Emotions, meanings and reminiscences generated by the First World War on the Russian side of the Eastern Front, and in the Russian Empire in general, as well as the profound changes caused by the Great War in institutions (the Church and educational institutions) in the Romanov Empire, are so far a little-known area. A situation of unequal awareness has formed in the comparison not only of Eastern and Western Europe, but also of the Hohenzollern, Habsburg and Romanov monarchies that fell in crisis situations triggered by the Great War. Historians have made substantial progress in studies of these phenomena in Western Europe, the Western Front, the Habsburg monarchy, and especially in Germany; however, knowledge of them in Russia is still vague. The collection of articles *Russian Culture in War and Revolution, 1914–22* aspires to fill the gap.

It should be noted at once that not all the topics covered in the collection are equally unknown, even if we look at English-language historiography. Attempts have already been made both to provide a panoramic view of Russian ‘cultural life’ in the years of the Great War,¹ and to analyse one issue or another in greater detail, such as, for example, the patriotic culture in Romanov Russia generated by the war,² or remembrance of the Great War in Russia after the end of the war.³ However, we have to admit that the two-part volume in question differs significantly from all previous initiatives of this character, first of all by the fact that it has emerged as a result of more ambitious research, which started in 2006 and was called ‘Russia’s Great War and Revolution’. The initiative was born by bringing together several dozen Russian and ‘Western’, mainly USA, historians for one purpose: on the occasion of the approaching ‘centenaries’, to reconsider the role of the Great War and the Revolution of 1917 in Russia, and simultaneously the contribution made by Russia,