

Book Review - With Our Backs to the Wall: Victory and Defeat in 1918
By Walter S. Zapotoczny Jr.

A fundamental question continues to be asked by historians. Why did the First World War end at the time and manner that it did? In his book "With Our Backs to the Wall: Victory and Defeat in 1918" David Stevenson attempts to answer this question with his well researched analysis and conclusions. Dr. Stevenson thoroughly examines the defensive and offensive operations of the Central Powers and of the Allies. He further examines the intelligence, technology and logistics applications of the antagonists and their contribution to the end of war. He examines manpower, morale, the economies of the combatants and the sociopolitical situation on the respective home fronts. Stevenson offers the casual reader, student and the military researcher the details of the complex and intertwined relationships and factors that lead to the suspension of hostilities by the warring parties on November 11, 1918. His conclusions provide the reader with a real sense of the military and political dynamics during 1917 and 1918 affecting the outcome of the Great War. Stevenson's conclusions offer a clear and compelling picture of why the Second World War happened.

I recommend this book to anyone interested in the final years of World War One and to those interested in understanding the factors that lead to World War II.

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