

# **The Great War in the Middle East 1911-1923**

**20-21 April 2016**

## **Royal Military Academy Sandhurst**

This major international conference, organised jointly by the War Studies Department of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and the Changing Character of War Programme at the University of Oxford, will re-examine the origins, conduct and consequences of the First World War in the Middle East. The voluminous historiography of the conflict remains, however, focused on the European experience of 1914-18. This conference brings together historians of the Middle East and the First World War to discuss this formative event and to relate the Great War to the broader period of conflict that affected the Ottoman Empire from 1911 to 1923.

The conference will provide a forum for scholars from around the world to examine the complexities of the Middle East's Great War, and to discuss new avenues for research and debate. This was a region in which the great imperial powers of the early twentieth century struggled for control, and the resulting conflict unleashed powerful nationalist, imperial, religious, and ethnic dynamics that continue to both fascinate historians and to shape the region to this day. The conference will address these inter-related factors, and their role in the breaking and making of empires and nation-states in the Middle East. In doing so, the breadth of papers and discussions will integrate military, social, cultural, and political histories together to provide a broader history of the Middle East and the First World War.

The fee for attending the conference is £200; accommodation and dinners can also be booked as optional extras. If you wish to attend please email Dr James Kitchen for a copy of the conference information pack, booking form and the security form:

[james.kitchen101@mod.uk](mailto:james.kitchen101@mod.uk)

### **Conference Programme**

**Wednesday 20 April 2016**

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| <b>09.30 – 10.30</b> | <b>Registration</b>  |
| <b>10.30 – 10.40</b> | <b>Welcome and Opening Remarks<br/>RMAS Commandant and Director of Studies</b>         |
| <b>10.40 – 12.30</b> | <b>Panel 1: Global Strategy and the Middle East<br/>Chair: Matthew Hughes (Brunel)</b> |

James Renton (Edge Hill) – The British Idea of the Middle East and its Consequences  
Hervé François (Historial de la Grande Guerre) – France  
Christopher Read (Warwick) – Russia  
Peter Lieb (ZMSBw, Potsdam) – German Policy towards the Middle East in 1918

**12.30 – 13.30            Lunch**

**13.30 – 15.30            Panel 2: Beliefs and War**  
**Chair: John Darwin (Oxford)**

Adrian Gregory (Oxford) – Western ‘Crusading’ in the Middle East  
Roberto Mazza (Limerick) – Alone, with the Enemy or With God? The Christian Churches of Palestine during the War  
Yucel Yanikdag (University of Richmond) – Ottoman Jihad  
John Slight (Cambridge) – Jihad Beyond the Ottoman Empire

**15.30 – 16.00            Break**

**16.00 – 18.00            Panel 3: Military Operations and Adaptation**  
**Chair: James Kitchen (RMAS)**

Kaushik Roy (Jadavpur) – Learning and Fighting: The Indian Army in Mesopotamia and Syria, 1914-1918  
Aimée Fox-Godden (Birmingham) – ‘From Experience Gained in France’: Disseminating and Adapting Western Front Lessons in the Middle Eastern Theatres, 1914-1918  
Metin Gurcan (Bilkent) – Gallipoli

**19.00                      Formal Conference Dinner**  
**Old College Dining Room**  
*(Optional – must be booked separately)*

**Thursday 21 April 2016**

**09.30 – 11.00            Panel 4: Imperial Home Fronts and ‘Total War’**  
**Chair: Roberto Mazza (Limerick)**

Leila Fawaz (Tufts) – Civilians and Soldiers in the Levant 1914-1918  
Mario Ruiz (Hofstra) – Martial Law, Rural Labourers, and the Egyptian Home Front, 1914-1918  
Oliver Bast (Manchester) – ‘The Rape of Persia’? – World War I in Neutral Iran as a Humanitarian Disaster

**11.00 – 11.30            Break**

**11.30 – 13.00            Panel 5: Tactics and Combat in the Middle East**  
**Chair: Robert Johnson (Oxford)**

David Murphy (Maynooth) – The Arab Revolt, 1916-18: Sideshow or Major Campaign?

Nikolas Gardner (RMC Canada) – Tactics and Morale in Indian Expeditionary Force ‘D’, 1915-1916

**13.00 – 14.00            Lunch**

**14.00 – 15.30            Panel 6: Building and Challenging Post-War Empires**  
**Chair: Peter Lieb (ZMSBw, Potsdam)**

James Kitchen (RMAS) – Egypt 1919: The British Army and Counter-Revolutionary Operations

Robert Fletcher (Warwick) – Imperial Frontiers

Michael Provenge (UCSD) – Ottoman Military Culture and Anti-colonial Insurgency in Greater Syria

**15.30 – 16.00            Break**

**16.00 – 17.30            Panel 7: Representations of the First World War in the Middle East**  
**Chair: Adrian Gregory (Oxford)**

Justin Fantauzzo (Memorial University, St John’s) – Amongst Gypos, Jews, Arabs, and Abdul: Imperial Soldiers and the Levant in Inter-war Fiction

Nadia Atia (QMUL) – Murder in Mesopotamia: Agatha Christie’s Life and Work in the Middle East

Jenny Macleod (Hull) – Memory/Representation of Gallipoli

Gizem Tongo (Oxford) – Ottoman Art of the First World War

**19.00                      Buffet Dinner**  
**Victory College Dining Room**  
*(Optional – must be booked separately)*