



# The Proud Tower: A Portrait of the World Before the War, 1890-1914

*Barbara W. Tuchman*

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***The Proud Tower*, the Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Guns of August*, and *The Zimmerman Telegram* comprise Barbara W. Tuchman's classic histories of the First World War era**

During the fateful quarter century leading up to World War I, the climax of a century of rapid, unprecedented change, a privileged few enjoyed Olympian luxury as the underclass was "heaving in its pain, its power, and its hate." In *The Proud Tower*, Barbara W. Tuchman brings the era to vivid life: the decline of the Edwardian aristocracy; the Anarchists of Europe and America; Germany and its self-depicted hero, Richard Strauss; Diaghilev's Russian ballet and Stravinsky's music; the Dreyfus Affair; the Peace Conferences in The Hague; and the enthusiasm and tragedy of Socialism, epitomized by the assassination of Jean Jaurès on the night the Great War began and an epoch came to a close.

## **Praise for *The Proud Tower***

"[Barbara W. Tuchman's] Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Guns of August* was an expert evocation of the first spasm of the 1914–1918 war. She brings the same narrative gifts and panoramic camera eye to her portrait of the antebellum world."—*Newsweek*

"A rare combination of impeccable scholarship and literary polish . . . It would be impossible to read *The Proud Tower* without pleasure and admiration."—*The New York Times*

"An exquisitely written and thoroughly engrossing work . . . The author's knowledge and skill are so impressive that they whet the appetite for more."—*Chicago Tribune*

"[Tuchman] tells her story with cool wit and warm understanding."—*Time*

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