



Victory 1918

Alan Palmer

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'Palmer's style is as good as his judgement is daring' – *The Times*

Almost a century after the battles of the First World War ended, their consequences remain imprinted on the political maps of Europe and much of the Middle East.

Did events justify Lloyd George's claim in 1914 that the Kaiser could fall 'by knocking away the props'; isolating Germany by defeating her partners?

When Italy joined the Allies who was propping up whom?

Were sideshows in the Balkans, Iraq and Palestine integral to the war's general strategy, or were they simply old imperial rivalries resumed by other means?

A hundred years on, that moment in November 1918 when the fighting ceased on the Western Front is still remembered across nations: that symbolic eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month.

Victory 1918 examines the background to the Allied triumph and its aftermath. Might the Armistice in the forest of Compiègne have come sooner? Did American intervention have won the war and compromised the peace? How near did Germany come to denouncing the Armistice and resuming fighting in 1919?

But *Victory 1918* is not only concerned with what happened in France and Flanders. There were four armistices that autumn. The Great War was a global conflict, with battlefronts on three continents. Retracing the path to Compiègne through the four-year struggle allows the reader to consider if a broader strategic vision might have brought an earlier victory.

Victory 1918 is a masterful survey of one of history's great turning points, and offers a fresh interpretation of the war which, more than any other, determined the character of the twentieth century.

Praise for Alan Palmer

'A fine piece of narrative history, a combination of suspense and scholarship which actually makes you wonder will he make it?' **Antonia Fraser's Book of the Year, *Sunday Times***

'Alan Palmer has done justice to [the] epic events with a lively, vivid narrative, written with the appropriate style and panache' - **Lawrence James, *The Times***

Alan Palmer was Head of the History Department at Highgate School from 1953 to 1969, when he gave up his post to concentrate on historical writing and research. He has written some thirty narrative histories, historical reference books or biographies. In 1980 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature.

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