

Rick Fogarty, 1917 in 2017: WWI and the Shaping of the Modern World
HILL, Spring 2017

Further Reading/Viewing

What follows is an idiosyncratic and selective listing of some of my favorite books and films on various aspects of the First World War, and some that I mentioned here and there during our meetings for one reason or another. The listing is not comprehensive, but offers some ideas for anyone who would like to know more about some of the matters we discussed during this course.

Films

First, some viewing. I could list many dozens of films here, but I will just list four that I think are particularly worth watching:

Life and Nothing But (La vie et rien d'autre). A beautiful film that conveys very well the incredible losses and attempts to come to terms with them in France immediately after the war. An irascible French officer (Philippe Noiret) is charged with accounting for the 350,000 missing French soldiers after the war. His investigations are frustrated by bureaucracy, grief, influence-peddling, and his own despair, but since it is a French film there is also a love story. I cannot recommend the film highly enough.

Gallipoli. One of Mel Gibson's first films, but don't hold that against it. An epic tale of the spirit of adventure that led men to sign up to fight this war (as it has led men to sign up for many other wars), and of the shock of war's realities. An important Australian film about a battle that defines for many that nation's modern identity.

Paths of Glory. Classic tale of the French mutinies of 1917, starring Kirk Douglas and made by Stanley Kubrick.

A Very Long Engagement. A very delightful film, believe it or not, about mourning and loss after the war. By the director of, and featuring the same lead actress as, the international hit *Amélie*.

Days of Glory (Indigènes). Not about the First World War at all, but about North Africans who fight for France during the Second. But still an interesting look at colonial subjects fighting in a European war, as many hundreds of thousands also did between 1914 and 1918.

Books

Just a few among the many thousands one could read. Those listed here are merely particularly relevant to what we've talked about in this course.

Henri Barbusse, *Under Fire (Le feu)*. Classic novel of the Great War, published in France during the war itself.

James Barr, *Setting the Desert on Fire: T. E. Lawrence and Britain's Secret War in Arabia, 1916-1918*

James Barr, *A Line in the Sand: The Anglo-French Struggle for the Middle East, 1914-1948*

Peter Englund, *The Beauty and the Sorrow: An Intimate History of the First World War*. If you only have time to read one book on the Great War, I'd recommend this one. It is a

fascinating story of the global war, woven together from the in-depth stories of several individuals. Beautifully written.

Orlando Figes, *A People's Tragedy: The Russian Revolution: 1891-1924*

Dexter Filkins, *The Forever War*. Stories from Iraq and Afghanistan in the 21st century, but featuring that passage toward the end that links these to the First World War in the same region. Well worth reading.

Richard S. Fogarty, *Race and War in France: Colonial Subjects in the French Army, 1914-1918*. I'm not sure this would be to everyone's taste, but I'd be remiss if I didn't mention my own work on the war and its global and imperial dimensions. [There is also: Andrew Tait Jarboe and Richard S. Fogarty, eds., *Empires in World War I: Shifting Frontiers and Imperial Dynamics in a Global Conflict*.]

David Fromkin, *A Peace to End All Peace: The Fall of the Ottoman Empire and the Creation of the Modern Middle East*

Paul Fussell, *The Great War and Modern Memory*. A classic text on the war. It argues that the conflict introduced a distinctly modernist way of thinking about war, language, and much else.

Robert Gerwarth and Erez Manela, *Empires at War, 1911-1923*. Chapters treat each empire involved in the war (and there were many), arguing that the war was above all a struggle among empires, and that this struggle was not contained to the years 1914-1918.

Martha Hanna, *Your Death Would Be Mine: Paul and Marie Pireaud in the Great War*. One of the very best books ever written about the war, I think. The story of a peasant couple in France, confronting the daily challenges of the war at home and at the front, told through a brilliant examination of the many hundreds of letters they exchanged.

Jennifer Keene, *Doughboys, the Great War, and the Remaking of America*

Kennedy, David M. *Over Here: The First World War and American Society*

Sean McMeekin, *The Berlin-Baghdad Express: The Ottoman Empire and Germany's Bid for World Power*

David Reynolds, *The Long Shadow: The Legacies of the Great War in the Twentieth Century*

Eugene Rogan, *The Fall of the Ottomans: The Great War in the Middle East*

Jeffrey T. Sammons and John H. Morrow, Jr. *Harlem's Rattlers and the Great War: The Undaunted 369th Regiment and the African American Quest for Equality*

Chad Williams, *Torchbearers of Democracy: African American Soldiers in the World War I Era*

Jay Winter, *Sites of Memory, Sites of Mourning: The Great War in European Cultural History*. A response to Paul Fussell's classic work. Winter argues that Europeans often turned to the past to find ways of coping with the losses of the war, rather than embracing the modern.