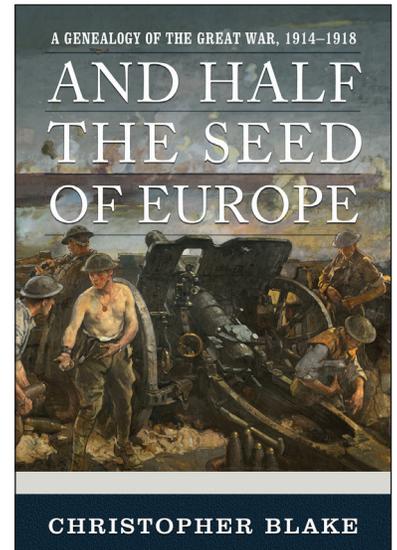


# And Half the Seed of Europe

## A Genealogy of the Great War, 1914–1918

by *Christopher Blake*



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Bibliography • Index • Recommended Reading • Photographs

The impact of the Great War  
in shaping family history

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**Macon, Georgia**—The First World War, or Great War as it became known, was ravaging the human family one century ago, changing forever the nature of military combat and restructuring the twentieth century in a way that was unimaginable before its course. With more than 35 million casualties, the Great War ranks among the deadliest conflicts in all history.

While the Great War was hoped to be the War to End All Wars, it instead launched a series of geo-political struggles that defined the future century, and in the shadow of which we still live today. By the end of the War all the major combatants—including the United States—were engulfed in its flames and hostage to its fortunes.

But the war was also very personal, shaping the lives of those who went to war, their loved ones, their families, and their future. That story of family is rarely examined in terms of the impact of the Great War.

In this book, several family members, British and American, are the context for an understanding of how the War shaped our lives both in the past, and going forward. In the stories of individual combatants, and their family relationships, lie the clues to understanding who we are, where we came from, and where we might choose to go.

Although the Great War is lost to living memory, its history lives on in the families whose grandparents, parents, spouses, and children engaged in the most titanic struggle in human history at that time.

"Genealogy is the lens through which I revisit in this book an extraordinary cataclysm in human history—the Great War—a name that began to take form even while the conflict was still engaged," says Blake. "This book does not claim the identity of historical scholarship, but rather provides a reflective, interpretative stance on personal history in the context of a shared human past and how we have been shaped as agents of our lives both collectively and individually by the choices of our forebears."

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In an academic career spanning three decades and two continents, **Christopher Blake** has served as both faculty and administrator in secondary and post-secondary institutions. An Oxford graduate, he holds a PhD from the University of London in Education and Religious Studies. Blake currently serves as president of Middle Georgia State University and is an advisory board member for the Georgia World War I Centennial Commission.

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