THE EAST ASIAN DIMENSION
OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR
THE ‘GERMAN-JAPANESE WAR’ AND CHINA, 1914-1919

THE FIRST WORLD WAR had a tremendous impact on the political, economic and social development of numerous countries on all continents. However, scholarship on the First World War has largely focussed on the belligerent nations of Europe, the United States. Only recently has the globality of the First World War begun to receive more scholarly attention and there is a growing body of research on nations which were only marginally involved in the war, such as the East Asian nations of Japan and China.

The conference brings together historians, both distinguished senior scholars and excellent young researchers, from Germany, Japan, Taiwan and the People’s Republic of China to engage in discussions on key issues related to the history of the First World War in East Asia.

Presentations address the war between Japan and Germany over the German possessions in China, but will also examine how the war in Europe was represented in contemporary media, how it affected the military and economic development of East Asian nations and how the war is publicly remembered until present day. These issues will be examined from the perspectives of diplomatic and political history, media history, social and economic history and public history.

The conference is part of a series of academic events which explore the global dimension of the First World War focussing on East Asia. Another conference on “Observing the First World War from the ‘Periphery’: Knowledge Transfer and the Transformation of Societies” at the Freie Universität Berlin (8-9 November, 2014) will include case studies from South Asia, Southeast Asia, Latin America and the European nations of Portugal and Spain.

During the conference in Bochum the belongings of two German soldiers imprisoned in Japan during the First World War will be displayed in a small exhibition that was prepared by students of the Ruhr-Universität Bochum (Sandra Bischoff, Farina Fabricius, Teelka Groeneveld, Lisa Hammelke, Timm Haucke, Joschka Müllers, Stephan Rath, Marcus Rothkegel).

The conference is open to scholars and students and to the general public.

ORGANISERS AND PARTNERS

ORGANISERS

Dr. des. Jan Schmidt  (Ruhr-Universität Bochum)
Prof. Dr. Katja Schmidtott (Freie Universität Berlin)

PARTNERS

Federal Foreign Office
Rectorate of the Ruhr-Universität Bochum
Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Department of Japanese History
Freie Universität Berlin, Institute of Japanese Studies
Japanese Culture Institute, Cologne – Japan Foundation
Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science Alumni Club Germany
JaDe-Foundation, Cologne
National Museum of History, Japan
Institute for Research in Humanities, Kyoto University
(International Project “Trans-Disciplinary Studies on the First World War”)
Municipal Archive – Bochum Centre for Municipal History
Arts Council Tokyo

INTERPRETERS

Shinohe Yōko (team leader), Hiromi Waldenberger, Yoshiko Döring, Dr. Xue Siliang, Julia Kahlich-Zhang, Hartmut Pilch
Simultaneous interpreting throughout the conference

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OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR
The ‘German-Japanese War’ and China, 1914-1919

International Conference
Ruhr-Universität Bochum
Event Centre (Veranstaltungszentrum), Room 2a
5 - 7 September 2014

Conference languages: Chinese, German, Japanese

RUHR-UNIVERSITÄT BOCHUM
Kontakt:
Sektion Geschichte Japans
Fakultät für Ostasienwissenschaften
Gebäude GB 139 | Universitätsstraße 150 | D-44801 Bochum
Fon +49 (0)234 32-26255 | Fax +49 (0)234 32-14693
Teelka.Groeneveld@ruhr-uni-bochum.de
www.rub.de/gj
FRIDAY, 5 SEPTEMBER 2014

Welcome Addresses

Welcome address: Prof. Dr. Jörg PLASSEN, Dean of the Faculty of East Asian Studies

Welcome address: Prof. Dr. Regina MATHIAS, Chair in Japanese History

Keynote lecture I: “The First World War as a Global War”

Chair: Prof. Dr. Regine MATHIAS (Ruhr-Universität Bochum)

16:00-17:00

Coffee break

Section 2: Keynote Lectures

Chair: Prof. Dr. Regine MATHIAS (Ruhr-Universität Bochum)

Keynote lecture I: “The First World War as a Global War”

Prof. Dr. Oliver JANZ (Freie Universität Berlin)

16:00-17:00

Keynote lecture II: “War and Culture. A New Cultural History of the First World War”

Prof. i.R. Dr. Gerhard HIRSCHFELD (Universität Stuttgart)

17:00-18:00

Coffee break

SATURDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER 2014

Section 3: People and War

Chair: Prof. Dr. Katja SCHMIDTPOTT (Freie Universität Berlin)

“The Japanese who heard the ‘Guns of August’: The Outbreak of the First World War and the Japanese Internes in Germany”

Prof. Dr. NARAOKA Soichi (Kyoto University)

9:30-10:00

“The Treatment of German Prisoners in War in the Global Context of the First World War”

Prof. Dr. des. Jan SCHMIDTPOTT (Heusweiler-Kutzhof, Germany)

10:00-10:30

Coffee break

“The Aomoriha POW Camp: A Miniature of the Habsburg Monarchy”

Prof. Dr. ŌTSURU Atsushi (Kobe University)

11:00-11:30

“Individual Motives for Enlisting in the Chinese Labor Corps: The Case of Laborers from Shandong”

ZHANG Yan, M.A. (Chinese University of Hong Kong)

11:30-12:00

Lunch

12:00-13:00

SUNDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER 2014

Section 4: The German Foreign Office’s Secret War in East Asia

Chair: Prof. i.R. Dr. Erich PAUER (Philips-Universität Marburg / Centre Européen d’Études Japonaises d’Alsace)

“The First World War and ‘German Agents on Horseback’”

Secret Anti-Russian German Activities in Siberia and Manchuria

9:30-10:00

“Secret Anti-Russian German Activities in Siberia and Manchuria”

Prof. Dr. TAJIMA Nobuo (Seibū University)

10:00-10:30

“The Zimmermann Telegram: Just a Bizarre Idea or Part of Political Continuity?”

PD Dr. Gerhard KREBS (Berlin)

10:30-11:00

Coffee break

Section 5: The War in the Mass Media

Chair: Prof. Dr. YUKAWA Shingo (Universität Bonn)

“Entering The First World War and Japanese Mass Media: The Emerging Japanese Consciousness as ‘the Leader of Asia’”

MOROHASHI Eiichi, M.A. (Keio University)

14:30-15:00

“From Tiger to Monkey: Changes in the German Image of Japan after the Outbreak of the War in 1914 as Exemplified by Picture Postcards”

Emar. o. Univ.-Prof. Sogo LINHART (Universität Wien)

15:00-15:30

“R6 Chūta’s Postcard Series on the First World War. A Caricature-like Chronicle of the War in Japan-centered Iconography”

Mag. Dr. Susanne FORMANEK (Universität Wien)

15:30-16:00

Coffee break

Section 6: Transnational Dissemination of Knowledge

Chair: Dr. des. Jan Schmidt (Ruhr-Universität Bochum)

“Research by the Japanese Army on Wartime Germany.”

Nagata Tetsuzan and the ‘Mobilisation of the Nation”

Prof. Dr. des. Jan SCHMIDTPOTT (Freie Universität Berlin)

9:30-10:00

“Japanese Bureaucrats studied the War”

Prof. Dr. des. Jan SCHMIDTPOTT (Freie Universität Berlin)

10:00-10:30

Coffee break

Concluding Discussion

Chair: Prof. Dr. Katja SCHMIDTPOTT (Freie Universität Berlin)

16:00-16:30

Discussion, Concluding Remarks

16:30-17:30