

SCHOLAR ISLAND

World War I

"It was a happy time, those last few years before the First World War. The air was soft, and it was easy for a young man to believe in the inevitability of progress, in the perfectibility of men, and in the sublimation of evil."

-Walter Lippmann

"What an extraordinary episode in the economic progress of man that age which came to an end in August 1914!"

-John Maynard Keynes

"The conflict forced the further development of the income-tax principle. Aiming, as it did, at the one great untaxed source of revenue, the income-tax law had been enacted in the nick of time to meet the demands of war. And the conflict also assisted the putting into effect of the Federal Reserve system, likewise in the nick of time."

-Cordell Hull 1916 (remarks in his memoir)

"it is difficult for the generations born after 1914 to appreciate to what extent this war shattered the foundations of Western civilization. This war

broke out against the will of everybody, yet with the connivance of most participants or, rather, of special interest groups in each country which exercised sufficient pressure to make the war possible. By and large, Europeans, after almost one hundred years without major and catastrophic wars, and almost fifty years after the German-French war, were prone to think that "it can't happen." The powerful Socialist International seemed to be resolved to prevent war. The antiwar and pacifist movement was a potent force. But even the governments, whether that of the Czar, of the Kaiser, or of France and England, seemed to be resolved to avoid war. yet it did happen. Reason and decency seemed suddenly to have left Europe. The same socialist leaders who only months before had pledged themselves to international solidarity now hurled at each other the vilest nationalistic epithets. The nations that had known and admired each other, suddenly broke out in a mad paroxysm of hate. The British became cowardly mercenaries to the Germans; the Germans became vile Huns to their enemies; the music of Bach and Mozart became tainted; French words in the German language were ostracized. Not only that, but the moral rule against the killing of civilians was broken. Both sides bombed helpless cities and killed women and children; it was mainly the lack of development in aviation that restricted the scope and intensity of these raids. But the fate of the soldiers were equally in contrast to all demands of humanity. Millions on both sides were forced to attack the enemy trenches and were killed in the process, although it should have been clear that such tactics had come futile. But perhaps worst of all the slaughter was based on a lie. The Germans were persuaded that they were fighting for freedom, and so were their Western enemies. When the chips were down, especially when, after 1916, a possibility for peace arose, both sides refused to settle because both insisted on gaining the territories for which the war was really being fought-regardless of the cost. At one point millions of men recognized the great deception. They rebelled against those who forced them to continue the slaughter, In Russia and Germany successfully, in France sporadically, by means of mutinies which were severely punished by the generals.

What had happened? The belief in continuing progress and peace had been shattered, moral principles which had seemed secure were violated. The unthinkable had happened."

Erich Fromm

Beyond the Chains of Illusion

"Every war is ironic, because every war is worse than expected. Every war constitutes an irony of situation, because its means are so melodramatically disproportionate to its ends. Eight million people were destroyed because two persons, the archduke Francis Ferdinand and his consort, had been shot."

-Paul Fussell

PAUL FUSSELL, CRITIC AND LITERARY SCHOLAR, IS DEAD AT 88 *The New York Times* may 24,2012

"...The essential fact of the history of 1919 which does not figure in official chronicles, consists in the singlemindedness of the ruling classes of every country to arrest the march of humanity towards socialism. In this way a new problem was added to all the national and international problems of the world: the problem of class. Within a few years that problem dominated all others. It upset all the traditional national policies of the preceding century."

-Pierre Van Paassen

Days of Our Years

"It killed twenty million people, ignited the Russian Revolution, and paved the way for Hitler. it remade our world for the worse."

-To End All Wars by Adam Hoschschild

"The socialism of Marx, Fourier, Kropotkin, Owen, Jaures, Rosa Luxemburg, and Gorki was the most important genuine religious movement of the last hundred years. The breakdown of the humanistic tradition, beginning with the World War of 1914, almost completely destroyed this nontheistic "religious" movement. Nietzsche said that God was dead; what happened after 1914 was that man was dead. Only in small circles and among a few individuals did the humanist spiritual tradition continue; its greatest representatives in our times are men like Gandhi, Einstein, and Schweitzer."

-Erich Fromm

Beyond the Chains of Illusion

"Out of the oil-smooth spirit of the two last decades of the nineteenth century, suddenly, throughout Europe, there rose a kindling fever....people were enthusiastic adherents of the social creed of the Man in the Street; one had faith and was skeptical....one dreamt of ancient castles and shady avenues....but also of prairies, vast horizons, forges and rolling-mills....Some people hurled themselves....upon the new, as yet untrodden century, while others were having a last fling in the old one."

Robert Musil

"What shall we say of the Great War of Europe, ever threatening, ever impending, and which never comes? We shall say that it never will come."

Humanly speaking, it is impossible....The bankers will not find the money for such a fight, the industries will not maintain it, the statesmen cannot....It comes to the same thing in the the end. There will be no general war."

-David Starr Jordan ,M.D. Ph.D. LL.D. (President of Stanford University) ,Feb 27,.1913

"No one expected the shooting would result in war. Initially, there was collective outrage at the deed and sympathy for Austria. Even if the murder could be traced back to Serbia-the nineteen-year-old assassin, Gavril Princip, had said he'd killed "an enemy of the Southern Slavs" to "avenge the Serbian people" everyone expected it to blow over. "Kaiser Wilhelm will show his teeth," the former Russian foreign minister, Alexander Izvolsky, told Nicholas's cousin Sandro. "And everything will be forgotten by the fifteenth of the next month!" Wilhelm did show his teeth, in his characteristic way. On a memo from the German ambassador in Vienna, he wrote that the Serbs must be dealt with "now or never....The Serbs must be disposed of *and* that right *soon*."

--Miranda Carter

George, Nicholas and Wilhelm: Three Royal Cousins and the Road to World War I

"...the throne of human reason itself was temporarily over-whelmed by the mightiest tornado which had ever risen to the surface of men's minds from some remote atavistic depths to sear and blast humanity.'

-Philip Magnus *Kitchener, Portrait of an Imperialist*

"As the losses mounted and morale collapsed, the army was, as one historian has vividly put it, "gradually turned into one vast revolutionary mob." Nine million men were called up in the war's first year. Officer casualties were enormously high-not least because of their habit of leading charges dressed in their brightest uniforms. The soldiers who survived found themselves divested of their traditional aristocratic leaders, alienated and very angry at the vast, pointless losses, and began to ask themselves why there were fighting at all. The new Russian officer corps of 1915-those below the rank of captain who actually fought with the men-were soon the biggest meritocracy Russia had ever seen: young men from peasant backgrounds with a talent for survival and leadership, all too aware of the army elite's lack of interest in the men's conditions and their losses."

-Miranda Carter

George, Nicholas and Wilhelm: Three Royal cousins and the Road top World War I

"The most harrowing sight, a vast stretch of land that had once been fertile and smiling with crops, but was now only a tumbled mass of blackened earth fringed by sparse and splintered trees.... We climbed over a mound composed of German dead.....all that was left of a whole regiment who had died in wrestling a strip of land from Our troops, only to lose it again.... We stood there speechless. it was impossible find words. The queen's face was ashen and her lips were tightly compressed. I felt that like me she was afraid of breaking down."

-The Countess of Airlie

"Here is where words fail...The vast dimensions of suffering, stupidity, and folly. . .the sheer numbers involved. It was grotesque, impersonal, obscene, ghastly. The war was, quite simply the worst thing that had ever happened . . .

And yet . . . "

William Manchester

"In the spring of 1918 death was no stranger to the world. Indeed, by then the bodies of more than five million soldiers had already been fed into what was called "the sausage factory" by generals whose stupidity was matched only by their brutality.

German generals, for example, had decided to bleed France into submission by matching it death for death at Verdun, believing that Germany's greater population would leave it victorious. The French later replied with their own massive offensive, believing that their *elan vital* would triumph.

Only slaughter triumphed. Finally one French regiment refused orders to make a suicidal charge. The mutiny spread to fifty-four divisions, stopped only by mass arrests, the conviction of twenty-three thousand men for mutiny, with four hundred sentenced to death and fifty-actually executed."

-John M. Barry

The Great Influenza: The Epic Story of the Deadliest Plague in History

"All of Europe was weary of the war. Only in the United States Anglophiles and Francophiles, most of them concentrated on the East coast and many of them holding positions of power or influence, were not weary. Only in the United States Anglophiles and Francophiles still regarded war as glorious. And they put intense pressure on President Wilson to enter the war. "

-John M. Barry

The Great Influenza: The Epic Story of the Deadliest Plagues in History

Wilson campaigned for reelection in 1916 on the slogan "He Kept Us Out of War." And he warned, "If you elect my opponent, you elect a war."

"The World War was a matter of economic rivalry."

-Woodrow Wilson

"Do you think if Germany had committed no act of war or no act of injustice against our citizens that we would have gotten into this war?":
Senator Macumber

"I do think so," Wilson replied

"When the U.S. president, Woodrow Wilson, came to London in December 1918, George took an instant dislike to him. Wilson, who was

even more awkward and shy than George, had become, with his talk of free states, the flag-bearer of republicanism and independence. The king also felt the president was high-handed, gave America too much credit for winning the war and failed to acknowledge the sacrifices that British troops had made. Perhaps he could feel the initiative in world affairs shifting quietly and permanently from Britain to America as they spoke. When he suggested that Wilson march his troops to Russia to "protect the country from Bolshevism," Wilson told him the American army had come to Europe for one purpose only, "After that I never thought much of the man....I could not bear him, an entirely cold academical professor-an odious man."

Miranda carter

-George, Nicholas and Wilhelm: Three Royal cousins and the Road to World War I

"Woodrow Wilson is a type of Pecksniff who was disappeared amid universal execration."

-Italian Minister Pentaleoni

"On April 2, three weeks after the disclosure of the note*, after his cabinet unanimously called for war, Wilson finally delivered his war message to Congress. Two days later he explained to a friend, "It was necessary for me by very slow stages and with the most genuine purpose to avoid war and to lead the country on to a single way of thinking."

And so the United States entered the war filled with a sense of selfless mission, believing glory still possible, and still keeping itself separate from what it regarded as the corrupt Old World. it fought alongside Britain, France, Italy, and Russia not as an "ally" but as an "Associated Power."

Anyone who believed that Wilson's reluctant embrace of war meant that he would not prosecute it aggressively knew nothing of him. he was one of those rare men who believed almost to the point of mental illness in his own righteousness.

Wilson believed in fact that his will and spirit were informed by the spirit and hope of a people and even of God. he talked of his "sympathetic connection which I am sure that I have with" all American citizens and said, "I am sure that my heart speaks the same thing that they wish their hearts to speak." "I will not cry 'peace' so long as there is sin and wrong in the world," he went on "America was born to exemplify that devotion to the elements of righteousness which are derived from the revelations of Holy Scripture."

He is probably the only American president to have held to this belief with quite such conviction, with no sign of self-doubt. it is a trait more associated with crusaders than politicians. "

John M. Barry *The Zimmerman note

The Great Influenza: The Epic Story of the Deadliest Plague in History

"The war went on, The trenches extended from the Swiss border north to the sea. One spoke with soldiers and learned about the life they were leading boxed up in the trenches and dugouts, exposed to concentrated artillery fire which initiated an enemy attack, then trying again and again to break through, and never succeeding. Year after year the healthy men of each nation, living like animals in caves, killed each other with rifles, hand grenades, machine guns, bayonets; the slaughter continued, accompanied by false promises of a speedy victory, false protestations of one's own innocence, false accusations against a devilish enemy, false offers of peace, and insincere communications for peace.

The longer this lasted, the more I changed from a child to a man, the more urgent became the question "How is it possible?" How is it possible that millions of men continue to stay in the trenches, to kill innocent men of other nations, and to be killed and thus to cause the deepest pain to

parents, wives, friends? What are they fighting for? How is it possible that both sides believe they are fighting for peace and freedom? How as it possible for a war to break out when everybody claimed that they did not want it? How is it possible that the war continues when both sides claim they do not want any conquests, but only the preservation of their respective national possessions and integrity? If, as the following events showed, both sides wanted conquests and fame for their political and military leaders, how was it possible that millions allowed themselves to be slaughtered on both sides for the sake of some territory and the vanity of some leaders? Is the war a result of a senseless accident, or is it a result of certain social and political developments which follow their own laws and which can be understood-or even predicted-provided one knows the nature of these laws?"

-Eric Fromm

Beyond the chains of Illusion

(The War) shook me out of my prejudices and made me think afresh on a number of fundamental questions....I had supposed until that time that it was quite common for parents to love their children, but the War persuaded me that it is a rare exception. I had supposed that most people like money better than almost anything else, but I discovered that they liked destruction even better. I had supposed that intellectuals frequently loved truth, but I found here again that not ten percent of them prefer truth to popularity."

-Bertrand Russell

"It's raining my soul, it's raining, but it's raining dead eyes."

Guillaume Apollinaire

There died a myriad,
And of the best, among them,
For an old bitch gone in the teeth,
For a botched civilization."

Ezra Pound

"The First World War, taken as a whole, is a gigantic parable of the war that mankind is trying to avoid. It was a war of peculiar ugliness, fought with exceptional stupidity and brutality. It destroyed permanently a great part of European civilization. It was started for reasons that in retrospect seem almost trivial. The damage and loss suffered by all parties were utterly out of proportion to the pettiness of the initial quarrel between Serbia and Austria-Hungary. In all these respects, the history of the First World War holds up a mirror to the present, showing how small follies lead to great disasters, how ordinarily intelligent people walk open-eyed into Hell."

Freeman Dyson

"On June 28, 1914, the archduke Franz Ferdinand, of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and his wife were shot and killed by a malcontent

named Gavrilo Princip. No one in America particularly cared. For all it mattered out on the prairie, they would have had the duke stuffed and used as a parlor ornament. Few people had any idea why the Europeans were at war. They had been warned by the Founding Fathers to mind their own business. America had the most dynamic economy in the world. America had plenty of business to mind. To sensible people in the United States minding your own business still seemed like the best foreign policy.

But the editorial pages fulminated with reasons to get into the fight. Nationalism, economic competition, militarism, secret treaties, Lofty ideals, low-down secret deals, treachery, rivalry-the answers flew out of the frontal lobe like plastic bags out of a welfare high-rise. Pretty soon they were hanging from every tree and electric pole."

Even today, you could go from one end of the country to the other asking historians why the United States decided to enter the war or why it entered on the side of England and France instead of on the side of Germany and Austria. You would get plenty of answers, but not a single reason that comes close to justifying the deaths of nearly half a million Americans. You would not, because they don't exist."

-Bill Bonner

Empire of Debt

"I never thought that after the assassination there would be a war"

Princip *in court*

"What did the unknown Soldier of the Great War think he was doing when

he died? What did we, we people who got him into the Great War and who are still in possession of this world of his, what did we persuade him to think he was doing and what is the obligation we have incurred to him to atone for his death, for the life and sunlight he will know no more?"

H.G. Wells (1918)

"We are not fighting, we are defending ourselves from annihilation....We are maddened with fury....we can destroy and we can kill to save ourselves, to save ourselves and to take revenge....We have lost all feelings for others, we barely recognize each other when somebody else comes into our line of vision....We are dead men with no feelings, who are able by some trick, some dangerous magic, to keep on running and keep on killing."

-Remarque *All Quiet*

"All this madness, all this rage, all this flaming death of our civilization and our hopes, has been brought about because a set of official gentlemen, living luxurious lives, mostly stupid, and all without imagination or heart, have chosen that it should occur rather than that any one of them should suffer some infinitesimal rebuff to his country's pride."

Bertrand Russell (Letter written 12 Aug, 1914, eight days after the outbreak of war.)

""We are fighting in the quarrel of civilization against barbarism, of liberty against tyranny. Germany has become a menace to the whole world. She is the most dangerous enemy of liberty now existing."

Theodore Roosevelt

"when every autumn people said it could not last through the winter, and when every spring there was still no end in sight, only the hope that out of it all some good would accrue to mankind kept men and nations fighting. When at last it was over, the war had many diverse results and one dominant one transcending all others: disillusion."

Barbara Tuchman

The Guns of August

"All of you young people who served in the war. You are a lost generation...you have no respect for anything. You drink yourselves to death."

Gertrude Stein

"Every writer who has dealt with that last summer before the Great War has felt compelled to comment on the uncommon perfection of the weather the endless days of ardent blue skies across which fair-weather clouds toiled lazily, the long lavender evenings freshened by soft breezes, the early mornings of birdsong and slanting yellow sunlight. From Italy to Scotland, from Berlin to the valleys of my native Basque Pyrenees, all of Europe shared an exceptional period of clear, delicious weather. It was the last thing they were to share for four terrible years—save for the mud and agony, hate and death of the war that marked the boundary between the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, between the 'Age of Space', and the Era of Efficiency. "

Trevelyan

"The last war, during the years 1915, 1916, 1917, was the most colossal, murderous, mismanaged butchery that has ever taken place on earth. Any writer who said otherwise lied."

Ernest Hemingway

"Abraham. . . stretched forth the knife to slay his son. When lo! an angel called him out of heaven saying, lay not thy hand upon the lad, never do anything to him. Behold, a ram, caught up in the thicket, by its horns; offer the ram of Pride instead of him. But the old man would not do so, Slew his son and half the seed of Europe, one by one."

Wilfred Owen

':My heart-leapt as I saw our youths of twenty going into the furnace of Verdun.. .But how depressing it was when they returned Their expressions...Seemed frozen, by a vision of terror; their gait and their postures betrayed a total dejection; they sagged beneath the weight of horrifying: memories."

General Petain

"The war? Until the end of last month, it was nothing but a word, enormous, stretching across the pages of the lethargic newspapers of summer. The war? Yes, perhaps, very far away on the other side of the world, but not here. . .How could anyone imagine that even the echo of a war could make its way through these rocky ramparts , forbiddingly wild, the wildness accentuating the quiet calm at the foot of the cliffs--the waves, the sparse dune grass, the sand embossed by the tiny claws of birds.. .?"

Earthy Paradise

Collette' s Autobiography

Robert Phelps

Sunburst Books

"The land where we had stayed groaned with destruction. Where once peaceful villages stood, was only soot, ashes and burning embers after we passed. We kindled a funeral pyre, and more than dead material burned there--there burned our hopes, our longings, there burned the burgerlich tablets, the laws and values of the civilized world, there burned everything. . .And so we came back swaggering, drunken, laden with plunder."

(written by a Freikorps volunteer)

Robert Waite

Vanguard of Nazism

" There was one spectacle so horrible, so devastating, that it has haunted me ever since. As one of the trains drew in from the front there looked out of a window some four or five women, disheveled, bedraggled, with contorted and obscene faces, utterly inhuman in appearance, so that we started back from the sight in horror. I asked an officer who descended from the train who these terrifying creatures were. He answered: "These harpies are Frenchwomen who were caught on the field of battle robbing the dead!" My little boy was frightened out of his wits by the awful sight, and the image sank deep into my mind. "

Chaim Weizman

Trial & Error Harper

"Poor little devils, "his wife would answer, "they know they are going to their death." Then she would hug the cat convulsively to her and kiss it all over its face."

The Best Times

John Dos Passos

"In the pictures, the snapshots hurriedly made, a little faded, a little dog-eared with the thirteen years, they swagger a little. Lean, hard, in their

brass-and-leather harness, posed standing beside or leaning upon the esoteric shapes of wire and wood and canvass in which they flew without parachutes, they too have an esoteric look, a look not exactly human, like that of some dim and threatful apotheoses of the race seen for an instant in the glare of a thunderclap and then forever because they are dead, all the old pilots, dead on the 11th of November, 1918....They are thick men now, a little thick about the waist from sitting behind desks, and maybe not so good, with wives and children in suburban homes almost paid out, With gardens in which they putter in the long evenings after the 5:15 is in, and perhaps not so good at that either; the hard, lean men who swaggered hard and drank hard because they had found that being dead was not as quiet as they had heard it would be."

All. the dead Pilots

William Faulkner

Collected stories of

William Faulkner

Random House

Humanity. . . must be mad to do what it is doing.

what scenes of horror and carnage . . . hell Cannot be so terrible,"

(from the diary of a French Lieutenant)

"This western-front business couldn't be done again, not for a long time. The young men think they could do it, but they couldn't. They could fight the Marne again but not this. This took religion and years of plenty and tremendous sureties and the exact relation that existed between the classes. The Russians and Italians weren't any good on this front. You had to have

a whole-souled sentimental equipment going back further than you could remember. You had to remember Christmas and postcards of the Crown Prince and his fiancée, and little cafes in Valence and beer gardens in Unter den Linden and weddings at the mairie, and going to the Derby, and your grand-father's whiskers. . . . This kind of battle was invented by Lewis Carroll and Jules Verne and whoever wrote "Undine", and country deacons bowling and marraines and girls seduced in the back lanes of Wurtenburg and Westphalia. Why, this was a love battle--this was a century of middle-class love spent here. This was 'the last love battle.'

F. Scott Fitzgerald

"Within the walls of the old Vauban fortress of Montreuil, where G.H.Q. were established, Kiggel (General Kiggel-Chief of Staff under General Haig World War I) meditated like a Buddhist bhikku; revolved the prayer wheel of his doctrines, and out of them concocted Napoleonic battles on paper, which on the ground turned out to be slaughter-house dramas. He was essentially a cloistered soldier; he never went near a battle, and--if reports are correct--only once visited a battlefield, and then long after the battle had been fought. Spiritually he was the twin brother of Flecker's Mandarin general in the "Golden Journey of Samarkind,"

Who never left his palace gates before,
but hath grown blind, reading great books on war.

J.F.C. Fuller

"They went drumming down the old road of blood. "

Liddell Hart,

paraphrasing T. E. Lawrence

"Oh, I don ' t know what this war ' s about, But I bet , by gosh,
I'll soon find out."

popular song WWI

"But there was a strange temper in the air. Unsatisfied by material prosperity the nations turned restlessly towards strife internal or external. ..Almost one might think the world wished to suffer."

Winston Churchill

"But war was something different; no one was ever in favor of war-- indeed, it seemed so completely unthinkable in an age of advanced civilization that there was no time to prepare for "it" There was only one accepted attitude toward war--that it was a sin. It was easy enough to hold this view without putting it to the test; but now the first test had suddenly come, and on the peaceful, wide-open steppe lands beneath cloudless skies it was a hard one to understand."

Sanya in August 1914

Alexander Solzhenitsyn

"When fate, for four whole years, played out a war of monumental frightfulness on the stage of Europe-a war that nobody wanted-nobody dreamt of asking exactly who or what had caused the war and its continuation. Nobody realized that European - man was possessed by something that robbed him of all free will. And this state of unconscious possession will continue undeterred until we Europeans become scared of our ' god-all-mightiness. ' Such a change can begin only with individuals, for the masses are blind brutes, as we know to our cost."

C. G. Jung

Psychology and Alchemy

cw 12

"The madness of it, Nicholas. Standing in holes in the ground, thousands of men, English, Scots, Indians, French, Germans, is that. Not flames, not pitchforks. But a place without the possibility of reason, like Nueve Chapelle that day."

John Fowles

the Magus

"Can there be in the world of real men anything more shadowy than an Archduke?"

Conrad

"That it was an insane waste of lives the combatants realized early, but no one knew what to do. The waste of honor, love, courage, and selfless devotion was the cruelest of all; at the first Battle of Ypres, in the opening days of the war, the young German Schoolboy volunteers 'came on like men possessed,' a British historian records. They were sent in against picked battalions of British regulars who shot them to pieces on the slopes of Ypres with the trained rifle fire for which they were famous. The incident has gone down in German history as the 'Kindermord von Ypres' 'the slaughter of the Innocents at Ypres.' No other phrase will do."

From an article

"The End of Innocence"

Horizon Summer 64

Edmund Stillman

"A life so frightfully bestial....Even pigs are better off."

Louis Mairat

"The storm has died away, and still we are restless, uneasy, as if the storm were about to break. Almost all the affairs of men remain in a terrible uncertainty....But among all these injured things is the mind. The mind has been cruelly wounded...it doubts itself profoundly."

Paul Valery (Lecture in Zurich in 1922)

"Here chivalry disappeared for always. Like all noble and personal feelings it had to give way to the new tempo of battle and to the rule of the machine. Here the new Europe revealed itself for the first time in combat."

Ernst Junger

"Wilson's talk of making the world safe for democracy was nothing more than gas. He was proposing to go into the war on the side of the English, who were at that very moment suppressing democracy all over the globe. The Irish, the Indians, the Egyptians-the American president didn't even mention them. Had the upper brain been allowed to do its work, surely it would have told him that if he wanted to make the world safe for democracy, he ought to ask some questions of the nation that held it in check. As a mater of logic he might just as well have entered the war on the side of Germany against England."

-Bill Bonner

Empire of Debt

"We are at the dead season of our fortunes....Never in the lifetime of men now living has the universal element in the soul of man burnt so dimly."

-John Maynard Keynes (in a letter to President Wilson after quitting Paris and calling Wilson "the greatest fraud on earth.")

"I am sorry that you did not fight our fight to the finish and that you had so little faith in the millions of men, like myself, in every nation who had faith in you. Our government has consented now to deliver the suffering peoples of the world to new oppressions, subjections and dismemberments-a new century of war."

-Berle (later an assistant secretary of state, settled for writing Wilson a blistering letter of resignation)

"Our one agreed aim in the First World War was to break up German militarism. It was no part of our original intention to break up the Hapsburg and Ottoman Empires, to create Czechoslovakia or resurrect Poland, to make a Russian revolution, to treble the size of Serbia and double that of Rumania, to create Iraq and Estonia and Lithuania and a Jewish National Home, or to give the keys of the Brenner and the Adriatic to Italy. Yet, in the outcome, all these-and much else-sprang from the war....while the one thing which we promised ourselves, the destruction of German militarism, we failed to achieve."

-H.N. Fieldhouse

""As I say in this new book of mine, not merely did I learn to kill...But I learned to enjoy the prospect of killing...You learn that you have much wider dimensions than you had imagined before you had to fight a war.

That's salutary. It's well to know exactly who you are, so you can conduct the rest of your life properly."

-Paul Fussell

"The plunge of civilization into this abyss of blood and darkness by the wanton feat of those two infamous aristocrats is a thing that so gives away the whole long age during which we have supposed the world to be, with whatever abatement, gradually bettering, that to have to take in all now for what the treacherous years were all the while really making for and *meaning* is too tragic for any words."

-Henry James

'Hostilities Will Cease at 1100 Hours Today ,11

November

"The war is lost. the armistice ending the unfaithful war is signed. No gunfire anymore. Many feel at a loss. Almost 3 million German soldiers are dead, over 4 million are disabled because of war wounds, and have to be supported at public expense. Berlin is littered with unemployed, drugged war veterans who have left behind homes, families and jobs. They are high on opium and morphine, sold in the streets of Berlin to relieve the persistent pain in their shot-off limbs. A blockade imposed by the Allies cuts the German Empire off from most of its overseas markets and plunges the country into deprivation. There is a casualty list in Berlin of 700,000 children, old people and women. The country is plunged into political and economic chaos. Germany is sitting on a gigantic mountain of debt, and has no access to raw materials. The bottom has fallen out of the world. A demand grows that the Kaiser should abdicate. A general strike breaks out in Berlin. Demobilized soldiers cannot find jobs; with nothing else to do, they become revolutionaries as a pastime."

Stan Lauryssens

The man who invented The Third Reich

"...The devastating "Spanish Flu" that appeared in 1918 wasn't really from Spain. It began in American pigs and was spread worldwide by American servicemen who had gone to fight in World War I. It killed more than 40 million people worldwide, including more than 650,000 Americans in eighteen months-more Americans than were killed in all of the twentieth century wars combined. In comparison, the Black Plague epidemic in the fourteenth century killed 25 million people in four years."

"They asked," What did we get out of the first world war but death, debt and George M. Cohan?"

The question being difficult to answer, it was asked repeatedly in the late 1930s by those Americans afraid of being tricked, deceived, stampeded into joining another war to bail out the British and the French. They were called isolationists, but like most sociopolitical labels this one said both too much and too little.

Isolation in the form of a haughty and disdainful withdrawal from a world thought to be unworthy of American attention did appeal to some. Ellis Island had been closed for only fifteen years. many Americans and the parents of many others had only recently come to the United States to escape the class-based arrogance, the vanities and corruptions of the European kingdoms and their ceaseless wars-wars so stupid that during World War I, when Germany's Kaiser Wilhelm II was asked why his country was at war with half of Europe, he responded "If only I knew."

Wasn't that war so massively brutal it had planted white crosses row on row across European fields and wiped out most of a generation of young European men? Had not the next generation of Americans learned in grade school to recite the verses "In Flanders fields the poppies blow/Between the crosses, row on row"? Wasn't it a war that had sent Americans home to

die in veterans' hospitals with lungs burned out by mustard gas? And the Kaiser didn't even know why it started? And now Americans were expected to join in his madness again?"

-David Brinkley

Washington Goes To War

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