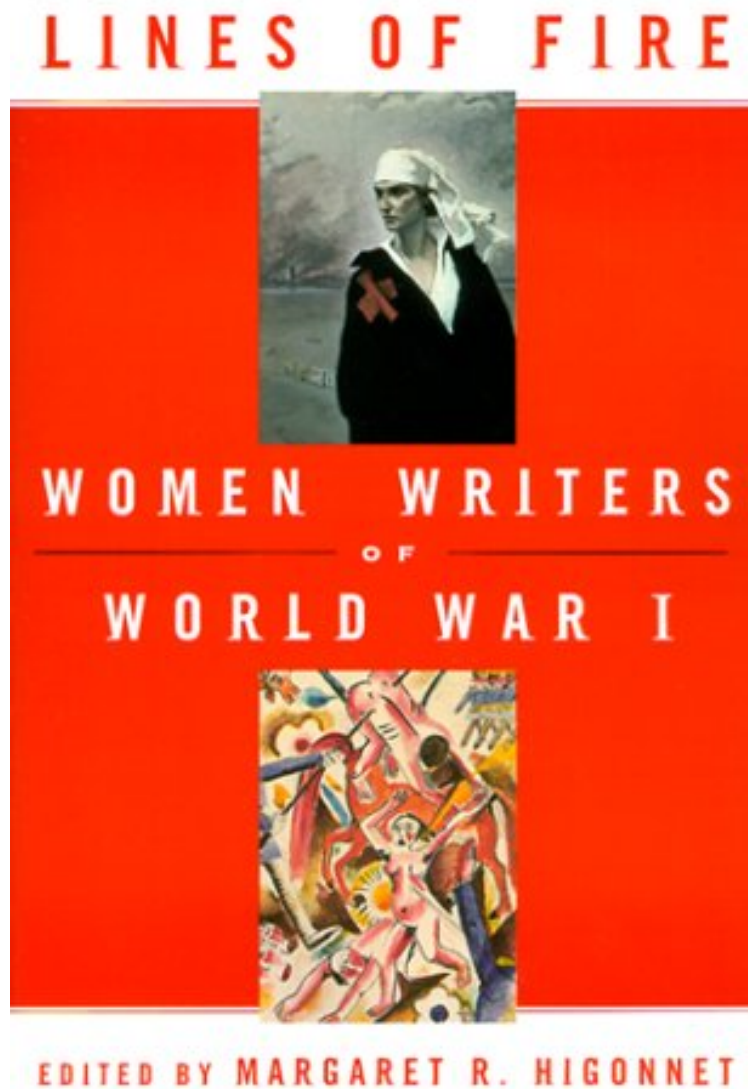


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## Lines of Fire

*Margaret Randolph Higonnet*

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#1732303 in Books 1999-11-01 1999-11-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 1.35 x 6.00 x 9.031, #File Name: 0452281466624 pages | File size: 16.Mb

**Margaret Randolph Higonnet : Lines of Fire** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Lines of Fire:

Most books written about World War I generally focus on combat and the experiences of men. Lines of Fire challenges the restrictions of official history and traditional ideas of "war literature," bringing together a rich and

astounding array of women's journalism, political treatises, diaries, and eyewitness accounts, as well as illustrations, fiction, and poetry written in response to WWI. *Lines of Fire* is also truly ground breaking in that it is an international anthology, including contributions not only from Great Britain and the United States, but also from France, Germany, Russia, Hungary, Belgium, India, Italy, Turkey, Africa, and the Middle East.

.com In war, the voices of women often go unheard. When they are heard, they tend to be stereotypical, affectedly feminine: women as survivors, mourners, and sufferers. Literary scholar Margaret R. Higonnet decries this short-shrifting of women's contributions to war history, challenging the assumption that because women are excluded from combat (and even that assumption turns out to be false), their stories are necessarily secondary, inauthentic, or otherwise not "real." World War I, in particular, proved significant for women because, as Higonnet points out, "many women ... contributed to the war effort in the expectation that they would gain the right to vote when the war was over." Their efforts were validated; with suffrage later passing in many combatant countries, the war changed the role of women for good. In *Lines of Fire*, Higonnet has gathered an overwhelming collection of works written by women in the midst of that conflict, works both political and poetic, from fiction to journalism to verse. Well over 100 distinct voices have been assembled, cited, and translated, representing an enormous spectrum of perspectives: a Hungarian countess recalls inspecting Russian POW camps for the Red Cross; an Italian field nurse recounts a grisly amputation; a French novelist describes prisoner prostitutes being mechanically called from their "dorm" by German soldiers ("Charlotte Z..., three chocolate bars ... Louise G..., one mark and a bar."). The contributors to *Lines of Fire* include some of the century's best-known women writers--Virginia Woolf, Edith Wharton, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Anna Akhmatova--and personalities such as Mata Hari and Jeanette Rankin (America's first female U.S. representative). As a scholarly anthology, Higonnet's work is weighty and worthy, but the quality that may recommend it most is its sheer accessibility. Its nearly 700 pages will pass quickly with a snippet read here and another there--short, memorable trips into the lives of remarkable women living in a remarkable time. --Paul Hughes  
From Publishers Weekly  
Illustrating the diversity of experience of women in WWI, this eclectic anthology is comprised of brief excerpts from political statements (heavily oriented toward socialist and pacifist beliefs), diaries, letters, published memoirs, short fiction and poetry. Short biographies of the authors including American, British, French, German, Russian, Hungarian, Romanian, Swedish, Syrian and Indian women, among other nationalities reveal many unknown writers and reflect a massive research effort. The more familiar names include Elizabeth Bowen, Edith Wharton and Katherine Mansfield, whose short fiction appears here. Over 100 pages are devoted to poetry, with notable selections by Anna Akhmatova, Eleanor Farjeon, Sylvia Townsend Warner, Louise Bogan, Amy Lowell and Dame Edith Sitwell. There are gripping eyewitness accounts of the maimed and dying in battle, the rape and pillage of Allied villages by German soldiers and the dire suffering in field hospitals. The shortest entry is suffragette Jeannette Rankin's Congressional "No" vote to U.S. entry into the war. While the literary caliber of the selections varies tremendously, the ensemble certainly proves Higonnet's thesis: that women's suffering on the homefront or in battle has never achieved recognition in the history and literature of war. This anthology provides major redress and also shows why a complete picture of the social and economic effects of war must include the experiences of women. Illustrations not seen by PW. (Nov.) Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.  
From Library Journal  
In this soundly researched collection of World War I writings, literary and feminist scholar Higonnet (*Behind the Lines: Gender and the Two World Wars*) has gathered a wide array of texts by women who participated on both the battlefield and the homefront during the war. Whether political tracts, speeches, news articles, diaries, memoirs, letters, interviews, short fiction, or poetry, these testaments are heartfelt, vivid portrayals of the horrors of war: displacement, starvation, injuries, disease, imprisonment, rape, and death. The contributors hail from the Middle East, Africa, and India as well as the United States and Europe; well-known authors appear alongside unfamiliar ones. This fine collection of primary sources in 20th-century social and women's history is highly recommended for both public and academic libraries. A Carol Ann McAllister, Coll. of William Mary Lib., Williamsburg, VA Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.