



The Proud Tower: A Portrait of the World Before the War, 1890-1914

By Barbara W. Tuchman

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***The Proud Tower*, the Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Guns of August*, and *The Zimmerman Telegram* comprise Barbara W. Tuchman's classic histories of the First World War era**

During the fateful quarter century leading up to World War I, the climax of a century of rapid, unprecedented change, a privileged few enjoyed Olympian luxury as the underclass was “heaving in its pain, its power, and its hate.” In *The Proud Tower*, Barbara W. Tuchman brings the era to vivid life: the decline of the Edwardian aristocracy; the Anarchists of Europe and America; Germany and its self-depicted hero, Richard Strauss; Diaghilev’s Russian ballet and Stravinsky’s music; the Dreyfus Affair; the Peace Conferences in The Hague; and the enthusiasm and tragedy of Socialism, epitomized by the assassination of Jean Jaurès on the night the Great War began and an epoch came to a close.

Praise for *The Proud Tower*

“[Barbara W. Tuchman’s] Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Guns of August* was an expert evocation of the first spasm of the 1914–1918 war. She brings the same narrative gifts and panoramic camera eye to her portrait of the antebellum world.”—*Newsweek*

“A rare combination of impeccable scholarship and literary polish . . . It would be impossible to read *The Proud Tower* without pleasure and admiration.”—*The New York Times*

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Editorial Review

Review

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From the Publisher

THE PROUD TOWER by Barbara Tuchman examines the Western World of approximately 100 years ago. Technologically the world was a very different from today, but the strifes between economic groups and among nations bears many similarities to our own time. Tuchman examines the economic, social, political, and technological world of the period 1890-1914. By this period, the United States had become an important player in world affairs. The Haymarket Affair in Chicago fueled the development of international anarchism which led to the assassinations of political figures in Russia, Italy, France and lastly President McKinley in the United States. Tuchman's unraveling of the the Dreyfus Affair is, in itself, worth the price of the book. In THE PROUD TOWER Tuchman describes the western world that exploded into The Great War (which she describes in THE GUNS OF AUGUST).

Randy Hickernell, Ballantine Sales Rep.

From the Inside Flap

"The diplomatic origins, so-called, of the War are only the fever chart of the patient; they do not tell us what caused the fever. To probe for underlying causes and deeper forces one must operate within the framework of a whole society and try to discover what moved the people in it."

--Barbara W. Tuchman

The fateful quarter-century leading up to the World War I was a time when the world of Privilege still existed in Olympian luxury and the world of Protest was heaving in its pain, its power, and its hate. The age was the climax of a century of the most accelerated rate of change in history, a cataclysmic shaping of destiny.

In *The Proud Tower*, Barbara Tuchman concentrates on society rather than the state. With an artist's selectivity, Tuchman brings to vivid life the people, places, and events that shaped the years leading up to the Great War: the Edwardian aristocracy and the end of their reign; the Anarchists of Europe and America, who voiced the protest of the oppressed; Germany, as portrayed through the figure of the self-depicted Hero, Richard Strauss; the sudden gorgeous blaze of Diaghilev's Russian Ballet and Stravinsky's music; the Dreyfus Affair; the two Peace Conferences at the Hague; and, finally, the youth, ideals, enthusiasm, and tragedy of Socialism, epitomized in the moment when the heroic Jean Jaures was shot to death on the night the War began and an epoch ended.

"Tuchman [was] a distinguished historian who [wrote] her books with a rare combination of impeccable

scholarship and literary polish. . . . It would be impossible to read *The Proud Tower* without pleasure and admiration."

--The New York Times

"Tuchman proved in *The Guns of August* that she could write better military history than most men. In this sequel, she tells her story with cool wit and warm understanding, eschewing both the sweeping generalizations of a Toynbee and the minute-by-minute simplicisms of a Walter Lord."

--Time

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Steven Holt:

Spent a free time to be fun activity to accomplish! A lot of people spent their down time with their family, or all their friends. Usually they carrying out activity like watching television, about to beach, or picnic in the park. They actually doing ditto every week. Do you feel it? Do you wish to something different to fill your personal free time/ holiday? Might be reading a book is usually option to fill your free time/ holiday. The first thing that you'll ask may be what kinds of guide that you should read. If you want to consider look for book, may be the book untitled *The Proud Tower: A Portrait of the World Before the War, 1890-1914* can be fine book to read. May be it may be best activity to you.

Louise Reyes:

This *The Proud Tower: A Portrait of the World Before the War, 1890-1914* is great book for you because the content that is certainly full of information for you who always deal with world and get to make decision every minute. This particular book reveal it data accurately using great arrange word or we can declare no rambling sentences inside. So if you are read the idea hurriedly you can have whole data in it. Doesn't mean it only offers you straight forward sentences but hard core information with splendid delivering sentences. Having *The Proud Tower: A Portrait of the World Before the War, 1890-1914* in your hand like having the world in your arm, information in it is not ridiculous one particular. We can say that no publication that offer you world with ten or fifteen minute right but this book already do that. So , this is good reading book. Heya Mr. and Mrs. stressful do you still doubt that?

Paul Simpson:

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