Lines of fire: Women writers of World War I

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Contents / Notes

Bibliography, etc.: Includes bibliographical references and index.
Summary, etc.: “Lines of Fire is the most comprehensive collection of women’s writing from the First World War. Its authors are a remarkable and diverse group – citizens, soldiers, nurses, journalists, activists, wives and mothers – whose lives were emotionally, economically, and spiritually altered by this devastating war. In works by well-known authors like Rebecca West and Edith Wharton, as well as writers from India, Armenia, Hungary, and the Cameroons, we hear women speaking out on such issues as politics, economic justice, and social reform.” From incisive political treatises to gripping medical accounts, diary entries, poetry, and stunning visual art, Lines of Fire vividly captures the spirit and passion of the women who lived through this divisive time in our history, and enriches our understanding of the twentieth century’s Great War.” -- BOOK JACKET.
At the time of the First World War, most women were barred from voting or serving in military combat roles. Many saw the war as an opportunity not only to serve their countries but to gain more rights and independence. With millions of men away from home, women filled manufacturing and agricultural positions on the home front. Others provided support on the front lines as nurses, doctors, ambulance drivers, translators and, in rare cases, on the battlefield. British women served in uniform as well in the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force. In fact, the last known surviving veteran of World War I was Florence Green of the RAF, who died in 2012. A French woman working as an airplane mechanic. Click image for more information. The horror of the war and its aftermath altered the world for decades, and poets responded to the brutalities and losses in new ways. Outbreak of war in July/August. Germany invades Belgium, First Battle of the Marne, First Battle of Ypres. "Channel Firing" by Thomas Hardy “On Receiving News of the War” by Isaac Rosenberg “Peace” by Rupert Brooke (published in Poetry) “The Soldier” by Rupert Brooke (published in Poetry) “The Dead” by Rupert Brooke “Joining the Colours” by Katherine Tynan “Men Who March Away” by Thomas Hardy “War Girls” by Jessie Pope “On Heaven” by Ford Madox Ford (published in Poetry) “To Germany”.
Most books written about World War I generally focus on combat and the experiences of men. Lines of Fire challenges the restrictions of official history and traditional ideas of “war literature,” bringing together a rich and astonishing array of women’s journalism, political treatises, diaries, and eyewitness accounts, as well as illustrations, fiction, and poetry. World War I altered the world for decades, and writers and poets reflected that shifted outlook in literature, novels and poetry. From the opposite side of the firing lines, German writer Erich Maria Remarque, would also experience the grim day-to-day life of a soldier. Later, in 1929, he published an unflinching account in his novel, All Quiet on the Western Front. Among other prominent works reflecting the horrific realities of war was the four-part tome, Parade’s End, by English novelist Ford Madox Ford, and from the Eastern Front, Dr. Zhivago by Soviet Russian writer Boris Pasternak, in which the main character describes grotesque injuries inflicted on the war’s battlefields. WWI changed Hemingway and the world. The outbreak of war in 1939, as in 1914, brought to an end an era of great intellectual and creative exuberance. Individuals were dispersed; the rationing of paper affected the production of magazines and books; and the poem and the short story, convenient forms for men under arms, became the favoured means of literary expression. Reflecting upon language, time, and history, he searched, in the three quartets written during the war, for moral and religious significance in the midst of destruction and strove to counter the spirit of nationalism inevitably present in a nation at war.