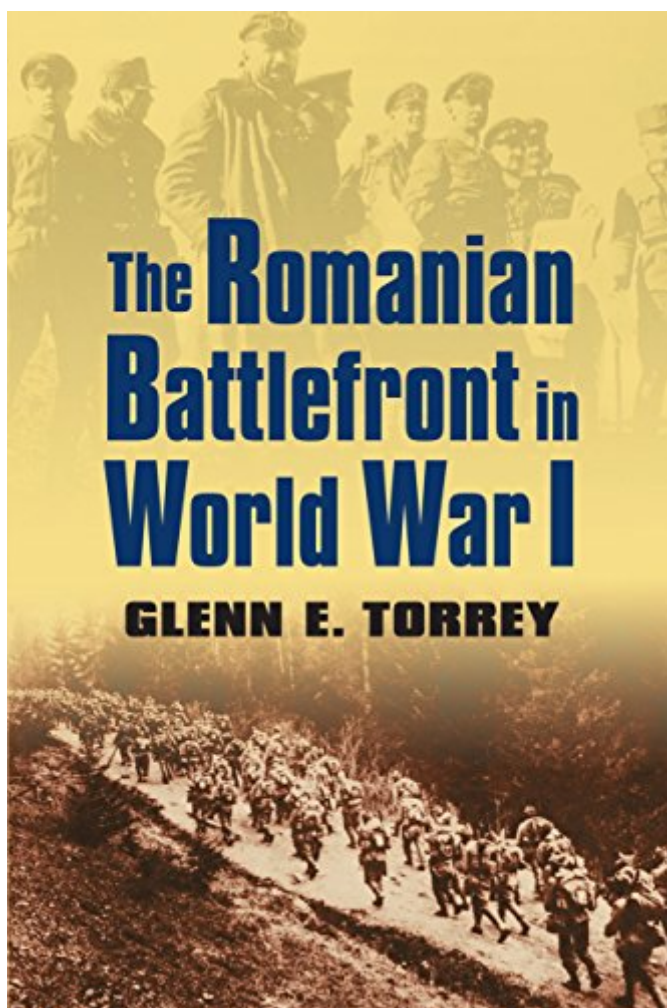


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The Romanian Battlefront In World War I



Synopsis

Despite a strategically vulnerable position, an ill-prepared army, and questionable promises of military support from the Allied Powers, Romania intervened in World War I in August 1916. In return, it received the Allies' formal sanction for the annexation of the Romanian-inhabited regions of Austria-Hungary. As Glenn Torrey reveals in his pathbreaking study, this soon appeared to have been an impulsive and risky decision for both parties. Torrey details how, by the end of 1916, the armies of the Central Powers, led by German generals Falkenhayn and Mackensen, had administered a crushing defeat and occupied two-thirds of Romanian territory, but at the cost of diverting substantial military forces they needed on other fronts. The Allies, especially the Russians, were forced to do likewise in order to prevent Romania from collapsing completely. Torrey presents the most authoritative account yet of the heavy fighting during the 1916 campaign and of the renewed attempt by Austro-German forces, including the elite Alpine Corps, to subdue the Romanian Army in the summer of 1917. This latter campaign, highlighted here but ignored in non-Romanian accounts, witnessed reorganized and rearmed Romanian soldiers, with help from a disintegrating Russian Army, administer a stunning defeat of their enemies. However, as Torrey also shows, amidst the chaos of the Russian Revolution the Central Powers forced Romania to sign a separate peace early in 1918. Ultimately, this allowed the Romanian Army to reenter the war and occupy the majority of the territory promised in 1916. Torrey's unparalleled familiarity with archival and secondary sources and his long experience with the subject give authority and balance to his account of the military, strategic, diplomatic, and political events on both sides of the battlefield. In addition, his use of personal memoirs provides vivid insights into the human side of the war. Major military leaders in the Second World War, especially Ion Antonescu and Erwin Rommel, made their careers during the First World War and play a prominent role in his book. Torrey's study fosters a genuinely new appreciation and understanding of a long-neglected aspect of World War I that influenced not only the war itself but the peace settlement that followed and, in fact, continues today.

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Customer Reviews

This book is an outstanding book that fills in a gap in the English language literature about World War I on the eastern front. The book explains how Romania got involved, discounting the idea put forth by many that Brusilov's Offensive was a major factor. It discusses the Romanian Armed Forces and its leaders, how they prepared for war, their objectives and what actually happened. The author does not stop the story when the Romanians were driven out of most of their country in 1916. He continues the story to show how the Romanian Army rebuilt itself in 1917 with French assistance, and how that made an impact on the course of the war. The improved Romanian Army denied the Germans and Austro-Hungarians easy victories like they won in 1916, also winning a few battles on its own. As a result, Romania's standing amongst the allies improved. The author also explains the impact of the Russian Revolution on the Romanians and how in the end, they were able to achieve their war aims in both Transylvania and even Bessarabia. The book uses mostly primary sources as well as secondary sources in Romanian, German, French and Russian. There is also a short bibliographic essay about the Romanian secondary sources. I recommend this book for those who are serious students of World War I, or those who want to know more about the eastern front in World War I or pretty much any library.

If you enjoy military history at its finest, BUY this book. Yes it's an obscure theater of World War I, but author Glenn Torrey brings it alive. For me he writes the best kind of military history - - - one that takes you from the highest levels of command and strategy, through operational commanders at the army, corps and division levels, right down to individual soldiers who slugged it out in the cold and muck of the Carpathians and Dobrogea. He has borrowed from accounts written in Romanian that

otherwise would be beyond the common readers' access, and brought them to life. I couldn't put this book down. My only criticisms are aimed the maps, which although detailed were difficult to read. A larger, detailed map of the entire area would have been helpful - - - the one in the book is just not precise enough. Colored annotations (yes, I know this adds expense, but I would have gladly paid more) would greatly clarify the battlefield movements. The photos are fantastic; I wish there were more. And I certainly hope Torrey writes more. I'm waiting!

Much as I have studied European History and much as I have tried in the past to study the First World War, this book represents my first foray into the campaigns in Rumania during the First World War. Previously I had read only a little on the 1916 Brusilov Offensive. Although a bloody affair, the Brusilov offensive by the Russian 8th Army on the South West Front under the command of Imperial Russian Army general Aleksei Brusilov was the most successful of all the 1916 offensives against the Imperial German troops along the entire Russian front. As the Brusilov Offensive moved against the troops of the Central Powers in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the Russian troops of the South Western Front brushed along the northern border of Rumania. Accordingly, because of the success of this offensive right on their northern border, the Rumanians were encouraged to join the war effort against the Germans and Austro-Hungarians of the Central Powers alliance. Rumania's King Carol I was sympathetic to Germany and the Central Powers during his reign. However, Rumania did not join the Central Powers when the First World War began in September of 1914. However, King Carol died on October 10, 1914 and his nephew inherited the Rumanian throne as King Ferdinand I. Ferdinand's inclinations--and more importantly the inclinations of his wife, Queen Marie--were strongly in favor of the Western allies in the war. Despite the change of feelings in the royal family Rumania remained neutral during the first part of World War I. However, Rumania finally did join the Western Allies in the war on August 27, 1916. The bumpy road that Rumania suffered throughout their participation in the war is outlined in this book. Accordingly, I learned a great deal from the book about the war in eastern Europe from the book. As noted above, my prior studies of the First World War had been hampered because the overwhelming majority of writing on the first World War dealt only with the western front of that war. Until recently, writings about the eastern front had been extremely scarce. Indeed, this 2012 book by is part of a shower of books that has come out each of which deals with the eastern front during the First World War. RoThe result of the . ThiCental

good book that gives you a lot of information on this part of ww1 in europe. i lked it. i think die hard fans of ww1 will too. arrived on time and in excellent condition

Glenn Torrey has done a superb job here, in his brilliant work on the Romanian Front in WWI. The 1916 campaign, overlooked as it usually is, is given excellent coverage here. What is also wonderful is the coverage of the nearly completely unknown 1917 battles, and the rebirth after their severe trials of the year before of the resilient Romanian Army. This also covers Romania's role after the fall of Russia and the eventual birth of the Greater Romania in 1918-1919 following the fall of Austria-Hungary and Germany. Highly recommended. A great work on a little known subject.

Excellent read cover this sector of WW1. After reading you get to understand why the Romanians went to war and why they suffered a lot of casualties during the war. The formation and the destruction by German forces is discussed. The German offensive to knock Romania out of the war is shown in great detail.

Very well written by the author who spent a lot of time doing the research in this unknown area of WWI history. Easy to read and understand, if you love WWI history you should have this one on your book shelf.

I loved it.

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