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Of Brest-Litovsk -- 28. The Inner Front -- 29. The June Battle In Veneto -- 30. An Empire Resigns -- 31. The Twilight Empire -- 32. The War Becomes History -- Epilogue -- Afterword -- Acknowledgements And Dedication -- Notes -- Selected Printed Sources And Literature -- Index Of People And Places.

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## Sommario/riassunto

The well-respected historian Manfred Rauchensteiner analyses the outbreak of World War I, Emperor Franz Joseph's role in the conflict, and how the various nationalities of the Habsburg Monarchy reacted to the disintegration of this 640-yearold empire in 1918. After Archduke Franz Ferdinand's assassination in Sarajevo in 1914, war was inevitable. Emperor Franz Joseph intended it, and everyone in Vienna expected it. How the war began and how Austria-Hungary managed to avoid capitulation only weeks later with the help of German troops reads like a thriller. Manfred Rauchensteiner's book is based on decades of research and is a fascinating read to the very end, even though the final outcome, the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Dual Monarchy, is already known. Originally published in German in 2013 by Böhlau, this standard work is now available in English.

The origins of World War I were different and varied. But it was Austria-Hungary which unleashed the war. After more than four years the Habsburg Monarchy was defeated and ended as a failed state.

Die Ursachen des Ersten Weltkriegs sind vielfältig. Die Entfesselung des Kriegs geschah jedoch durch Österreich-Ungarn. Nach mehr als vier Jahren zerfiel die Habsburgermonarchie als Folge innerer Auflösung und der militärischen Niederlage.

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