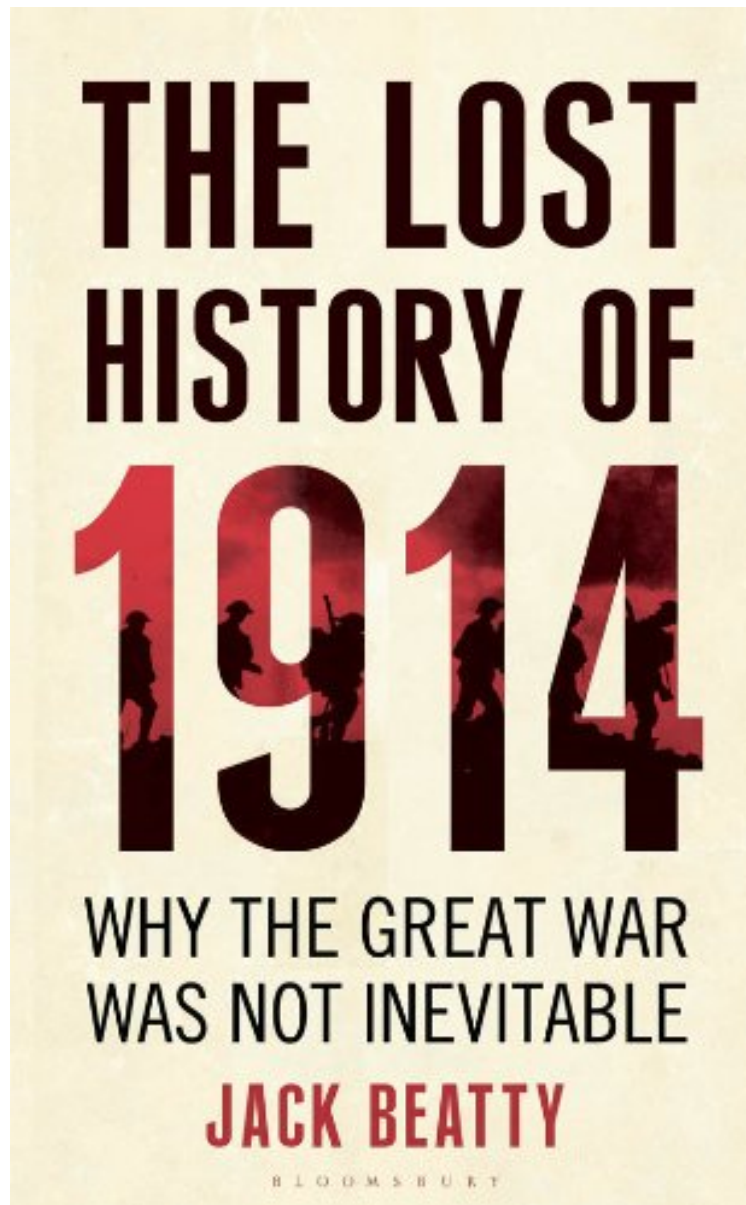


(Download free pdf) The Lost History of 1914: How the Great War Was Not Inevitable

The Lost History of 1914: How the Great War Was Not Inevitable

Von Jack Beatty

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Von Jack Beatty : The Lost History of 1914: How the Great War Was Not Inevitable before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Lost History of 1914: How the Great War Was Not Inevitable:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.

Meaningfull addition to the literature on WWI On Andrej Manalsky Have really enjoyed reading this book. The long sentences (which the author even admits) are sometimes difficult to follow but otherwise the style is straightforward and clear. From the historical perspective the reader will for sure discover a lot of which he was not aware. The chapter on the reasons for Britain's war involvement is surprising and nearly entirely dealing with the Irish problem. At the end of the book however this is relatively rectified. This would be however my only criticism. For those who are interested in the WWI history I can only recommend to read this book.

Kurzbeschreibung In *The Lost History of 1914*, Jack Beatty examines the First World War and its causes, testing against fresh evidence the long-dominant assumption that it was inevitable. 'Most books set in 1914 map the path leading to war,' Beatty writes, 'this one maps the multiple paths that led away from it.' Radically challenging the standard account of the war's outbreak, Beatty presents the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand not as the catalyst of a war that would have broken out in any event over some other crisis, but rather as 'its all-but unique precipitant'. Chronicling largely forgotten events faced by each of the belligerent countries in the months before the war started in August, Beatty shows how any one of them - a possible military coup in Germany; the threat to Britain of civil war in Ireland; the murder trial of the wife of the likely next premier of France, who sought détente with Germany - might have derailed the arrival of war. Europe's ruling classes, Beatty shows, were so haunted by fear of those below that they mistook democratisation for revolution, and were tempted to 'escape forward' into war to head it off. Beatty's deeply insightful book - as elegantly written as it is thought-provoking and probing - lights a lost world about to blow itself up in what George Kennan called 'the seminal catastrophe of the twentieth century'. *The Lost History of 1914* is a highly original and challenging work of history.

Pressestimmen "Many historians consider WWI to have been inevitable. Not so, maintains Beatty, a news analyst on NPR's *On Point* ("Age of Betrayal: The Triumph of Money in America, 1865-1900"), in this delightfully contrarian account. If one of any number of events had turned out differently, the war might not have been launched. Had war been delayed a month, for instance, civil war over the bitter Irish Home Rule controversy might have embroiled Britain. Russian leaders agreed that war would provoke revolution, as it had in 1905. Yet in 1914, all mysteriously and disastrously changed their minds. With far less reason, says Beatty, Germany's leaders also feared revolution; many urged a military coup that would have preoccupied the army. Every European belligerent disliked President Wilson's quirky support of Mexican rebels under Pancho Villa (he later reversed himself). This led to Germany's January 1917 Zimmermann telegram (which was intercepted by the British) promising Mexico's dictator U.S. territory in exchange for invading its northern neighbor. Beatty maintains that this, not Germany's announcement of unrestricted submarine warfare, tipped the balance in America in favor of war. Readers may find some arguments more convincing than others, but they will thoroughly enjoy Beatty's thoughtful, often discomfiting opinions." -- "Publishers Weekly" "Thought-provoking, and often mordantly ironic." -- "The New Yorker" "Beatty's achievement isn't so much in discovering new material about World War I as it is in taking apart what is known about 1914 and assembling it in a different form. We see, of course, what might have been--but more important, we see, in a different light, what was. It was a calamity." -- David Shribman, "The Boston Globe" "Beatty seeks to navigate the historiography of the first great conflict of the twentieth century away from the 'metaphysical no-man's land of historical inevitability' and back into the 'trenches of empiricism.'" -- "The New Statesman" "Beatty... captures the sweep of the events that gripped the world and illuminates the epic arrogance, the paranoia, the pettiness and the myopic self-serving views of the European heads of state who had laid the cornerstone of a conflict that would lead to the deaths of millions from Moscow to Maine." -- Paul Collins, "Nashua Telegraph" "Beatty has a great eye for the vivid details that reveal character... 'Downton Abbey' notwithstanding, the prewar era really does seem like a lost time. Beatty manages to shed some light on that receding era." -- Michael Hill, "The Associated Press" "THE LOST HISTORY OF 1914" brings alive much of the official world of a century ago." -- Bruce Ramsey, "Seattle Times" "Bold stuff... [An] exuberant and bulging rag-bag of counter-factual history that challenges the 'cult of inevitability' that Europe's war-leaders were retrospectively so eager to embrace." -- David Crane, "The Spectator" "[A] startling study of what Woodrow Wilson called 'an injury to civilization.'" -- Eve Ottenberg, "In These Times" "Spritely, captivating... [Beatty's book] delivers his signature storyteller's insights. Hardly any writer working today can amass such an enormous array of information and shape it all so effortlessly into paragraph after compelling paragraph. The centennial of World War I is bound to produce a tsunami of verbiage - an Thought-provoking, and often mordantly ironic. "The New Yorker" Beatty's achievement isn't so much in discovering new material about World War I as it is in taking apart what is known about 1914 and assembling it in a different form. We see, of course, what might have been--but more important, we see, in a different light, what was. It was a calamity. "David Shribman, The Boston Globe" Beatty seeks to navigate the historiography of the first great conflict of the twentieth century away from the 'metaphysical no-man's land of historical inevitability' and back into the 'trenches of empiricism.' "The New Statesman" Beatty... captures the sweep of the events that gripped the world and illuminates the epic arrogance, the paranoia, the pettiness and the myopic self-serving views of the European heads of state who

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Kurzbeschreibung

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