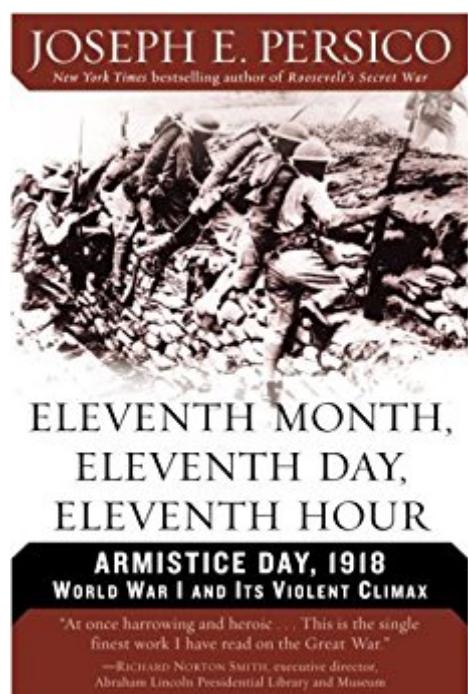


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Eleventh Month, Eleventh Day, Eleventh Hour: Armistice Day, 1918 World War I And Its Violent Climax



Synopsis

November 11, 1918. The final hours pulsate with tension as every man in the trenches hopes to escape the melancholy distinction of being the last to die in World War I. The Allied generals knew the fighting would end precisely at 11:00 A.M, yet in the final hours they flung men against an already beaten Germany. The result? Eleven thousand casualties suffered—more than during the D-Day invasion of Normandy. Why? Allied commanders wanted to punish the enemy to the very last moment and career officers saw a fast-fading chance for glory and promotion. Joseph E. Persico puts the reader in the trenches with the forgotten and the famous—among the latter, Corporal Adolf Hitler, Captain Harry Truman, and Colonels Douglas MacArthur and George Patton. Mainly, he follows ordinary soldiers' lives, illuminating their fate as the end approaches. Persico sets the last day of the war in historic context with a gripping reprise of all that led up to it, from the 1914 assassination of the Austrian archduke, Franz Ferdinand, which ignited the war, to the raw racism black doughboys endured except when ordered to advance and die in the war's last hour. Persico recounts the war's bloody climax in a cinematic style that evokes *All Quiet on the Western Front*, *Grand Illusion*, and *Paths of Glory*. The pointless fighting on the last day of the war is the perfect metaphor for the four years that preceded it, years of senseless slaughter for hollow purposes. This book is sure to become the definitive history of the end of a conflict Winston Churchill called “the hardest, cruelest, and least-rewarded of all the wars that have been fought.”•From the Hardcover edition.

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Customer Reviews

good experience

After seeing Joseph Persico on the History Channel special , I had to read his account of the last day of WWI. This book inspired me to make three trips to Belgium and France to see various battlefield sites and follow a relative who never returned from the 326 co. L in the Argonne-Meuse. It is an amazing account of what happened the last hours of WWI before the Armistice.

I hate books where the great majority of the material is not related to the title. You would assume most of text would be about 11,11,11am. Also, some very amateur mistakes.

Avid history buff. Simply one of the best accounts of WW1 I have ever read! Should be mandatory reading for all who are, or would be, leaders of men in combat.

Very well written, sobering account of how allied general staff,especially American, were so anxious to enhance their reputations they caused the needless slaughter of Allied troops during the last minutes of the war. Truly appalling.

interesting/well written

A good history, I enjoyed it.

A great read. Should be required reading for every High school student.

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