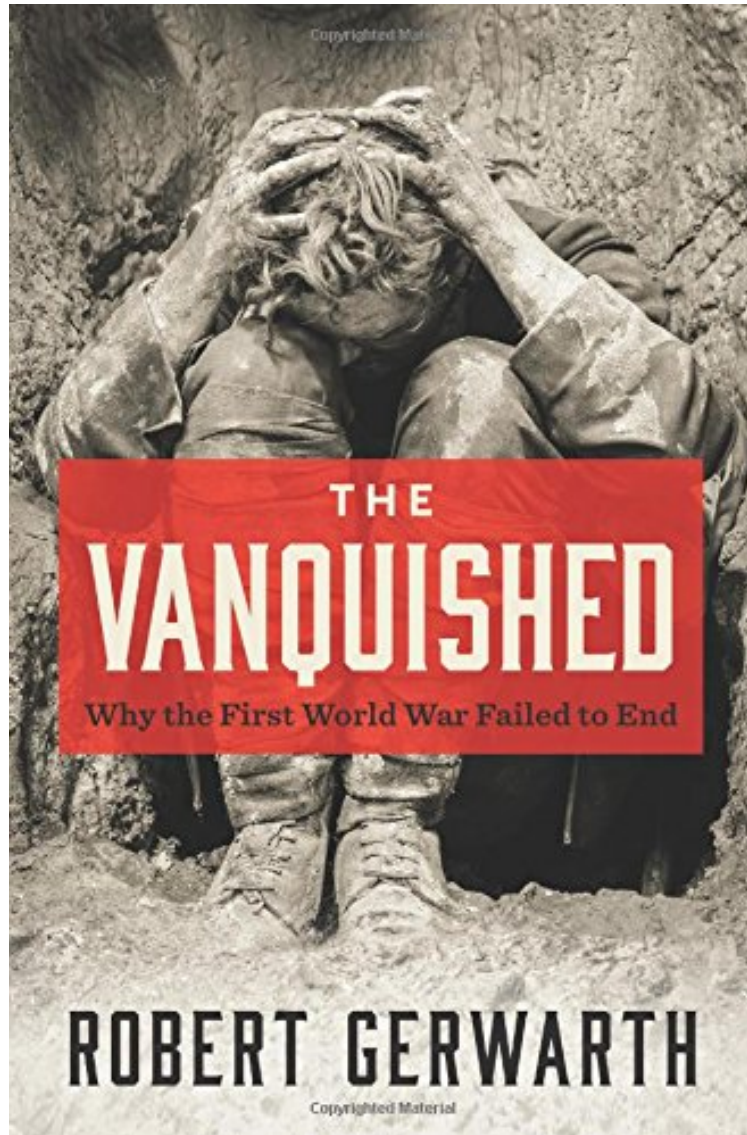


(Free) The Vanquished: Why the First World War Failed to End

## The Vanquished: Why the First World War Failed to End

*Robert Gerwarth*

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#24217 in Books Gerwarth Robert 2016-11-15 2016-11-15Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.31 x 1.52 x 6.36l, .0 #File Name: 0374282455464 pagesThe Vanquished Why the First World War Failed to End | File size: 60.Mb

**Robert Gerwarth : The Vanquished: Why the First World War Failed to End** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Vanquished: Why the First World War Failed to End:

52 of 53 people found the following review helpful. Riveting!By Paul GelmanIf November 11, 1918 is considered by many as the offical date when WW1 ended, Robert Gerwarth begs to differ and claims that the war ended for many

only in 1923, and even this date was just the prelude to the other catastrophe, namely: WW2. In the words of Eric Hobsbawm, WW1 introduced the age of extremes, meaning ages of violent upheavals. The abrupt break-up of Europe's land empires and the difficult birth of their successor states is to be regarded as one of the reasons for the upsurge of violence. If Europe experienced a short period of stabilization between 1924 to 1929, the core issues raised but not solved between 1917 and 1923 would return, with new urgency, to the international and domestic political arena after the onset of the Great Depression in 1929. The book is divided into three parts called: "Defeat", "Revolution and Counter-Revolution" and "Imperial Collapse". These parts are about the various revolutions that occurred after WW1, the rise of Fascism, and the Paris Treaty, which, according to Professor Gerwarth, suffered from many ills, and of whose results can be seen even today, particularly in the Middle East. By the mid-1930s, authoritarian regimes or dictatorships became the norm across central and eastern Europe. They despised parliamentary democracy but also Bolshevism. Outbursts of violence were committed by individuals or groups that did the same during 1917-1923. Another characteristic of those times was the almost total disappearance of the distinction between civilians and soldiers. It was no coincidence that during 1918 to 1923 (and again from the 1930s), the number of civilians murdered in armed conflicts - most of them analyzed in the book - exceeded those of soldiers killed. Another feature of 1918 to 1923 was the dehumanization of the enemy, and this applied to external and internal foes alike. The thesis which started in the vanquished states was that their defeat was nothing but the result of treason on the home front. Pogroms, revolutions, counter-revolutions, clashes on the home front and mass expulsions were the name of the game. It is worth quoting the words of the Russian polymath and philosopher Piotr Suve who, in a paper he wrote, said that "an extensive arc of post-war violence stretched from Finland and the Baltic states, through Russia and Ukraine, all the way to the Caucasus". This book is superb, and extremely well researched and documented and uses archival materials from eight different archives in Europe, and also has detailed maps and relevant photos. It reads like a fast moving thriller. More than highly recommended. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The War That Would Not End By Anne Mills This book surveys what happened in most of Europe after November 1918, when the First World War officially ended. To be accurate, however, it only ended for the winners, and not even for all of them. Some other countries were torn by civil wars; Russia is the best known example, but Germany too experienced something very like a civil war. Others were afflicted by interstate conflicts in the wake of the dissolution of three great land empires. The treaties signed in Paris created new borders (and new states) based on the principle of nationality, but the problem was that nationalities were still all mixed up, leading to territorial claims, insurgencies, and simmering resentments. The "post-war wars" went on until 1923, and the death toll was in the millions. Moreover, many of these wars left massive disagreements unresolved, contributing to the backdrop for the Second World War, and even for some of the wars we are fighting today. The book is a work of massive scholarship, but it still highly readable. For those interested in European history, or even in current events, I highly recommend it. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. World War I's outcomes and the resulting effects By Steven Peterson This is a very useful book. Every so often, I have heard people say that World War II was just a continuation of World War I. This volume can be used to buttress that point. Gerwarth's book explores the outcomes of WWI. He notes the dramatic changes in the case of Europe. Empires disappeared: Austria-Hungary was no more--divided into a number of countries, some of which made little sense; Russia disappeared amidst the slaughter of its troops and the hardships endured by its people, ultimately to be replaced by a Bolshevik government; the German Empire, too, ended, with a republic coming into power. The winners sliced and diced geography, to punish the losers, to create something like (in certain circumstances) nation-states, where national communities were provided their own states. But not always. Lots of hard feelings emerged. This was not helped by the heavy financial penalties imposed on the losing countries. Nor by lands taken from them. Between 1918 and 1923, the key time span explored by the author, peace was imposed. But it was not a peace that would endure. Within two decades, another World War would begin. This is a fine book, and one that provides useful context for the first half of the 20th century.

A Times Literary Supplement Best Book of 2016 An epic, groundbreaking account of the ethnic and state violence that followed the end of World War I conflicts that would shape the course of the twentieth century For the Western Allies, November 11, 1918, has always been a solemn date the end of fighting that had destroyed a generation, but also a vindication of a terrible sacrifice with the total collapse of the principal enemies: the German Empire, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire. But for much of the rest of Europe this was a day with no meaning, as a continuing, nightmarish series of conflicts engulfed country after country. In *The Vanquished*, a highly original and gripping work of history, Robert Gerwarth asks us to think again about the true legacy of the First World War. In large part it was not the fighting on the Western Front that proved so ruinous to Europe's future, but the devastating aftermath, as countries on both sides of the original conflict were savaged by revolutions, pogroms, mass expulsions, and further major military clashes. In the years immediately after the armistice, millions would die across central, eastern, and southeastern Europe before the Soviet Union and a series of rickety and exhausted small new states would come into being. It was here, in the ruins of Europe, that extreme ideologies such as fascism would take shape and ultimately emerge triumphant. As absorbing in its drama as it is unsettling in its analysis, *The Vanquished* is destined

to transform our understanding of not just the First World War but the twentieth century as a whole.

[Gerwarth's] account is both important and timely, and obliges us to reconsider a period and a battle front that has too often been neglected by historians . . . Well-researched and engrossing. Margaret MacMillan, *The New York Times Book For many of the Great War's defeated nations and peoples, as Robert Gerwarth shows brilliantly in The Vanquished, the full course of strife and bloodshed ended only in late 1923 . . . Based on a staggering range of primary materials and secondary literature, The Vanquished fills a vast canvas . . . [A] path-breaking study.* Brendan Simms, *The Wall Street Journal*"Utterly fascinating . . . [The Vanquished] probes deeply into an area of this intensely-studied war that comparatively few studies take on at such length and detail . . . The long after-effects of the Great War are painted with comprehensive skill in these pages; its an account unlike any other in the crowded field of WWI studies . . . Vital reading, essential for any student of the First World War." Steve Donoghue, *Open Letters Monthly*This narrative of continent-wide chaos makes it easier to understand why order came to seem a supremely desirable objective in 1930s Europe, trumping freedom . . . it helps us understand why few wars reach tidy conclusions: once a society has suspended its instinctive, social and legal prejudice against killing, it often proves hard to restore. Max Hastings, *The Sunday Times*Gerwarth fills *The Vanquished* with illuminating quotations and stories that pull together a complex narrative about the uneasy peace of the late Twenties and shine a piercing light into darkened corners of history . . . The *Vanquished* is an unnerving reminder of how stubbornly some geopolitical fault-lines endure. Sinclair McKay, *The Telegraph*A mixture of fast-paced narrative and fluent analysis of the turmoil that unfolded in the lands of the four shattered empires, as well as Greece and Italy, either side of the November 1918 armistice on the western front. Gerwarth demonstrates with an impressive concentration of detail that in central, eastern and south-eastern Europe the carnage of the first world war by no means came to an end, as it did for the British and French, in late 1918. Tony Barber, *Financial Times*Gerwarth has synthesized an enormous range of primary and secondary sources in half a dozen languages. Combining a big-picture overview with close-up detail - we hear the voices of soldiers, politicians, civilians - Gerwarth has written a vivid if disturbing account of a crucial period in 20th century history. Matthew Price, *The National*Searing and vivid . . . a timely reminder that the roots of century-long violence can be traced back to the cataclysmic end of the Great War. Richard Overy, *Literary* Gerwarth's fascinating and finely crafted book is a rich combination of military, political, cultural and social history. He makes good use of literary sources and witness testimony to bring the events he narrates to life . . . an impressive work of highly accessible scholarship. Geoffrey Roberts, *Irish Times*This is an important and compelling book with a fascinating and chilling narrative ... Gerwarth reveals how the forgotten postwar violence comprised a key step on Europe's descent into darkness. Alexander Watson, *BBC History Magazine*While Gerwarth's warfare theories are cogent and convincing, he never loses sight of the human dimension. He skillfully avoids the danger of getting bogged down in a mass of detail, livening up his narrative by using contemporary quotes from politicians, soldiers and writers. One mark of a good history book is that it allows the reader to see familiar events from a new perspective. In this respect, *The Vanquished* is an exceptional history book. Andrew Lynch, *Sunday Post Business Magazine*[Gerwarth] shines a light on what is, from a western European point of view, a somewhat obscure and relatively short period of time . . . from the layman's vantage point, it is so well written that it reads like a novel. Tragically, for the people killed, wounded and forced to flee from their homes, it is not. This book is well worth the read. Frank MacGabhann, *Irish Independent*This fine and timely study makes a compelling case for the argument that the bloody aftermath of the war did more to destroy European civilisation than the declarations of war in 1914 . . . at a time when Vladimir Putin seems intent on regaining Tsarist Russia's frontiers, and the map of the Middle East drawn by the victorious powers becomes ever more blurred, we might well ask whether the First World War has ended yet. A.W. Purdue, *Times Higher Education Supplement*A clear and excellent account of the abrupt break-up of the Habsburg, Hohenzollern, Ottoman and Romanov empires and the difficult birth of their successor states during 1917-23. *History of War s*Gerwarth provides an essential contribution to our understanding of the interwar years. Jay Freeman, *Booklist*Controversial, persuasive, and impressively documented. *Publishers Weekly*The first study of the disorders that shook all the defeated states of Europe following World War . . . In this extensively researched and crisply written account, Gerwarth explores the political and military upheavals throughout central Europe . . . A thorough explanation for the rise of the nationalist and fascist groups who set the stage for World War II. Kirkus *s*About the AuthorRobert Gerwarth is professor of modern history at University College Dublin and the director of its Centre for War Studies. He is the author of *The Bismarck Myth* and *Hitlers Hangman*, a biography of Reinhard Heydrich. He has studied and taught in the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, and France.