

The First World War in the Middle East

Aftermath and Legacies

The precarious geopolitical balance in the contemporary Middle East cannot be understood without considering the circumstances of Ottoman collapse during and immediately after the First World War. The dramatic implosion of this age-old imperium that, during the long nineteenth century, had uneasily struggled to ward off foreign imperial intrusion and lessen its dependence on European capital, was accompanied by unprecedented levels of (genocidal) violence, both on and off the battlefields. The colonial reordering of the region by the victorious Allied Powers in the aftermath of the war proved equally momentous. It spawned multiple local resistance movements, some of which were brutally defeated, while others morphed into new nation states. It created the conditions for future conflict, some continuing to smoulder to this day.

In Flanders Fields Museum (Ypres),
the Turkey Studies Network in the Low Countries (TSN)
Power in History: Centre for Political History (University of Antwerp)
are jointly organizing a three-day interdisciplinary conference
on the experiences and aftermath of the First World War in the Middle East.



international conference
IN FLANDERS FIELDS MUSEUM
Ypres, BE
15—17 September 2022

.....keynote speakers
..... ELIZABETH F. **THOMPSON**
..... (AMERICAN UNIVERSITY, WASHINGTON D.C.)
..... NAZAN **MAKSUDYAN**
..... (FREIE UNIVERSITÄT BERLIN)

Themes that will be discussed:

- new perspectives on how this global war unfolded in the Ottoman lands and its borderlands,
- the cataclysmic consequences it engendered in the making of a new geopolitical order,
- and how its many legacies reverberate up to the present day.

Invited speakers will present papers that provide new narratives on the course, meaning, and legacies of the First World War in the Ottoman lands and beyond.

This conference is part of a broader In Flanders Fields Museum programme on WWI and the Ottoman lands. It includes the temporary exhibition (11/03 - 2/10/2022)

‘FOR CIVILISATION’

The First World War in the Middle East

1914-1923

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Day 1: September 15, 2022

CC Het Perron, Maarschalk Fochlaan 1, 8900 Ieper

8:45 > 9:15 AM

Coffee and reception

9:15 > 9:30 AM

Welcome and introductory remarks

.....HOUSSINE ALLOUL (UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM)
.....PIETER TROGH (IN FLANDERS FIELDS MUSEUM)

9:30 > 11:00 AM

Panel I: Mobilization, Collaboration, and Resistance in the Arab World

- *Between the Global and the Everyday:
North African Muslim Prisoners of War and the Politics of Captivity during the Great War*
.....RICHARD S. FOGARTY (UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY, SUNY)
- *Rediscovering Diyala's Importance in the 1920 Iraqi Revolt*
.....ANDREA PLEBANI (UNIVERSITÀ CATTOLICA DEL SACRO CUORE, MILAN)
- *The Egyptian Labor Corps:
Conscription, Migrant Labor, and Subaltern Resistance in the Global First World War*
.....KYLE J. ANDERSON (SUNY OLD WESTBURY, LONG ISLAND)

11:00 > 11:30 AM

Coffee break

11:30 > 1:00 PM

Panel II: War, Identity Politics, and Mass Violence in the Ottoman-Russian Frontier

- *A Different Kind of War: The Armenian Volunteer Battalions
and the Making of the Russo-Ottoman Bloodlands, 1914–1917*
.....ARMEN MANUK-KHALOYAN (GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY)
- *The Kizilbash Kurds' Dangerous Mission:
Smuggling Armenian Genocide Survivors to Safety During World War I*
.....CEVAT DARGIN (PRINCETON UNIVERSITY)
- *A War by Any Other Name: The Contested Contexts of Postwar Armenian-Muslim Violence
in the Ottoman-Caucasian Borderland*
.....ALEXANDER E. BALISTRERI (UNIVERSITY OF BASEL)

1:00 > 2:00 PM

Lunch

2:00 > 4:00 PM

Panel III: Imperial Endurance, National Ambitions, and Diplomacy after WWI

- *Constructing MENA: Alawite Morocco, the Ottoman Empire, and Qajar Iran
in the First World War and After*
.....MUSTAFA AKSAKAL (GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY) & OLIVER BAST (UNIV. SORBONNE NOUVELLE)
- *Law and Emotions: From Sèvres to Lausanne*
.....ZÜLÂL MUSLU (UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA)
- *Wilsonianism from Below: Post-War Peace, Sectarian Conflict, and Popular Politics
in the Ottoman Empire*
.....YIĞİT AKIN (THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY)
- *Empire by Treaty: Cecil J. B. Hurst and the Meaning of National Independence, Egypt 1919*
.....NADA KHALIFA (COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY)

4:00 > 4:30 PM

Coffee break

4:30 > 6:00 PM

Panel IV: Solidarity, Belonging, and Refuge in a Post-Ottoman World

- *Postwar Ottoman Legacies and Diaspora: Ottoman Legacies and Ex-Ottoman Officers in Diaspora*
..... **ODILE MOREAU** (UNIVERSITÉ PAUL VALÉRY MONTPELLIER 3)
- *Cultivating Defection: How European Imperial Agents Harvested Anti-Ottoman Allies in the Arab World, and its Postwar Consequences*
..... **ISA BLUMI** (STOCKHOLM UNIVERSITY)
- *Transnational Networks and Elite Women's Philanthropic Work after WWI: The Turkish Princesses of Hyderabad*
..... **BETÜL BAŞARAN** (ST MARY'S COLLEGE OF MARYLAND)

6:15 > 7:30 PM

Keynote lecture

The 1919 Paris Peace Conference as Counter-Revolution:

The Anti-Democratic Intention of the League of Nations Mandates

..... **ELIZABETH F. THOMPSON** (AMERICAN UNIVERSITY, WASHINGTON D.C.)

7:30 > 8:30 PM

Reception with appetizers for all attendees



CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Day 2: September 16, 2022

CC Het Perron, Maarschalk Fochlaan 1, 8900 Ieper

9:30 > 10:00 AM

Coffee and reception

10:00 > 11:15 AM

Keynote lecture

*Ottoman Orphans In Germany During World War I:
Family Archives, Microhistory, and Visual Sources*

..... **NAZAN MAKSUDYAN** (FREIE UNIVERSITÄT BERLIN)

11:30 > 1:00 PM

Panel V: Lineages of Post-Ottoman Modernity

- *Transnational Istanbul: Jazz, Modernity, and World War One*
..... **G. CAROLE WOODALL** (UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO, COLORADO SPRINGS)
- *Postwar Muslim Migration as Nation-Building: Yugoslavia and Turkey*
..... **LEYLA AMZI-ERDOGDULAR** (RUTGERS UNIVERSITY NEWARK)
- *One Woman in Black, Another Woman in Red:
Halide Edib, Sabiha Sertel, and the Political Legacy of World War I in Turkey*
..... **JAMES RYAN** (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY)

1:00 > 2:00 PM

Lunch break

2:00 > 4:00 PM

Panel VI: The Politics of Heritage Protection

- *Sand through Fingers: An Archaeology of Guerilla War – The Arab Revolt, 1916-18*
..... **NICHOLAS J. SAUNDERS** (BRISTOL UNIVERSITY)
- *Legacies of the Wartime Archaeology to the Post-war Cultural Heritage System*
..... **CEREN ABI** (KADIR HAS UNIVERSITY)
- *Cleansing the Cultural Heritage of the Non-Muslims in Izmir through the Izmir Museum
after World War I*
..... **SELVIHAN KURT** (ISTANBUL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY)
- *“The Transfer of Other Works to Istanbul Was Successful”:
New Perspectives on the Role of Monument Protection in Syria during the First World War*
..... **SEBASTIAN WILLERT** (TU BERLIN)

4:00 > 4:30 PM

Coffee break

4:30 > 6:00 PM

Screening: *Antoine the Fortunate* (2021, Anemon Productions, 51')

based on the private war memoir of Antoine Köpe (b. 1897, Istanbul)

followed by an interview and plenary discussion with the director

..... **NEFIN DİNÇ** (JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY)



CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Day 3: September 17, 2022

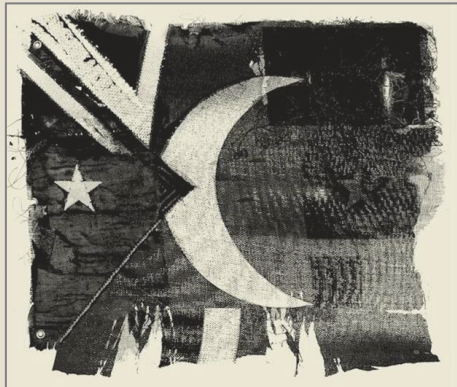
In Flanders Fields Museum, Cloth Hall, Grote Markt 34, 8900 Ieper

9:30 > 10:00 AM

Coffee and reception

10:00 > 12:30 PM

Free of charge visit to the In Flanders Fields Museum
and to the temporary exhibition



'For Civilisation'

*The First World War in the Middle East
1914-1923*

12:30 > 2:00 PM

Lunch in the Museumcafé (Cloth Hall)

2:00 > 5:00 PM

Guided bus tour in the Ypres Salient, including visits to military cemeteries and former battlefields,
with special attention to traces of connections between Flanders Fields and the Middle East

7:45 > 8:15 PM (optional)

'Last Post' ceremony at Ypres Menin Gate Memorial