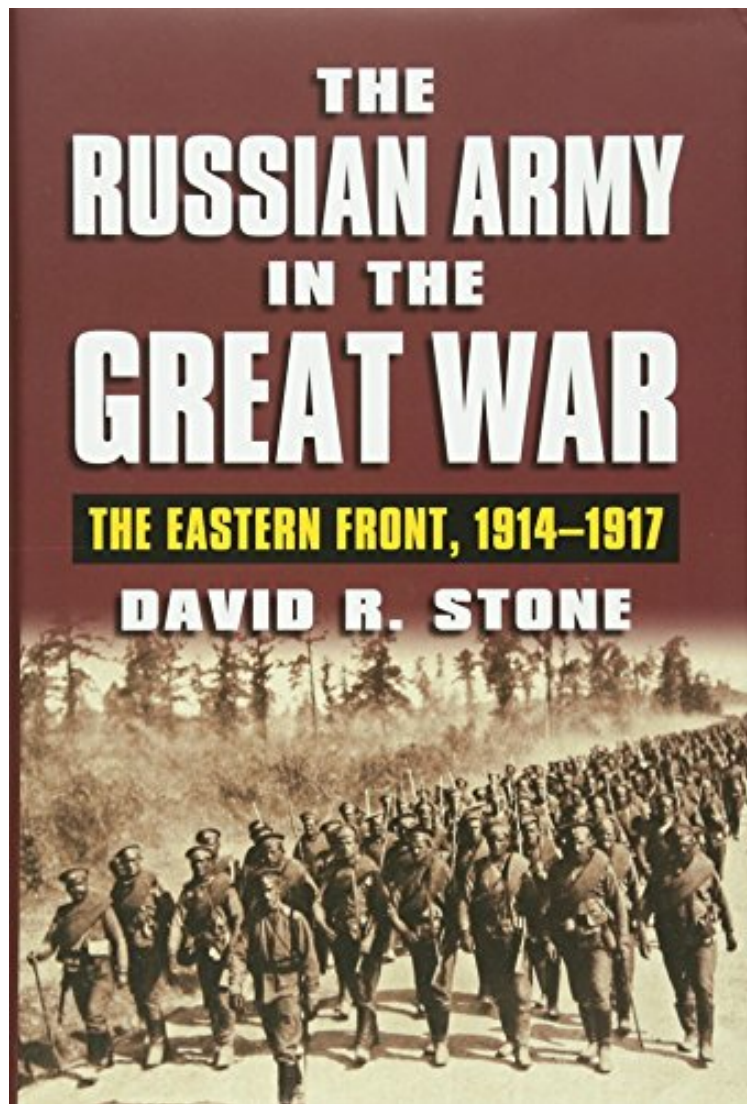


[Get free] The Russian Army in the Great War: The Eastern Front, 1914-1917 (Modern War Studies (Hardcover))

## The Russian Army in the Great War: The Eastern Front, 1914-1917 (Modern War Studies (Hardcover))

David R. Stone

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David R. Stone : The Russian Army in the Great War: The Eastern Front, 1914-1917 (Modern War Studies (Hardcover)) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Russian Army in the Great War: The Eastern Front, 1914-1917 (Modern War Studies (Hardcover)):

51 of 51 people found the following review helpful. A Complete Readable Account of WWI's Eastern Front By Michael J. Feinstein David Stone's "The Russian Army in the Great War" is an enjoyable, well-written and

comprehensive account of the often neglected Eastern Front in WWI. Focusing primarily (though not exclusively) on Russia's military situation, the book covers the eastern campaigns from the initial invasion of East Prussia to the Russian Army's collapse in late 1917. Included are short but interesting chapters on the Caucasian and Romanian fronts (the former often overlooked) as well as a chapter on the Russian home front and supply problems. I also found the coverage of the 1914-1915 campaigns in Galicia to be particularly interesting. The book covers the Serbian front very briefly due to the absence of direct Russian military involvement. Stone's narrative flows very smoothly making the book easy to read. He includes not only description of what happened and what went wrong but also useful explanations of why and provides a strategic overview as well. For example, while citing the haste, command carelessness and supply problems dooming Samsonov's 2nd Army at Tannenberg, he balances the mistakes by explaining the strategic importance of diverting some German resources away from the key Western Front just before the Marne. While the focus is on Russia's army, German and Austrian strategic decisions are also discussed. The dozen or so area-wide campaign maps are reasonably helpful though not especially detailed. While the book is comprehensive in the scope of its coverage, buyers should recognize that it does not cover each battle in great detail. This is simply not possible in 300 pages. For example, the Battle of Tannenberg is covered in 7 pages. By contrast, Prit Buttar's recent "Collision of Empires" (which focuses just on the campaigns of 1914) devotes 50 pages to that battle. Accordingly, those wanting highly detailed day-by-day, unit-by-unit battle descriptions might prefer books devoted to individual campaigns instead of one covering the entire war in the east. That stated, there is no better written one-volume work on the entire Eastern Front of WWI from 1914-1917 that I have seen. It provides complete coverage, insightful analysis and sufficient battle description to make it a thoroughly satisfying yet fairly quick read. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Excellent coverage. By Te Bada's Rating System 0 to 5 with 0 the lowest score and 5 the highest and NA for not applicable: Books (nonfiction) Content 4 Coverage of topic 4 Adequacy of descriptions 4 Detail 4 Accuracy 5 References 5 Illustrations 3 Size 4 Detail 3 Captions 4 Sufficient Maps 4 Sufficient Drawings NA Sufficient Photos 4 Product worth the price - Yes, 4. Excellent book. THE coverage seems a better than Norman Stone's (apparently no relation) Eastern Front. The two Stone's seem to have a different point of view on the collapse of the Austrian forces in their August 1914 offensive. Norman describes it as a rout, but David does not express that opinion. It could use more maps, but otherwise a book worth having. The "Look Inside" should give you a good enough idea of what you are buying. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Very good general history of the Eastern Front. By Robert Murley Much good information on the unfolding events of the war. Could have looked into the command structure and the division between the younger well educated staff officers at Stavka and the older generals.

A full century later, our picture of World War I remains one of wholesale, pointless slaughter in the trenches of the Western front. Expanding our focus to the Eastern front, as David R. Stone does in this masterly work, fundamentally alters—and clarifies—that picture. A thorough, and thoroughly readable, history of the Russian front during the First World War, this book corrects widespread misperceptions of the Russian Army and the war in the east even as it deepens and extends our understanding of the broader conflict. Of the four empires at war by the end of 1914—the Austro-Hungarian, Ottoman, German, and Russian—none survived. But specific political, social, and economic weaknesses shaped the way Russia collapsed and returned as a radically new Soviet regime. It is this context that Stone's work provides, that gives readers a more judicious view of Russia's war on the home front as well as on the front lines. One key and fateful difference in the Russian experience emerges here: its failure to systematically and comprehensively reorganize its society for war, while the three westernmost powers embarked on programs of total mobilization. Context is also vital to understanding the particular rhythm of the war in the east. Drawing on recent and newly available scholarship in Russian and in English, Stone offers a nuanced account of Russia's military operations, concentrating on the uninterrupted sequence of campaigns in the first 18 months of war. The eastern empires' race to collapse underlines the critical importance of contingency in the complete story of World War I. Precisely when and how Russia lost the war was influenced by the structural strengths and weaknesses of its social and economic system, but also by the outcome of events on the battlefield. By bringing these events into focus, and putting them into context, this book corrects and enriches our picture of World War I, and of the true strengths and weaknesses, triumphs and successes of the Russian Army in the Great War.

"This slim volume skillfully exploits recent archival releases and classic accounts to form a clear, concise and frequently poignant portrayal of Russian participation in World War I, a war that fundamentally altered the course of Russian history. It is a "must read" for those interested in the subject."—David M. Glantz, author of *Endgame at Stalingrad* "For many, the First World War in the East is little known yet, as Stone says, there everything changed. Stone is a superb guide to the innovative and exciting work going on in this field and his account grips the reader from the first paragraph."—Christopher Read, author of *War and Revolution in Russia: 1914–22: The Collapse of Tsarism and the Establishment of Soviet Power* "Deftly shifts our perspective not only on the Eastern Front but on the war as a whole by emphasizing commonalities (among empires, operations, home fronts) while appropriately highlighting the

many unique challenges faced by the tsarist state."—*New Books in Military History*"This slim volume skillfully exploits recent archival releases and classic accounts to form a clear, concise and frequently poignant portrayal of Russian participation in World War I, a war that fundamentally altered the course of Russian history. It is a "must read" for those interested in the subject."—David M. Glantz, author of *Endgame at Stalingrad*"For many, the First World War in the East is little known yet, as Stone says, there everything changed. Stone is a superb guide to the innovative and exciting work going on in this field and his account grips the reader from the first paragraph."—Christopher Read, author of *War and Revolution in Russia: 1914-22: The Collapse of Tsarism and the Establishment of Soviet Power*About the AuthorDavid R. Stone is Pickett Professor of History at Kansas State University. He is the author of *A Military History of Russia: From Ivan the Terrible to the War in Chechnya and Hammer and Rifle: The Militarization of the Soviet Union, 1926–1933* and editor of *The Soviet Union at War, 1941–1945*.