The Palgrave Concise Historical Atlas of the First World War by Matthew Hughes and William J. Philpott. Palgrave Macmillan 2005.

This is a companion volume to the Historical Atlas of the Second World War published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2004 and follows the same format.

There are 50 maps in all, covering such topics as the Belligerents, the Dardanelles Campaign, The German Submarine Offensive and The Collapse of Germany. Each map is accompanied by a page of explanatory text adding further detail to what the map represents. The scale of the book means that it covers far more than the protracted trench warfare of the Western Front and includes details of conflict in every theatre. It also describes the way in which the First World War was a clash of empires, and the enormous monetary cost of the conflict, not as terrible as the human cost but still having long term repercussions.

The texts are at all times easy to read and the maps themselves are models of clarity.

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh