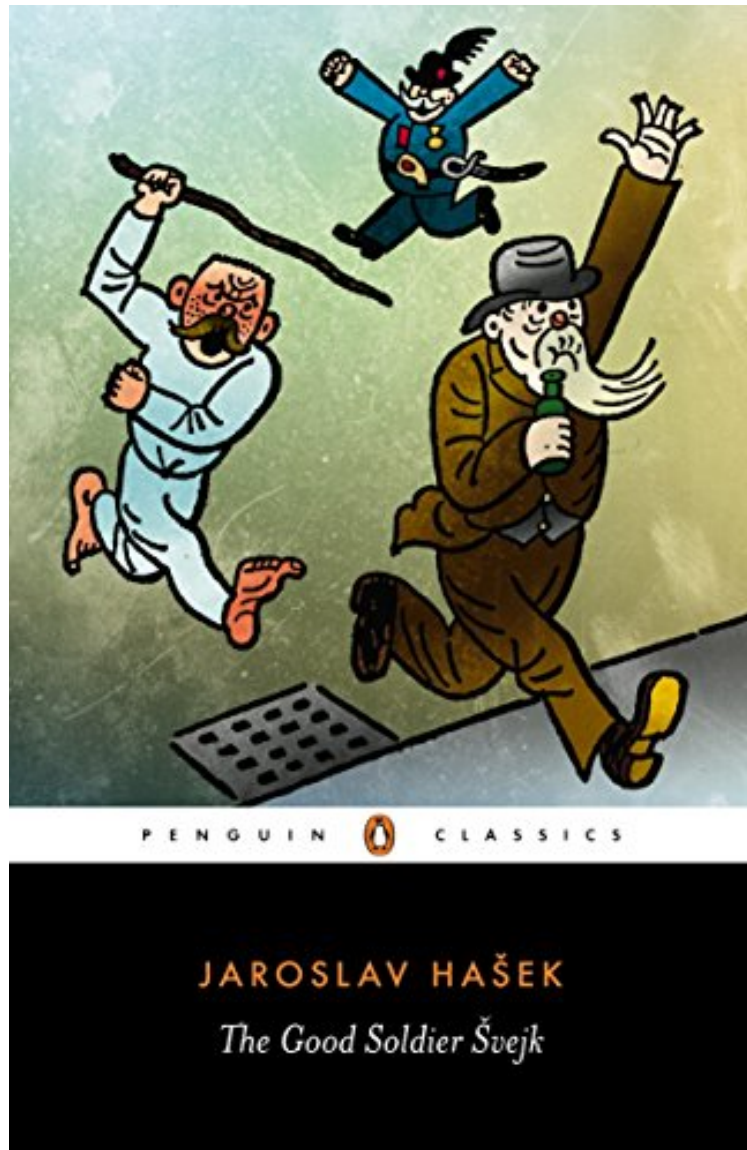


(Ebook free) The Good Soldier Svejk: and His Fortunes in the World War (Penguin Classics)

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Jaroslav Hasek

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#132925 in Books Jaroslav Hasek 2005-12-27 2005-12-27 Original language: Czech PDF # 1 7.80 x 1.30 x 5.001, 1.19 #File Name: 0140449914784 pages The Good Soldier Svejk And His Fortunes in the World War | File size: 65.Mb

Jaroslav Hasek : The Good Soldier Svejk: and His Fortunes in the World War (Penguin Classics) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Good Soldier Svejk: and His Fortunes in the World War (Penguin Classics):

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. The Czech Version of Twain, Vonnegut, and Heller By Graven Images Had to go to for this - couldn't find it in a bookstore. Classic Eastern European dry wit and ironic fatalism . . . the perfect attitude for an unenthusiastic soldier marching off to a war he doesn't understand, doesn't care to be involved in, and has nothing to gain by participating - except maybe a marble headstone with his name on it, if even that. If you appreciate Eastern European "dark humor" in the vein of Kundera, Wolfe, Gogol, or Bulgakov, you'll love this work. The same can be said for Kurt Vonnegut's "Slaughterhouse Five," Joseph Heller's "Catch-22," or Mark Twain's hilarious short story "A History of a Campaign that Failed" . . . appreciate the ironic, "dark humor" of these works, get "The Good Soldier Svejk." Highly recommended by this ex-professor of English and lover of sarcastic, raucous, and irreverent literature. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. but the writing here is excellent, regardless of whether it's by Hasek or the ... By denis It's hard to pin a quality rating on a translation, but the writing here is excellent, regardless of whether it's by Hasek or the translator from Czech. This is the only work I know of that finds humor in WW I. The hero, Svejk, is as dumb as a fox, similar to Charlie Chaplin and the Marx Brothers. He instinctively runs circles around the officers and civilian officials who keep trying to get him to his regiment, where they expect he will be killed immediately. Along the way, Svejk gums up all the grandiose plans of his "superiors." Read this for the laughs, not for historical facts. It helps to know a little about the history of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Some experience as an enlisted man in the US Army would also help set the stage for understanding where Svejk is coming from. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Read Once - Pass Along By Grand Junction Joe A must-read, once perhaps, for any serious military historian or historian of early 20th Century Europe. Hasek's writing style is varied, depending on circumstances (and sobriety), which can make the book a challenge to read sometimes but that's part of the story too. At times absurdly hilarious and often scandalous in its treatment of the royalty, this book was banned throughout much of Europe in the 1930s. While not as powerfully simple as "All Quiet on the Western Front," this book carries a strong message about the waste and folly of military campaigns of the day. I enjoyed reading this book and I passed it along to another historian because, as good as it was, I doubted I'd reread it anytime soon.

Jaroslav Hašek's black satire, the inspiration for such works as Joseph Heller's *Catch-22* Good-natured and garrulous, Švejk becomes the Austro-Hungarian army's most loyal Czech soldier when he is called up on the outbreak of the First World War - although his bumbling attempts to get to the front serve only to prevent him from reaching it. Playing cards, getting drunk and becoming a general nuisance, the resourceful Švejk uses all his natural cunning and genial subterfuge to deal with the doctors, police, clergy and officers who chivy him towards battle. The story of a 'little man' caught in a vast bureaucratic machine, *The Good Soldier Švejk* combines dazzling wordplay and piercing satire to create a hilariously subversive depiction of the futility of war. Cecil Parrott's vibrant, unabridged and unbowdlerized translation is accompanied by an introduction discussing Hašek's turbulent life as an anarchist, communist and vagrant, and the Everyman character of Švejk. This edition also includes a guide to Czech names, maps and original illustrations by Josef Ladas. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

From the Inside Flap Introduction and translation by Cecil Parrott From the Back Cover The eponymous hero of *The Good Soldier Svejk*-the book for which the Czech writer Jaroslav Hasek will forever be remembered-has virtually come to define, since his creation in the aftermath of World War I, the spirit of comic endurance necessary to withstand the manglings of a modern-day bureaucratic war machine. Shrewd, affable, possessed of an unerring talent for finding himself in (and extricating himself from) the most fitfully chaotic and absurd situations, Svejk represents, in his instinct for survival, all those human values which stand opposed to the utter futility of warfare. About the Author Jaroslav Hašek (1883-1923) Besides this book, the writer wrote more than 2,000 short works, short stories, glosses, sketches, mostly under various pen-names.