

IN THE EAST WAR WITHOUT END, 1918–1923

5 OCTOBER 2018 - 20 JANUARY 2019

While the conflicts in Western Europe came to an end on 11 November 1918, fighting in Eastern Europe and the Near East continued until 1923. The exhibition retraces the fall of four great empires — Russian, Ottoman, Austro-Hungarian and German — and explores this little-known period in history marked by revolutions, civil wars, major border shifts and the creation of new states.

In the wake of the Russian February and October revolutions and the signing of the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk between Russia and the Central Powers on 3 March 1918, fighting seemed to be diminishing in the east despite the Russian Civil War. However, in the west, the signing of this treaty allowed Germany to redeploy 50 divisions to the Western Front. From the 21 March, fighting became fiercer, and in spring Germany launched a series of short-lived attacks. In August 1918, the allied forces launched a counterattack and forced the German Empire into negotiating an armistice that was finalised on 11 November 1918.

While fighting between the warring parties came to an end in the west, a loose conglomeration of internal disturbances, sometimes in the form of civil wars and international conflicts, arose between the new countries created by the breakdown of the former Russian, Ottoman, Austro-Hungarian and German empires that followed their military setbacks. This situation resulted in violence and instability, whose repercussions can still be seen today. Under these circumstances, the resolution of the First World War turned out to be as complex as it was fragile. Various treaties were drawn up following hard-fought negotiations and were soon contested. The Treaty of Sèvres, signed on 10 August 1920 by Turkey and the Allies, was extensively amended and then replaced by the Treaty of Lausanne, signed on 24 July 1923.



The exhibition sets out to trace the difficult path taken in the east, from Finland to Lebanon, between 1918 and 1923, as the former empires gave way to new nation-states, and the various revolutions and counter-revolutions sparked the emergence of totalitarian radicalisation. It shows how, in this troubled context, France tried, with some difficulty, to put its military dominance to use in bringing stability to the region within a complex partnership of allies.

While we often think of the Treaty of Versailles, signed on 28 June 1919, as bringing the First World War to an end, the exhibition draws visitors' attention to the east, giving them a better understanding of the issues and features of the many crises that followed on the heels of the Great War.

A visit in five stages

The visit begins with the fall of the great European empires. Next, in a gilded, palatial setting the exhibition portrays how the treaties that redefined Europe came about, with a particular focus on the reorganisation of Eastern Europe. Visitors can then set out on their journey to the east, to Germany, Poland, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Ukraine and Russia, before turning to the situation in Central Europe: Austria, Hungary, Romania, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, and Albania. The journey concludes with the countries of the Levant: Greece, Turkey, Syria and Lebanon.

THE EXHIBITION IN FIGURES

270 works, objects and documents

31 lenders from 11 different European countries

16 archive films presented at the exhibition

Three key themes provide a common thread throughout the exhibition:

- the first theme is the question of nationalities, as the four great empires crumbled and the multi-national areas were divided into nation-states. Five years of complex struggles paved the way for today's states;
- the second theme centres on revolution and civil war: from 1918 to 1923, the Bolshevik revolutionaries tried to get the people of Germany, Hungary and Poland to follow in their footsteps. Revolutions and counter-revolutions brought turmoil to every corner of Europe with violent events that caused huge numbers of civilian casualties;
- the third theme is the intervention of France and her allies: in this difficult context, France took on the role of main military power. France was often induced to intercede to restore order and introduce political stability. French diplomats and soldiers were present throughout Europe.

The exhibition immerses visitors in this process of construction of a new Europe, and in a historical and geographic space little known in France thanks to a compelling design, using materials such as wooden boxes and metal racks that suggest the world of archives, the hidden face of history.

DID YOU KNOW?

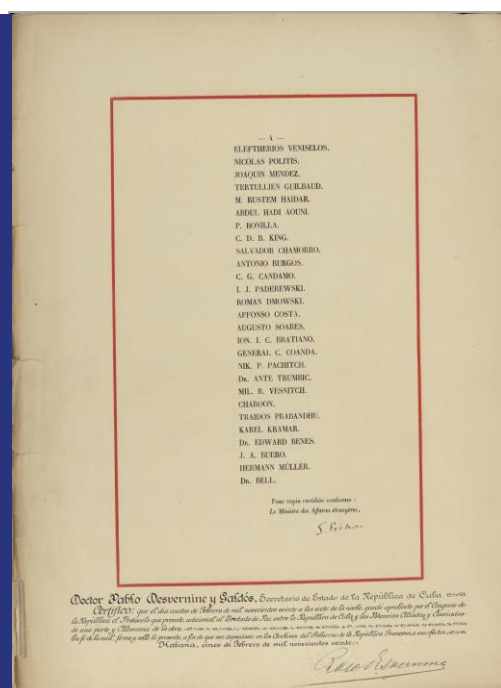
Cuban ratification of the Treaty of Versailles

The Republic of Cuba, with close political ties to the USA, declared war on Germany a day after the Americans, on 7 April 1917. Unlike its larger neighbour, the Cuban parliament agreed to ratify the Treaty of Versailles, signed by France on 28 June 1919. Cuba was one of the lesser powers whose ratification neither delayed nor triggered the treaty, which came into force in January 1920. However, its participation illustrates the global nature of the conflict and the international process of resolution that began in 1919.

The exhibition features the original instrument of Cuban ratification, signed in Havana on 5 February 1920.

Treaty of Versailles signed by France on 28 June 1919; original instrument of Cuban ratification, signed in Havana on 5 February 1920

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A labelled exhibition



Patronage

The exhibition is under the patronage of Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic.

Institutional partners

The exhibition is organized with the support of CIC, a key partner to the Musée de l'Armée, and the First World War Centenary Partnership Program, and in partnership with the diplomatic archives of the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, Gaumont Pathé Archives, ECPAD, the Service historique de la Défense and the musée départemental Albert-Kahn, Département des Hauts-de-Seine.



Scientific committee

The exhibition's scientific committee is made up of eleven historians and curators. The committee president is John Horne, professor of contemporary European history at Trinity College (Dublin).

Exhibition curators – Musée de l'Armée

Lieutenant-Colonel Christophe Bertrand, Curator at the Contemporary Department

François Lagrange, Head of the Historical Research, Educational Activities and Outreach

Carine Lachèvre, Assistant Curator for the Historial Charles de Gaulle

Emmanuel Ranvoisy, Assistant Curator for the Contemporary Department, Head of Film-Related Activities

Publication

Catalogue co-published with Éditions Gallimard.

Exhibition layout

Agence Klapisch Claisse – graphic design by Julie Linotte.

Young visitors and adult visitors

- **Children resources**
Special panels combined with a games booklet (in French and English) for young visitors provide an informative and fun way of finding out all about the exhibition's objects, artworks and archives. The youngest visitors are invited to meet the challenge of using a visual detail to find a specific object or artwork, with a little gift as a prize!
- **Family visits**
The museum offers a family visit of the exhibition for visitors who can learn about this complex period while meeting a number of challenges.
The guided tour is suitable for families (children from 9 upwards) and school groups.
17 October 2018 to 16 January 2019 – 1 and a half to 2 hours – bookings: jeunes@musee-armee.fr
- **Guided exhibition tour**
Guided by a lecturer, set out on a voyage of discovery around the former great empires of Europe and discover the major issues of this little-known period of history. The tour will tell

you all about the geographical area and the reality of the conflicts covered by the exhibition, from Eastern Europe to the countries of the Levant.

5 October 2018 to 20 January 2019 – 1 and a half hours – bookings: contact@cultural.fr or +33 (0) 825 05 44 05

Around the exhibition

- **Concert cycle *Silence of Weapons and Songs of the Land***

11 October – 18 December 2018

This cycle of nine concerts, *Silence of Weapons and Songs of the Land*, gives voice to the time-honoured songs that accompanied the new nation-states as they arose from the ashes of the fallen empires. These traditional songs, rooted in their native soil, have been compiled by composers including Kodály, Janáček and Bartók. The concerts benefit from the support of the First World War Centenary Partnership Program, and are part of the commemorative and heritage musical programme supported by the heritage, memory and archives division of the French Ministry of the Armed Forces.

Information and bookings: saisonmusicale.musee-armee.fr – +33 (0) 1 44 42 54 66

- **Conference cycle *1918–1923: The Great War is over, the fighting goes on***

19 October – 18 December 2018

In partnership with the Université Permanente de la Ville de Paris, the cycle is made up of four conferences exploring military, political and diplomatic history. With the participation of Julie d'Andurain (Université de Lorraine), Philippe Nivet (Université de Picardie Jules Verne), Isabelle Davion (Université de Paris-Sorbonne) and Étienne Forestier-Peyrat (Sciences-Po Lille).

The cycle will also propose two symposiums and a round table session.

The conference cycle is organised in partnership with the Université Permanente de la Ville de Paris. Admission free subject to seat availability – information and bookings: histoire@musee-armee.fr

- **Film cycle**

19 – 23 November 2018

A film cycle specially programmed for the exhibition illustrates the way in which the upheavals that marked the east and the Levant during this period have been depicted on the screen, with a selection of fiction films, a documentary shown in public for the first time, and a special session dedicated to deciphering archive films.

Admission free subject to seat availability – bookings on line at musee-armee.fr

Practical information

Full programme on musee-armee.fr

Opening hours: the exhibition is open every day, except 25 December 2018 and 1 January 2019; 10am to 6pm (until 31 October 2018) then 10am to 5pm (from 1 November 2018).

Prices (permanent exhibition and collections): €12, reduced price €10, free for children under 18
Guided tours: adults (contact@cultural.fr – +33 (0) 825 05 44 05); families, school groups and students (jeunes@musee-armee.fr)

Musée de l'Armée

Hôtel national des Invalides, 129, rue de Grenelle, 75007 Paris

musee-armee.fr

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Contact Presse

Agence Alambret Communication

Hermine Peneau: hermine@alambret.com - 01 48 87 70 77