

**The Greater War
Imperial Mobilization, Demobilization, and Unrest in the
Era of the First World War**



**University College Dublin
18-19 May 2012**

This conference takes a global approach to the First World War and its often violent aftermath. It highlights the mobilization of empires which played a crucial role in allowing the imperial powers to conduct a total war. The consequences of these mobilizational processes had a profound impact on the subsequent transition of these empires from war to a sometimes unstable peace.

We aim to bring together scholars from around the world to examine the complexities of this global mobilization and the ensuing demobilization process. Through comparative discussion and debate organized around themed subject panels, this symposium will help to develop a transnational analysis of the ramifications of the First World War throughout empires and nation-states in Asia, Africa, the Middle East, the Caribbean, and North America. The conference will explore the global effects of the Paris Peace Treaties, the emergence of anti-colonial movements invigorated by the First World War, the responses of the state authorities to such unrest, and the extent to which empires successfully managed to reintegrate their veterans.

Friday 18 May 2012

09.00 Registration

**09.30 Welcome and Opening Remarks:
Hugh Brady, President, University College Dublin & Professor
Robert Gerwarth**

**09.45 – 12.00 Panel 1: Mobilizing Blue-Water Empires for War
Chair / Commentator: Jan-Georg Deutsch (Oxford)**

Richard Fogarty (Albany) – The French Empire: Reservoirs of Men and *mise en valeur*
Timothy H. Parsons (Washington University in St. Louis) – Mobilizing Britain's African
Empire for War: Pragmatism vs Trusteeship
Filipe Meneses (NUI Maynooth) – Portugal and its Empire, 1914-18
Michael Pesek (Berlin) – Germany's African Empire

12.00 – 12.15 Break

**12.15 – 13.45 Panel 2: Mobilizing and Demobilizing the European Land
Empires for War
Chair / Commentator: John Horne (TCD)**

Peter Haslinger (Marburg), Imperial disintegration and national confrontation in East-
Central Europe, 1918-1920
Michael Provence (UC San Diego), Ottoman Modernity, the Great War, and the Colonial
Settlement of the Middle East
Chris Read (Warwick), The Russian Empire

13.45 – 14.15 Lunch

**14.15 – 15.45 Panel 3: The Paris Peace Treaties and the Wider World
Chair / Commentator: Alan Kramer (TCD)**

Leonard Smith (Oberlin College) - Empires as Agents at the Paris Peace Conference
Alex Marshall (Glasgow) – The 1920 Comintern Congress: Communism, Empire, and De-
colonization

15.45 – 16.00 Break

**16.00 – 17.45 Panel 4: The Making and Breaking of Empires in the Middle East
Chair / Commentator: John Darwin (Oxford)**

James Kitchen (UCD) – Crushing the 1919 Egyptian Revolution: The British Army and the
Post-War Crisis of Empire
Roberto Mazza (Western Illinois) – Jerusalem from Ottoman to British rule

19.00 Buffet Dinner

After Dinner Lecture:

Erez Manela (Harvard) – The Wilsonian Moment and the Extra-European World
Comment: John Horne (TCD)

Saturday 19 May 2012

09.30 – 11.15 **Panel 5: Demobilization of non-European Troops and the Building of Nations: the “White Settler” Societies**
Chair / Commentator: Hew Strachan (Oxford)

Jennifer Keene (Chapman University) – Re-examining the Social Contract: Demobilizing the American Army

Nathan Smith (Toronto) – Britishness, Bolshevism and the Return of the Troops: Canada and the end of the First World War

Stephen Garton (University of Sydney) – The Return of the Anzacs

11.15 – 11.45 **Break**

11.45 – 13.30 **Panel 6: The Fear of Colonial Revolts and State Responses to Colonial Unrest after the Great War: The Beginning of Decolonization?**
Chair / Commentator: Erez Manela

Matthew Hughes (Brunel) – A British "Foreign Legion"? The British Police in Mandate Palestine

Martin Thomas (Exeter) – Rebellion and Restriction: Political Economies of Violence in France's Inter-War Empire

Daniel M. Masterson (US Naval Academy) – Soldiers as Imperial Policemen: The Black and Tans in Palestine and the U.S. Marines in Nicaragua

13.30 – 14.00 **Lunch**

14.00 – 15.45 **Panel 7: Global Memories of the Great War: ‘Metropole’ and ‘Periphery’**
Chair / Commentator: Jay Winter (Yale)

Santanu Das (Queen Mary) – British Empire

Pierre Purseigle (Birmingham) – French Empire

16.00 - 17.00 **Roundtable Discussion**
Chair: Robert Gerwarth (UCD)

Hew Strachan (Oxford)

Jay Winter (Yale)

John Horne (TCD)

Erez Manela (Harvard)

17.30 **Conference Dinner (Speakers/Chairs only)**