

## World War One

World War I and its aftermath witnessed a global revolution. This was reflected in the revolutionary war aims of most of the belligerents, the technological revolution that made the war so deadly, the revolutionary sentiment that grew among ordinary combatants, and the revolutionary pressures that led to the collapse of the Romanov, Habsburg, and Ottoman empires. In this revised edition of *World War One*, Lawrence Sondhaus synthesizes the latest scholarship on the war and incorporates insights from the vast body of work published during the war's centenary. He charts the political, economic, social, and cultural history of the war at home and on the front lines as well as the war's origins, ending and transformative effects on societal norms and attitudes, gender and labor relations, and international trade and finance. The accessible narrative is supported by chronologies, personal accounts, guides to key controversies and debates, and numerous maps and photographs.

**Lawrence Sondhaus** is Gerald and Marjorie Morgan Professor of European History at the University of Indianapolis. His publications include *German Submarine Warfare in World War I* (2017), *The Great War at Sea* (2014), *Strategic Culture and Ways of War* (2006), *Naval Warfare, 1815–1914* (2001), and *Franz Conrad von Hötzendorf: Architect of the Apocalypse* (2000).

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-49619-3 — World War One  
2nd Edition  
Frontmatter  
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# World War One

## The Global Revolution

Second edition

Lawrence Sondhaus

*University of Indianapolis*



CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-49619-3 — World War One  
2nd Edition  
Frontmatter  
[More Information](#)

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## CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom  
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA  
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia  
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India  
79 Anson Road, #06–04/06, Singapore 079906

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

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[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)  
Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781108496193](http://www.cambridge.org/9781108496193)  
DOI: 10.1017/9781108866354

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First published 2011  
Second edition 2021

Printed in the United Kingdom by TJ Books Ltd, Padstow Cornwall

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.*

ISBN 978-1-108-49619-3 Hardback  
ISBN 978-1-108-79163-2 Paperback

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## Online Essays

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- 2 Daily Life in Anzac Cove
- 3 Air Power
- 4 Daily Life Aboard a U-boat
- 5 The Legacy of the Trenches: Mind, Body, Spirit
- 6 Artillery
- 7 Tanks
- 8 Oil
- 9 Propaganda
- 10 Combined Arms

## Preface

The goal of this book is to provide a global history of World War I, useful to general readers as well as to students of history. The thoroughly revised second edition aims to satisfy all readers seeking an up-to-date synthesis of the latest work on the subject. Revolution provides the unifying theme, including coverage of the revolutionary war aims of most of the combatants, the technological revolution that made the war so deadly for those in uniform, the revolutionary sentiment that grew among ordinary combatants (manifested most dramatically in wartime mutinies), and the revolutionary pressures that led to the collapse of the Romanov, Habsburg, and Ottoman empires. Beyond the military, political, and diplomatic realm, the book addresses the war's transformative effects on societal norms and attitudes, gender relations, and labor relations, especially in the urban areas of Europe and America, and on international trade and finance, with the rise of the United States to replace Britain as the center of the global economy.

Among general histories of World War I, this book is distinctive in the manner in which it reflects my insights into the Habsburg Empire and the relationship between Germany and Austria-Hungary. The alliance of the Central Powers not only made possible the start of the war, but also shaped its course and outcome more than most historians (especially those writing in the English language) have recognized or acknowledged. Most Anglophone historians of World War I have completely misunderstood Austria-Hungary and the dynamic between the Central Powers and, as a consequence, have to some extent misunderstood the war. Among the competing works, even those marketed as “global” still reflect either a strong emphasis on the Western front or a greater depth of understanding of the Western front when compared to the other theaters of the conflict (the Eastern, Italian, and Balkan fronts, and the action at sea or beyond Europe). I have endeavored to produce a superior summary account especially of these other theaters as well as the naval war.

With an eye toward making the book as useful as possible to its intended audiences, I have included features that are linked to, but can stand apart from, the main narrative of the text. More than fifty “boxes” provide excerpts of primary documents or voices of individuals, the latter including the broadest possible representation of roles, ranks, classes, and genders, as well as of combatant countries and theaters of action. Six chapters include “Perspectives” boxes providing examples of scholarly debate on

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the war's most controversial aspects. Each of the fifteen chapters includes a timeline and captioned illustrations, and ends with a list of suggestions for further reading. The number of chapters allows roughly one chapter per week for a course offered in a semester format. The relatively short chapters, further subdivided, should allow instructors great flexibility in assigning readings that match up with their lectures or class topics. Finally, ten topical essays offered in online format shed further light on the human experience in areas such as life in the trenches or aboard a submarine, as well as the learning curve of strategists and tacticians in their use of artillery, air power, and tanks, and the development of combined arms approaches. Such features, supplementing an engaging narrative, should make this book appealing to general readers as well.



## Acknowledgments

I owe a great debt of gratitude to the mentors, colleagues, and friends who have influenced my understanding of World War I over the years, and for the countless exchanges and conversations that prompted me to articulate many of the ideas and interpretations now incorporated in this book. The first edition benefited from the helpful comments of three of my colleagues at the University of Indianapolis, Ted Frantz, Milind Thakar, and Joseph Prestia, on the sections concerning the United States, India, and Romania, respectively. The revised edition continues to bear the mark of their insights. I would like to thank my editor, Michael Watson, for his constructive suggestions and overall role in shaping the first edition, and for securing from seven anonymous readers the suggestions for improvements that are reflected in the present volume. I would also like to thank Emily Sharp, editorial assistant, for guiding me through the process of preparing the second edition for publication.