
Marc Ferro

2002. 1914-1918: Understanding the Great War. London: Profile Books. Audoin-Rouzeau, Stéphane and Jean-Jacques Becker (eds.) 2004. Encyclopédie de la Grande France contemporaine. Beckett, Ian F. W. 2001. The Great War 1914-1918. New York: Longman. Berghahn, Volker R. 1993. Germany and the approach of war in 1914. New York: Bedford/St. Martins. The course of events of the Great War has been told many times, spurred by an endless desire to understand 'the war to end all wars'. However, this book moves beyond military narrative to offer a much fuller analysis of the conflict's strategic, political, economic, social and cultural impact. Starting with the context and origins of the war, including assassination, misunderstanding and differing national war aims, it then covers the treacherous course of the conflict and its social consequences for both soldiers and civilians, for science and technology, for national politics... 


I was able to talk to Marder, all too briefly, about my preparatory work for this book. I most earnestly hope that he would have approved of it in this final form. I know that he would have been gratified that I had the continuous and invaluable advice of Lieutenant-Commander Peter Kemp, who proved himself Marder's own 'ready and constant counsellor' for so many years, and to whom I, too, owe a great deal over twenty-five years of writing naval history. The rise of the German Navy from the early 1890s to 1914 was a remarkable achievement. A navy demands a multitude of special skills both in the construction of ships and the training of the men to serve in them.