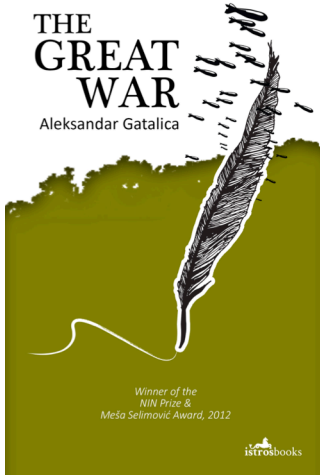


The Great War - Aleksandar Gatalica

Translated from the Serbian by Will Firth

(October 2014) £10.99 pb ISBN: 9781908236203



- Winner of Serbia's two biggest literary prizes: NIN & Meša Selimović, 2013
- A rare example of a work on WWI written from the perspective of the Balkans

“A whirlpool of a book that draws in the reader, moving ambitiously across place, class and profession yet tying all into the dreadful pull of the first global conflict. A war that began in the Balkans now has a

fitting literary epitaph from a giant among Balkan writers.”

Tim Butcher- bestselling British writer and author of ‘The Trigger’

‘The Great War’ is a novel that comprehensively and passionately narrates a number of stories covering the duration of World War One, starting with the year 1914 – the year that truly marked the beginning of the twentieth century. Following the destinies of over seventy characters, on all warring sides, Gatalica depicts the experiences of winners and losers, generals and opera singers, soldiers and spies; managing to grasp the atmosphere of the entire epoch, not only of these crucial four and a half bloody years, but also in the innocent decades that preceded the war, and the poisoned ones that followed.

The stories themselves are various but equally important: here we find joyful as well as tragic destinies, along with examples of exceptional heroism. Yet ‘The Great War’ never becomes a chronicle, nor a typical historical novel; above all it is a work of art that uses historic events as means to tell many fantastic stories, often with unbelievable and unthinkable convolutions. It is commendable in its breadth, its vision and its relevance to modern history.

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Aleksandar Gatalica in conversation with Sir Hew Strachan.**