

discussion of the war's impact on African Americans, and Mark Levitch's article on memorialization.

There are strengths and weakness to the interdisciplinary approach. Steven Trout's essay in the last section is one of the best integrations of literary criticism and history in the work. He seamlessly intertwines works of fiction with history, without stretching either of these sources beyond its carrying capacity, to make his larger point about the challenges that returning veterans faced in reintegrating into society. The two short chapters on the war's effects on the Midwest and South highlight the limits of using literature as windows to explain great events. While both essays are good works of literary criticism, they are far too narrowly focused and brief to capture more than a fleeting glimpse of the changes that the conflict brought to the regions.

Much like the arts and ideas that the book examines, the beauty of the essays is certainly in the eyes of the beholder. Historians should ask if the writings of Ernest Hemingway, E. E. Cummings, John Dos Passos, F. Scott Fitzgerald, William Faulkner, and the period's other educated elites that appear often in the work's essays truly reflect the experiences and perceptions of the war's civilians and soldiers. Given these authors' experiences, were they merely "in" the Great War, but not really "of" the Great War? The ability of the work to spark thought about these questions while also serving a primer to the war's influence on American culture validates the authors' approach though, and makes the volume a welcome addition to the study of the Great War.

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Shadows from the Trenches: Veterans of the Great War and the Irish Revolution (1918–1923). By Emmanuel Destenay. Dublin, Ireland: University College Dublin Press, 2021. ISBN 978-1-9108-2073-5. Maps. Illustrations. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xxv, 218. €30.00 (paperback).

Over the past 200 years, Western nations have faced the grave challenge of how to reintegrate their veterans smoothly into society. As Emmanuel Destenay notes, this reintegration was all the more complex when those veterans returned to a society riven by revolution and civil war. In *Shadows from the Trenches* he examines the stark choices that confronted the Irish soldiers who returned from the First World War to an emerging nation whose political and economic systems were in a state of flux. Destenay explores the reasons why some veterans chose to join the Irish Republican Army (IRA), the later Irish Free State (IFS) Army, or the opposing Royal Irish Constabulary and "Black and Tans," while many others tried to remain out of the fray as best as they could. Last, he delves into the issue of political violence against the veterans and the efforts by the British and IFS to provide for the returned soldiers' economic well-being.

One of the most intriguing parts of Destenay's work is his focus on the factors that influenced the ex-soldiers' decisions to join one side or the other in the Irish War for Independence and Civil War. Sinn Féin's victory in the general elections of December 1918 and the beginning of the IRA's guerilla campaign against the Crown's forces and supporters encouraged many Catholic, demobilized soldiers to transfer their loyalty to the emerging Irish nation and its military forces immediately upon their release from the army. Based on admittedly fragmentary evidence, Destenay argues that approximately 10 percent of Irish ex-servicemen volunteered or were recruited into the IRA soon after leaving the army. Far from stiff-arming the veterans, as Jane Leonard and Peter Hart have maintained, Destenay maintains that the IRA actively sought veterans to fill its ranks due to the technical skills, leadership, and ability to train raw Republican recruits that the soldiers brought to the table. As the War of Independence gave way to the Irish Civil War, the new IFS Army sought veterans of the Great War to give them a military advantage over the IRA. Destenay further claims that the veterans serving in the IRA played an outsized role in the Republicans' ability to inflict heavy casualties on the Crown's forces during the War of Independence.

One of Destenay's main goals is to counter Leonard and Hart's assertions that the IRA held a grudge against those who had fought for the British during the Great War, and thus targeted the veterans for assassination and other acts of political violence and intimidation. He argues that the fact that the IRA sought to recruit veterans challenges the notion that the group had a built-in bias against the ex-servicemen. After examining the backgrounds of those veterans who were killed in acts of political violence, moreover, he finds that their continued service in the Crown's forces or other pro-British activities after 1918, rather than their wartime service, was the root cause of the IRA's attacks against them. Still other veterans were caught up in the agrarian revolt that accompanied the War of Independence and therefore were targeted because they were landlords and large property owners.

Shadows from the Trenches is an important work for understanding how the Great War influenced the development of Ireland and the larger issue of the reintegration of veterans. Destenay delves into the primary sources and does an admirable job of building on the regional histories that have dealt with these issues to create an overarching study of veterans, political violence, and the complex issue of political loyalty in Ireland as a whole in the postwar era. The only small shortcoming in the work is that at times he draws conclusions based on things that are inferred rather than are stated strongly in his sources. While his argument that the veterans serving in the IRA enabled it to inflict heavy casualties on the Crown's forces during the War of Independence is perhaps logical, for instance, there needs to be more evidence to draw this conclusion. This minor criticism does not in any way detract from the overall power of Destenay's argument or the fact that this work is an important contribution to the study of the Great War and its aftermath.

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