) \(marxists.org\)](https://marxists.org/en/works/1918/12/19181201.htm)

Title: [The Surprisingly Important Role China Played in WWI | History | Smithsonian Magazine](https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/the-surprisingly-important-role-china-played-in-wwi-180973722/)

### **Week Nine: The Colonies – two cases**

Strachan, Hew. *The First World War in Africa*. Oxford ;: Oxford University Press, 2004. Print. [https://cuny-cc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CUNY\\_CC/o05rus/alma9994299138006138](https://cuny-cc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CUNY_CC/o05rus/alma9994299138006138) **Selections**

#### **For Thursday:**

Lunn, Joe: *Memoirs of the Maelstrom: A Senegalese Oral History of the First World War*. Oxford: James Currey Ltd., 1999.

Chapter 2: “The Tax in Blood: Military Recruitment in Rural Senegal, 1914-17”, pp 33-58

Chapter 5: “To Meet Death Far Away: The Senegalese in the Trenches” pp 120-157

Das, Santanu: *India, Empire, and First World War Culture*. Cambridge University Press, 2018.

Chapter 5: “Life-Writing from Below: Letters, Poems, Prayers and Songs of Sepoys in Europe, 1914-1918”, pp 203-238

**Optional:** Nanda, Anil. “Gallipoli: Intercontinental Leadership Through the Prism of Atatürk, Churchill, and Gandhi.” *World Neurosurgery* 79.1 (2013): 35–39. [https://cuny-cc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CUNY\\_CC/gc81bt/cdi\\_proquest\\_miscellaneous\\_1287381207](https://cuny-cc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CUNY_CC/gc81bt/cdi_proquest_miscellaneous_1287381207)

### **Week Ten: What the Women were Up To**

“The New Woman Behind the Camera” exhibition at the National Gallery in Washington, D. C. [The New Woman Behind the Camera \(nga.gov\)](https://www.nga.gov/exhibitions-and-education/the-new-woman-behind-the-camera.aspx)

Daniel, Ute: *The War from Within: German Working-Class Women in the First World War*. Oxford and New York: Berg, 1997. Chapter 2: “War as Event: August 1914 and The First Months of the War”, pp 19-36.

Darrow, Margaret H.: *French Women and the First World War*. Oxford and New York: Berg, 2000.

Chapter 3: “The Mobilization of Femininity”, pp 53-97 (with photos and notes).

#### **For Thursday:**

Cardinal, Agnes, Dorothy Goldman and Judith Hattaway (eds.): *Women’s Writing on the First World War*. Oxford, 1999.

Hall, Radclyffe: “Fraulein Schwartz” pp 13-31

West, Rebecca: “The Cordite Makers” pp 91-94

St. Clair Stobart, M.A.: “A Woman in the Midst of War” pp 94-101

Buckrose, J.E.: “War Economy” pp 129-134

Peel, Dorothy: “Housekeeping in War Time” pp 147-153

Stein, Gertrude: “The War” pp 187-189

Doolittle, H.D.: “Asphodel” pp 268-279

### **Week Eleven**

**Review and discussion on Tuesday; and second exam on Thursday**

### **Week Twelve: The Peace**

In Strachan: "The Peace Settlement" by Zara Steiner, pp 290-303

MacMillan, Margaret, and Richard Holbrooke. *Paris 1919: Six Months That Changed the World*.

Westminster: Random House Publishing Group, 2007. Excerpts. [https://cuny-cc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CUNY\\_CC/gc81bt/cdi\\_askewsholts\\_vlebooks\\_9780307432964](https://cuny-cc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CUNY_CC/gc81bt/cdi_askewsholts_vlebooks_9780307432964)

The Treaty of Versailles: [Treaty of peace with Germany \(Treaty of Versailles\) \(census.gov\)](https://www.census.gov/hhes/foreign-relations/treaty-versailles/) (For reference; 198 pages)

#### **For Thursday:**

Wilson's 14 Points of 1918: [Our Documents - President Woodrow Wilson's 14 Points \(1918\)](https://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php/118)

The League of Nations charter: [Avalon Project - The Covenant of the League of Nations \(yale.edu\)](https://avalon.libraries.yale.edu/imt/leaguenations.html)

Myers, Denys P. "The Mandate System of the League of Nations." *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, vol. 96, [Sage Publications, Inc., American Academy of Political and Social Science], 1921, pp. 74–77, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1014872>

Sykes-Picot Agreement 1916 text: [Sykes-Picot agreement - Text/Non-UN document \(16 May 1916\)](https://www.unhcr.org/refugees/pdf/31622000.pdf)

Neiberg, Michael S. *The World War I Reader*. New York: New York University Press, 2006. [https://cuny-cc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CUNY\\_CC/gc81bt/cdi\\_askewsholts\\_vlebooks\\_9780814759325](https://cuny-cc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CUNY_CC/gc81bt/cdi_askewsholts_vlebooks_9780814759325)

Letters, Balfour Declaration, pp 691-701

### **Week Thirteen**

In the classroom: Research and drafting final papers in consultation. Exchanging drafts for review.

### **Week Fourteen**

In the classroom: Research and drafting final papers in consultation.