

MICHAEL HOWARD

THE  
FIRST  
WORLD WAR

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# The First World War

MICHAEL HOWARD

OXFORD  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Sausalito Public Library  
Sausalito, California 94965

**OXFORD**  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Great Clarendon Street, Oxford OX2 6DP

Oxford University Press is a department of the University of Oxford.  
It furthers the University's objective of excellence in research, scholarship,  
and education by publishing worldwide in

Oxford New York

Auckland Bangkok Buenos Aires Cape Town Chennai  
Dar es Salaam Delhi Hong Kong Istanbul Karachi Kolkata  
Kuala Lumpur Madrid Melbourne Mexico City Mumbai Nairobi  
São Paulo Shanghai Singapore Taipei Tokyo Toronto  
and an associated company in Berlin

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Published in the United States  
by Oxford University Press Inc., New York

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First published 2002

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British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data  
Data available

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data  
Data available

ISBN 0-19-285362-7

1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

Typeset in New Baskerville  
by RefineCatch Limited, Bungay, Suffolk  
Printed in Great Britain  
on acid-free paper by  
Biddles Ltd., Guildford and King's Lynn

# The First World War

## Foreword

This book, as its title suggests, is intended simply to introduce the vast subject of the First World War to those who know little or nothing about it.

Anyone who ventures more deeply into the subject will find that behind almost every sentence in the book lies a scholarly controversy that still remains unsettled, and that what looks like a simple and uncontroversial narrative will appear to some as highly biased and selective. Certainly not everyone will agree with the view that it was the ruling circles in Imperial Germany who were ultimately responsible, both for the outbreak and for the continuance of the war. But an account of the war that would satisfy everyone, even if it were possible, could certainly not be written in the space available, and even if it could it would be almost unreadable.

There may be those who complain that too much attention is devoted to the military, and not enough to the social, economic, or psychological dimensions of the subject. For this I make no apology. These non-military factors are vital for understanding why the war took place at all. But once the war began events on the battlefield ultimately determined what happened on the home front, and were responsible for the vast transformation that resulted in the entire structure of European society.

My thanks are due to George Miller who made me write

the book in the first place, to Hilary Walford and Rebecca O'Connor who converted my typescript into a publishable text, and to Dr Gary Sheffield who expertly steered me through the endless controversies about the conduct of operations on the Western Front.

Michael Howard

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1 Europe before the war

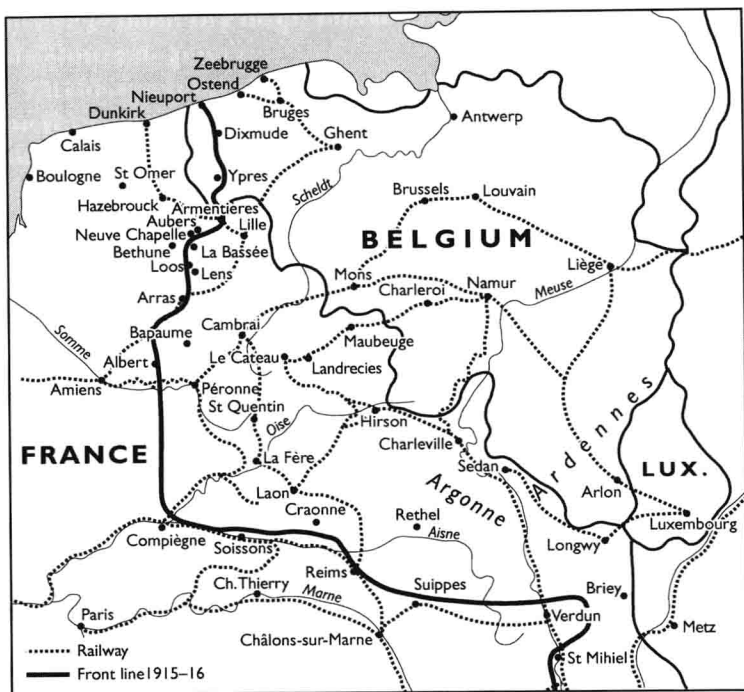






2 Europe after the war





### 3 The Western Front



#### 4 The Eastern Front



## 5 The Balkans



## 6 Northern Italy



7 The Ottoman Empire



