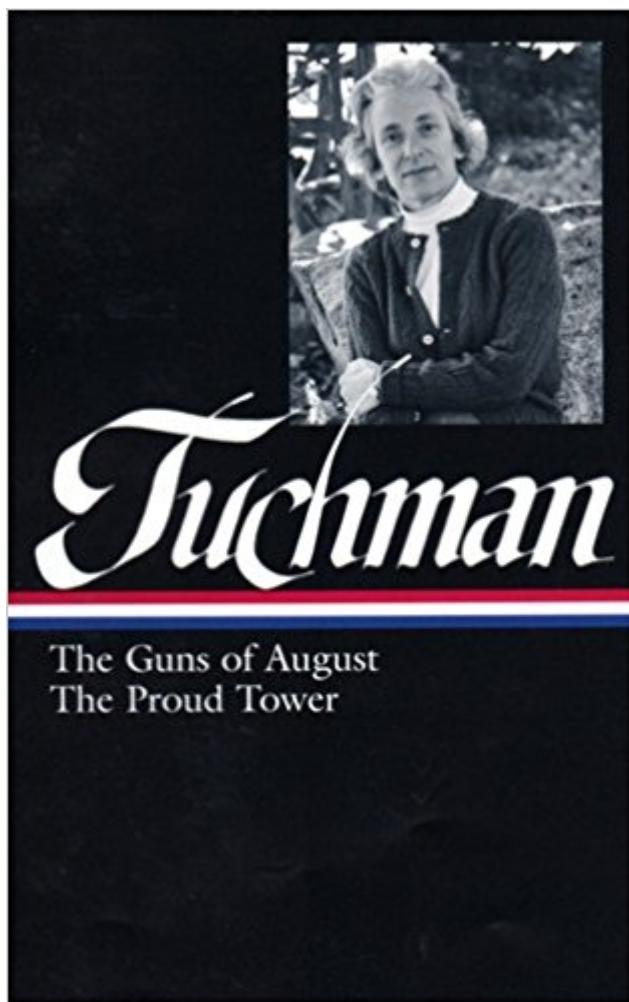


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# Barbara W. Tuchman: The Guns Of August & The Proud Tower (Library Of America)



## Synopsis

Writing with a clarity, grace, and novelistic sweep rare among historians, Barbara W. Tuchman (1912-1989) distilled the complex interplay of personalities and events into gripping narratives that fuse rigorous scholarship with elegant literary art. An astute portraitist, she brilliantly laid bare the all-too-human failures of leaders subject to the pull of historical currents and prone, often tragically, to the ingrained biases of culture and temperament. Her Pulitzer Prize-winning best seller *The Guns of August* (1962) offers a majestic orchestration of the diplomatic and military history of the crucial first weeks of World War I. Tuchman's observations about the irrational escalation of conflict made a deep impression on President John F. Kennedy and influenced his actions during the Cuban Missile Crisis; fifty years later, *The Guns of August* remains an exemplary study of events propelled headlong by their own internal logic and momentum. Some of Tuchman's finest writing is contained in her following book, *The Proud Tower: A Portrait of the World before the War, 1890-1914* (1966), a fascinating kaleidoscope of eight precisely drawn essays on subjects ranging from international socialism and anarchism to the Dreyfus Affair in France and the birth of American imperialism that collectively set the stage for the cataclysm of 1914. Presented in one volume for the first time and released to mark Tuchman's centennial year and the fiftieth anniversary of the publication of *The Guns of August*, here is a vivid, indelible panorama of an epoch in transition.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 1264 pages

Publisher: Library of America; 1St Edition edition (March 1, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 159853145X

ISBN-13: 978-1598531459

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 1.6 x 8.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 23 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #286,150 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #131 in Books > History > Historical Study & Educational Resources > Essays #412 in Books > History > Military > World War I #812 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > International & World Politics > European

## Customer Reviews

MARGARET MacMILLAN, editor, is the author of *Paris 1919* (winner of the Duff Cooper Prize, the

Samuel Johnson Prize for nonfiction, the Hessell-Tiltman Prize for History, the Governor-General's award for nonfiction, and a New York Times best book of the year), Nixon and Mao, and Women of the Raj. A past provost of Trinity College at the University of Toronto, MacMillan is the warden of St. Antony's College at Oxford University.

I have three copies of this book (one a first edition, first printing) and give it as gifts to friends I think would enjoy it. Tuchman's 'The Guns of August' and 'A Distant Mirror' are two books most definitely in my top 10 all time favorite reads. I've three copies of 'A Distant Mirror' as well (also, one is a 1st ed. 1st printing).

I bought the book for my son but read it myself also with a great interest. I learnt many interesting and little known facts about politics in a pre-war period and during first month of the Great War. Author tells the story in engaging way, the chapters about battles of Belgium and German invasion into France contain vivid description of war horrors as if through the eyes of witness.

In my opinion, Barbara Tuchman is a great historian and if possible, and even greater writer. I read this book because 2014 marked the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the Great War in Europe that would all too soon engulf my own country.

In one volume are two of the best works ever done on WW1. Also includes the essay "How We Entered World War I"

Excellent...as I expected.

Simply a great author.

High quality edition of Pulitzer prize author's talent. MUST reading since history tends to recur...

Mrs. Tuchman is my favorite writer. I have studied her works since I was a teenager. She writes like no one else.

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