

The Remarque Institute's
KANDERSTEG SEMINAR
'EUROPE ON THE BRINK: 1913 REVISITED'
Wednesday, April 10th – Sunday, April 14th, 2013

Programme

Wednesday, April 10th

Arrival in Kandersteg of participants by train

Check in: Waldhotel Doldenhorn
CG-3718 Kandersteg
Tel. +41.33.675.81.81
Fax +41.33.675.81.85

19:00 Welcome reception and dinner at hotel

Thursday April 11th

10:00 **Introduction**

Katherine Fleming (NYU-Remarque Institute)

Introduction to the seminar and introductions of participants

Session I

10:30 – 12:30 Katherine Fleming, Chair

Science and Technology on the Brink

The Great War is often remembered for the technological and scientific innovations developed for and on the battlefield: long-range artillery; chlorine, mustard, and phosgene gases; sound ranging; machine guns; high-explosives. Yet the century and particularly decades that preceded the war's outbreak were marked by unprecedented breakthroughs in science and technology -- and in many ways the War was as much an interruption of scientific progress as a catalyst for it.

Thursday April 11th (continued)

- 10:30 - 11:00 Brief opening comments:
 (Coen, Geppert, Linstrum, Perry, Wood)
- 11:00 - 12:30 Discussion
- 12:45 Lunch at hotel
- Free afternoon
- 19:00 Drinks followed by dinner

Friday April 12th

Session II

- 10:00 – 12:00 Larry Wolff, Chair

Social Thought & International Relations on the Brink

Between the 1870s and 1914, close to 40 million Europeans emigrated, most to the United States, while over the course of the century prior to the war, Europe's population virtually doubled. These and other massive demographic and social shifts stimulated an efflorescence in social thought. At the same time, international relations – particularly alliances and the European balance of power – shifted as Asian players became a growing factor in European politics. This session will consider, from multiple perspectives, European social thought and international relations on the brink of World War I.

- 10.00 - 10.30 Brief opening comments:
 (Derman, Jones, Purseigle, Satia)
- 10.30 - 12.00 Discussion
- 12:15 Lunch at hotel
- Free afternoon until:

Friday April 12th (continued)

Session III

17:00 – 19:00 Katherine Fleming, Chair

National and Imperial Perspectives on the Brink

Did World War I usher in a new era of imperialism, or bring the beginning of the end for the old one? World War I is commonly regarded as the watershed for the imperial-to-national shift, yet in the pre-war period, the European system had already been dramatically destabilized with the unification of Germany and Italy, and the decline of the Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman Empires. This session will consider European nationalism and imperialism on the eve of World War I.

17:00 – 17:30 Brief opening comments
(Erdeljac, Karch, Kostopoulos, Reill, Tchoukarine)

17.30 - 19.00 Discussion

19:00 Drinks followed by dinner

Saturday April 13th

Session IV

10.30 – 12:30 Larry Wolff, Chair

Cultural Modernism on the Brink

Modernism as a period is divided in half by World War I; the war both interrupted modernism and shaped it. What would a counter-history of modernism look like? What would cultural modernism look like without the war? In what ways did the experience of War change modernism, and in what ways did it guarantee its enduring place as the defining moment and point of reference for the twentieth century?

10.30 - 11.00 Brief opening comments
(George, Geroulanos, Maynard, Prokhopovych)

11.00 - 12.30 Discussion

12:45 Lunch at hotel

Free afternoon until:

17:30 – 18:30

Final open session

19:00

Drinks and Gala dinner at hotel

Sunday April 14th

Departure of participants

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