

il y a une centaine d'années, et de rédiger des synthèses qui complètent les ouvrages ayant occulté, délibérément ou sans préméditation, les réalités italo-danubiano-balkaniques.

Dans ce contexte, l'initiative de la prestigieuse revue italienne *Il Vetro* de dédier en 2015 un numéro spécial au front balkanique, moins connu, demeure méritoire et elle a été appréciée par les spécialistes. Le coordinateur du volume, Monsieur le Professeur Francesco Guido, de l'Université Roma Tre, est un historien renommé, un très bon connaisseur des réalités de l'espace balkanique et danubien, ses nombreux livres d'auteur, les volumes coordonnés ou les études publiées le recommandant comme l'un des spécialistes les plus avisés de l'histoire de la Roumanie et des autres pays de la région. Les 12 études signées par des historiens consacrés de plusieurs universités d'Italie, de Serbie, de Roumanie, de Bulgarie, de même que l'Avant-propos signé par le coordinateur du volume, mettent en évidence les réalités danubiano-balkaniques de la période de la Grande Guerre mondiale. Ces contributions scientifiques reflètent le caractère complexe et compliqué de la situation de la Hongrie, de la Serbie, du Monténégro, de la Roumanie, de l'Albanie, de la Grèce et de la Bulgarie de cette époque-là, en partant des préliminaires politico-diplomatiques de la Grande Guerre, le déclenchement de celle-ci à la suite de l'assassinat de Sarajevo, en juin 1914, la configuration des positions des États/nations de cette zone, le déroulement des opérations militaires, le contexte régional et européen, les relations interethniques, l'implication du Saint-Siège dans les projets humanitaires etc. Le présent ouvrage n'omet ni les jeux de coulisses des capitales des États impliqués, ni les positions des principaux acteurs politiques ou l'évolution des événements militaires sur les fronts etc. Au-delà des possibilités limitées d'une étude qui doit respecter certains paramètres afin d'assurer l'unité du volume, on peut souligner la nécessité de reprendre

et d'amplifier un projet éditorial qui mette la Grande Guerre déroulée dans cette partie de l'Europe à sa juste place dans l'historiographie universelle.

Les études publiées à présent, principalement en roumain, par Monsieur le Professeur Francesco Guida, représentent sans doute une contribution historiographique importante pour la connaissance des relations internationales des États balkaniques dans les années 1914-1918, de l'évolution générale de la Première Guerre mondiale, et ce livre aura certainement une circulation à la mesure de la consistance des recherches qu'il comprend.



IOAN BOLOVAN

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ANDREW TAIT JARBOE and RICHARD S. FOGARTY, eds.

**Empires in World War I: Shifting Frontiers and Imperial Dynamics in a Global Conflict**

London–New York: I. B. Tauris, 2014

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**T**HE CENTENARY of the Great War provides an excellent opportunity to bring again to the forefront the universal character of this major conflict which changed the course of history for all countries, from the smallest to empires. If most research on the First World War has focused on Europe, where, indeed, the fate of the war was decided, more recent studies have tried to shift the attention to the role played by those considered “supporting actors,” namely, the colonists and the empires outside the European continent.

This volume aims at providing a truly global perspective on the First World War by taking into account its inter-imperial dimension, stressing how necessary it is to focus on the dynamic between imperial metropolises and colonies. The editors, Andrew Tait

Jarboe and Richard S. Fogarty, consider it important to no longer study the Great War as two separate wars, Europe and the rest of the world, but to approach it at global level, as a whole, and this is where the novelty of *Empires in World War I* lies: “When read in its entirety, it offers scholars and students of World War I the opportunity to look for connections and make comparisons on a truly global scale” (p. 9).

*Empires in World War I* contains 13 chapters organized in four parts, preceded by an introduction which the editors have named “An Imperial Turn in First World War Studies” and where they start from the assertion that the First World War was a “conflict of empires fought by empires to determine the fate of those empires” (p. 1).

The first part, “Myths and Realities of Imperial Expansion,” demonstrates that many participants to the First World War had the opportunity to fulfill many of their dormant ambitions. Matthew G. Stanard’s chapter, “Digging-In: The Great War and the Roots of Belgian Empire,” analyses the important role this huge conflict played in the history of Belgian imperialism. He argues that Belgium managed to consolidate its position as colonial power and that the war helped strengthen an imperialist identity in Belgium. The second chapter of this first section is entitled “Race and Imperial Ambition: The Case of Japan and India after World War I.” Its author, Maryanne A. Rhett, shows how the First World War—despite generating the dissolution of some empires and the appearance of new states—created premises for some Indian nationalists to fight for independence from Great Britain and to dream of an Indian Empire, while offering the Japanese the chance to feed their imperial ambitions. The last contribution to this part is W. Matthew Kennedy’s “A Pacific Scramble? Imperial Readjustment in the Asia-Pacific, 1911-22,” where he focuses on the events that generated a clash between

Great Britain and Japan, the major powers in the Asia-Pacific region, but also on their reaction to the growing importance of Australia and United States in the region.

Part II, “Soldiers of Empire, Far from Home,” consists of four contributions which focus on the people who fought the war, on colonial soldiers, in order to better understand the imperial dynamics of the war; transportation, loyalty through propaganda or maintaining cohesion and discipline in the armies are key elements of this endeavour. The editor Andrew Tait Jarboe, in his chapter “Propaganda and Empire in the Heart of Europe: Indian Soldiers in Hospital and Prison, 1914-18,” compares the pro-imperialist propaganda employed within British and French hospitals, among the wounded Indian soldiers who were encouraged to show gratitude to the British Empire, with the pro-imperialist propaganda which the Germans deployed in prisoner-of-war camps, where Indian prisoners were told that another empire—Germany—should be the receptacle of their gratitude and loyalty. In “Out of North Africa: Contested Visions of French Muslim Soldiers during World War I,” Richard S. Fogarty explores the case of North African soldiers, trapped between their Muslim identity, speculated by the Ottomans and Germans in an attempt to make them switch sides, and their engagement and loyalty to France. Julian Saltman, the author of the third chapter entitled “‘The Full and Just Penalty’? British Military Justice and the Empire’s War in Egypt and Palestine,” shows that military justice was unevenly applied to imperial and colonial soldiers in Egypt and Palestine and how the legal system was used to discipline the colonial and imperial armies. This part ends with Steven Sabol’s “‘It Was a Pretty Good War, but they Stopped it too Soon’: The American Empire, Native Americans and World War I,” a chapter which argues that the United States should be counted among the empires fight-

ing the First World War due to the use of about 17,000 Native Americans in the war, a proof of the existence of an internal colonialism within the United States.

The volume's third part is entitled "Thinking Imperially, Acting Locally" and the three contributions gathered here highlight the interplay between the global and the local by showing how the First World War had significant effects at local level, far from the Western front. Sarah Zimmerman has the first contribution to this part, "Citizenship, Military Service and Managing Exceptionalism: *Originaires* in World War I," where she focuses on the case of the *originaires*, a group of soldiers from the "Four Communes of Senegal" fighting in the French army, who kept their status as colonial subjects while benefitting from some rights the French citizens had, revealing the local effects of the war. "For God and Country: Missionary Service in Colonial Africa during World War I" is the name of the second chapter of this part, in which Kenneth J. Orosz examines the role played by missionaries in Africa, how they helped recruiting and organizing the troops, while pointing out that nearly two million African soldiers and carriers were involved in the First World War, another proof of the global scale of this history-changing war. Erin Eckhold Sassin analyses in "The Visual Politics of Upper Silesian Settlements in World War I" how the Germans managed to strengthen their national identity in a multi-ethnic region by relying on the *Heimatstil* and on providing settlements for the workers in this industrial region.

"Afterlives of War and Empire," the last part of *Empires in World War I*, examines how the war provided the perfect opportunity for certain contemporaries to challenge imperial rule, but also the way empires tried to strengthen their positions after the First World War. In the first chapter of this section, "World War I and the Permanent West

Indian Soldier," Richard Smith depicts the journey of the West Indian soldier from a highly confident man, loyal to the empire at the wake of the war, to the disappointed wanderer seeking employment in the Americas. Alan McPherson's chapter, "World War I and US Empire in the Americas," shows a contrasting US Empire, occupying Caribbean territories during the First World War while helping the Entente on the Western European front. "Requiem for Empire: Fabian Ware & the Imperial War Graves Commission" is the title of the last chapter, written by John Lack and Bart Ziino, who, after studying different archives from Canada to Australia and Britain, including the Imperial War Graves Commission Archives, show how the British Empire consolidated its imperial identity and induced a powerful sense of belonging and strength by honouring the graves of British soldiers.

This volume is of particular use to scholars of the First World War on all continents as it truly renders the global perspective on this conflict by questioning the long-accepted meaning of empires and by highlighting the universal mobilization of resources, as well as the central role that the imperial stories played in the larger story of the Great War.

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