

1914: GREY AND PEACE OR WAR

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Margaret MacMillan. *The War That Ended Peace: the Road to 1914*. Toronto: Allen Lane, 2013. Pp. xxxv, 739. ISBN: 978 0 670 06404 5. C\$38.00 (hb).

With the advent of the centenary of WWI, and of Russell's criticisms of Sir Edward Grey in his minutely historical "The Policy of the Entente" (1915; in *Papers* 13) for Britain's participation in it, one needs a readable history of the intense diplomatic manoeuvres during the years leading up to the war. MacMillan provides that history, with period illustrations and asides to our day about substituting "prestige" for "honour", preventive war (a term that isn't indexed), and even George Kennan's long telegram. Russell claimed Grey misled Parliament repeatedly about Britain's commitments (see *FO*, pp. 501–2). Yet Russell's 1948 essay "Democracy and Foreign Policy" almost excuses Grey's covert actions as due to the fear of populist hostility to Germany preventing "the last possibility of general pacification". It is astonishing how much popular hatred of Germany is revealed in MacMillan's book. She points out that this was a country "which had been created by war" (p. 294); however, that does not seem special. On page 584 "June 21" must be "July 21".
