

The Cambridge Companion to the Literature of the First World War

The Great War of 1914–18 marks a turning point in modern history and culture. This *Companion* offers critical overviews of the major literary genres and social contexts that define the study of the writings produced by the First World War. The volume comprises original essays by distinguished scholars of international reputation, who examine the impact of the war on the major national literatures, principally those of Great Britain, Germany, France, and the United States. Additional consideration is given to the way the war affected modernism, the European avant-garde, film, and women's writing. A final section of essays addresses the legacy of the war in subsequent literary and popular culture. The *Companion* offers readers a chronology of key events and publication dates leading up through and following the war, and it provides a current bibliography of further reading organized by major scholarly topics.

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Stanley Spencer, *The Resurrection of Soldiers*, in Sandham Memorial Chapel, Burghclere, 1928–29 (detail). © Estate of Stanley Spencer 2005. All rights reserved, DACS.
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COMPANION TO
THE LITERATURE OF
THE FIRST WORLD WAR

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NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

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NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

Revisionism in Ireland (1994) and *Poetry & Posterity* (2000), and she has edited *The Bloodaxe Book of Twentieth-Century British and Irish Poetry* (2000).

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VINCENT SHERRY is Pierce Butler Professor of English at Tulane University. His books include *The Great War and the Language of Modernism* (2003); *James Joyce: Ulysses* (1994; 2004); *Ezra Pound, Wyndham Lewis, and Radical Modernism* (1993); and *The Uncommon Tongue: The Poetry and Criticism of Geoffrey Hill* (1987). He is currently writing a book on pan-European decadence and literary modernism in English.

DAVID TROTTER is King Edward VII Professor of English Literature at the University of Cambridge. His most recent books are *Cooking with Mud: The Idea of Mess in Nineteenth-Century Art and Fiction* (2000) and *Paranoid Modernism* (2001). He currently works on the history of early cinema.

CHRONOLOGY

- 1895: Crane, *The Red Badge of Courage*
 1896: First modern Olympiad, Athens
 1898: Zeppelin builds airship
 1899: Anglo-Boer War (1899–1902)
 1900: International Socialist Congress in Paris
 First radio transmission of human voice
 Freud, *Interpretation of Dreams*
 1901: Death of Queen Victoria, Edward VII king
 First Nobel Prizes awarded
 1902: Stieglitz, *Camera Work*
 1903: First airborne flight by Wright brothers
 Emmeline Pankhurst founds Women’s Social and Political Union in
 Britain
 Shaw, *Man and Superman*
 1904: Russo-Japanese War (1904–5)
 Anglo-French *entente*
 Chekhov, *The Cherry Orchard*
 Hardy, *The Dynasts* I (II, 1906; III, 1908)
 1905: Isadora Duncan establishes first school of “modern dance,” Berlin
 Einstein publishes on Special Theory of Relativity
 1906: Liberal party wins in British parliamentary elections
 Doughty, *The Dawn in Britain*
 Sinclair, *The Jungle*
 Sorel, *Réflexions sur la violence*
 1907: Anglo-Russian *entente*
 First exhibit of “Cubism” in Paris
 Conrad, *The Secret Agent*
 1908: Gertrude Stein, *Three Lives*
 1909: North Pole reached by Perry
 Kandinsky’s first abstract paintings

CHRONOLOGY

- Diaghilev, Ballets Russes in Paris
 Marinetti, *Futurist Manifesto*
 Pound, *Personae*
 Schönberg, *Five Orchestral Pieces*
- 1910: Death of Edward VII, George V king
 Post-Impressionist exhibit in London
- 1911: Barrie, *Peter Pan*
 Emma Goldman, *Anarchism and Other Essays*
- 1912: Social Democratic Party wins 110 seats in German Reichstag
Titanic sinks
 Captain Scott's (lost) expedition to South Pole
 Wars of Balkan States (1912–13)
 Duchamp, *Nude Descending a Staircase*
Georgian Poetry 1911–12, ed. Sir Edward Marsh
- 1913: Stravinsky, *Le Sacre du printemps*
 Einstein, *Theory of Relativity*
 Proust, *Du côté de chez Swann*
 Thomas Mann, *Tod in Venedig*
 Blaise Cendrars, *La Prose du Transsibérien*
- 1914: Joyce, *Dubliners*
 Frost, *North of Boston*
 Burroughs, *Tarzan of the Apes*
 Hardy, *Satires of Circumstance*
Des Imagistes: An Anthology, ed. Pound
 Yeats, *Responsibilities*
 Wyndham Lewis founds *Blast* as journal of Vorticism
 Assassination of Jean Jaurès in Paris
 28 June: Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to throne of Austria-Hungary, in Sarajevo, Bosnia
 28 July: Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia
 1 August: Germany declares war on Russia
 3 August: Germany declares war on France
 4 August: German troops enter Belgium
 4 August: Great Britain declares war on Germany
 4 August: United States President Wilson declares neutrality
 11–12 August: Austro-Hungarian troops invade Serbia
 22 August: Battle of Mons begins
 26–29 August: Germans defeat Russians at Battle of Tannenberg
 2 September: Writers convened for Government War Propaganda, London
 6 September: Battle of the Marne begins

CHRONOLOGY

- 14 September: First Battle of Aisne begins
 13 October–15 November: First Battle of Ypres
 28 October: Turkey enters war on side of Central Powers
 21 December: First German air raid on Britain
 25 December: Christmas truce (unofficial), Western Front
 Deaths in war: Charles Péguy, Alfred Lichtenstein, Georg Trakel
- 1915: 18 January: First German Zeppelin attacks on England
 4 February: German U-boat attacks on Allied and neutral shipping; Germany declares blockade of Britain
 18–19 March: Allied naval attack on Dardanelles
 28 March: Sinking of first passenger ship, the British liner *Falaba*
 April–June: German concentration on Eastern Front, driving Russians out of Poland
 22 April: First gas attack, by Germans, at Ypres
 25 April–10 August: Allied landings at Gallipoli
 7 May: Sinking of the *Lusitania* causes diplomatic crisis between Germany and United States
 23 May: Italy declares war on Austria-Hungary
 25 May: British Liberal Prime Minister Asquith forms coalition government
 31 May: First Zeppelin raid on London
 6 August: Suvla Bay attack at Gallipoli begins
 19 December: Sir Douglas Haig named BEF Commander in France
 28 December: Allied withdrawal from Gallipoli begins
 Deaths in war: Rupert Brooke, Julian Grenfell, Charles Hamilton Sorley, August Stramm, Henri Gaudier-Brzeska
 Romain Rolland, *Au-dessus de la mêlée*
 Rolland wins Nobel Prize for Literature
 Rilke, “Fünf Gesänge, August 1914”
 Stramm, “Wunde”
 René Benjamin, *Gaspard*
 Buchan, *The Thirty-Nine Steps*
 Lawrence, *The Rainbow* (banned in Britain)
 Edith Wharton, *Fighting France*
 May Sinclair, *Journal of Impressions in Belgium*
 Brooke, *1914 & Other Poems*
 Griffith’s film, *Birth of a Nation*
- 1916: February: Great Britain introduces conscription
 21 February–18 December: German attack at Verdun in longest battle of war, ultimately won by French

CHRONOLOGY

- 24–30 April: Easter Rising in Ireland
 31 May: Battle of Jutland, major naval engagement of war
 5 June: Sinking of *HMS Hampshire*, death of Lord Kitchener
 1 July: Anglo-French offensive at Somme begins; nearly 60,000
 British casualties in first assaults
 28 August: Hindenburg appointed German Chief of Staff
 15 September: British tanks first used, at Flers-Courcelette, Somme
 front
 6 December: David Lloyd George becomes British Prime Minister
 18 December: President Wilson requests statements of aims from
 warring nations
 Deaths in war: Alan Seeger, Umberto Boccioni, Antonio Sant’Elia
 Saussure, *Cours de linguistique générale*
 Barbusse, *Le Feu: journal d’une escouade*
 Kafka, *Metamorphoses*
 1914–1916: *Eine Anthologie* (verse) published by anti-war *Die*
 Aktion
 Sorley, *Marlborough and Other Poems*
 H. D., *Sea Garden*
 H. G. Wells, *Mr. Britling Sees It Through*
 Dada in Zurich
- 1917: 1 February: Germany resumes unrestricted submarine warfare
 (after respite)
 3 February: United States breaks diplomatic relations with
 Germany
 11 March: British capture Baghdad
 15 March: Tsar Nicholas II abdicates as result of Russian
 Revolution
 6 April: United States declares war on Germany
 9 April: Start of Arras offensive
 29 April–10 June: Mutiny in French army
 18 May: John Pershing given command of AEF
 25 June: First United States troops arrive in France
 31 July: Third Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele) begins
 October–November: Bolshevik Revolution in Russia, Communist
 government under Lenin
 7 December: United States declares war on Austria-Hungary
 9 December: Jerusalem taken by British
 22 December: Russia engages in separate peace negotiations with
 Germany at Brest-Litovsk

CHRONOLOGY

- Deaths in war: T. E. Hulme, Francis Ledwidge, John McCrae,
 Edward Thomas
 Freud, *Introduction to Psychoanalysis*
 Eliot, *Prufrock and Other Observations*
 Edward Thomas, *Poems*
 Sassoon, *The Old Huntsman*
 Dos Passos, *One Man's Initiation*
 Léon Werth, *Clavel soldat*
 Stefan Georg, "Der Krieg"
- 1918: 8 January: President Wilson announces 14 Points Peace Programme
 3 March: Soviet Russia finalizes peace negotiations in
 Brest-Litovsk treaty, freeing German troops for final campaign
 on Western Front
 21 March: Start of German major spring offensive, in Battle of
 Picardy
 9 April: Second German spring offensive launched, Battle of Lys
 25 May: German U-boats appear in United States waters
 27 May–5 June: Third German spring offensive, Third Battle of
 Aisne
 15 July: Second Battle of the Marne, final effort of German spring
 offensive
 16–17 July: Former Tsar Nicholas and family murdered by
 Bolsheviks
 18 July–7 August: German retreat at the Marne
 22 August: Allied breakthrough at Albert
 3 October: Germany and Austria communicate peace initiatives to
 United States
 5 October: Allied forces capture Hindenburg Line
 17 October–24 October: British advance to Sambre and Schledt
 rivers; Germans surrender in large numbers
 21 October: Germany stops unrestricted submarine warfare
 30 October: Turkey arranges armistice with Allies
 3 November: German fleet mutinies at Kiel
 9 November: Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany abdicates
 11 November: Armistice
 14 December: Lloyd George wins British General Election
 Deaths in war: Joyce Kilmer, Isaac Rosenberg, Wilfred Owen,
 Guillaume Apollinaire
 Votes for women in Britain over 30, men over 21
 World-wide influenza epidemic
 Rebecca West, *Return of the Soldier*

CHRONOLOGY

- Edith Wharton, *The Marne*
 Georges Duhamel, *Civilisation, 1914–1917*
 Gerard Manley Hopkins, *Poems*, ed. Robert Bridges
 Sassoon, *Counter-Attack*
 Edward Thomas, *Last Poems*
 Spengler, *Der Untergang des Abendlandes* (trans., 1922, *The Decline of the West*)
 Chaplin, in *Shoulder Arms*
- 1919: 10–15 January: Communist revolts in Berlin
 18 January: Paris Peace Conference begins
 25 January: League of Nations accepted in principle at Peace Conference
 6 February: Meeting of German National Assembly in Weimar
 14 February: Completion of draft covenant for League of Nations
 7 May–28 June: Drafting and signing of Treaty of Versailles
 Pound, *Quia Pauper Amavi*
 Eliot, *Poems*
 Keynes, *The Economic Consequences of the Peace*
 Sassoon, *War Poems*
 McCrae, *In Flanders Fields and Other Poems*
- 1920: First meeting of the League of Nations
 Eliot, *The Sacred Wood: Essays on Poetry and Criticism*
 Pound, *Hugh Selwyn Mauberley*
 Lawrence, *Women in Love*
 Vernon Lee (Violet Paget), *Satan the Waster*
 Ernst Jünger, *In Stahlgewittern*
- 1921: Formation of Irish Free State, partition of Northern Ireland
 Owen, *Poems*, intro. Sassoon
 Dos Passos, *Three Soldiers*
 Chaplin, in *The Kid*
 Pirandello, *Six Characters in Search of an Author*
- 1922: Lloyd George coalition falls
 BBC established, begins transmissions
 Mussolini, March on Rome
 Montague, *Disenchantment*
 Willa Cather, *One of Ours*
 Joyce, *Ulysses*
 Eliot, *The Waste Land*
 Woolf, *Jacob's Room*
 E. E. Cummings, *The Enormous Room*
- 1923: Collapse of German currency

CHRONOLOGY

- Wharton, *A Son at the Front* (written 1919)
 Wallace Stevens, *Harmonium*
 Freud, *The Ego and the Id*
 Roland Dorgelès, *Le Réveil des morts*
- 1924: Breton, *Manifeste du surréalisme*
 Mann, *Der Zauberberg*
 Death of Lenin, succeeded by Stalin
- 1925: Hitler, *Mein Kampf*
 Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*
 Yeats, *A Vision*
 Hemingway, *In Our Time*
 Kafka, *The Trial*
 Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway*
 Eisenstein, *Battleship Potemkin*
- 1926: General Strike in Britain, 26 April–12 May (mine workers for six months more)
 Faulkner, *Soldier's Pay*
 Hemingway, *The Sun Also Rises*
 T. E. Lawrence, *The Seven Pillars of Wisdom*
 Mottram, *The Spanish Farm Trilogy* (1924–26)
- 1927: Lindbergh, solo transatlantic flight
 Heidegger, *Being and Time*
 Proust, *Le Temps retrouvé*
 Zweig, *Der Streit um den Sergeanten Grischa*
 Faulkner, *Sartoris* (*Flags in the Dust*)
 First “talkie” film (*The Jazz Singer*)
- 1928: Radclyffe Hall, *The Well of Loneliness*
 Lawrence, *Lady Chatterley's Lover*
 Weill and Brecht, *Die Dreigroschenoper*
 Blunden, *Undertones of War*
 Ford, *Parade's End* (tetralogy completed)
 Erich Maria Remarque, *Im Westen nichts Neues*
 Ludwig Renn (Arnold Friedrich Vieth von Golßenau), *Krieg*
- 1929: Wall Street crash
 Aldington, *Death of a Hero*
 Hemingway, *A Farewell to Arms*
 Graves, *Good-bye to All That*
 Jünger, *Das Wäldchen 125, eine Chronik aus den Grabenkämpfen*
 1918
 English translations of Jünger, *The Storm of Steel*, and Remarque, *All Quiet on the Western Front*

CHRONOLOGY

- 1930: Nazis elected to German Reichstag
 Film of *All Quiet on the Western Front* wins Oscar
 “Private 19022” (Frederic Manning), *The Middle Parts of Fortune*
 (also known as *Her Privates We*)
 Sassoon, *Memoirs of an Infantry Officer*
 Williamson, *The Patriot’s Progress*
 English translation of Jünger, *Copse 125*
- 1933: Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany
 Roosevelt, “New Deal”
 Vera Brittain, *Testament of Youth*
- 1934: Fitzgerald, *Tender is the Night*
- 1935: Italy invades Abyssinia
- 1936: Death of George V, Edward VIII king (abdicates to marry
 Mrs. Simpson), George VI king
 Spanish Civil War begins
 Mussolini and Hitler form Rome–Berlin Axis
 Chaplin, in *Modern Times*
- 1937: Chamberlain becomes Prime Minister
 German planes bomb Guernica in Spain
 Picasso, *Guernica*
 David Jones, *In Parenthesis*
 Rosenberg, *Collected Works*
 Death of Ivor Gurney
- 1938: Germany invades and annexes Austria
 Chamberlain’s policy of appeasement with Hitler, “Munich
 Agreement”
- 1939: Germany invades Poland; Second World War begins