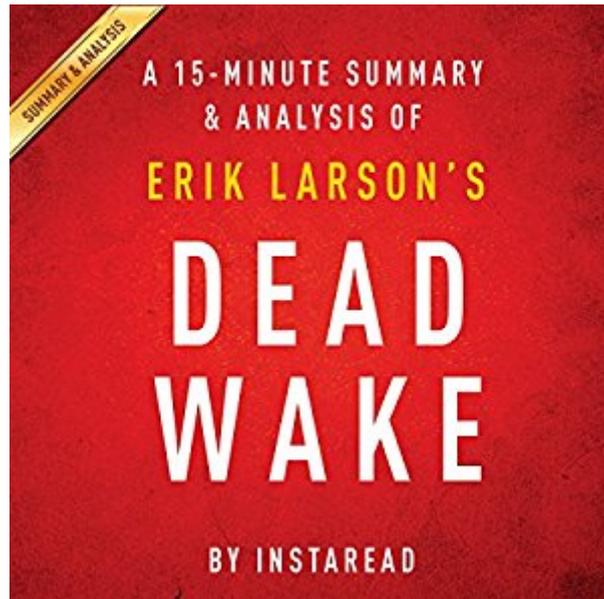


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# A 15-minute Summary & Analysis Of Erik Larson's Dead Wake: The Last Crossing Of The Lusitania



## Synopsis

*Dead Wake* by Erik Larson is a nonfiction account of the German unterseeboot, or U-boat, sinking of *Lusitania*, a British merchant vessel belonging to Cunard Line, on May 7, 1915, and its aftermath. On the night of May 6, 1915, Captain William Thomas reassured the passengers in the first-class lounge as the ship approached the "area of war" off the southern coast of Ireland. The Great War, later known as World War I, had been raging in France since July 28, 1914, following the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife, Sophie. In August of 1914, President Woodrow Wilson's wife, Ellen, died of Bright's disease. Her death left Wilson grief stricken. Two days before her death, Britain entered the war in Europe. Wilson chose to keep America neutral in the war and refused to allow British and German warships to enter US ports. Please note: This is an unofficial summary and analysis of the book and not the original book.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This companion guide is a wonderful read for those who want the details of the sinking of the *Lusitania*. It's quick and to the point while still being thorough and a good narrative of this intriguing event. It spares no details while going through the historical facts and over the important people involved. The analysis is also interesting and helpful. The explanation of the themes helps to tie all of the events together and broaden your understanding of it all. I would definitely recommend you get this guide. Whether you've read *Dead Wake* or not, this guide is comprehensive and covers all the facts.

I recently read *Dead Wake*, after so many positive reviews and recommendations from friends, but I was left confused with the historical details and characters. This summary and analysis of *Dead Wake* was quick, thorough, and to-the-point. After the comprehensive summary, the author focused on important people, characters and character relationships, themes, and style. In particular, the discussion of World War I and the allies helped provide the context I was missing before. I would recommend this companion to anyone who needs some additional clarification to fully appreciate *Dead Wake*!

This summary of *Dead Wake* is perfect. I have recently gotten into reading summaries instead of the full books and this allows me to keep up with my friends that have different book interest. They recently read *Dead Wake* and I knew that I did not have the time to catch up. This analysis gave me all the information I needed and I was able to absorb more information because of how it was written.

This was my first reading of an Instaread book. Full disclosure, I received a free copy in exchange for a review. I was not familiar with the Instaread line. It was a pleasant surprise. This is a short effective, concise summary of Erik Larsen's best seller "*Dead Wake*." The reader is taken through the major events, introduced to the major characters and relationships and focuses on key dates. After the main narrative summation, key characters and relationships are explained and the book ends with a citing of sources. I enjoyed the summary, and particularly the easy to understand explanations of critical events that led to the sinking of the ship. The book presents the facts and doesn't take sides, allowing the reader to draw their own conclusions. While some readers may not want key plot points spoiled if they haven't read the book yet, (I have not yet) I believe this is a great resource for either before or after reading the actual novel. Many books nowadays can be difficult to follow and the Instaread series, helps the reader keep the characters and situations straight. A great new resource.

Wow, what a book. I bought *Dead Wake* because I was intrigued by the story of the sinking of the *Lusitania* in 1914. The book was long, over 500 pages, and the middle started to sag a bit. I bought this Instaread because I wanted to skip over some of the parts in the book I didn't like, but I didn't want to miss out on key points. This Instaread was an amazing companion to this book. It had a well-written, insightful, and very thoughtful analysis along with key takeaways that helped me focus. I really love these Instareads. I belonged to a great reading group last year, but with my new job, I

had to give that up. I miss the motivation of the group to finish books I start. This Instaread helped me hang in there. The story itself is so heartbreaking, especially when you read about some of the passengers. I was especially taken by a young boy whose pregnant mother died but he survived. He was such a brave little man. The other thing that really got my attention was the possibility that Winston Churchill at the Admiralty deliberately didn't warn Lusitania that U-Boats were near. The Admiralty failed to divert the Lusitania around the West Coast of Ireland, and around Belfast and then down the Irish Sea to Liverpool. That would have totally avoided the U-Boats. But Churchill wanted President Wilson to enter America into the first world war, and Wilson refused. The Lusitania manifest had many Americans onboard, and it seems Churchill was hoping the sinking would bait Wilson into declaring war. But Wilson didn't take that bait. He entered the war much later, and with disastrous results. The book is a fascinating read, but it does have slow parts, If you want to get the gist of what happened and learn all the important points about the fate of the ship and its passengers, then get this Instaread. It's really well written and helped focus my reading. I highly recommend it.

A great narrative and easy to read, I was able to finish this in an afternoon. Although I don't read a lot of war time books, this was a quick read with an interesting topic. As with all the books by Instaread, they did a great job explaining the material efficiently and effectively.

Dead Wake tells a fascinating story. The details and aftermath of this ship is fascinating. The details are insightful, and you truly get a sense for the voyage and the sinking that occurred. You truly are taken back through a time machine in this one. The historical facts are there, the narrative is definitely there, and the bigger story unfolds here in a great manner. Go beyond what you learn in school, and truly get a glimpse at history through a new historical vantage point. This is a great summary, and gives you the truth of the matter without sacrificing narrative. I recommend it highly.

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