

The Twentieth Century

# Europe in Three Wars

*Syllabus 2023*



summerschool  
UTRECHT



Universiteit Utrecht

# The 20<sup>th</sup> Century: Europe in Three Wars

## Materials

Ian Kershaw: To Hell and Back. Europe 1914-1949, London: Penguin Books 2015, ch. 2

Ian Kershaw: To Hell and Back, ch. 8 ("Hell on Earth")

Tony Judt: Postwar. A History of Europe since 1945, London: W. Heinemann 2005, ch. 5 (Coming of the Cold War), ch. 6 (Into the Whirlwind), ch. 7 (Culture Wars)

or Ian Kershaw: Roller-Coaster. Europe 1950-1917, London: Penguin Books 2018, ch.1

## Period

31 July – 11 August 2023

## Credits

3.0 ECTS + Certificate of Attendance

## Faculty

### **Benjamin Hirschfeld, MA**

Utrecht University, Faculty of Humanities

Course Coordinator

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### **Dr. Julie Deschepper**

Utrecht University, Faculty of Humanities

Coordinator Summer School

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## Utrecht Summer School

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# The 20<sup>th</sup> Century: Europe in Three Wars

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# The 20<sup>th</sup> Century: Europe in Three Wars

## Introduction

**When asked about the twentieth century, most people's first association are either Hitler or the Second World War. But during the twentieth century, Europe not just experienced one, but three horrific wars: the First and Second World War and the Cold War that followed in their wake. Often, the first half of the twentieth century has therefore been labelled "The Era of Violence", and perhaps rightly so. But this century might as well be regarded as an age of rebuilding, transatlantic collaboration, and global connections, thus making the twentieth century much more diverse.**

This course will introduce you to a variety of questions relating to the First and Second World Wars: Why did these wars occur and what caused them to happen? What were the consequences on a human and political level? How did international society deal with it? What circumstances caused the Cold War to follow in its aftermath? You will study questions pertaining directly to these three wars, but you will also gain insight into major changes that took place in other areas of society. These changes included the way people lived, new political ideas and ideologies, key economic developments and profound progress in science and technology. The twentieth century may have seen more technological and scientific progress than all the other centuries combined since the dawn of civilization. You will receive lectures on a variety of historic topics; spanning not only the histories of the three wars but also topics such as international cooperation and multilateralism, which resulted in international organizations such as the United Nations, the relationship of the United States to Europe, decolonization, and the fall of communism. You will also be taken on several excursions, for example to the battlefields of the First World War at Ypres in Belgium, to the Jewish Cultural Quarter in Amsterdam, and to the Representation of the European Commission in The Hague in The Netherlands.

**Disclaimer: Depending on factors such as the size of the travel group and opening times/availability of some offers, individual parts of the excursions might change. Please check the Summer School website and contact the course coordinator(s) for updates.**

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## Academic Program 31 Jul – 11 Aug 2023

### Week 1

#### Monday, 31 July – The First World War

**10.00-10.45**                      **Welcome and Introduction to the Course**

Lecturer: Benjamin Hirschfeld  
Location: t.b.a

**11.00-12.00**                      **Seminar 1. The Rise of Socialism and Nationalism; the Foundations of World War I**

Lecturer : t.b.a.  
Location: t.b.a.  
Literature: Ian Kershaw: To Hell and Back. Europe 1914-1949, London: Penguin Books 2015, chapter 2

**13.00-15.00**                      **Lecture 1. World War I; the Great War and the Path to World War 2**

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Gerhard Hirschfeld  
Location: t.b.a.

#### Tuesday, 1 August – The First World War

#### **FULL DAY EXCURSION TO YPRES, BELGIUM**

- In Flander's Fields Museum, Ypres
- Old battlefields, trenches and cemeteries
- Last Post, Menenpoort Ypres

Do not forget to bring your passport on this excursion!

#### Wednesday, 2 August – The Interwar Period: The Rise of Totalitarianism

**10.00-12.00**                      **Lecture 2. The Rise of Antisemitism**

Lecturer: **Geraldien van Frijtag Drabbe Künzel**  
Location: t.b.a.

**13.00-15.00 Seminar 2. Fascism and Nazism on the Rise**

Lecturer: Benjamin Hirschfeld  
Location: t.b.a.  
Literature: **WW 2: Ian Kershaw: To Hell and Back, chapter 8**

**18.00: mail your presentation topic (topics a and b)!**

Thursday, 3 August – The Second World War

**FULL DAY EXCURSION TO AMSTERDAM**

- War and Resistance Museum
- Jewish Historical Museum
- Holocaust Memorial
- Jewish Cultural Quarter and Holocaust memorial centre Hollandsche Schouwburg

Friday, 4 August – The Second World War

**10.00-12.00 Seminar 3 (t.b.a. topic on WW2)**

Lecturer: Benjamin Hirschfeld  
Location: t.b.a.  
Literature: no literature

Presentations!

**13.00-15.00 Lecture 3. 'Where the war was won: the fighting of the Second World War, 1939-1945, and extreme violence'**

Lecturer: Dr. Martijn Lak  
Location: t.b.a.

**18.00: mail your presentation topic (topic c)!**

Saturday 6 August – Sunday 7 August

Self-study and free time

## Week 2

### Monday, 7 August – The Cold War

**10.00-12.00**                    **Lecture 4. Comparison of First and Second World War or How the Dutch dealt with the NS Occupation and the Holocaust after the Second World War**

Lecturer:            Prof. Dr. Gerhard Hirschfeld  
Location:            t.b.a.

**13.00-15.00**                    **Seminar 4. The Cold War. (t.b.a.)**

Lecturer:            Benjamin Hirschfeld  
Location:            t.b.a.  
Literature:            Tony Judt: Postwar. A History of Europe since 1945, London: W. Heinemann 2005, ch. 5 (Coming of the Cold War), ch. 6 (Into the Whirlwind), ch. 7 (Culture Wars)

### Tuesday, 8 August – International cooperation

#### **FULL DAY EXCURSION TO The Hague**

- Representation of European Commission

### Wednesday, 9 August – Conclusion

**10:00-12:00**                    **Seminar 5. Europe in Three Wars: Conclusions**

Lecturer:            Benjamin Hirschfeld  
Location:            t.b.a.  
Literature:            t.b.a.

**13:00-15:00**                    **Lecture 5. 1989 and After: Europe at ‘The End of History’**

Lecturer:            t.b.a.  
Location:            t.b.a.

Thursday, 10 August – Exam

**12.00**                      **Hand in your intellectual journal (by e-mail)**

**13:00-15:00**              **Final Exam**

Location:            t.b.a.

Literature:        All literature, lectures, seminars and excursions

Friday, 11 August – Certificates

**10:00-13:00**              **Presentation of Certificates and farewell drinks**

Location:            t.b.a.

Note: Moving-out day: deposit keys at the Presentation of Certificates



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## The (guest) lecturers

**Dr. Martijn Lak** is a historian and lecturer at Utrecht University and the University Amsterdam. He obtained his PhD in 2011 with a thesis on Dutch-German economic and political relations between 1945-1957. He is specialised in post-war Dutch-German relations, modern Germany, military history and the Second World War, in particular the Eastern Front. Lak is editor-in-chief of *The Journal of Slavic Military Studies*, and 'Corresponding Member' of the Editorial Board of *The Journal of Military History*. He lectures on, among other courses, Modern History.

**Dr. Geraldien von Frijtag Drabbe Künzel** is Assistant Professor at the Department of Political History. She has been research fellow of the International Institute for Holocaust Research Yad Vashem, Israel (2011) and recipient of the Research Grant of the Gerda Henkel Foundation (2012-2013) and the NWO Aspasia Grant (2015). She received her Ph.D. in history from the University of Amsterdam in 1999, on German criminal courts in the occupied Netherlands as an instrument of Nazi-policy (1940-1945). Geraldien writes and lectures on contemporary European history, with a particular emphasis on the Holocaust, Nazi-occupied Europe, political violence, conflict and war in twentieth century Europe. She has published in several languages.

**Benjamin Hirschfeld MA**, is a lecturer at the Department for Cultural History at Utrecht University and a PhD student at the University of Amsterdam in Cooperation with the Duitsland Instituut Amsterdam. He is currently finishing his PhD on the collaboration of German and Dutch cultural anthropologists with the military in the course of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**Prof. Dr. Gerhard Hirschfeld**, professor emeritus of Stuttgart University, is a German historian and expert on both the First and Second World War. From 1989-2008, Hirschfeld was the director of the Library for Contemporary History (Bibliothek for Zeitgeschichte) in Stuttgart.

T.b.a.

T.b.a.

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## The excursions

### In Flanders' Fields, Ypres – 1 August

The day will start at the **In Flanders' Fields Museum** at Ypres, Belgium. This museum is located on the first floor of the Ypres Cloth Hall on the market square and is fully dedicated to the First World War.. The museum leads the visitor through the history of the First World War through personal stories of how the war affected the lives of individuals of different nationalities.

After lunch, we will visit some battlefield sites and graveyards in the vicinity of Ypern: Spanbroekmolen Mine Crater, Bayernwald, Tyne Cot and Langemark. We will end the day by attending the Last Post at the Menenpoort at Ypern (every evening since 1928 at 20.00h).

### Amsterdam, Second World War – 3 August

Our excursion to Amsterdam brings us first to the Dutch Resistance Museum, where a tour guide will introduce the German occupation 1940-1945. We will learn not only about the relatively small resistance movements, but also about the victims of Nazi persecution, collaborators with the German regime and the majority of people who tried to live their lives as normally as they could under abnormal circumstances.

After having lunch, we will visit the Jewish Historical Museum which is located in a monumental synagogue. A guided tour will take us around the historical Jewish Cultural Quarter and we will visit the new Holocaust Memorial. Our tour ends at the Hollandse Schouwburg (Dutch Theater). In this building, Jewish citizens of Amsterdam were temporarily detained, awaiting transportation to concentration camps. It is also the site of a daring rescue operation that saved the lives of around 600 children.

### The Hague, European Integration & International Cooperation – 8 August

This excursion will bring us to the Peace Palace in The Hague. It houses the Permanent Court of Arbitration, the United Nations International Court of Justice and The Hague Academy of International Law. 'capital of Europe' and the institutions of the European Union. At the visitors' centre, a contemporary exhibition and an impressive film will give you an introduction to the establishment of the Peace Palace and the judicial institutions.

We are furthermore expected at the Europe House, home of the Representation of the European Commission in The Hague and the European Parliament Liaison office in the Netherlands. Here, we will participate in roleplay on decision-making within the EU. Pupils will take their seats at the negotiating table as one of the EU Member States, the European Parliament or as an ambitious official of the European Commission.

Please note that at the various locations you'll have to present your **passport** to get access.

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# Attendance, Assessment and Grading

## Attendance

Note that full attendance is expected in all lectures, seminar sessions, and excursions. Students who are absent beyond their fault (illness, accident, etc.) should submit a medical certificate to Bas Kromhout as soon as possible. Make-up assignments are expected for all unexcused absences. Ten percentage points will be subtracted for all uncompensated absences. Students who fail more than two make-up assignments will be dropped from this course.

## Assessment

Your grade for this course will be based on three different assignments:

Presentation	20 %
Intellectual journal	40 %
Exam	40 %

### *Presentation*

Form a pair with a fellow-student, search the internet and/or the website Europeana (<http://europeana.eu/>) for an historical picture, photo, cartoon or (short) film clip that illustrates

- a. how the First World War became represented as an ideological battle between civilisation and barbarism; between good and evil;
- b. how political propaganda was used to mobilise the home front during the Second World War OR
- c. how Europe became the scene of the ideological battle between the Soviet Union and the United States in the period 1945-1989/91.

Present your source in the seminar and explain in 10 minutes what's at stake in this image and how it illustrates the battle over Europe.

- The presentation should take approximately 10 minutes;
- the presentation must be supported by PowerPoint (or any other form of digital presentation);
- the presentations on subjects a and b will be held in the seminar of Friday 7 August, the presentations on subject c will be held in the seminar of Monday 10 August;
- you must mail your digital presentation in advance to [b.s.hirschfeld@uu.nl](mailto:b.s.hirschfeld@uu.nl), no later than the evening before your presentation is due.

### *Intellectual journal*

Keep an intellectual journal during the course. This journal should include:

- very short summaries of the book chapters;
- short summaries of and critical reflections on the expert lectures and the seminars;
- reflections on the excursions, connecting these to the relevant expert lectures, the seminars and the course literature.

You need to write a journal entry on every day that there is course-related activity (lectures, seminars and excursions). The journal entries should show that you are capable of critical reflection on the themes discussed during this course and should demonstrate

how these lectures and excursions develop your understanding of the European twentieth century.

Keep a max of 500 words a day. You can also include pictures made during excursions and the picture/cartoon used for your presentation when they are relevant for making your point or illustrating a statement.

- The intellectual journal should be handed in at the final exam on Thursday 13 August at noon at the latest. You can mail it to the course leader:  
[b.s.hirschfeld@uu.nl](mailto:b.s.hirschfeld@uu.nl)

### *Exam*

The course ends with a final examination of all the course material (lectures, seminars and literature) on Thursday 10 August.

### **Grading**

Your grades will be numerical grades according to the Dutch grading system. Dutch grades range from 0 (very bad) to 10 (excellent). At Utrecht University, a 5.5 is the lowest passing grade, though note that this might be different at other (Dutch) institutions. Also note that grade inflation has not affected the Dutch grading system as much as it has some American institutions. Grades of 9 and higher are rarely given, the most common grades are between 6 and 8. The Utrecht University student registration system (Osiris) that will produce your transcript will round off all grades to whole numerals for 5 and lower, and half numbers for 5.5 and higher. Hence, ... 4 — 5 — 5.5 — 6 — 6.5 — 7 — 7.5, etc. On course work and examinations, however, it is customary to receive a grade that has not been rounded off. Pluses and minuses are sometimes used, and count for one-fourth of a point, for instance: 8- = 7,75. Meaning of numerical grades:

9.00-10.00	Excellent
8.00-8.99	Very good
7.50-7.99	Good
7.00-7.49	Very satisfactory
6.50-6.99	Satisfactory
6.00-6.49	Sufficient
5.50-5.99	Acceptable; minimum pass
5.00-5.49	Insufficient; fail
4.00-4.99	Unsatisfactory
3.00-3.99	Very unsatisfactory
2.00-2.99	Bad
0.00-1.99	Very bad

\* Note that conversion of grades that you have received in the Netherlands to grades at your home institution is the responsibility of your home institution, not Utrecht University. This chart should be used as an indication; no rights can be drawn from it.

\* Any case of plagiarism will be reported to the home institution and results in a course failure, meaning 1.00 as final grade for this course.

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## Computer Facilities

During the course, you can use several of Utrecht University's computer and printing facilities. You have received your computer login code (SOLIS ID) from the Summer School administration. If this is not the case, send them an e-mail at [summerschool@uu.nl](mailto:summerschool@uu.nl) or contact them by phone: +31 (0)302534400.

You are recommended to use one of the main computer rooms of the Faculty of Humanities in Kromme Nieuwegracht 80 (KNG 80). The computer rooms are opened from Mondays through Fridays from 08.00h to 19.00h. The computer rooms are closed on Saturdays and Sundays.

Another option is to use the computers at the University Library (UB) Innercity (Drift 27). The library is open from Monday through Fridays from 08.00h to 18.00h. It is closed on Saturdays and Sundays. Again, use your login code (SOLIS ID) to log in at any of the library computers. You can also use the computers on the standing desks to search catalogues without having to log in. However, you cannot work on these computers and there are no printing facilities.

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## Inner City University Buildings

Drift 25 – Faculty of Humanities - 3512 BR Utrecht

**Entrance at nr. 27!**



Drift 27 – University Library City Centre – 3512 BR Utrecht



Kromme Nieuwegracht 80 – Faculty of Humanities - 3512 HM Utrecht



Janskerkhof 30 – Utrecht Summer School – 3512 BN Utrecht



### **Building Summer School**

Map buildings University City Centre:

<http://www.uu.nl/EN/contactanddirections/maps/Pages/Map-City-Centre.aspx>

## The 20<sup>th</sup> Century: Europe in Three Wars Summer School Social Programme

Utrecht Summer School not only offers you a fine selection of interesting courses in all kinds of disciplines, it also aims at giving the participants an unforgettable stay. Therefore we invite all students during the months July and August to an attractive social programme, including excursions, sport activities and social gatherings. The activities will provide the perfect setting for you to get to know your classmates better and to meet international students from other Summer School courses!

Information on the Summer School Social Programme can be found on the website

[https://utrechtsummerschool.nl/social\\_programme](https://utrechtsummerschool.nl/social_programme)