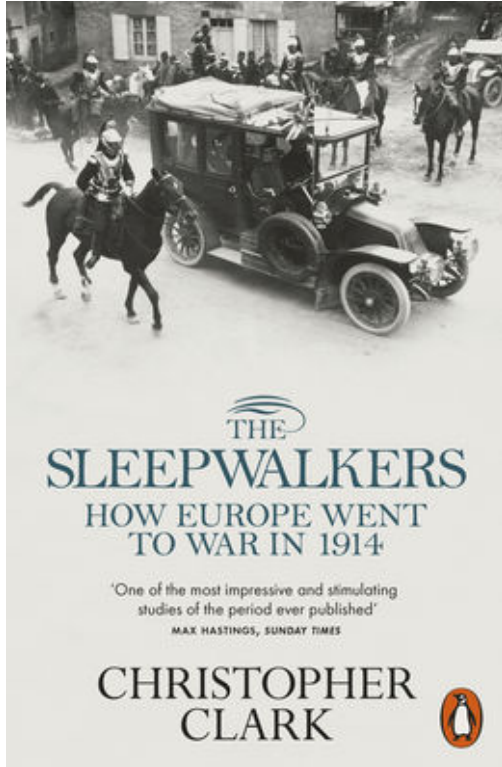


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The pacy, sensitive and formidably argued history of the causes of the First World War, from acclaimed historian and author Christopher Clark

SUNDAY TIMES and INDEPENDENT BOOKS OF THE YEAR 2012

The moments that it took Gavrilo Princip to step forward to the stalled car and shoot dead Franz Ferdinand and his wife were perhaps the most fateful of the modern era. An act of terrorism of staggering efficiency, it fulfilled its every aim: it would liberate Bosnia from Habsburg rule and it created a powerful new Serbia, but it also brought down four great empires, killed millions of men and destroyed a civilization. What made a seemingly prosperous and complacent Europe so vulnerable to the impact of this assassination?

In *The Sleepwalkers* Christopher Clark retells the story of the outbreak of the First World War and its causes. Above all, it shows how the failure to understand the seriousness of the chaotic, near genocidal fighting in the Balkans would drag Europe into catastrophe.

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'Formidable ... one of the most impressive and stimulating studies of the period ever published' **Max Hastings, Sunday Times**

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'Superb ... One of the great mysteries of history is how Europe's great powers could have stumbled into World War I ... This is the single best book I have read on this important topic' **Fareed Zakaria**

'A meticulously researched, superbly organized, and handsomely written account Military History Clark is a masterly historian ... His account vividly reconstructs key decision points while deftly sketching the context driving them ... A magisterial work' **Wall Street Journal**

About the author:

Christopher Clark is Professor of Modern History at the University of Cambridge and a Fellow of St Catharine's College. He is the author of *The Politics of Conversion*, *Kaiser Wilhelm II* and *Iron Kingdom*. Widely praised around the world, *Iron Kingdom* became a major bestseller. He has been awarded the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Title	:	The Sleepwalkers
Author	:	Christopher Clark
Catégorie	:	Europe
Sortie	:	27 sept. 2012
Éditeur	:	Penguin Books Ltd
Pages	:	736
Langue	:	Anglais
File Size	:	7.41MB

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