

World WarI: The Rest of the Story & How It Affects You Today

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The explosion of the battleship Maine in Havana Harbor in 1898 was the beginning of a chain reaction that continues today. Mr. Maybury presents an idea-based explanation of the First World War. He focuses on the ideas and events that led to World War I, events during the war, and how they led to World War II. Includes the ten deadly ideas that lead to war. Can be used for courses in World History, U.S. History, International Relations, Economics, Business, Finance, and Government. Ages 14 through Adult.

World WarI: The Rest of the Story & How It Affects You Today Details


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Sally Ewan says

Maybury applies the 10 Deadly Ideas that Lead to War* to the situation preceding WWI. While I would have liked more specific information about the war, this book provides a helpful perspective missing from other history books.

* the Pax Romana, Fascism, love of political power, global protection, interests, cost externalization, manifest destiny, the white man's burden, alliances, glory of war

Celestia says

This book is essential to anyone who wants to understand U.S. and world history. Maybury points out many amazing insights, namely that the United States Government ceased being guided by the principles of the Founding Fathers and became oppressive like the mother country of Britain. This happened when it conquered the Phillipines and Cuba at the end of the Spanish American War. Over 200,000 Filipinos were killed by the USG. What a tragedy! Ever since that war the USG has been forcing itself on other countries in this domino effect that started with the Spanish American War and has us embroiled in the Iraqi war. This eye-opening book gives ten deadly errors why countries go to war, one of which is the longing for Pax Romana, or Roman Peace. It seems like peace to the head of the empire but it is actually a reign of terror and rebellion, because it is based on rule of men, not law. Europe's heritage is a longing for this Pax Romana. Maybury quotes Jefferson as saying that America should stay out of Europe's business, for it is made of countries who are focused on eternal war. America has a different heritage, that of having a government based on a higher law, not man's law, like the countries of Europe. (At least that is our heritage which the USG has departed from. Maybury doesn't go into that in this book but he does in his other book Whatever Happened to Justice?)

Andy says

Amazingly eye opening, just like WW II: The Rest of the Story and how it affects you today.

Will challenge your assumptions and understanding, of WWI, WWII, and how America should or shouldn't be involved like we are, whether you are politically liberal, conservative, libertarian, or "I dunno".

Meredith says

Not sure if I agree with all of the author's claims, but this was excellent exposure to ideas and history I hadn't explored before.

Karen says

2.5 stars. I usually like Uncle Eric books, but this one was barely about WWI.

Teresa says

I definately did not learn any of this in my bricks and mortar school. Thank goodness for home education!

Cynthia Egbert says

I do not always agree with Uncle Eric, but I am awfully grateful that Mr. Maybury has written these books to help me get a more clear picture of history and how it affects me today. I was intrigued by his 10 reasons for war and that was probably my favorite part of the book.

1. The Pax Romana (The belief that we can create the Roman Peace, which never really existed.)
2. Fascism (Unification of everyone under a single government that does whatever is necessary, no limits.)
3. Love of Political Power (War is the most exciting tool of power seekers.)
4. Global Protection (The belief that a government has the duty or right to protect its citizens no matter where they choose to go or what risk they choose to take.)
5. Interests (Do not even try to figure this one out, leaders have gone to war for centuries in the "interest" of their holdings or people, but nobody has ever legally defined interests...)
6. Cost Externalization (Big business using the global protection stance of a government to cover protection costs.)
7. Manifest Destiny (Because we think that God has given us that charge.)
8. The White Man's Burden or Anglo-Saxonism (America knows what is best, we can decide, even for others.)
9. Alliances (Safety in numbers can mean that we have to fight somebody else's war.)
10. The Glory of War (We need heroes, it is a very real reason...)

Intriguing stuff to think about.

Jennifer says

I have been reading this with my son for our summer non-fiction. It is a cause and effect history of the origins of World War I, ten deadly ideas that lead to war, and how the involvement of the United States in World War I still affects the world today. I thought it was excellent. I even learned some things I had previously not known - for example - that the USA invaded Russia in 1918. Totally missed that lecture in history class. My favorite chapter was about Switzerland, and how their "citizen-soldiers" helped them maintain independence and neutrality during both WWI and WWII. The dedication page says:

To the independent thinkers who refuse to march off to war until they fully understand the opponent's point of view, and only after they have seen a mountain of evidence that the war is for an extremely good reason.

Chainsaw says

Maybury writes a disclaimer up front regarding his deeply-held political convictions and lack of objectivity, yet his highly selective use of "supportive" data and overly (sometimes laughable) simplistic ideas doomed the book as an unfortunate work of political propaganda rather than a worthwhile history text. Although the author raises quite a few interesting points one won't typically find in history books, and attempts to identify the historical thread of events that ultimately led to World War I, his poorly-supported political agenda detracts to the point that the book is not worth reading.

Niloofer Moharrami says

Nice book specially if you need to have a summary of the events. I honestly didn't read any other thing about world wars so it's hard to compare. The problem with it is that literaturewise I could find problems in it. It was an easy book to read but many repeated ideas and sentences which actually didn't do a favor to the book and if I read them once it could make a deeper affect on me rather than seeing them 4 -5 times. I liked the previous book by him, 1000 years wars too. I'm planning to read the WWII by him .

Michelle says

With the exception of some dramatic oversimplification of European history (the blanket assertion that everything was the fault of the French and Austrians, and couldn't be the fault of the Germans, as they were the "poor new kids" on the block who hadn't existed before 1871--hmm) AND a similar oversimplification of the Barbary Pirates affair, basically saying that it was all the fault of the US because we tried to sail in the Muslims' personal pond (which, um, was the Mediterranean) a very good overview of how the heck we ever got into such a disaster as WWI, and then correctly laying the blame of what happened in WWII to WWI, although at that point it's rather silly to say, as Maybury does, that we as good as murdered all the Jews in the Holocaust ourselves on account of meddling in WWI. Still, a needed counterbalance to the usual history presented to American kids.

Jeremy Zilkie says

The reason I read this book is because of my enjoyment of Marbury's book "Whatever Happened to Penny Candy?". I appreciate that book and his introduction to economics from the Austrian School of Economics.

The title of this book does give clues to what should be expected within the book. So here are my thoughts and observations:

- 1) World War I is the most consequential event in the past 200 years and set in motion almost everything that took place in the past 100 years. Sadly this is overlooked since the war itself is often overlooked in comparison to WWII.
- 2) The causes for WWI are generally agreed upon as those stated by Marbury in this book. Political power, economics, fool-hardy alliances, imperialism, naivete about the evils and horrors of war.

3) Marbury does a good job of highlighting oft-overlooked events that led up to the beginning of WWI and also speaks against much of the propaganda that was taught to increase support for the war and hatred for the Germans during the war. The Germany of WWI was not the same regime that Hitler led in WWII and should not be compared to each other. Germany lost, and like Napoleon who also lost, both were pilloried in the history books by the winners of the wars against them.

These are just three of the correct observations that Marbury makes concerning the war. Yet, I do not agree with the conclusions he derives from his research and disagree with his simplistic answers to very complex and multi-layered questions.

Marbury does state his position and declares that he is not objective in his reasoning which I appreciate. Also his target audience is youth and he writes in this manner. I would recommend that a child have a basic understanding of history, of the war itself, and some of the basic details of WWI before reading his book.

My son who is a great fan of war history is 12 at this time and I am not comfortable letting him read this book with its "contrarian" views. However, in three years when he is 15 I would probably have little problem with him reading this book and at that time, learning to discern for himself as he reads Marbury's account and adds it to his fuller knowledge of WWI.

Jenny says

Fascinating. Clearly explains how WWI started and the complete back story as to how we got into that war. He outlines 10 reasons why governments go to war. All can be broken down to just one word--hubris. It makes me angry to think that so many lost their lives for nothing and to think about the possibility of my children fighting a war for nothing but a government's hubris. We are not defending our lands when we invade others' lands, especially when it is all to stupidly help out our alleged allies. How can humankind be so blind, cruel, and stupid. I love America (and wouldn't want to live anywhere else) and the ideals for which it was founded upon but these books are really opening my eyes as to how much I dislike the USG (United States Government)!

Ebookwormy1 says

From the declaration of bias, to the 10 factors that lead to war, to the footnotes, recommendations on additional research and a thorough index, there is a lot to like in Richard Maybury's style and this book in particular. After reading my first book in the series, I am a fan and excited to read other titles!

While the 10 factors are compelling, and the Usual Suspects theme particularly insightful, please don't assume I agree with all presented here. The Barbary pirates, Spanish-American War and Philippine occupation, Iraq war and even September 11th are presented too simply. True, the book is geared in format toward younger readers, and Maybury has declared his bias, but leaving out that the pirates were encroaching on international shipping lanes for their victims (as opposed to the victims invading their space), the Philippines were already engaged in a war with Spain and were eventually granted independence without a further war (as opposed to the USA being the primary aggressor with a desire to colonize), that Iraq invaded Kuwait and a coalition of nations opposed them (as opposed to the USA being swung by a single propaganda trick - a trick that I didn't remember though I lived at the time) or that September 11th attacks are a linear blowback against American leadership (as if there were no additional religious or social motivation) is a bit too myopic for an author that claims he wants his readers informed of various dynamics at work in foreign

affairs.

I was also downright angry about his comments regarding the USA being dismissed from the UN Council on Human Rights in 2001, the same term that SUDAN was elected!?! (He failed to mention either the plethora of terrorist countries that sat on the council at the time or the questionable composition or the council today.) This incident had more to do with the ridiculous ineptitude of the UN Council on Human Rights to speak with conviction to volumes of human rights offenses worldwide, American hesitation in continuing to primarily fund an organization intent on marginalizing itself, and the repeated unjust censure of Israel, than a retaliation for failures of American leadership.

I also felt, given the topic was World War I, there were too many references to September 11th, each of which is highlighted with reference to the Maybury book in which the attacks are explicitly elucidated. I don't mind the referral and would like to read the additional title, however, these parochial references to a complex historic event close to our time were distracting. They also might be concerning to younger readers who may feel the impact of September 11th more personally than the discussion of World War I. A single, or even a few, references to the carry forward affects of World War I is preferred. It also made me curious as to the date of publication. My edition says "revised 2003". Smacking these single paragraphs about Sept 11th, many with the *same text* and argument seemed like a careless revision rather than original composition.

Nonetheless, I find the perspective challenging. The libertarian position IS closer to what the founders intended and NOT commonly found in the increasingly statist environment of USA and Europe. Incidentally, I agree with Maybury that BOTH liberals and conservatives have a statist philosophy that sees big government salvation as solution without regard to encroachment on individual liberty. I remember reading "The 2,000 year leap forward" and being particularly challenged by the founder's idea of non-intervention in world affairs - Maybury has given tremendous insight into what such a stance would involve. He also illustrates the Swiss model of a domestic fighting force in a way that 'clicked' for me, though his discussion of guerrilla warfare seemed double-minded.

The question is not whether to have your student read this book, but when? A student needs to demonstrate both the ability to handle cause and effect thinking as well as be comfortable with sorting out contrary ideas. When the student has reached that point, this is excellent education, even if he or the teacher, doesn't agree with all that is printed.

K L says

The book brings up some good points but also has a lot of weak points. One of which is that the author loves Switzerland and their military model. He uses the same analogy of them "shaking their heads" at the rest of the world at least five times. He presents why he believes it is the best military model but doesn't really answer many of the questions he raises. Which, I suppose is alright, if the purpose of the book is only to provoke thought. Overall, not bad.
