

Nationalism, internationalism,
and the poets of the great war

Europe, Oh Europe!

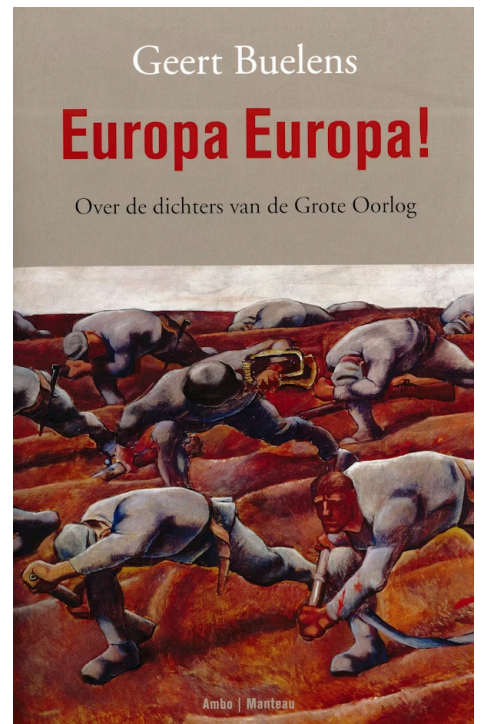
GEERT BUELENS

The Great War created a new world order and changed the map of Europe forever. Empires collapsed, new countries emerged. Revolutions shocked and inspired the world. All across Europe, intellectuals reflected on the future of the continent. Geert Buelens tells this story from the point of view of European poets who, on the battlefield, in their studies, and on the barricades expressed the suffering, the hate, the hopes and desires of their generation. From Achmatova to Apollinaire, from Owen and Sassoon to Ady and Pessoa, from Polish to Yiddish poets, from Dada to the Italian futurists and the Irish poets who led the Easter Rising – Buelens shows how at the beginning of the 20th century European intelligentsia was enflamed by the spirit of war. He describes how, in the summer of 1914, many threw themselves into the conflict, and did not hesitate to use violence to change the world.

Buelens has written a brilliant and accessible book about the hyperbole of the Great War.

DE VOLKSKRANT

In 'Europe, oh Europe!' Buelens describes how Europe was shooting itself to pieces while desperately seeking a new identity. It is a book about the destructive and healing power of the word, a chunk of lively cultural history and a meditation on nationalism and international cooperation.



AUTHOR



Geert Buelens (b. 1971), poet, literary critic and cultural historian. Professor at Utrecht and Stellenbosch universities. Buelens has won multiple awards in the Netherlands and Flanders. His book on the European poets of World War I, *Europe, Oh Europe!*, has also been published in English (Verso), German (Suhrkamp) and Serbian (Karpis). His cultural world history of the 1960s was received as a standard work on publication and voted Book of the Year by various media in both the Netherlands and Flanders. The translation rights have been sold to Germany (Suhrkamp) and France (Éditions Saint-Simon).

ORIGINAL TITLE *Europa! Europa!* Over dichters van de Grote Oorlog (2008, Ambo Anthos, 375 pp.)

PRIZES ABN AMRO Bank Prize

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