

## St. Louis and the Great War

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Ultimately, Ramirez's commentary leaves readers with two-dimensional impressions of the Clouds. They shape-shift from victims to subversives but are seldom presented as self-assured individuals who controlled their destinies and were at peace with their choices. *Standing Up to Colonial Power* will not supplant Joel Pfister's *The Yale Indian: The Education of Henry Roe Cloud*. On the other hand, Ramirez's study may remind midwestern biographers of the pitfalls of present-mindedness and its tendency to distort historical subjects. For while Ramirez makes clear that she is "standing up to colonial power," readers will feel less certain that her grandparents shared her passion.

*St. Louis and the Great War*, by S. Patrick Allie. St. Louis: Missouri Historical Society Press, 2018. 191 pp. Illustrations, maps, bibliography. \$35 paperback.

Reviewer Mark D. Van Ells is professor of history at Queensborough Community College of the City University of New York. He is the author of *America and World War I: A Traveler's Guide* (2014).

The recent World War I centennial inspired numerous commemorations across America and the world. In St. Louis the Soldiers Memorial Military Museum developed an exhibition about the war years in that city. It also produced a companion book for the exhibit: *St. Louis and the Great War* by curator S. Patrick Allie.

*St. Louis and the Great War* encompasses the entirety of the American wartime experience, but from a midwestern perspective. Included are the origins of U.S. involvement, the Mexican border troubles, the fighting, the home front, and the postwar world. It is primarily a pictorial work, with striking color images of wartime artifacts ranging from political buttons to machine guns. Manuscripts and photographs are also featured. The text is brief but clearly written and generally accurate, although there are some interpretive issues, such as referring to Mexican revolutionaries by the simplistic and inflammatory term *bandits* (14). Adding a personal dimension are vignettes of individual St. Louisans, such as that of Dr. Esther Leonard, one of just seven female physicians to work for the army overseas. Allie goes beyond tales of heroism and patriotism to explore the darker aspects of the war, such as the ethnic and racial violence that was prevalent on the home front.

*St. Louis and the Great War* offers a broad and informative look at how one major midwestern city experienced "the war to end all wars." As the museum exhibit does, artifacts and manuscripts tell the story in this book. It is a visual treat.