

# Remarque, Erich Maria

By [Thomas Schneider](#)



## Erich Maria Remarque (1898-1970)

The novelist Erich Maria Remarque is visiting Hotel Curhaus, Davos, in 1929.

Unknown photographer: Erich Maria Remarque, black-and-white photograph, Davos, Switzerland, 1929; source: Bundesarchiv, Bild 183-R04034, via Wikimedia Commons, [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bundesarchiv\\_Bild\\_183-R04034,\\_Erich\\_Maria\\_Remark.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bundesarchiv_Bild_183-R04034,_Erich_Maria_Remark.jpg).

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Remarque, *Erich* Maria

(Erich Paul Remark)

German born writer and pacifist

Born 22 June 1898 in Osnabrück, Germany

Died 25 September 1970 in Locarno, Switzerland

## Summary

Erich Maria Remarque was a German writer and pacifist who became world-famous for his anti-war novel *Im Westen nichts Neues* (*All Quiet on the Western Front*) (1928).

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## Biography

Erich Maria Remarque (1898-1970) was born to a working-class family in Osnabrück, Germany. In November 1916 he was drafted, and after military training at Osnabrück and Celle he was sent to the [Western Front](#) in June 1916, where he served in an entrenchment unit at the [Somme](#) and in Flanders. On 31 July 1917 Remarque was severely wounded near Houthulst, Flanders, and sent to a military hospital in Duisburg, where he stayed until the armistice. After the war Remarque worked as an elementary school teacher and then after 1921 as a journalist in Hannover and Berlin.

His anti-war novel *Im Westen nichts Neues* (*All Quiet on the Western Front*), first published in 1928, became an international success and provoked a controversial discussion on the representation and interpretation of World War I in [Germany](#). The subsequent banning of the movie *All Quiet on the Western Front* (USA 1930), directed by [Lewis Milestone \(1895-1980\)](#) in December 1930 as a consequence of National Socialist protests forced Remarque to go into exile in [Switzerland](#) in 1931.

In May 1933 Remarque's books were burnt by the National Socialists, and in 1938 he lost his German citizenship. Remarque remained in exile, living in Switzerland, [France](#), and the [U.S.](#), where he became a U.S. citizen in 1947. He returned to Europe in 1948, and lived in Switzerland, New York and [Italy](#) until his death.

In the novels, short stories, plays, and film scripts he wrote after *Im Westen nichts Neues*, Remarque focused on the fate of ordinary people in times of war, persecution and inhumanity. His immense international success and reputation was shaped by his strong commitment to [pacifism](#) and humanism.

## Other selected writings

*Der Weg zurück / The Road Back*, novel 1930, *Drei Kameraden / Three Comrades*, novel 1936, *Arc de Triomphe / Arch of Triumph*, novel 1945, *Der Funke Leben / Spark of Life*, novel 1952, *Zeit zu leben und Zeit zu sterben / A Time to Live and a Time to Die*, novel 1954, *Der letzte Akt / The Last Act*, film script 1955, *Die Nacht von Lissabon / The Night in Lisbon*, novel 1961.

Thomas F. Schneider, Erich Maria Remarque Peace Center/Osnabrück University, Germany

## Selected Bibliography

- [Gilbert, Julie Goldsmith: \*\*Opposite attraction. The lives of Erich Maria Remarque and Paulette Goddard\*\*, New York, 1995: Pantheon Books.](#)
- [Glunz, Claudia / Schneider, Thomas F. \(eds.\): \*\*Remarque-Forschung 1930-2010. Ein bibliographischer Bericht\*\*, Göttingen, 2010: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht.](#)
- [Murdoch, Brian: \*\*The novels of Erich Maria Remarque. Sparks of life\*\*, Rochester, 2006: Camden House.](#)
- [Sternburg, Wilhelm von: \*\*'Als wäre alles das letzte Mal'. Erich Maria Remarque. Eine Biographie\*\*, Cologne, 1998: Kiepenheuer und Witsch.](#)

## Citation

Thomas Schneider: Remarque, Erich Maria, in: 1914-1918-online. International Encyclopedia of the First World War, ed. by Ute Daniel, Peter Gatrell, Oliver Janz, Heather Jones, Jennifer Keene, Alan Kramer, and Bill Nasson, issued by Freie Universität Berlin, Berlin 2014-10-08. DOI: [10.15463/ie1418.10079](https://doi.org/10.15463/ie1418.10079)

## External Links

- [Erich Maria Remarque-Friedenszentrum \(Institutional Website\)](#)
- [Film Oberprüfstelle, Zur Verhandlung über die Anträge der Regierungen Sachsen, Thüringen, Braunschweig, Bayern und Württemberg auf Widerruf der Zulassung des Bildstreifens: „Im Westen nichts Neues“ \(Deutsches Filminstitut DIF\) \(Primary Source\)](#)
- [Movie trailer, All Quiet on the Western Front, 1930 \(Internet Archive\) \(Video\)](#)

## Metadata

### Regional Section(s)

[Central Europe](#) > [Germany](#)

### **Thematic Section(s)**

[Media](#)

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### **Subjects**

[Culture](#) > [Film](#)

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[Warfare and the military](#) > [Wars after war](#) > [Second World War](#)

### **Author Keywords**

War literature; Im Westen nichts Neues

### **GND Subject Headings**

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### **LC Subject Headings**

[Remarque, Erich Maria, 1898-1970](#)

### **Rameau Subject Headings**

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### **Key Person(s)**

[Milestone, Lewis](#)

### **Key Location(s)**

[Celle](#); [Locarno](#); [Osnabrück](#)

### **Title**

Remarque, Erich Maria

### **Author(s)**

[Thomas Schneider](#)

### **Article Type**

Encyclopedic Entry

### **Classification Group**

## Persons