



# World War I: A concise military history

*Adrian Gilbert*

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## **World War I: A concise military history** Adrian Gilbert

‘This book is a useful corrective to the view that the war consisted almost entirely of infantry battles in France. Absorbing.’ – Philip Warner, Daily Telegraph

World War I was one of the great turning points in history, whose consequences continue to influence the world today; it is with little exaggeration that the war can be seen as the catalyst to the formation of the modern world. The combination of mass armies and a revolution in military technology ensured that the conflict would reach a destructiveness unknown in history, and with a geographical reach that saw a remote Balkans conflict spread swiftly across the entire globe.

The 100th anniversary of the start of World War I has led to a renewed popular interest in the war. The intention of this book is to provide the reader with a concise yet authoritative account of this conflict, explaining its causes and consequences while focusing on the conduct of the war: the great battles on land and sea and the advent of a new kind of warfare in the skies.

### About the Author

Adrian Gilbert was written extensively on 20th-century warfare. Among his books are histories of sniping, POWs, the French Foreign Legion, and an award-winning account of the British Army in the Western Desert during World War II. His last book was *Challenge of Battle: The Real Story of the British Army in 1914*.

### Praise for previous books:

#### *Challenge of Battle: The Real Story of the British Army in 1914*

‘Adrian Gilbert has written a sophisticated and nuanced analysis of the BEF in 1914. This book deserves to have a significant impact on our understanding of the British fighting machine.’ – Professor Richard S. Grayson, author of *Belfast Boys: How Unionists and Nationalists Fought and Died Together in the First World War*

‘Through personal accounts and official documents alike, Gilbert’s book finally exposes the truth behind the conflict. This brilliantly balanced book is a story of incompetence, courage and survival.’ – *History of War*

#### *POW: Allied Prisoners in Europe 1939-1945*

‘Gilbert is to be congratulated; with verve and scholarship he has illuminated a murky area of the war ... [an] excellent history.’ – Ian Thomson, Daily Telegraph

‘Captured: the real spirit of the POW camps... a big subject here given a comprehensive and worthwhile examination.’ – Peter Lewis, Daily Mail

#### *The Imperial War Museum Book of the Desert War*

‘The book is culled from the diaries, letters, reports and recollections of the people who fought the war. A vivid, vital history.’ – Sunday Times

‘By now a familiar story, re-told from a series of new angles ... much fresh, illuminating detail.’ – Professor M. R. D. Foot, Good Book Guide

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