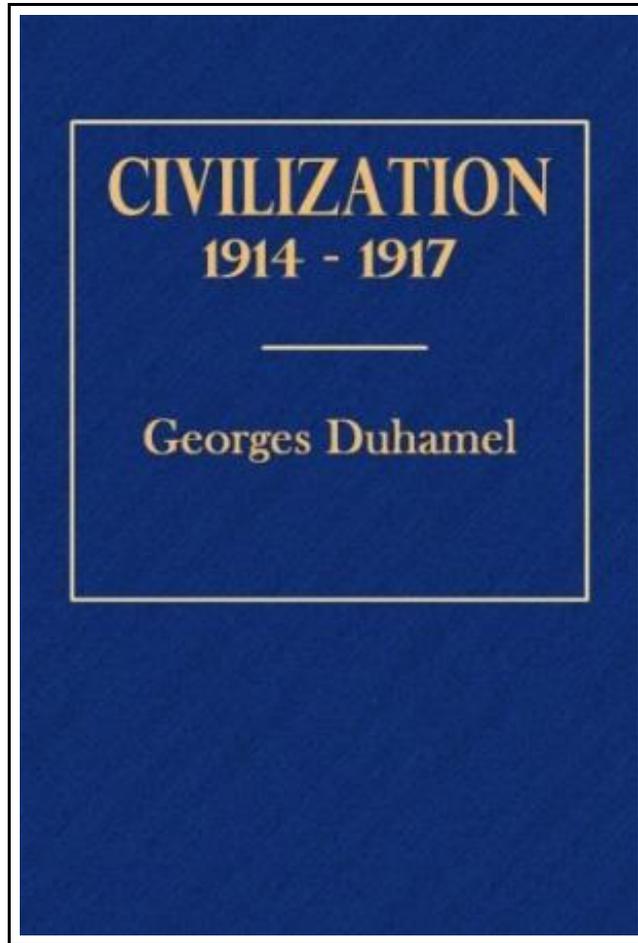


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Createspace, United States, 2014. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*. Civilization, 1914-1917-this title on the back of the 1918 Goncourt Prize volume seems a mockery. But the author is Georges Duhamel, poet, essayist, and enlightened man of letters: the book is a fruit of his four years service as a surgeon with the French army. You will not be sorry if you read it. First there was Under Fire, then Men in War, and now Civilization -a great trilogy of accusations of war as a violation of humanity. Dunhamel in war reminds me forcibly of the litterateur, Olivier Jeannin, in Jean-Christophe. If Rolland had sent the latter to battle, he would have recorded the same reactions Duhamel has, I believe. Such compounds of disillusionment, irony, and a patient, pitying weariness with a brutal world, all lightened by a distinguished humanism, are not so easily deceived by patriotic and idealistic cant as the Coningsby Dawsons. They have the sharp sight to see through all the pleasant veils wrapped about the hideous spectacle. And so Duhamel faithfully snapshots bits of that insane civilization of 1914 to 1917-Ponceau, with a wound in his thigh, a hideous wound, large enough to hold a soldier s kepi-a great greenish wound, with the bone broken at the bottom, Cousin with the splintered leg and the blood percolating through the dressings like a scarlet dew, and the bundle of dripping remains which Duhamel himself lugs about to find a resting place for. He has witnessed the work of conscription boards, the flesh-mongers, and he has summed it up. Sacred human flesh-holy substance that serves thought, art, love, all that is great in life-you are nothing but a vile, malodorous paste that one takes in...



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