A Highly Selective Reading List about the First World War
In support of the Madison-Morgan Cultural Center’s Sunday Symposium
“World War One: A Look Back 100 Years”
Veterans’ Day, Nov. 11, 2018, 2pm – 4pm

This reading list is only a starting point. It barely scratches the surface of the voluminous body of World War I literature, especially from the European vantage point. The war raged in Europe for over four years, but because the U.S. was in the conflict for just the final twenty months, only a relatively small portion of the historical record focuses on America. Compared to the huge bodies of literature about the Revolutionary War, The Civil War, and World War II, the list of works about America in World War I seems sparse – but only in comparison. In practice the list of books pertaining to the U.S. role in the Great War is much larger than even the most prodigious scholar, much less the serious lay reader, could absorb. With that caution in mind, we offer the following:

Note: The publication dates below generally refer to the first edition. Many of these works have been reprinted in paperback and/or revised editions.

**ONE VOLUME OVERVIEWS**


**ONE VOLUME OVERVIEWS WITH AN AMERICAN FOCUS**

Margaret E. Wagner, *America and the Great War, A Library of Congress Illustrated History* (2017). An authoritative coffee table book for the serious reader. Since it was so recently published, this volume contains an up-to-date bibliography of the literature on WWI.


**NON-FICTION ACCOUNTS OF ASPECTS OF THE WAR**

Barbara Tuchman, *The Guns of August* (1962). The classic Pulitzer Prize winning account of the beginning of the war. See also Tuchman’s, *The Zimmerman Telegram.*


Moina Belle Michael, *The Miracle Flower: The story of the Flanders Fields Memorial Poppy* (1941). Ms. Michael’s own story of how she made the red poppy the official veterans’ memorial flower. She was born in Good Hope, Ga., and attended school at Braswell Academy in Morgan Co.

**ONLINE LISTS OF WWI NOVELS AND BOOKS**

Rather than posting our own list of WWI novels, we offer the following suggestions from the New Republic and BookBub: [https://newrepublic.com/article/118470/reading-guide-novels-about-world-war-one](https://newrepublic.com/article/118470/reading-guide-novels-about-world-war-one) and [https://www.bookbub.com/blog/2016/11/08/historical-fiction-set-in-world-war-i](https://www.bookbub.com/blog/2016/11/08/historical-fiction-set-in-world-war-i)

A 100th anniversary reading list: [http://www.danverslibrary.org/readthis/?p=135120](http://www.danverslibrary.org/readthis/?p=135120)

*Smithsonian Magazine* recommends these five WWI books: [https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/five-books-on-world-war-i-199/](https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/five-books-on-world-war-i-199/)

*Updated: Sept. 10, 2018.*