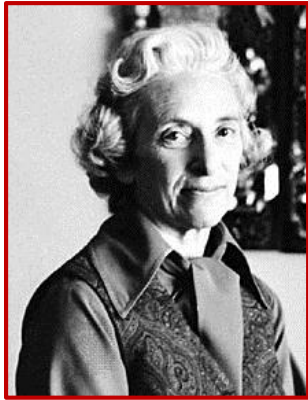


'It's Not My Fault!'

Celebrated historian Barbara Tuchman (1912 – 1989) was a writer, journalist and historian who won the Pulitzer Prize twice.



In 1962, she received the Pulitzer for *The Guns of August*, a best-selling history of the prelude to and the first month of World War I. In 1971, the prize was awarded to her for *Stilwell and the American Experience in China*, a biography of Gen. Joseph Stilwell.

Tuchman became the first female president of the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 1979, and in 1980, the National Endowment for the Humanities selected Tuchman for the Jefferson Lecture, the U.S. federal government's highest honor for achievement in the humanities.

Tuchman had an interesting assessment of our times, calling them “the Age of Disruption.”

She said we have lost belief in certain kinds of morals, and our understanding of good and bad is distorted. What we most need in our country is “probably personal responsibility.”

She explained that taking responsibility for your behavior and your performance is not forever supposing that society must forgive you because it's “not your fault.”

Tuchman was echoing many of society's sentiments. The “*it's not my fault*” cry is heard everywhere – even more prevalent today than when she spoke about it.

The 1828 Noah Webster dictionary defines *fault* as “a failing, hence an error or mistake, a blunder, a defect.” That definition helps explain why many people do not want to accept fault, choosing instead to deny it.

When we see an altercation on an athletic field, the athletes generally point the finger of blame at someone else. We see it in the courts of law.

The Menendez brothers explained that because their parents treated them brutally, they “had” to kill them. The brothers were convicted in 1994 for the shotgun murders of their wealthy parents.

They were sentenced to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole.



In Dallas years ago, when a young man killed two of his cousins, it was explained away as the “urban survival syndrome,” a “kill or be killed” mentality. Thieves say, “It's not my fault – I couldn't get a job.” The list is endless.

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Realistically, until we accept responsibility for our actions, we have little hope for our future.



The message: The best way to live a fulfilled life is to accept responsibility and to be accountable for our performance and our actions.

Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy (Proverbs 28:13 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter