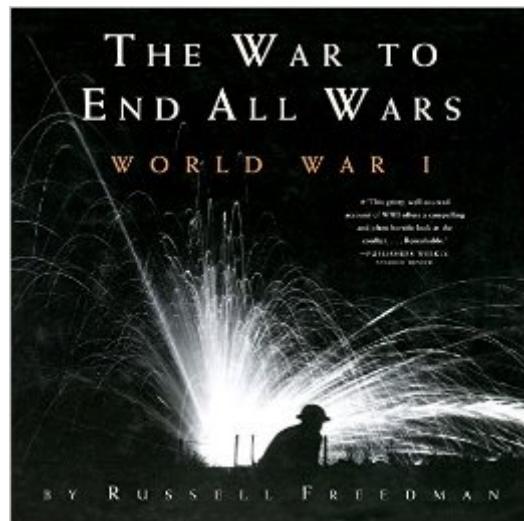


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# The War To End All Wars: World War I



## **Synopsis**

Nonfiction master Russell Freedman illuminates for young readers the complex and rarely discussed subject of World War I. The tangled relationships and alliances of many nations, the introduction of modern weaponry, and top-level military decisions that resulted in thousands upon thousands of casualties all contributed to the "great war," which people hoped and believed would be the only conflict of its kind. In this clear and authoritative account, the Newbery Medal-winning author shows the ways in which the seeds of a second world war were sown in the first. Numerous archival photographs give the often disturbing subject matter a moving visual counterpart. Includes source notes, a bibliography, and an index.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 1220 (What's this?)

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (47 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #144,383 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #39 inÂ  Books > Teens > Education & Reference > History > Military #69 inÂ  Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Military History #141 inÂ  Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > History

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## **Customer Reviews**

This book provides an excellent overview of World War I. Pros: 1. Book is very easy to read. 2. Excellent photographs. 3. Makes reading about WWI interesting by doing more than just listing facts, but actually making it read like a story. 4. Succinct and neutral interpretation of the facts. Negatives: if I had to say anything, I'd just want a few more pictures. Summary: this book is perfect for anyone who wants to learn about World War I without having to buy one of those giant textbooks or those huge picturebooks.

This is a surprisingly concise, readable, and enlightening book. My wife is a middle school history teacher and has been looking for a resource like this her whole career. It is perfect for her students, not too dense to get bogged down, but amazingly educational. Now if the authors would take on every other big event in American history. Most of us see World War I through the eyes of text book writers who condense the war into a few pages full of sound bites like the war started after Ferdinand is assassinated, the British and French suffered extreme casualties before the US entered the war, and US entered the war after the Lusitania is sunk. This book elegantly explains the web of alliances that drug what should have been a minor confrontation between Serbia and the Austro-Hungarian Empire into a world war. Likewise the book is balanced in showing the years of horrific fighting the English, French and Germans experienced before the US even entered the war. In fact the US involvement in the war only takes up about the last 10% of the book rather than the way textbooks make our sacrifices seem equal. But the best thing about this book is how wonderfully written it is. It is a quick read that pulls you along. It does not bog down in statistics or names but rather keeps history alive by using a lot of first person reports and quotes while doing a great job of covering all aspects of the war. The analysis is fair and with no apparent bias (other than maybe pointing out that war, and especially this one, is horrific.) It tells the whole story, even leading into World War II and how basically it was an extension of the first world war. I got an advanced reviewer copy so I am not sure how the quality of the final product will be, but the illustrations are great. It is definitely a book to pick up for anyone looking for a better understanding of the war. I really hope they continue this into a series for other wars and historic topics.

The War to End All Wars. World War I by Russell Freedman

World War I was suppose to be the war to end all wars in the world. It was brutal, deadly, and unforgettable. Thousands of lives would be lost for a few feet of territory. Unfortunately World War I was a precursor and a cause of World War II and as we all know the horrors of war continue in the world today.

World War I started when Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sophie were killed by a Serbian terrorist group called the Black Hand in 1914 in Sarajevo. After their murders Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia and the Russians (Serbian allies) declared war on Austria and then Germany declared war on Russia and so on until almost two dozen countries were involved in a war for reasons most couldn't clarify.

World War I would change the way war was fought when it employed modern weapons, like tanks, long range artillery, trench warfare and poisonous gas. Battles would be fought on land, sea and in the air with newly designed bomber planes. Over 20 million people died in World War I, many empires collapsed, revolutions were fought, famine was widespread and the world map was

redrawn. Freedman does an excellent job of explaining World War I clearly and accurately. Many photos depict the anguish of war, the devastation of the landscape and the injury of the soldiers. There are only four maps in the book and personally I would have preferred more. As a world history teacher, maps are really important to me and help me reference the location of an historical event. The War to End All Wars in my opinion could have had a lot more maps illustrating the important battles and their strategic locations. The War To End All Wars is extremely informative, easy to read and understand and an excellent reference resource on World War I.

Newbery Medal winner Russell Freedman offers a concise, humanistic overview of the Great War. Freedman's thoughtful text is augmented by stark photographs (particularly the depiction of trench life), an accessible layout and wide-ranging bibliography. Though intended for children, adult readers will find "The War to End All Wars" equally compelling.

Please see the review I wrote for Children at Work by Russell Freedman. The same holds true for this book. There are few good books on WWI, but I think Freedman handles this subject nicely in this book.

I decided to put my son through a homeschool regiment this summer to prepare him for his classes this fall in 10th grade. Just wanted to get his interest up a little. Most areas of US history are easy to find books on, that are appropriate for young adults. World War I is not one of them. So I grabbed on to this one. Glad I did. Very doable material and fantastic photos. Interesting even for us parents to leaf through and read. Can see my son polishing off a couple chapters a day and answering a few comprehension questions on each chapter that I'll put together for him. Homeschoolers...this one would be good for this topic! We attend public school during the regular school year, but if I were homeschooling for keeps, I would also want this book.

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