

Chapter 1 : Barbara W. Tuchman | Jewish Women's Archive

The Guns of August (), also published as *August* , is a volume of history by Barbara W. Tuchman. blog.quintoapp.com is centered on the first month of World War I. blog.quintoapp.com introductory chapters, Tuchman describes in great detail the opening events of the conflict.

Barbara W. Tuchman was born into a prominent New York family on January 30, 1918. Her father, Maurice Wertheim, was an international banker, president of the American Jewish Congress, honorary trustee of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies and fund-raising chair in New York, trustee of Mount Sinai Hospital in New York, owner of *The Nation*, art collector, sportsman, and a founder of the Theatre Guild. Her mother, Alma, was the granddaughter of diplomat Henry Morgenthau, Sr. She was the second-born of three daughters; her sisters were Josephine Pomerance, who became active in the peace movement and died in 1942, and Anne W. Werner, who died in 1944. She spent childhood summers in Europe with her parents. She attended Walden School before entering Radcliffe College. She studied under Irving Babbitt and C. Wright Mills. Upon graduation, she accompanied her grandfather to the World Economic Conference in London. She volunteered as a researcher and editorial assistant at the American Council of the Institute of Pacific Relations from 1941 to 1942. At age twenty-four, she contributed to the prestigious journal *Foreign Affairs*. In 1943, she went to Tokyo for a year. Tuchman became staff writer and foreign correspondent for *The Nation* from 1943 to 1945, a journal owned by her father until 1945. This led, in 1945, to her first book, *The Lost British Policy: Britain and Spain since 1936*, about British policy toward Spain and the western Mediterranean. According to her, her lack of academic title and graduate degree was a benefit: If I had taken a doctoral degree, it would have stifled any writing capacity. Instead, she preferred the literary approach. She was regarded by some as more of a summarist than an explorer of fresh sources, ideas, and methods. Lester Reginald Tuchman, a New York internist, in 1945. He later became professor emeritus of clinical medicine at Mount Sinai School of Medicine. The Tuchmans had three daughters: From 1945 to 1947, she raised her daughters and did the research for *Bible and Sword: The Guns of August*, awarded the Pulitzer Prize general nonfiction, 1948, provided the basis for the movie of the same name released in 1964. She also wrote *Notes from China*. Her publication *Practicing History: Selected Essays* was a retrospective of her essays that she identified as weathering the tests of time. It is also useful for her comments on the reasons that some of her essays were consciously excluded. *The March of Folly: From Troy to Vietnam* indicates realism or disillusionment with politics and politicians as they made self-destructive choices despite a knowledge of superior options. She served as a trustee of her alma mater, Radcliffe College. In 1964, she was the first woman selected as the Jefferson Lecturer for the National Endowment for the Humanities. Despite the honor, she did not like making commencement addresses. Naval War College as well as contributing articles to numerous serious and popular publications. Tuchman died at age seventy-seven, on February 6, 1982, in Greenwich, Connecticut, from complications of a stroke. Her last book, *The First Salute*, setting the American Revolution in international perspective, had been on the *New York Times* best-seller list for seventeen weeks and was number nine in the week preceding her death. *England and Palestine from the Bronze Age to Balfour* *The Calamitous Fourteenth Century* *The First Salute* *The Guns of August* *The Lost British Policy: Britain and Spain since 1936* *From Troy to Vietnam* *Notes from China* *A Portrait of the World before the War, 1914-1918* *Stilwell and the American Experience in China, 1941-1945* *The Zimmermann Telegram* *New Revision Series*

Chapter 2 : Barbara W. Tuchman - Wikipedia

Barbara W. Tuchman () achieved prominence as a historian with The Zimmermann Telegram and international fame with The Guns of August—a huge bestseller and winner of the Pulitzer Prize.

I was in my second year of history at the University of Toronto. It was a very strong department and I shall always be grateful for the education I received there, but so many of the textbooks seemed to drain any life out of the past. The subject, too, in those days was quite narrowly conceived. We did a lot of political history, whether the endless struggles between the provinces and the federal government in Canada or the growth of parliamentary government in Britain. When we did the Tudors and Stuarts, we read constitutional documents and learned more about the divine right of kings than we did about what was going on in society. As a child I had loved history because it showed so many alternative worlds. I still remember with gratitude a series for children on everyday life where we learned about the games children in other times had played and the food they ate. I read *Our Island Story*—yes, I know how politically incorrect it is—but I loved the stories of Boadicea, as she was still called, dashing about in her chariot, or an absent-minded King Alfred burning the cakes. I did projects on Champlain coming up the St Lawrence river and on Henry Hudson cast adrift in the bay that now bears his name. And I read dozens of historical novels: I read it again the other day, and to my relief it stands up very well. *The Guns of August* reads like a novel but it was history, firmly based on the evidence. It is a long book, but I was gripped from her wonderful first sentence. It is hard to forget Talaat Bey, one of the Young Turks, after reading that his favourite meal was a pound of caviar, accompanied by glasses of brandy and a bottle of champagne. She is also a wonderful storyteller, as step by step she goes from the tensions that culminate in the outbreak of the war to the first crucial battles that led to the stalemate of the western front and the inconclusive struggle in the east. I want the reader to turn the page and keep on turning until the end. I loved her acerbic wit. I admired, too, the sharp character sketches. His German counterpart, Von Moltke, was full of self-doubt, weighed down by the burden of bearing the name of his uncle, who had been the hero of the wars of German unification. The natty serial adulterer Sir John French, who commanded the British Expeditionary Force to France, is shown dithering as the Germans advance southwards. I was also impressed that a woman was writing military history, a field that was then almost exclusively male—and writing it in a way that far surpassed the detailed studies that had much about the calibre of guns and the movements of a regiment, but little about what it was like to be on a battlefield. Suddenly here was someone who gave a sense of the dust and the sweat in that hot August of 1914. You can see the long lines of Germans plodding down towards Paris through Belgium and northern France and the pathetic refugees with their possessions piled on carts and wheelbarrows. She is prone at times to absurd overstatements, for example that the German people were gripped by the idea that divine providence had destined them to be masters of the universe. Her view that the Germans somehow wanted to impose their culture on the world is surely a reflection of that great ideological struggle of her own time between the west and the Soviet bloc. Moreover, her main argument that entangling alliances and rigid military timetables caught Europe in a grip that led the powers inexorably towards catastrophe is no longer accepted by most historians. Indeed, as she was finishing her book, the German historian Fritz Fischer brought out his own in which he argued that the war had been deliberately brought about by Germany in an attempt to dominate Europe. Still, when I was writing my own book on the outbreak of the war, I chose not to re-read *The Guns of August* just in case I fell under the influence of her interpretation again. Now I have gone back to it and read it with much of the same pleasure of 50 years ago.

â€• *Barbara W. Tuchman, The Guns of August* What an amazing piece of historical writing. Tuchman shows how August, was impacted by two failed plans (Plan 17 & the Schlieffen Plan), Generals and politicians who were either overly optimistic at the wrong time or overly pessimistic at the wrong time.

Russia and Germany[edit] Only chapters 15 and 16 are devoted to the Eastern Front , and center on the Russian invasion of East Prussia and the German reaction to it, culminating in the Battle of Tannenberg , where the Russian advance was stopped, decisively. In the chapters, Tuchman covers the series of errors, faulty plans, poor communications, and poor logistics, which, among other things, decidedly helped the French in the west. The great misery that developed on the Eastern Front is noted. Such facts and conclusions would be repeated for the duration of the war and greatly affect the future involvement of the United States. Also here in chapter 17 The Flames of Louvain, Tuchman places a selection of German views from a variety of sources as to the aims and desires of Germany. She then conveys American reporter Irvin S. German Kultur will enlighten the world and after this war there will never be another. Wells to condemn the German "war god" and hope for an end to all armed conflict. Accordingly, in a failed attempt to suppress the "illegal" franc-tireur civilians shooting at German troops , hundreds of nearby citizens at several Belgium towns had been executed. Her accounts of the ferocity of such German army reprisals against the general population and of the willful burning of Louvain such as its university library make it obvious why the Western Allies might feel themselves justified to condemn Germany and Germans wholesale. War at sea[edit] See also: Naval warfare of World War I Chapter 18 describes the British fear that since their island nation was dependent on overseas imports, the German navy could manage to disrupt their international trade. Surrounding the neutral role of the United States, diplomatic politicking quickly intensified. Despite the equitable intent of international law, Britain sought to receive supplies from America while its naval blockade of Germany denied the supplies to Germany. Woodrow Wilson had already advised Americans on August 18 to be "neutral in fact as well as in name, impartial in thought as well as in action" so that America might become the "impartial mediator" that could then bring "standards of righteousness and humanity" to the belligerents in order to negotiate "a peace without victory" in Europe. Both wartime paper profits from a nearly fourfold increase in trade with Britain and France and "German folly" eventually would later work to cause American entry into World War I. In the subsequent attack, the Germans were forced back north, with both sides suffering terrible losses. While Paris had been saved, the war took on a new cast, with both sides settling into a defensive trench system , which cut across France and Belgium from the Channel to Switzerland. That became known as the Western Front, and over the next four years, it would consume a generation of young men. Afterword[edit] Tuchman briefly offers reflections on the First Battle of the Marne and on the war in general. Sucking up lives at the rate of 5, and sometimes 50, a day, absorbing munitions, energy, money, brains, and trained men," it ate up its contestants. Tuchman believed that both European intellectuals and leaders overestimated the power of free trade. They believed that the interconnectedness of European nations through trade would stop a continent-wide war from breaking out, as the economic consequences would be too great. However, the assumption was incorrect. For example, Tuchman noted that Moltke, when warned of such consequences, refused to even consider them in his plans, arguing he was a "soldier," not an "economist. Tuchman recounted the story of a British statesman who, after he warned others that the war might last two or three years, was branded a "pessimist. Over-reliance on morale and the offensive: Tuchman details, in depth, how the leaders of the major powers, before the war, developed a philosophy of warfare based almost entirely on morale , a constant offensive, and retaining the initiative. Failure to consider political backlash: They failed or refused to realize that by invading Belgium, they effectively forced Britain to declare war because of existing treaties and national honor. Outdated forms of wartime etiquette: To illustrate, Tuchman repeatedly uses quotes from the diaries of German generals who commandeered the homes and supplies of civilians. One recurrent theme in their diary entries was that they simply could not understand why the property owners refused full co-operation, in line with traditional wartime courtesy. Similar problems occurred in the practical

application of submarine, and later aerial, warfare. Likewise, she argues that even successes, such as the First Battle of the Marne , a French victory, were to some extent accidental victories that were won despite, and not because of, military leadership or strategy. Cultural impact[edit] The book was an immediate bestseller and was on the bestseller list of The New York Times for 42 consecutive weeks. Instead, Tuchman was given the prize for general nonfiction. Kennedy] was so impressed by the book, he gave copies to his cabinet and principal military advisers, and commanded them to read it. He often quoted from it and wanted "every officer in the Army" to read it as well. Subsequently, "[t]he secretary of the Army sent copies to every U. I told him that we do not repeat not agree at this stage. Allison created an entire model of decision-making, which he called the Organizational Process Model , based on such issues as those covered by Tuchman, a model that directly countered game theory and other rationalistic means of explaining events. Tuchman in the narrative[edit] While she did not explicitly mention it in The Guns of August, Tuchman was present for one of the pivotal events of the book: Among its passengers were the daughter, son-in-law and three grandchildren of the American ambassador Mr. Thus, at two, Tuchman was present during the pursuit of Goeben and Breslau, which she documented 48 years later. Film adaptation[edit] The book was the basis for a documentary film, also titled The Guns of August. Hostile relations between the Austro-Hungarian Empire and Kingdom of Serbia thus fail to merit further mention.

Chapter 4 : The Guns of August Quotes by Barbara W. Tuchman

The guns of August - Barbara W. Tuchman In this landmark, Pulitzer Prize-winning account, renowned historian Barbara W. Tuchman re-creates the first month of World War I: thirty days in the summer of that determined the course of the conflict, the century, and ultimately our present world.

Second, that is not going to stop me. The Guns of August is not only the most famous book written about World War I, it is one of the most famous history books on any topic whatsoever. Ten years ago, I tore through it during the weekend I was waiting for my bar exam results. A weekend, I hasten to add, with not a little anxiety and cocktail consumption. I decided to read it again as part of my WWI centenary reading project to gauge if my vague, decade-ago recollections were correct. This is an awesome book. In scarlet and blue and green and purple, three by three the sovereigns rode through the palace gates, with plumed helmets, gold braids, crimson sashes, and jeweled orders flashing in the sun. After them came five heirs apparent, forty more imperial or royal high-nesses, seven queens "four dowager and three regent" and a scattering of special ambassadors from uncrowned countries. Together they represented seventy nations in the greatest assemblage of royalty and rank ever gathered in one place and, of its kind, the last. The next section covers the operational plans and purposes of the four main belligerents: Germany, wedded to the grand sweeping offensive devised by Schlieffen; France, haunted by defeat in the Franco-Prussian War; Great Britain, blessed with a mighty navy and small Regular Army; and Russia, the feared steamroller with legions in numbers like the stars. Each of these nations had engaged a delicate balancing act in which old friends became enemies, old enemies became friends, and all sides seemed simultaneously convinced that war would never come and war had to come. The July Crisis is handled even faster. In a page in a half, Tuchman dispenses with a fraught month over which thousands of gallons of ink have been expended. This brings us to the heart of the book "the events of August Thus begins the battle section of The Guns of August, which comprises the bulk of the narrative. When the book ends, the pieces are all in place for the Battle of the Marne, which transformed the conflict from a war of maneuver into a war of trenches, barbed wire, and mechanized slaughter. You might have noticed the absence of events involving Austria-Hungary or Serbia in that list. For some reason, they are almost entirely left out of the book. Belgian troops fighting outside Liege World War I battles are overwhelming. Earlier battles "like Waterloo or Gettysburg" took place on comprehensible fields that you can walk to this day. Not so with these titanic clashes. Here, you have fronts of 40 to 80 miles, with armies of upwards of a million men. Often times the recounting of these fights devolve into a confusing Roman numeral soup of Armies, Corps, and Divisions moving hither and yon, crossing rivers and capturing intersections and moving through quaint little villages. Here, Tuchman makes the wise choice to take a pretty macro view of the battles, usually at the Corps level. Even so, it can be a lot to absorb. Moreover, her choice to look at things with a wide-angle lens means that the proceedings are filtered through the eyes of God and the generals, rather than the more tactile experiences of soldiers. As military history, this might come up a bit short. But in other areas, Tuchman excels. She is excellent at the personalities, bringing a dry, sardonic wit to the characters populating this crowded stage. He kept no papers on his desk and no map on his wall; he wrote nothing and said little. Anyone who was five minutes late at his mess was treated to a thunderous frown and remained an outcast for the remainder of the meal. He was angered by anyone who tried too openly to make him change his mind. Like Talleyrand he disapproved of too much zeal. Lover of good food and rest. But at the same time, she is sympathetic to the humanity of all involved. At the same time, she recognizes that these were only plans, and that at any point, someone could have changed them. She also recognizes that many of these men were not capable of that. Tuchman is also the master of the literary set piece. Her opening paragraph, quoted partially above, is Exhibit A in how to hook a reader and deliver a scene. Her handling of the escape of the German battle cruiser Goeben an incident Tuchman initially wanted to devote an entire book to is masterful, and shows how individual decisions can greatly affect the outcome grand events. The Goeben and the Breslau both escaped the Germans by entering the Dardanelles and presenting themselves to the Ottomans as a gift. What followed "Gallipoli, Sykes-Picot" has ramifications that are still felt today. The

critics are right. The Guns of August lives up to its lofty reputation.

Chapter 5 : The Guns of August by Barbara W. Tuchman

Vivid And Venerable Barbara Tuchman's 'The Guns of August' Is Still WWI's Peerless Chronicle. She never earned a Ph.D. or taught in a university history department.

New presidents set dangerous precedents But historians now know something else as well: Subsequent research in the archives of Imperial Germany has conclusively shown that Germany did want a war, one that would allow it to dominate the continent. Kennedy, in other words, pulled the world back from the brink on the basis of a book that misread history. The story of the missile crisis has long been seen as an example of the wise use of history in making decisions. But it also raises a question: If a leader can come to the right decision for the wrong reason, what purpose is history actually serving? Kennedy right conferred with his brother, Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, at the White House on Oct. Some history programs have been developed specifically to close the gap between history and lawmaking: The universities of Cambridge and London, for example, recently launched a high-profile program in which academics tutor British politicians on historical events in order to help them formulate policies. American presidents are routinely photographed with history books tucked under their arms. Critics of the Iraq invasion might suggest that hundreds of thousands are now dead because that parallel itself was a miscalculation. The same analogy was used by Lyndon Johnson: History also applies in the domestic sphere. To scholars who study the practical uses of history, instances like these suggest a pattern: Policy makers are as likely to use history as a way to validate their preconceptions, or endorse existing plans, as they are to scour it objectively for ideas. And policy makers have lots to choose from. Billions of words have been written about historical events, offering modern-day thinkers plenty of material to convince themselves of the wisdom of their thinking. Kennedy declared a blockade of military equipment bound for Cuba. To Kennedy, the events of October were powerfully reminiscent of the lead-up to war 50 years earlier that Tuchman described. The president personally overruled the consensus of nearly all his advisers and offered the Soviets a secret compromise through intermediaries, among them Bobby Kennedy. They would remove their missiles from Cuba, Bobby secretly told the Russian ambassador, and in exchange America would remove its missiles from Turkey and Italy. The offer was accepted, averting catastrophe. Had the crisis spawned a war, Allison estimates that approximately million Americans and more than million Russians might have been killed. Had Tuchman seen the German archives and gotten things right, Kennedy might have disregarded the bookâ€™or perhaps found endorsement of his views elsewhere.

Chapter 6 : The Guns of August - Wikipedia

The Guns of August by Barbara Tuchman describes the opening month of the First World War, from the perspectives of all sides in the combat. Despite the complex maneuverings of nations and armies, she gives a clear sense of the personalities and decisions involved.

Chapter 7 : Cuban Missile Crisis: In , did a mistake save the world? - The Boston Globe

Barbara W. Tuchman, born Barbara Wertheim, was born on January 30, , in New York City, NY, and passed away on February 6, , in Greenwich, Connecticut. She was an important and famous.

Chapter 8 : The Guns of August by Barbara W. Tuchman | blog.quintoapp.com

That opening paragraph of Barbara Tuchman's The Guns of August influenced me as an aspiring writer more than any other blog.quintoapp.com imagery and storytelling elements were different from other.

Chapter 9 : THE GUNS OF AUGUST by Barbara W. Tuchman | Kirkus Reviews

DOWNLOAD PDF BARBARA TUCHMAN GUNS OF AUGUST

When I first read Barbara Tuchman's The Guns of August in the autumn of it was as though history went from black and white to Technicolor. I was in my second year of history at the.