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UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

HISTORY STUDENT TIMES

WAR & PEACE



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WAR & PEACE

Letter from the Editor

This month marks 100 years since the end of the First World War. Therefore, when considering the theme for the first issue of the year, it seemed fitting to explore the ideas around war and peace throughout history. Here in Leeds, there are several events commemorating the anniversary, including an exhibition titled 'Goodbye to all that? Legacies of the First World War' at the Treasures of the Brotherton Gallery in the Parkinson Building. This exhibition is running until 31st January 2019 and I would definitely recommend having a look around.

The articles in this edition explore the different outcomes of war, attempts at peace and the sacrifices of every day people. This begins with the story of George Edwin Ellison, a son of Leeds, who was the last British soldier killed in World War One, serving as a poignant reminder of the human consequences of conflict.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all those who wrote an article for this issue, and

Would you like to be involved in the next edition of the History Student Times? If you have an interest for your subject and enjoy writing, you can get involved with the second issue, coming out next term. To register your interest, email historystudenttimes@leeds.ac.uk or like our Facebook page *Leeds University History Student Times* for the latest updates.

FUTILE AT THE VERY END

*How one Leeds soldier came within ninety minutes of
surviving World War One*

Ross Jenkins



Grave of George Edwin Ellison,
Saint Symphorien Military Ceme-

George Edwin Ellison, of the 5th Lancers, probably had no idea the war was about to end when he was killed by a sniper on the outskirts of Mons. He has the unfortunate honour of being named the final British soldier to die in World War One. Living in Leeds, originally born nearby, he was one of 10,000 men to be killed on the 11th November 1918. While the day is immortalised as Armistice Day, what is often forgotten is that the armistice which saved the suffering of millions of soldiers also ensured the untimely death for men like George Edwin Ellison.

Signed at 5 o'clock that morning, the Armistice of Compiègne confirmed the surrender of the



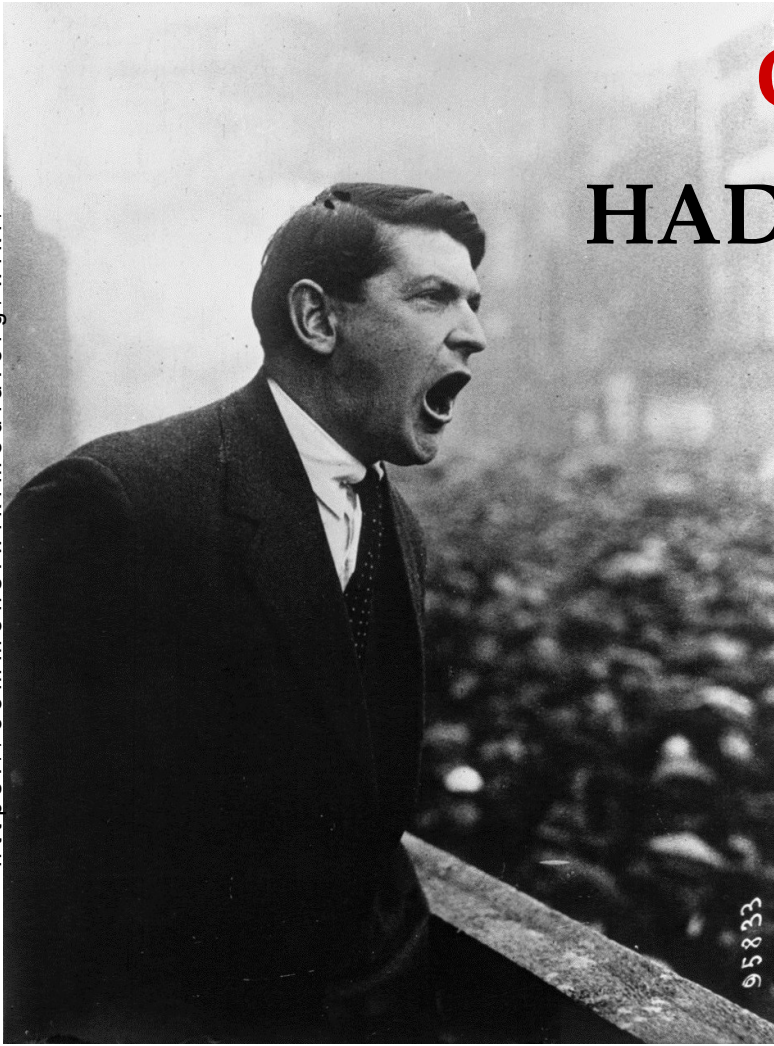
St. Symphorien Military Cemetery

German forces and the conclusion of fighting. However, it was not brought into effect until 11am, six whole hours after the ceasefire was signed. This decision, meant to ensure that all on the front knew of the end of the war, came at a high price. One soldier of the Australian Corps, taken from *Forgotten Voices of the Great War*, spoke of the trouble a German machine-gun unit gave the Allied forces, and how ‘they kept on firing until practically 11 o’clock.’ Examples of this continued warfare led to the futile deaths of George Ellison and others on the final day of war. While people on the streets of Allied cities were celebrating victory, soldiers on the front continued to perish.

_____ “This year marks the 100-year anniversary of the armistice, and of George’s death. His story should remind us of the lives that were lost, the potential that was never fulfilled, and the legacy that they _____ leave.”

The story of Ellison’s war reads like a guide to the major conflicts of the Western Front. Having been involved since the beginning, *The National Roll of the Great War* describes Ellison fighting in the Allied retreat from Mons, the engagements at Ypres as well as defending the largest German counter-attack since 1914 at the Battle of Cambrai in 1917. This is supplemented with other conflicts at Armentieres, La Bassee, Lens and Loos. His time at war, and unfortunately his life, emblematically ended much as it had begun, on the battlefields of Mons, where his regiment has been immortalised in its town hall to commemorate the

“THOSE WHO WERE ONCE FRIENDS, HAD NOW BECOME FOE”



Michael Collins, Dublin 1922

How the Anglo-Irish peace treaty ended a war between Britain and Ireland, but led to a war between Irish brothers.

Samuel Tapper

When Michael Collins was shot dead by his fellow Irishmen in Béal na Bláth, August 1922, it symbolised the intractable nature of the conflicts which had engulfed Ireland over the years. The man who was central to the rebirth of the Irish Free State was killed by the very people he had fought alongside for independence only a few years before. Those who were once friends, had now become foe. Following the conclusion of the Civil War in May 1923, Ireland emerged weary, battered and partitioned. Ireland had seen

failed revolution, a War of Independence and a Civil War all within seven years.

The Easter Rising of 1916 generated widespread support for Irish independence. Although it constituted a failed attempt to overthrow British rule, the ruthless British response generated a surge in popular support for independence, moving Irish Nationalist opinion away from the less radical idea of Home Rule. After a landslide victory for Sinn Féin in the

1918 election, they made good on their pledge and declared 'independence' from the UK on 21 January 1919, forming the First Dáil Éireann, a breakaway government for the revolutionary Irish Republic.

their makeshift clothing. The most shocking day of the conflict came about on the 21st of November 1920, an event labelled 'Bloody Sunday'. After the IRA had brutally assassinated twelve men,

Critically, after an IRA ambush of two Royal Irish Con-

“Following the conclusion of the Civil War in May 1923, Ireland emerged weary, battered and partitioned. Ireland had seen failed revolution, a War of Independence and a Civil War all within seven years.”

believed to be British Intelligence Officers, police opened fire on Croke Park during a Gaelic Football

stabulary constables in January 1919, the fuse was lit for the Irish War of Independence. This was a bloody and bitter conflict, characterised by the brutality of the improvised British police force, labelled the 'Black and Tans' thanks to

match, aimlessly killing eleven civilians and wounding more than sixty others.

The conflict was ended following the December 1921 Anglo-Irish Treaty, signed by Irish representatives Michael Collins



Third Tipperary Brigade Flying Column No. 2 under Seán Hogan during the War of Independence



The 21st Battalion, London Regiment (1st)

WAS 1918 THE END?

*Changes in the British psyche after **World War***

One

Yasmin Neal

“The war had ... reshaped British society from a ‘peaceable kingdom’ to a war-torn state etched with deep scars.”

It is a well-documented fact that the First World War ended on 11th November 1918. However, while the armed conflict was over, the British government was not fin-

ished in their fight for peace with the general population’s collective psyche irrevocably changed following the trauma of war. Although David Lloyd George’s administration was com-

mitted to ensuring a return to normalcy, the war had created numerous issues which reshaped British society from a 'peaceable kingdom' to a war-torn state etched with deep scars.

The aftermath following the period of The Great War is in a sense immeasurable, but despite this it remains evident that a 'new' Britain emerged, one infected with fear. Some of the most prominent worries that emerged were, the fear of revolution, the brutalisation of a population, and the idea of a lost generation.

While war evidently destabilised society, the fear of revolution was particularly strong in 1918

due to the 1917 Russian Revolution. As such, the government tried to address these fears by pursuing social policy, more heavily introducing the Housing Act of 1919 and the Anti-Waste movement. This was designed to prove there was no need to revolt as the government was already providing for society's needs, shifting from controversial policies to embracing mass politics. As this fear depleted with strike

action remaining low due to higher unemployment rates after the war, the government swiftly ended their short-lived dedication to intensive social reform as the threat of revolution disappeared.

Another significant concern was that of brutalisation. The fear of brutalisation refers to the idea that British society had been damaged by the cruelty of war which

had forced everyone into a violent frame of mind for four years. This 'brutalisation' was believed to have infected three broad groups: civilians (specifically the working class), soldiers, and the

state. Prior to this Britain considered itself to be a 'peaceable kingdom', however, this was seemingly destroyed by the brutality of war. The government was further criticised for its continuation of war time control methods with the deployment of the Black and Tans in Ireland. Therefore, the government, rather than helping, was further spreading the sickness.



A naval contingent marching in London at the end of World War I, 1918



Mario Savio on Sproul Hall steps at UC Berkeley in

The 1960s in America was a highly turbulent period of social change. Remembered for hippies, drugs and the Summer of Love, this period also saw incredible revolutionary activities amongst marginalised groups; the Civil Rights Movement, movements surrounding the Vietnam War and its veterans, Women's Rights Movements and Gay Rights Movements. But one of the less well known occurrences was the war on university administrations led by students on campuses across the United States.

University applications were increasing, from 1940-57 the proportion of people who graduated from a university increased

“Berkeley spokesman, Mario Savio, stated that students would ‘rather die than be standardized, replaceable, and irrelevant’”

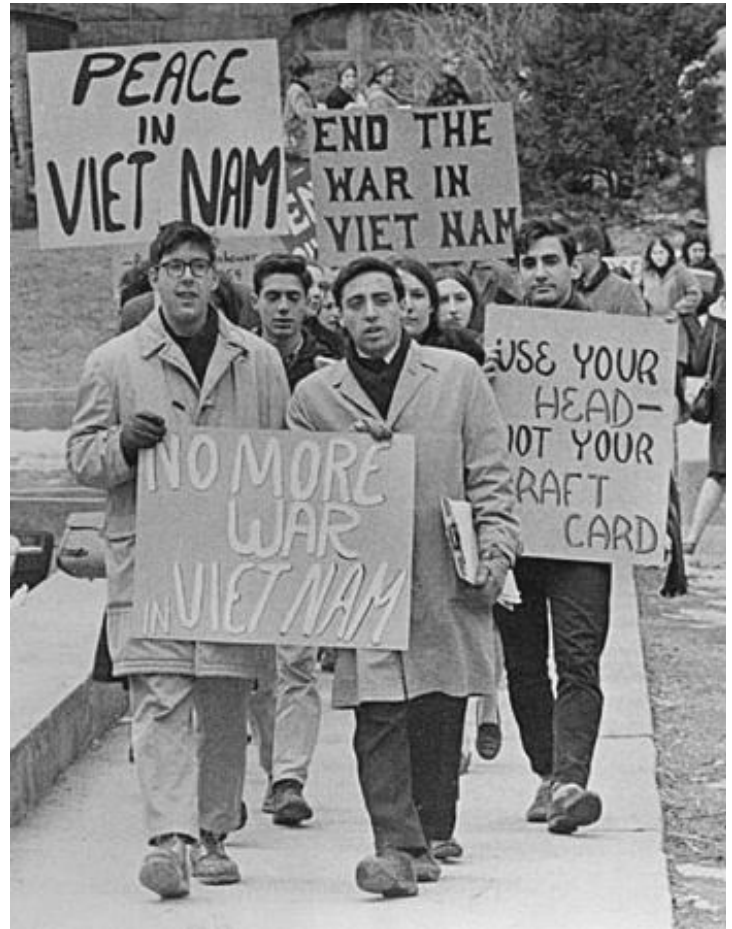
by 60%. Competitive pressures meant that universities became more selective, so the students admitted were smarter and more motivated, expecting a high quality, enriching experience during their four years in higher education. However, they did not receive this.

Overcrowded dormitories, high school level curriculums, professors more concerned with their research and more self-teaching frustrated intake upon intake of students. A further factor for agitation was strict gender separation in dormitories and the *in loco parentis* rule, meaning administrations had a parental level of control over students. As leading historian Edward Spann argues, parents felt that universities had become ‘marriage mills and fun factories, more devoted to beauty queens than to higher education’. Thus, just as students expected more freedom and independence, it was restricted.

University unrest provided the catalyst for political awakening among students. The Civil Rights Movement saw major student participation and events such

as the Greensboro sit-in, in which four black students sat at a white counter in Woolworths in 1960. It taught students methods of peaceful protest and inspired groups such as the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. Alongside Civil Rights movements was the Vietnam War. Protected for four years by student deferments, college men felt threatened by an awaiting death sentence upon graduation. The Vietnam war was vehemently opposed by 69% of students in 1969, who identified as 'doves'. A softer, but equally scandalous form of protest came in fashion, as longer hair and untrimmed beards demonstrated rebellion against the stylistic choices of contemporary politicians. Experimental drugs and sexual revolution were also common rebellions against the norm in a demonstration of discontent.

Student protesters marching down Langdon Street at the University of Wisconsin-Madison during the Vi-



HIPPIES, DRUGS AND THE SUMMER OF LOVE

Students at war with administrators in
1960s America

Hannah Bullock

THE OPIUM WARS & THE LEGACY OF COLONIALISM

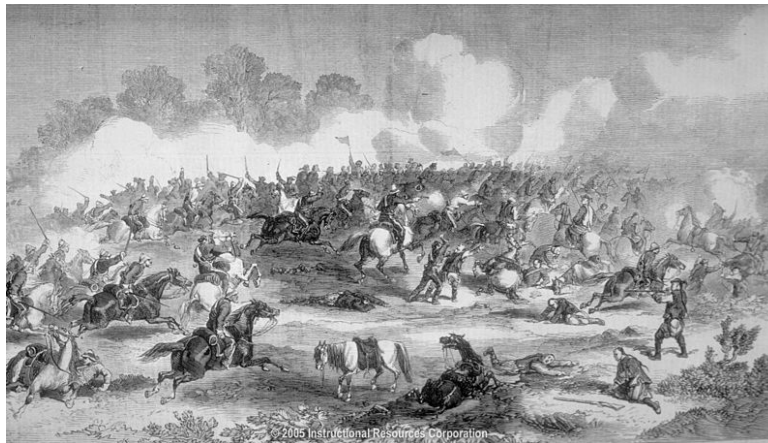
Fiona Linnard

With tensions between China and the United States reaching a critical point, the situation bears striking resemblance to Britain's little-talked-about dark colonial past with the East: the Opium Wars.

The US' accusations of cyber theft in Beijing, the FBI's extradition of a senior Chinese intelligence official to the States, and a looming trade war, have put a fresh strain on West-East relations. However, Chinese retaliation goes more than skin-deep. Its source resides in the national memory of a series of clashes commonly known in the Western world as The Opium Wars.

'The Opium Wars' describes two major conflicts: the First Opium War, from 1839-42, and the Second Opium War, from 1856-60, which both ended with the decisive defeat of the Qing dynasty by the British. Roots of the Wars can be traced back to

early trading relations. In the eighteenth-century, British demand for Chinese tea boomed, and by 1805 the British East India Company had bought 1,814 metric tonnes of tea. However, Chinese merchants' decision to trade exclusively with silver threatened to drain the British supply.



The King's Dragoon Guards closing with the Tartar cavalry in

After unsuccessful negotiations with the Chinese which aimed to convince the Emperor of the advantages of trading with British goods instead, merchants finally found a lucrative good that the

Chinese couldn't get enough of: opium. Opium quickly became a national crisis, with over 900 metric tonnes bought from British dealers in 1831 alone. Repeated attempts to remove the drug from China failed, and the Qing Dynasty slowly began to crumble. The 'Century of Humiliation', a term coined in 1915 by Chinese nationalists to describe the century following the First Opium War, was ended by Mao in 1949 with the establishment of the People's Republic of China.

WOMEN IN THE TROUBLES: MORE THAN VICTIMS

Rosie Plummer

When we think of women in conflict zones, we tend to envisage victims of assault, mothers of soldiers, or helpless wives waiting for news of their loved ones. This article is not to devalue the experiences of such women, but rather to point out that focusing solely on women as victims has resulted in their multifaceted roles in times of conflict being overlooked; women can be instrumental in bringing about both war and peace.



Mairead Farrell & Wendy Parry

While describing the Troubles in Ireland as a 'war' is disputable, most can agree that the period from the 1960s to 1998 was not one of peace. Throughout this conflict, British and Northern Irish women demonstrated their agency in a variety of ways. Throughout the Troubles, as in any conflict, there were women directly involved, both on the side of violence and in the process of establishing peace.

Women as instigators of violence

Unbeknown to many, women were in

both the Republican and Loyalist paramilitaries. Mairead Farrell operated within the Republican movement. Farrell was sentenced to 14 years in prison after refusing to recognise the authority of a British Court while on trial for attempting to plant bombs. From inside the Armagh

women's prison, Farrell engaged in a no work protest, before initiating a dirty protest in 1980. In 1981 Farrell, alongside two other female prisoners, engaged in a hunger strike to coincide

with the one by male Irish Republican Army (IRA) prisoners in the Maze, despite being advised against such extreme action by the IRA. Two years after her release from prison, Farrell was shot dead in Gibraltar on active IRA service. Whether you consider her a freedom fighter or a terrorist, it is notable that women like Farrell are often overlooked, as they complicate the narrative of war and aggression as solely masculine traits.

Women as Peace Makers

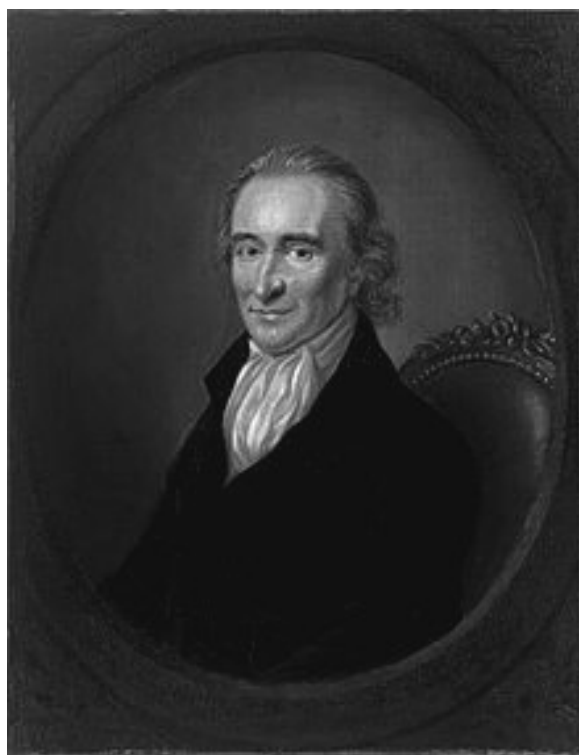
ENEMIES & THE FRIENDS

Quaker persecution in Revolutionary Pennsylvania

Freddie Coombes

“Say not that ye are persecuted, neither endeavour to make us the authors of that reproach, which, ye are bringing upon yourselves...we do not complain against you because ye are Quakers, but because ye pretend to be and are NOT Quakers.”

When Thomas Paine, the transatlantic agitator who helped inspire America’s Declaration of Independence, attached to *Common Sense* this invective against local Friends in Philadelphia, he perhaps did not know what resentments he was stirring up. As far as Paine was concerned, with his English Quaker family background and radical sensibility, he was replying to the Loyalist Pennsylvania Quakers to dispel the “quietism” that had settled over the Religious Society of Friends, to firmly separate religion from secular matters, and to demand their consistency in condemning the violence of state and rebels alike. The extent to which a Quaker ethos pervaded Paine’s thought is manifest in *Common Sense*’s original title - *Plain Truth*. However, it is



Thomas Paine by Laurent Dabos

personally difficult, as a Quaker, to believe that Paine's targets here had *brought upon themselves* the "reproach" of Constitution-
alists.

Contra Paine, Quakers were persecuted during the American Revolution, as they had long been in the Colonies. William Penn founded Pennsylvania in 1681 as a colony with liberal freedom of conscience after it became clear that his co-religionists needed a place of shelter in the New World. Penn and others had been oppressed through the Commonwealth and Restoration periods by state forces, but the mob mentality that prevailed in places like Puritan Massachusetts had led to the Quaker refugees fearing for their lives. One of them, Mary Dyer, was hanged in 1660. Scholarship on the Quakers in revolutionary Pennsylvania has tended to focus on the decline of their influence after 1756, when Quaker Assemblymen resigned in protest over participating in the Seven Years' War, but treats them as irrelevant thereafter. In fact, although Quakers had no effect on the Revolution's beginning, course or outcome, there is nevertheless an important story to be told about how their fortunes changed. Why were the

Quakers mostly Loyalist when they had been first to oppose the British colonialist Seven Years' War?

To understand why Quakers wanted to preserve metropolitan power, we have to understand contemporary religious tensions in Pennsylvania. Freedom of conscience had attracted many there, including a substantial number of Presbyterians who resided in the countryside and on the western frontier. Quakers were increasingly a minority and faced intermittent marches on their base in Philadelphia by backcountry

"The example of Philadelphia's Quakers in this period calls our attention to two things. First, it causes us to challenge narratives of national liberation ... Second, it makes us aware of how controversial peace testimony can be"

militants angry about Quaker resistance to war, whether with French, Indians or, lately, British armies. From the Quakers' point of view, the insurgent countryside

represented the same Puritan and Presbyterian force that had brutalised them in Britain and America over a hundred years before, in mid-seventeenth century. Understandably, Philadelphian Friends wished to uphold the imperfect and distant protection they received from Britain's government rather than entrust themselves to the supposedly more "constitutional" rule of the armed militias who encircled them.

THE SINO-JAPANESE WAR IN TEN

The Sino-Japanese War broke out in 1937 at the Marco Polo Bridge in Beijing, after Japanese forces who were stationed in China, attacked Chinese forces. The war is often separated from Second World War history, due to a westernised memory of the

Jessie Keegan



Iwane Matsui rides into Nanjing

Japan had occupied northern China since 1931 and established the puppet state 'Manchukuo' in place of Manchuria in 1932. The outbreak of war was the result of

The conflict was part of broader Japanese aspirations in East Asia to establish a new order. They hoped to create an autarkic 'co-prosperity sphere' in Asia,

On the 13th December 1937, the Japanese under General Matsui invaded what was then the Chinese capital, Nanking. This event is remembered as the Nanking Massacre in China, as it involved the Japanese Kwantung Army storming through the city,

During the occupation of China, the Japanese were testing chemical and biological weapons at Unit 731 on Chinese and Korean POWs. Testing included forced pregnancies, amputations without victims being anaesthetised, and short-range

The Chinese resistance was prominent during the period, and was made up of the Nationalist government and the Chinese Communists (CCP), a rebel group. The groups formed a United Front, with the CCP under the leadership of who would later

The Japanese launched a counter-offensive against the CCP campaigns, operating a 'kill all, burn all, loot all' policy. This involved burning down villages, confis-

Japanese southward expansion was a large success during the war, exercising governance over 80% of the Chinese population. This was alongside their rule of Tai-

There was never an official declaration of war, with the Japanese only referring

In 1945 the Japanese withdrew from China after their defeat in the Second World War. Conflicts in China, however, continued with the Chinese Civil War, in which the CCP fought and defeated the Nationalists. The People's Republic of China was

Japan's wartime leaders were put on trial after the Second World War at the International Military Tribunal for the Far East. They were prosecuted for crimes committed in the Sino-Japanese War, including massacre and enslavement. The

RED TROUSERS AND PICKELHAUBEN

Tradition and Innovation in the French and German Uniforms of the First World War

Matthew Hough

At the onset of the First World War, in stark contrast to the much smaller British army, the French army was notoriously unprepared to fight a modern war, and this is most clearly demonstrated in the uniforms they wore during the battles of 1914. The Germans on the other hand were, for the

most part, well equipped throughout the conflict, and were arguably the quickest to adapt to the conditions of trench warfare, however, even they clung on to elements of nineteenth-century tradition, and thus their uniforms underwent a significant transformation during the course of the war.

During the Crimean War (1853-1856), the French army introduced a new (and by contemporary standards, modern) uniform, consisting of a long blue overcoat, the now iconic *kepi* hat, and red trousers, worn with gaiters. This was to go largely unchanged until sixty years later, with Eugène Étienne, Minister for War, blatantly refusing to dispense with red trousers in 1913. This would prove highly problematic during the opening months of World War One. French colonial troops, such as the *Zouaves* and *Tirailleurs Algériens* wore even more out-



Pickelhaube: German

landish clothing - notably brightly-coloured baggy trousers, and the French cavalry were similar in appearance to those who fought under Napoleon a hundred years earlier. The *Cuirassiers* for example retained their plumed helmets and metal breastplates. Such garish uniforms were completely unsuitable for the conditions of an early-twentieth century battlefield and led to the French army suffering excessive casualties at the hands of German snipers.

Consequently, the French military introduced reform, adopting a sky-blue colour, which theoretically would blend in with the skyline, with British-style puttees (leg-wraps) replacing the less practical leather gaiters seen in the opening months of the war. In late 1915, the notoriously conservative French military also introduced the Adrian Helmet, designed to protect troops from head wounds caused by shrapnel shells which were a common occurrence in the trenches. This rare example of innovation on the part of the French army was soon followed by Britain and Germany, who introduced helmets in 1916.

In stark contrast to their French counterparts, the German soldiers of 1914 wore a practical uniform, comprised of a tunic and trousers in a muted grey colour known as *feldgrau* (field-grey), with marching boots (later replaced by ankle boots and puttees). However, the exception to this was the famous *Pickelhaube* - the spiked Prussian



Stahlhelm

hat introduced in the 1840s. These were made of boiled leather and bore a metal plate depicting the emblems of whichever German state the wearer hailed from, although on the front line an *Überzug* (cloth cover) bearing the wearer's regimental number, was worn, rendering these outdat-



Algerian soldiers during World War I

“The French military introduced reform, adopting a sky-blue colour ... with British-style puttees (leg-wraps) replacing the less practical leather gaiters”

THE PROBLEM OF KEEPING THE PEACE

How effective have global peace institutions been since the end of the First World War?

Jack Walker & Emma Holdsworth

The experiences of both the First and Second World Wars led world governments to create global institutions with the aims maintaining peace and preventing another devastating world war. The League of Nations was founded in

League of Nations



By the end of World War One Europe was shattered. The United States was grappling with loudening isolationist opinions. War-weariness had set in and it was determined at Versailles, the conference to end the war, the past four years of fighting and bloodshed should never be allowed to happen again. However, history tells us that this was doomed from

the start. It was against this backdrop that Woodrow Wilson put forward his idea of an organisation to resolve international disputes; the League of Nations. There was hope that future disagreements between nations could instead be settled by diplomacy and mediation.

Unfortunately, the idea was short-lived. Wilson's Congress was aware that the President had reneged on his promise to keep the United States out of Europe's war, refused to ratify the League and so never joined. The majority of member states were European, alienating non-European members such as Japan. In-



United

deed, Japan became symbolic of the League's failings when instead of conforming to sanctions after invading Manchuria in 1931, it simply withdrew from the League. As the League was explicitly formed without a fighting force it was rendered toothless and ineffective, unable to combat the Japanese invasion of Manchuria by force.

When considering the United Nations, perhaps the greatest evidence of its ef-

fectiveness is that there has been no outbreak of a world war since its conception, an achievement the League of Nations could not claim. Peacekeeping is one activity undertaken by the UN to maintain international peace and security. Although United Nations' peacekeeping efforts have not always been successful, many credit them as the reason for declines in major civil wars and intensity of armed conflicts.

Peacekeeping operations are principally deployed to support the implementation of a ceasefire or peace agreement but

In the end, neither the League of Nations nor the UN can claim to be the resounding success they hoped to be. The League of Nations failed on all fronts, primarily by failing to prevent a second World War. The United Na-

Hello historians!

We hope that your first few weeks haven't been too stressful for our returning members and that all our new first year members have been settling in well and enjoying Leeds!

First of all, thank you to all those who turned up to our first Otley Run of the year. We had our biggest turn out ever and you all looked fabulous in your boot camp theme costumes. A big well done to those who made it all the way to Mission to continue partying!

HistSoc would also love to say a huge thank you to those who attended our Careers Networking Dinner. We really hope that you enjoyed chatting to your potential employers and enjoyed the amazing food that University House has to offer. Both myself (Academic Secretary) and Evie (Sponsorship Secretary) put our heart and soul into the event and it was a great way to kick off this academic year!

Also, our first GIAG pub quiz was an amazing success! We're so sorry about the lack of chairs and tables but I think we can all agree it was a fabulous evening and the results were extremely close. Also, you amazing lot helped raise £83.50 for the charity Leeds Mind through our raffle, congratulations to our lucky winners!

Now for some upcoming news:

Our annual Christmas Ball is coming up on 4th December and the Facebook event is now live! Georgia, our ball sec, has been working her socks off for what promises to be an amazing event. For all you lucky people securing a ticket, don't forget to dress to impress in your best clothes and we do have a waiting list for any people who didn't manage to get a ticket so make sure to





UPDATE FROM

HISTSOC



Fancy having a 'kraking' time in Krakow this Easter?

Don't forget to keep a eye out for tickets to the HistSoc trip.

Search 'Leeds University History Society' on Facebook and add LUU HistSoc as a friend.



HISTORY STUDENT TIMES

ISSUE 1