Despite a strategically vulnerable position, an ill-prepared army, and questionable promises of military support from the Allied Powers, Romania intervened in World War I in August 1916. In return, it received the Allies' formal sanction for the annexation of the Romanian-inhabited regions of Austria-Hungary. As Glenn Torrey reveals in his pathbreaking study, this soon appeared to have been an impulsive and risky decision for both parties. Torrey details how, by the end of 1916, the armies of the Central Powers, led by German generals Falkenhayn and Mackensen, had administered a crushing defeat and occupied two-thirds of Romanian territory, but at the cost of diverting substantial military forces they needed on other fronts. The Allies, especially the Russians, were forced to do likewise in order to prevent Romania from collapsing completely. Torrey presents the most authoritative account yet of the heavy fighting during the 1916 campaign and of the renewed attempt by Austro-German forces, including the elite Alpine Corps, to subdue the Romanian Army in the summer of 1917. This latter campaign, highlighted here but ignored in non-Romanian accounts, witnessed reorganized and rearmed Romanian soldiers, with help from a disintegrating Russian Army, administer a stunning defeat of their enemies. However, as Torrey also shows, amidst the chaos of the Russian Revolution the Central Powers forced Romania to sign a separate peace early in 1918. Ultimately, this allowed the Romanian Army to reenter the war and occupy the majority of the territory promised in 1916. Torrey's unparalleled familiarity with archival and secondary sources and his long experience with the subject give authority and balance to his account of the military, strategic, diplomatic, and political events on both sides of the battlefront. In addition, his use of personal memoirs provides vivid insights into the human side of the war. Major military leaders in the Second World War, especially Ion Antonescu and Erwin Rommel, made their careers during the First World War and play a prominent role in his book. Torrey's study fosters a genuinely new appreciation and understanding of a long-neglected aspect of World War I that influenced not only the war itself but the peace settlement that followed and, in fact, continues today.
The Great War and the Romanians Notes and Documents on World War I, Nicolae Petrescu-Comnen, 2000, History, 120 pages. Written during the First World War, this book describes Romania's role in World War I during the critical years of 1916 and 1917, as well as discussing the position of.

Romania and World War I, Glenn E. Torrey, 1998, History, 392 pages. Romania and World War I is a collection of studies covering all aspects of Romania's role in the War, from the years of neutrality up to the consolidation of Greater Romania.


If Rome Hadn't Fallen What Might Have Happened If the Western Empire Had Survived, Timothy Venning, 2011, History, 184 pages. This is a fascinating exploration of how the history of Europe, and indeed the world, might have been different if the Western Roman Empire had survived the crises that pulled.

Romania in World War I a synopsis of military history, Vasile Alexandrescu, Comisia Română de Istorie Militară, 1985, Romania, 97 pages. En fremstilling af Rumæniens militære deltagelse i 1. verdenskrig.

The Remnants of the Habsburg Monarchy The Shaping of Modern Austria and Hungary, 1918-1922, John Charles Swanson, 2001, History, 391 pages. Few aspects of American military history have been as vigorously debated as Harry Truman's decision to use atomic bombs against Japan. In this carefully crafted volume, Michael.

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