



Castles of Steel: Britain, Germany, and the Winning of the Great War at Sea

By Robert K. Massie

Download now

Read Online →

Castles of Steel: Britain, Germany, and the Winning of the Great War at Sea By Robert K. Massie

In a work of extraordinary narrative power, filled with brilliant personalities and vivid scenes of dramatic action, Robert K. Massie, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Peter the Great*, *Nicholas and Alexandra*, and *Dreadnought*, elevates to its proper historical importance the role of sea power in the winning of the Great War.

The predominant image of this first world war is of mud and trenches, barbed wire, machine guns, poison gas, and slaughter. A generation of European manhood was massacred, and a wound was inflicted on European civilization that required the remainder of the twentieth century to heal.

But with all its sacrifice, trench warfare did not win the war for one side or lose it for the other. Over the course of four years, the lines on the Western Front moved scarcely at all; attempts to break through led only to the lengthening of the already unbearably long casualty lists.

For the true story of military upheaval, we must look to the sea. On the eve of the war in August 1914, Great Britain and Germany possessed the two greatest navies the world had ever seen. When war came, these two fleets of dreadnoughts—gigantic floating castles of steel able to hurl massive shells at an enemy miles away—were ready to test their terrible power against each other.

Their struggles took place in the North Sea and the Pacific, at the Falkland Islands and the Dardanelles. They reached their climax when Germany, suffocated by an implacable naval blockade, decided to strike against the British ring of steel. The result was Jutland, a titanic clash of fifty-eight dreadnoughts, each the home of a thousand men.

When the German High Seas Fleet retreated, the kaiser unleashed unrestricted U-boat warfare, which, in its indiscriminate violence, brought a reluctant America into the war. In this way, the German effort to “seize the trident” by defeating the British navy led to the fall of the German empire.

Ultimately, the distinguishing feature of *Castles of Steel* is the author himself. The knowledge, understanding, and literary power Massie brings to this story are unparalleled. His portrayals of Winston Churchill, the British admirals Fisher, Jellicoe, and Beatty, and the Germans Scheer, Hipper, and Tirpitz are stunning in their veracity and artistry.

Castles of Steel is about war at sea, leadership and command, courage, genius, and folly. All these elements are given magnificent scope by Robert K. Massie's special and widely hailed literary mastery.

From the Hardcover edition.

 [Download Castles of Steel: Britain, Germany, and the Winnin ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Castles of Steel: Britain, Germany, and the Winn ...pdf](#)

Castles of Steel: Britain, Germany, and the Winning of the Great War at Sea

By Robert K. Massie

Castles of Steel: Britain, Germany, and the Winning of the Great War at Sea By Robert K. Massie

In a work of extraordinary narrative power, filled with brilliant personalities and vivid scenes of dramatic action, Robert K. Massie, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Peter the Great*, *Nicholas and Alexandra*, and *Dreadnought*, elevates to its proper historical importance the role of sea power in the winning of the Great War.

The predominant image of this first world war is of mud and trenches, barbed wire, machine guns, poison gas, and slaughter. A generation of European manhood was massacred, and a wound was inflicted on European civilization that required the remainder of the twentieth century to heal.

But with all its sacrifice, trench warfare did not win the war for one side or lose it for the other. Over the course of four years, the lines on the Western Front moved scarcely at all; attempts to break through led only to the lengthening of the already unbearably long casualty lists.

For the true story of military upheaval, we must look to the sea. On the eve of the war in August 1914, Great Britain and Germany possessed the two greatest navies the world had ever seen. When war came, these two fleets of dreadnoughts—gigantic floating castles of steel able to hurl massive shells at an enemy miles away—were ready to test their terrible power against each other.

Their struggles took place in the North Sea and the Pacific, at the Falkland Islands and the Dardanelles. They reached their climax when Germany, suffocated by an implacable naval blockade, decided to strike against the British ring of steel. The result was Jutland, a titanic clash of fifty-eight dreadnoughts, each the home of a thousand men.

When the German High Seas Fleet retreated, the kaiser unleashed unrestricted U-boat warfare, which, in its indiscriminate violence, brought a reluctant America into the war. In this way, the German effort to “seize the trident” by defeating the British navy led to the fall of the German empire.

Ultimately, the distinguishing feature of *Castles of Steel* is the author himself. The knowledge, understanding, and literary power Massie brings to this story are unparalleled. His portrayals of Winston Churchill, the British admirals Fisher, Jellicoe, and Beatty, and the Germans Scheer, Hipper, and Tirpitz are stunning in their veracity and artistry.

Castles of Steel is about war at sea, leadership and command, courage, genius, and folly. All these elements are given magnificent scope by Robert K. Massie’s special and widely hailed literary mastery.

From the Hardcover edition.

Castles of Steel: Britain, Germany, and the Winning of the Great War at Sea By Robert K. Massie
Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #72125 in Books
- Published on: 2004-11-02
- Released on: 2004-11-02
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.17" h x 1.54" w x 6.07" l, 1.95 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 880 pages

 [Download Castles of Steel: Britain, Germany, and the Winnin ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Castles of Steel: Britain, Germany, and the Winn ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Castles of Steel: Britain, Germany, and the Winning of the Great War at Sea By Robert K. Massie

Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Nicholas and Alexandra* returns with a sequel to *Dreadnought* that is imposing in both size and quality, taking the British and German battle fleets through WWI. The fluent narrative begins amid the diplomatic crisis of July 1914 and ends with the scuttling of the German High Seas Fleet at Scapa Flow in 1919. Massie makes a coherent if long narrative out of a sequence of events familiar to students of naval history but probably not to many other potential readers. The focus is on the two fleets that confronted each other across the North Sea, their weapons and tactics and their complex and controversial leaders, both military and political. As in his other books, the author describes his cast of characters with the vividness of a novelist, British Admiral Beatty's disastrous marriage being a painful case in point. What emerges from that focus is not only a number of outstanding battle narratives (Jutland is only the most famous), but a closely argued case for the German fleet having been a disaster for its country's war effort. Once built, the High Seas Fleet made war with England and the blockade of Germany inevitable. Unable to break the blockade with that expensive fleet, Germany felt compelled to choose between a negotiated peace and unrestricted submarine warfare. Once the Germans chose the latter course, American intervention and disaster become nearly unavoidable. It may seem odd to describe a book of this size as an "introduction," but readers will soon understand that the size of the topic requires a long narrative. "Castles of steel" was Winston Churchill's grand phrase for the Grand Fleet and its German counterpart, and this unusually fine military narrative lives up to it as well.

Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From [The New Yorker](#)

In "Dreadnought," Massie chronicled the buildup of the British and German navies in the years before the First World War. Here he continues the story, showing the fleets in preparation for their inevitable decisive engagement. When the clash finally came, in 1916, at the Battle of Jutland, it was a somewhat muddled affair and both sides claimed victory. This centerpiece battle springs to life, thanks to Massie's clear grasp of tactics and his suspenseful narration. His portraits of major figures—including Winston Churchill, then a brash First Lord of the Admiralty, and the death-haunted Admiral von Spee—are perceptive and enthralling, and he writes of war's casualties with grim directness. Jutland marks a fascinating juncture in naval warfare: when the gentlemanly sea battle gave way to a more technical type of encounter. Submarines, which the British considered "the weapon of cowards," had already begun to dominate. Massie poignantly describes the sailors on older ships, who, when they spotted a modern cruiser on the horizon, knew that they were doomed, hours before the enemy fired a shot.

Copyright © 2005 *The New Yorker*

From [Booklist](#)

Massie has distinguished himself as a writer who pens enormous narrative histories so engaging that readers, losing themselves in the romance-novel story style, forget that they're reading nearly 1,000 pages of nonfiction. Dovetailing nicely with *Dreadnaught* (1991), which covers 40 years of British-German politics leading up to the Great War, his latest selection delves into politics by other means as the world's then two most powerful navies attempt to sink each other in the cold North Sea. While our cultural memory of World War I has largely been muddily entrenched in France and Belgium, this book shows that the sea was the war's most vital battleground, at a formative moment, adrift between Admiral Nelson-style high-seas adventure and modern aircraft-dominated naval combat. Yet while clearly well researched regarding technical specifications (gun apertures, water displacement, hull composition), Massie's tome is less a tale of

technology and more of what he writes best: biographies of great men and complicated events. In this instance, it's the patient, thoughtful Admiral John Jellicoe, the man Winston Churchill said was "the only man on either side who could lose the war in an afternoon," and his foil, the flamboyant Admiral David Beatty, at sea against the wishes of his clingy aristocratic wife. The key German officers are also covered, and the war's climax at Jutland is as much their story. Unlike the British attempt to eliminate the German High Seas Fleet, this book is a decisive success. *Brendan Driscoll*
Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Christine Willis:

The book Castles of Steel: Britain, Germany, and the Winning of the Great War at Sea can give more knowledge and information about everything you want. So why must we leave the great thing like a book Castles of Steel: Britain, Germany, and the Winning of the Great War at Sea? A number of you have a different opinion about publication. But one aim which book can give many information for us. It is absolutely right. Right now, try to closer together with your book. Knowledge or details that you take for that, you could give for each other; you are able to share all of these. Book Castles of Steel: Britain, Germany, and the Winning of the Great War at Sea has simple shape but you know: it has great and large function for you. You can appearance the enormous world by open up and read a guide. So it is very wonderful.

Doreen Wolf:

In this 21st millennium, people become competitive in each and every way. By being competitive at this point, people have do something to make these people survives, being in the middle of the particular crowded place and notice simply by surrounding. One thing that sometimes many people have underestimated the item for a while is reading. Yes, by reading a e-book your ability to survive increase then having chance to stand up than other is high. For you who want to start reading a book, we give you that Castles of Steel: Britain, Germany, and the Winning of the Great War at Sea book as beginner and daily reading guide. Why, because this book is more than just a book.

Amy Rodriguez:

Hey guys, do you wants to finds a new book to learn? May be the book with the concept Castles of Steel: Britain, Germany, and the Winning of the Great War at Sea suitable to you? The particular book was written by famous writer in this era. The actual book untitled Castles of Steel: Britain, Germany, and the Winning of the Great War at Seais the main one of several books that will everyone read now. This kind of book was inspired a number of people in the world. When you read this guide you will enter the new dimension that you ever know previous to. The author explained their plan in the simple way, so all of people can easily to recognise the core of this publication. This book will give you a great deal of information about this world now. So that you can see the represented of the world in this particular book.

Gerardo Roney:

Are you kind of stressful person, only have 10 as well as 15 minute in your day to upgrading your mind ability or thinking skill even analytical thinking? Then you have problem with the book than can satisfy your short space of time to read it because this time you only find reserve that need more time to be learn. Castles of Steel: Britain, Germany, and the Winning of the Great War at Sea can be your answer since it can be read by a person who have those short spare time problems.

**Download and Read Online Castles of Steel: Britain, Germany, and the Winning of the Great War at Sea By Robert K. Massie
#BZTDOSELWNU**

Read Castles of Steel: Britain, Germany, and the Winning of the Great War at Sea By Robert K. Massie for online ebook

Castles of Steel: Britain, Germany, and the Winning of the Great War at Sea By Robert K. Massie Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Castles of Steel: Britain, Germany, and the Winning of the Great War at Sea By Robert K. Massie books to read online.

Online Castles of Steel: Britain, Germany, and the Winning of the Great War at Sea By Robert K. Massie ebook PDF download

Castles of Steel: Britain, Germany, and the Winning of the Great War at Sea By Robert K. Massie Doc

Castles of Steel: Britain, Germany, and the Winning of the Great War at Sea By Robert K. Massie Mobipocket

Castles of Steel: Britain, Germany, and the Winning of the Great War at Sea By Robert K. Massie EPub