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Biographical Dictionary of World War I

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Herwig, Holger, and Heyman, Neil M. *Biographical Dictionary of World War I*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1982. 424pp. \$49.95

This dictionary presents a large number of biographical accounts, quite complete and authoritative, describing personages of importance who directed affairs in the most important belligerent nations during the First World War. The nations covered include Austria-Hungary, Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Italy, Japan, Montenegro, Rumania, Russia, Serbia, Turkey, the United States, and the Vatican.

The two authors, both Europeanists, base their biographical sketches on the works of leading authorities or on memoirs, tracing careers in general but concentrating on activities during 1914-1918. Herwig and Heyman make an effort to avoid the dull flatness often associated with biographical dictionaries, including evaluative comments as well as descriptive information and introducing interesting and even amusing anecdotes or quotations.

The coverage is most useful for the European participants, reflecting not only the European specialties of the authors but the realities of the Great War. There are twenty-three entries for the United States by comparison with sixty-nine for Germany and fifty for Great Britain. This apportionment seems just and proper. American users are much more in need of biographical information about our allies and enemies than about the United States, the latter

information being familiar or easily obtained. This work should help American scholars to introduce enemies and allies more effectively into the American treatment of the First World War than is now the case.

Anything that can be done to strengthen the American understanding of the First World War is a contribution of significant import. Much of our mental baggage concerning international relations and national security has its origins in the catastrophe of 1914-1918. Americans all too often ignore this fundamental truth because we were late into the war. In any event the experience of the Second World War effectively aborted a truly comprehensive American appraisal of the earlier conflict, a circumstance that helps to explain certain shortcomings in our understanding of underlying events for the period 1939 to 1945.

The compilers deserve considerable praise for undertaking a taxing labor that should prove helpful to students of the First World War for many years to come.

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Puryear, Edgar F., Jr. *George S. Brown, General US Air Force. Destined for the Stars*. Novato, Calif.: Presidio Press, 1983. 306pp. \$16.95.

George S. Brown was a courageous soldier, a fine officer and perhaps even a splendid human being. Despite these qualities it is not certain that "... Brown was destined