In June 1918 the Allies were doubtful of being able to breach the German trench system before 1919. But in July and August they drove the Germans across part of their main defence line, and on 26 September a further Allied thrust drove the Germans...
From its origins to its terrible legacy, the course of the First World War is vividly set out in a series of 173 fascinating maps. Together, these maps form a comprehensive and compelling picture of the war that devastated large parts of Europe, destroying three Empires; these maps illustrate the military, social, political and economic aspects of the war. Starting with the pre-war tensions and war aims, the atlas covers:

- the early months of the war – from the German attack on Belgium and France to the fierce fighting on the Western and Eastern Fronts
- the developing war in Europe and beyond – from the Somme and Verdun to Gallipoli and Mesopotamia, in the Near East and Africa, and in the Pacific
- the war at sea and in the air – from the Zeppelin and air raids to the naval battles, shipping losses and Atlantic convoys
- life at the front – from the trench system, living underground, the mud of Passchendaele, the French and Russian mutinies
- technology and the intensifying war – from phosgene gas to submarines, tanks and aerial bombardment
- the home fronts – war supplies, munitions factories, the air defence of Britain, German food riots, the entry of the United States into the war, the Russian Revolution, and the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian and the Ottoman Empires
- the aftermath – the peace treaties and territorial changes, war debts, war deaths, and the new map of Europe.

This revised edition contains a new section depicting the visual remembrance of the war; a guide to the memorials and cemeteries that commemorate the Battle of the Somme.

Sir Martin Gilbert is one of the leading historians of his generation. An Honorary Fellow of Merton College, Oxford – of which he was a fellow for thirty years – he is the official biographer of Winston Churchill and the author of eighty books, among them *Churchill: A Life*, *The First World War*, *Somme: The Heroism and Horror of War*, *The Second World War* and *D-Day*. For more information please visit www.martingilbert.com.
BOOKS BY MARTIN GILBERT

The Routledge Atlas of American History
The Routledge Atlas of the Arab–Israeli Conflict
The Routledge Atlas of British History
The Routledge Atlas of the First World War
The Routledge Atlas of the Holocaust

The Appeasers (with Richard Gott)
The European Powers, 1900–1945
The Roots of Appeasement
Children’s Illustrated Bible Atlas
Atlas of British Charities
The Holocaust: Maps and Photographs
The Jews of Arab Lands: Their History in Maps
The Jews of Russia: Their History in Maps
Sir Horace Rumbold: Portrait of a Diplomat
Jerusalem: Rebirth of a City
Jerusalem in the Twentieth Century
Exile and Return: The Struggle for Jewish Statehood
Israel: A History
Auschwitz and the Allies
The Jews of Hope: The Plight of Soviet Jewry Today
Shcharansky: Hero of Our Time
The Holocaust: The Jewish Tragedy
Kristallnacht: Prelude to Destruction
The Boys: Triumph over Adversity
The First World War

THE CHURCHILL BIOGRAPHY

Volume III: The Challenge of War, 1914–1916
Document Volume III (in two parts)
Volume IV: World in Torment, 1917–1922
Document Volume IV (in three parts)
Volume V: The Coming of War, 1922–1939
Document Volume V: The Exchequer Years, 1922–1929
Document Volume V: The Wilderness Years, 1929–1935
Document Volume V: The Coming of War, 1936–1939
Volume VI: Finest Hour, 1939–1941
Churchill War Papers I: At the Admiralty, September 1939–May 1940
Churchill War Papers II: Never Surrender, May–December 1940
Churchill War Papers III: The Ever-Widening War, 1941

Volume VII: Road to Victory, 1941–1945
Volume VIII: Never Despair, 1945–1965
Churchill: A Photographic Portrait
Churchill: A Life

EDITIONS OF DOCUMENTS

Britain and Germany between the Wars
Plough My Own Furrow: The Life of Lord Allen of Hurtwood
Servant of India: Diaries of the Viceroy’s Private Secretary, 1905–1910
Surviving the Holocaust: The Kovno Ghetto Diary of Avraham Tory
Winston Churchill and Emery Reves: Correspondence 1937–1964
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Introduction to the first edition
Field-Marshal The Viscount Montgomery of Alamein,
KG, GCB, DSO

The idea of teaching history by a series of maps was new to me until Martin Gilbert’s historical atlas of British history had come my way. I was at once intensely interested and later studied those of other countries and nations which he published. Such visual pictures of historical facts cannot fail to be of real value to students in schools and universities; they would look through a window, as it were, at the subject before getting down to a detailed study—which is, of course, essential.

My own study of history has proved to me, a soldier, that the verdict of war has been, time and again, a deciding factor in the process of historical change—though, of course, not the only one. But it has always been the arbiter when other methods of reaching agreement have failed.

This atlas of the 1914–18 war is therefore of particular interest to me, since I led my platoon of some 30 men into battle against the German army in August 1914, and remained on the western front in Europe until the war ended. It was an honour when my friend Martin Gilbert asked me to write an introduction to this atlas.

I look forward eagerly to his atlas of the 1939–45 war in which I fought on the battlefields of Africa and Europe—but by then being somewhat more senior in rank than in 1914.

MONTGOMERY OF ALAMEIN FM
Preface

This Atlas is intended as an introductory guide to as many aspects of the First World War as can reasonably be put in map form: the military, the naval, the aerial, the diplomatic, the technical, the economic, and pervading all, the human. The principal books upon which I have drawn for both facts and ideas are listed in the bibliography at the end of the volume. Two of the maps are constructed entirely from material in the British Government archives at the Public Record Office in London: A Plan for the Middle East 1915 (map 34) from a Cabinet paper entitled “The Spoils” written in March 1915 by the Colonial Secretary, Lewis Harcourt, which contained the first formal proposals for the post-war future of Palestine; and British Defences Against a Possible German Invasion 1915 (map 44) from the facts given to the members of the War Council at the beginning of January 1915. I have tried to build up each map by a detailed study of the available evidence, some of it extremely well known, some obscure, and some, as with the two maps above, previously unpublished.

Many of the subjects mapped here, although written about elsewhere, have not been put in map form before. But it is my hope that the visual aspect of a map such as German War Aims in the West 1914–1918 (map 124), or British Supplies to the Allies 1914–1918 (map 140) can be as useful, and as revealing, as the printed form; and that the putting together of normally scattered and diverse facts such as Food Riots in Germany 1916 (map 77), British Labour Corps 1914–1918 (map 136) or Gold Gains 1914–1918 (map 143) can give an unexpected interest to problems which, because of their unfamiliarity, do not always find a place in general histories of the war.

During the four years in which I compiled these maps and prepared the drafts, I was fortunate in the advice given by colleagues and friends. The Imperial War Museum, and in particular Dr Christopher Dowling and Mr Vernon Rigby, gave me the benefit of their wide knowledge and critical skills. Dr Immanuel Geiss gave me the advantage of his careful study of German war aims and policy; Mr Michael Glenny gave the Russian maps the benefit of his unique blend of scholarship and zeal; Mr and Mrs Tsvi Hercberg accompanied me to several battlefields on the western front and encouraged me with their enthusiasm and suggestions; Madame Taillandier gave me a vivid insight into the effect of the war on a French village cruelly thrust into the front line. The Commonwealth (formerly Imperial) War Graves Commission provided me with excellent detailed maps of the western front on which over two thousand British graveyards mark the savage progress and preserve a sombre echo of the fighting of over fifty years ago. Mr Norman Pemberton, the Commonwealth War Graves representative at Çanakkale, kindly took me to the cemeteries which he guarded with such care upon the Gallipoli Peninsula; Mr A. G. Major accompanied me to the summit of Sari Bair from where, gazing down at the Aegean Sea across the whole Anzac area, we felt almost in the living presence of the aspirations, the folly, the suffering and the heroism of mankind. The Mayor of Eceabat (the town of Maidos on maps 35 and 38), Mr Vedat Okay, and the Governor of Çanakkale, Mr Celâlettin Tüfekçi, gave me every help while I was at the Dardanelles, and
Mr Okay not only put a jeep at my disposal, but gave up his own time to ensure that my visit to the battlefields was as comprehensive as it could be. My visit there was made possible by the generosity of the Turkish Government which invited me to Turkey in connection with my work on the Official Biography of Sir Winston Churchill, and enabled me to pursue simultaneously my researches both as a historian and as a historical geographer.

Mr Arthur Banks supervised with his usual skill the activities of his team of cartographers, of whom the late Mr Terry Bicknell deserves a special mention for his high standard of cartography. Jane Cousins supervised the final cartographic corrections. Mr Joseph Robinson C.B.E. examined the maps with the thorough professional eye of a former member of the diplomatic service. Mrs Jean Kelly again gave the maps the advantage of her geographic expertise; and Sarah Graham, as well as typing all the preparatory matter, the bibliography and the index, subjected the maps to a further critical scrutiny. I am deeply grateful to all those who have helped to eliminate errors and ambiguities, but for those which remain I bear the sole responsibility.

I should welcome suggestions for future maps, and for corrections or additions to the existing ones.

Thirty-four years have passed since Mr A.J.P. Taylor gave me my last undergraduate tutorial in his room overlooking the Deer Park at Magdalen. Until his death I never ceased to benefit by his extraordinary enthusiasm for history and by his advice. It is he, for example, who, by urging me to include graphs in this Atlas, led me to prepare Casualties and Prisoners on the British Front 1918 (map 119) and British Merchant Shipping Losses 1917–1918 (map 85), as well as for the graph which appears on Allied Losses Off North America 1917 (map 86). Likewise, it was his railway enthusiasm which made me look more closely at the rail and transport problems of the First World War and to draw The Berlin—Bagdad Railway by 1914 (map 4), Communications at Ypres by 1918 (map 22) and Railway Communications of the Central Powers 1916 (map 61).

I wish above all to thank my late father, Mr Peter Gilbert, for his constant interest and true enthusiasm. By his questionings he led me to many searches which I might otherwise have neglected. Twice during my work on the Atlas he came with me to the Ypres Salient and together we would listen to the Last Post as it was sounded every night under the Menin Gate. He also tramped with me over Flanders’ fields in search of the mine craters of Messines: The Mines (map 90) and in order to find the precise location of the farms and fortifications of Churchill in Flanders 1916 (map 58). It is therefore with a sense of gratitude for this as for so many other things that I dedicate this volume to his memory.

Nine years have passed since the third printing of this atlas; for this new edition I have drawn five new maps, including British Court-Martial Executions, 1914–1918 (map 162) and two maps showing United States’ preparations for the unfought campaign of 1919 (maps 160 and 161).

17 January 1994

MARTIN GILBERT
Merton College, Oxford
Preface to the third edition

The publication of this new edition has enabled me to include nine new maps, relating to the monuments, memorials and war cemeteries on the battlefield of the Somme. Each year, the number of visitors to the battlefields of the Western Front grows, led by school groups for whom the First World War has become an integral part of their historical studies. It is my hope that these nine maps will encourage visitors to see as many of the sites as possible; and will enable the reader who does not visit to gain a picture of the courage and sacrifice of those who fought on the Western Front, and indeed on all the war fronts.

20 May 2008

MARTIN GILBERT
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Section One

PRELUDE TO WAR

It is a painful and terrible thing to think how easy it is to stir up a nation to war . . . and you will find that wars are always supported by a class of arguments which, after the war is over, the people find were arguments they should not have listened to.

JOHN BRIGHT
House of Commons
31 March 1854
British suspicions of Germany's growing naval power, accentuated by the opening of the Kiel Canal, enabling German ships to move safely and swiftly from the Baltic to the North Sea.

EUROPEAN FEARS AND AMBITIONS BEFORE 1914

British fears of a German invasion, played upon by novelists and newspapers.

French desire to win back Alsace & Lorraine conquered by Germany in 1870. Gambetta advised France: "Think of it always, speak of it never".

Italian desire to win territory from Austria, to expand in Dalmatia, and to control the Adriatic Sea.

Serbian desire to win an outlet to the sea, and to lead the Balkan Slavs against Austrian pressures.

Russian desire to champion the Balkan Slavs against Austrian dominance.

German desire for territory and influence in the east, at the expense of Russia.

Desire of the minorities inside Austria to win independence, or to have a larger say in their own affairs.

- British fears of a German invasion, played upon by novelists and newspapers.
- French desire to win back Alsace & Lorraine conquered by Germany in 1870. Gambetta advised France: "Think of it always, speak of it never".
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- Serbian desire to win an outlet to the sea, and to lead the Balkan Slavs against Austrian pressures.
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- German desire for territory and influence in the east, at the expense of Russia.
- Desire of the minorities inside Austria to win independence, or to have a larger say in their own affairs.
GERMANY'S GROWING ISOLATION
1887–1914

Countries friendly to Germany in 1887, as a result of Bismarck's Treaties and Alliances

After Bismarck's dismissal in 1890, Kaiser Wilhelm II renounced the Reinsurance Treaty with Russia. As a result, Russia turned towards France, with whom she allied in 1894.

Germany's only firm ally by 1914. It was Austria's quarrels with all its neighbours except Germany which helped ensure Germany's growing isolation between 1887 and 1914.

The only European country hostile to Germany in 1887. By 1914 every shaded country on this map had quarrelled with Germany or with her close ally Austria.

Countries whose independence had been assured by Bismarck and Disraeli in 1878, but who were increasingly suspicious of Austrian designs towards them by 1914.

Despite Britain's many trade links with Germany, and the Kaiser's devotion to his aunt, Queen Victoria, the good relations established by Bismarck in the 1870's and 1880's had cooled by 1900. Between 1900 and 1907 Britain gravitated towards France and Russia. From 1908 to 1914 Britain and France consulted over military and naval matters.

Countries allied to Germany 1887–1914, but by 1914 extremely hostile towards Germany's principal ally, Austria.
The three central Empires each contained large minority groups who wished for eventual independence. Many of these groups hoped that an Allied victory might lead to their liberation. The Allies encouraged such hopes, and offered to support the minorities if they turned against their imperial masters.
Germany hoped to gain important trade and political influence in Turkey and Persia by the construction of the Berlin-Bagdad railway. With the exception of 175 miles in Serbia, its 1,875 miles ran through countries sympathetic to Germany. But British traders could make as much use of it as they wished, and French investors had a strong financial interest. The railway was in no sense a cause of war, although British public opinion saw it as evidence of German and Austrian expansionist tendencies.

The Berlin-Bagdad railway. The Adana-Aleppo and Mardin-Mosul sections were not completed on the outbreak of war in 1914.

Serbia: the only country on the Berlin-Bagdad railway not associated with Germany, and also hostile to Austria-Hungary.

Branch line completed by 1914.

Branch line proposed to the Persian oilfields.

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- **The Turkish, or Ottoman, Empire in 1914**
- **Ruled or controlled by Britain in 1914**
AFRICA AND THE BELLIGERENTS AUGUST 1914

- German possessions in Africa
- British possessions
- French possessions
- Belgian possessions
- British possessions near Africa of strategic importance

The Allied powers in Africa

0 800 Miles
ITALY AND THE
MEDITERRANEAN 1911-1914

Italy in 1911
Annexed by Italy in 1912, after war with Turkey

Turkish, Austrian and Albanian territory which Italy hoped to annex either by the defeat of the Central Powers or by agreement with Austria-Hungary

ITALY

SARDINIA

SICILY

AUSTRIA-
HUNGARY

TYROL

Dalmatia

Trieste

ISTRIA

ITALY

SICILY

SARDINIA

TUNISIA

(French)

TRIPOLITANIA

CYRENAICA

EGYPT

(British)

LIBYA

FEZZAN

TUNISIA

Turkey

Rhodes

Smyrna

Konya

ODECANESE ISLANDS

TRIPOLITANIA

CYRENAICA

EGYPT

(British)

LIBYA

FEZZAN

0 200 Miles
The Serbs of Bosnia looked to Serbia for their future, as Austrian rule was oppressive.

Austria feared unrest among its 23 million subject Slavs if Serbia were allowed to build up its power and prestige.

Serbia's only active ally among the Great Powers. Russia disliked Austria's growing influence in the Balkans. The Balkan Slavs looked to Russia as their champion.

Independent from Turkey, 1878, after nearly 500 years of Turkish rule.

Austria ruled Dalmatia, a Serb outlet to the sea, including the ports of Spalato and Cattaro.

Serbia's only Balkan ally, a mountainous country with no easy access to the sea, and only one port.

Created from Turkish territory as a result of Austrian pressure in 1912, deliberately cutting Serbia off from the sea.

Conquered from Turkey by Greece during the Balkan war 1912-1913. Serbia had hoped to expand to Salonika and the sea.

Novibazar and Macedonia, conquered by Serbia from Turkey 1912-1913.

Conquered from Turkey by Bulgaria 1912-1913, again frustrating Serb ambitions seaward.

Serbia in 1878

Serbia in 1913

Serbia's allies

Bulgaria, anxious to annex Serbian Macedonia.