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## The Proud Tower: A Portrait of the World Before the War, 1890-1914; Barbara W. Tuchman's Great War Series

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*

"An exquisitely written and thoroughly engrossing work . . . The author's knowledge and skill are so impressive that they whet the appetite for more."—*Chicago Tribune*

"[Tuchman] tells her story with cool wit and warm understanding."—*Time*

*From the Trade Paperback edition.*

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## **Editorial Review**

### Review

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

"Mrs. Tuchman's popularity is due to more than her skill with words . . . She never loses sight of individuals, and she is not afraid to tell a story . . . As in all her books, this one is resplendent with people." --*New York Times Book Review*

"An exquisitely written and thoroughly engrossing work . . . The author's knowledge and skill are so impressive that they whet the appetite for more . . . An esthetically rewarding experience. No one should forgo the opportunity." --*Chicago Tribune*

"A stunning command of the storyteller 's arts of swift pacing, tense exposition, and colorful scene construction." --*Newsweek*

"Mrs. Tuchman paints the scene for us with a masterly brush, a scene glittering and brilliant, sumptuous and outrageous." --*Herald Tribune*

"Blackstone's inspired pairing of narrator Nadia May with the work of Barbara Tuchman introduces a new generation to the pleasures of one of the twentieth century's most popular and esteemed historians."  
--*Audiofile*

### 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:**

#### **Randall Yang:**

Book will be written, printed, or illustrated for everything. You can learn everything you want by a publication. Book has a different type. To be sure that book is important point to bring us around the world. Next to that you can your reading proficiency was fluently. A book *The Proud Tower: A Portrait of the World Before the War, 1890-1914*; Barbara W. Tuchman's Great War Series will make you to always be smarter. You can feel considerably more confidence if you can know about anything. But some of you think in which open or reading any book make you bored. It isn't make you fun. Why they may be thought like that? Have you looking for best book or acceptable book with you?

#### **Jocelyn Welch:**

What do you regarding book? It is not important to you? Or just adding material when you require something to explain what the one you have problem? How about your time? Or are you busy person? If you don't have spare time to do others business, it is make one feel bored faster. And you have extra time? What did you do? All people has many questions above. They must answer that question mainly because just their can do that. It said that about publication. Book is familiar in each person. Yes, it is suitable. Because start from on kindergarten until university need this kind of *The Proud Tower: A Portrait of the World Before the War, 1890-1914*; Barbara W. Tuchman's Great War Series to read.

#### **Phillip Herzog:**

As people who live in the actual modest era should be update about what going on or data even knowledge to make these people keep up with the era which is always change and move ahead. Some of you maybe will update themselves by reading books. It is a good choice to suit your needs but the problems coming to a person is you don't know what kind you should start with. This *The Proud Tower: A Portrait of the World*

Before the War, 1890-1914; Barbara W. Tuchman's Great War Series is our recommendation so you keep up with the world. Why, because this book serves what you want and wish in this era.

**Michael Hilton:**

Many people spending their time by playing outside with friends, fun activity having family or just watching TV all day every day. You can have new activity to invest your whole day by examining a book. Ugh, ya think reading a book can actually hard because you have to accept the book everywhere? It okay you can have the e-book, getting everywhere you want in your Smartphone. Like The Proud Tower: A Portrait of the World Before the War, 1890-1914; Barbara W. Tuchman's Great War Series which is keeping the e-book version. So , try out this book? Let's observe.

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