



## Europe's Last Summer: Who Started the Great War in 1914?

By David Fromkin

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**Europe's Last Summer: Who Started the Great War in 1914?** By David Fromkin

The early summer of 1914 was the most glorious Europeans could remember. But, behind the scenes, the most destructive war the world had yet known was moving inexorably into being, a war that would continue to resonate into the twenty-first century. The question of how the Great War of 1914 began has long vexed historians. In a gripping narrative, Fromkin shows that hostilities were started deliberately and that two wars were waged, one serving as pretext for the other. Shedding light on such current issues as preventive war and terrorism, Fromkin provides detailed descriptions of the negotiations and incisive portraits of the diplomats, generals, and rulers as he reveals why diplomacy was destined to fail.

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### Editorial Review

#### About the Author

**David Fromkin** is professor of international relations, history, and law at Boston University. He is the author of *A Peace to End All Peace*, a national bestseller that was a finalist for both the National Book Critics Circle Award and the Pulitzer Prize and that was singled out by the *New York Times Book Review* as one of the thirteen best books of the year in 1989. He lives in New York City.

**Alan Sklar**, a graduate of Dartmouth, has excelled in his career as a freelance voice actor. He began narrating audiobooks in 1996, winning seven AudioFile Earphones Awards and earning several "Best Voice" awards. He has also worked as a stage actor and as a promo announcer at WPIX-TV in New York City. His dream is to be an opera singer, a role for which he hones his bass-baritone operatic skills in the upstairs shower of his home.

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To many observers, WWI erupted without real cause. During the years immediately before, Europe seemed to be drowsing on the fineries of the early twentieth century. Fromkin gathers many historical threads and shows that the war was planned and incited, primarily by imperial Germany, and that diplomacy was destined to fail. Individuals led nations, feet often dragging, into confrontation. It isn't easy to inject life into dry historical narrative such as this, but Alan Sklar pulls it off. He reads compellingly, in a middle American bass-baritone with highs and lows of expression, nicely enhancing the text. D.R.W. © AudioFile 2004, Portland, Maine-- *Copyright © AudioFile, Portland, Maine*

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