

Program

3.4.2016

19:00

Dinner

4.4.2016

09:00 – 09:45 Nathan MacDonald (Cambridge) – ‘Yahweh is Great!': The construction of Israelite Holy War in and around the time of the Great War

09:45 – 10:30 Andrew Mein (Cambridge) – Psalms, Patriotism and Propaganda: A Favourite Book in Wartime

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee Break

11:00 – 11:45 Valérie Nicolet (Paris) – Turning the Ally into the Enemy: French Protestant Scholarship at the Beginning of WW1

11:45 – 12:30 Daniel Inman (Oxford) – ‘But I say unto you, Love your enemies': The Justification of the War and the New Testament in British Propaganda, 1914-15

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch Break

14:00 – 16:00 Guided Tour

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee Break

16:30 – 17:15 Bart Wallet (Amsterdam) – ‘Religious Traditions and the Remembrance of Traumatic Events in Europe and the

Middle East, 1918-2018': Introducing a New Project

17:15 – 18:00 Jan Willem van Henten (Amsterdam) – Martyr: Concept, Title and First World War Context

18:00 – 20:00 Dinner

20:00 – 20:45 Mark Chapman (Oxford) – William Sanday, Modernism, and the First World War

5.4.2016

09:00 – 09:45 Lukas Bormann (Marburg) – Between prophetic critique and raison d'état. Rudolf Kittel about German Jews in the Great War and Old Testament Hebrews in Biblical Wars

09:45 – 10:30 Paul Kurtz (Erfurt) – ‘Thou Shalt Not Kill, Unless ...': The Decalogue in a Kaiserreich at War

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee Break

11:00 – 11:45 Tomás Irish (Swansea) – The Mobilization of University Academics, 1914-15

11:45 – 12:30 Matthew Collins (Chester) – SOTS, SBL, and WW1: Anglo-American Scholarly Societies and the Great War

12:30 – 14:30 Lunch Break

14:30 – 15:15 Hugh Pyper (Sheffield) – A Disconnected Dialogue: Adolf von Harnack, C. J. Cadoux and the Biblical Case for Peace at the Outbreak of World War I

15:15 – 16:00 James Crossley (Twickenham) – WW1, the Russian Revolution and the End of the Social World of the New Testament

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee Break

16:30 – 17:15 Timothy Demy (Newport, RI) – For Christ and Kaiser: Caspar René Gregory and the First World War

17:15 – 18:00 George Williamson (Tallahassee) – ‘Zarathustra, Faust, das Neue Testament': Alternative Bibles in World War I Germany'

18:00 – 19:30 Break

19:30 Dinner

6.4.2016

09:00 – 10:30 Plenary discussion

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:30 Advisory board meeting

12:30 Final departures

The Bible is an inescapable part of the cultural landscape of WW1. It was perhaps the single most widely-read book during the war. It offered inspiration and consolation to soldiers and civilians alike. Preachers and politicians used it to instil national pride and fighting spirit, and conscientious objectors in defence of pacifism. It offered concepts and metaphors which helped men and women make sense of their everyday experience. Its words were quoted with pious hope on gravestones and war memorials, and recast by angry poets. It was read in every language and on all sides of the conflict by Christians (Protestant, Catholic and Orthodox) and Jews. Despite the challenges of 19th-century advances in science and biblical criticism, the Bible remained at the centre of Western culture.

Yet the Bible is something of a blind spot in our understanding of the Great War and its legacy. It is a popular commonplace that the war provoked a crisis of belief across the Western world. In Britain, at least, the war has regularly been seen as the epitome of waste and futility, and a source of deep disenchantment with traditional religious values. Nevertheless, historians increasingly recognize that religious faith remained a fundamental source of identity, conviction and morale both in the trenches and on the home front. The centrality of the Bible to that faith is clear from the millions of Bibles printed and distributed each year of the war (especially to soldiers), the thousands of biblical sermons preached every week, and the continued vitality of both popular and scholarly publishing on biblical themes. The Bible and biblical interpretation therefore offer an important lens through which to examine the religious and cultural experience of a world at war, especially since it is a fundamental common point of reference across different religious traditions, institutions and national contexts.

Our project will focus on two main questions: How did the Bible shape and influence people's experience of WW1, and how did the war impact its reading and interpretation? To address these questions we will set up three workshops to discuss the Bible in wartime culture. These will focus on the contribution of biblical scholars and the development of scholarship during the war, the use of the Bible on the front lines by Jewish and Christian soldiers, the role of the Bible

in preaching and popular piety, and the place of the Bible in the memory and legacy of the war. We will attend to both the Allied and the Central Powers, allowing comparison of different national and religious contexts.

Our first workshop, held in Munich, will focus on the theme: 'The Mobilization of Biblical Scholarship, 1914-1918'. The outbreak of war in August 1914 saw the involvement of biblical scholars on a number of fronts. Some joined up as soldiers, as in the case of the Leipzig NT Professor Caspar René Gregory, who at 67 was Germany's oldest volunteer. More commonly, biblical scholars and theologians put pen to paper as part of the torrent of patriotic publication that arose on both sides of the conflict. In many cases scholars were repeating or refining common arguments about the responsibility for the war. But we also find numerous more specialized works, where biblical scholars brought their own disciplinary expertise to bear on the matter of war in general, and this war in particular. Our main task during the workshop will be to examine this intersection between biblical studies and the challenges of a world at war.

Location

80539 Munich
Geschwister-Scholl-Platz 1
Room M 209

Organisation

Prof. Dr. Loren Stuckenbruck
Dr. Andrew Mein
Dr. Nathan MacDonald

Contact

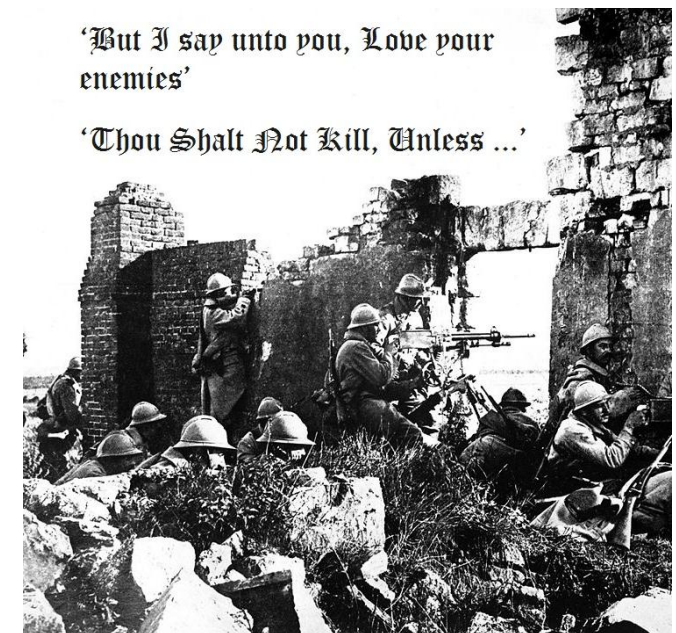
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Ludwig-
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The Book and the Sword

The Bible in the Experience and Legacy of the Great War



French soldiers amongst the ruins of a cathedral near the Marne, 1918.

Workshop 1:

The Mobilization of Biblical Scholarship

3.-6.4.2016