

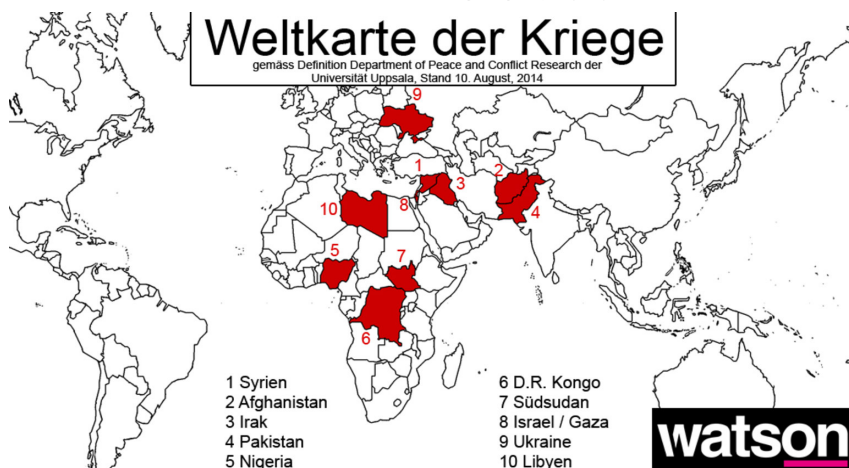
The forgotten East in Europe's memory of wars

Presence and Future of the Cultural Hereditary

Newsletter 2, August 2014, WDA, Zurich / Berlin

War coming back to Europe?

Editorial: The world wide geography of wars



The current events challenge our preparatory work for the call "heritage of wars" sketched in Newsletter 1, April, 2014; we could not imagine that the Ukrainian affairs would reach the drama of a war. The world geography located the main wars in Africa and Near East until 2013. The rivalries of world powers for the hegemony have been taking place outside of Europe. Now it seems the conflicts turn back to Europe even as open wars. The current war-like developments illustrate how the memories of war are mobilized and play crucial roles, the dramatic battles in nearly all regions of the European House.

Indeed, currently an impressive show of war commemoration days is celebrated everywhere, in East and West, North and South. In fact our task is very actual but evidently not simple. Emotions and arguments arise and create reactions in the nations concerned. How do we respond to this challenge? We concentrate the efforts on a basic deficit: the "forgotten East" in the memory of Europe. Therefore, learning starts in the East and proceeds to the West addressing the collective memories embedded in an all-European perspective. This Bulletin summarizes the "hard" criteria of the call and proposes preliminary ideas and plans.

2. August 2014

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The forgotten East and the European memory of Wars

The Eastern European network of World Drives started the project addressing the Eastern European partners and expertise from whole Europe. It targets the formation of collective memories, its

impacts on identities, perception of borders, life perspectives of young people compared to the older generations in Eastern European countries and in "memory regions" of the European House.

Excellence

Objectives

"The call has to describe them clear, measurable, realistic and achievable and consistent to the exploitation and impacts". (call)

The excellence of the proposal bases on four tasks:

> Impacts of present events on the memory tracks

> Process from the forgotten East to "memory regions" in other parts of Europe

> Research as interaction and exchange evolving from East to West

> Innovation of uses of past, tools for presentation, institution building addressing forms, contents of heritage of war

"Relation to the work programme"

The proposal responds to the crucial questions and topics explicit in the call documents. The relation to the specific points will be defined as a table in the call:

→ R means rather Research

→ I means rather Innovation

> Deepening of knowledge on local, national and European aspects of the heritage of wars and other major armed conflicts. → R

> Innovative ways, networks, tools and policy advice on how to maintain and preserve this rich and diverse elements of the European cultural heritage. → I

> Ways and means of how this heritage can be promoted in communication, education and tourism at the level of whole Europe. → I

> Putting into place new networks of researchers, local communities, education providers and specialists of heritage preservation and tourism. → I

> Research will provide genuine and innovative policy recommendations concerning the valorization, in an inclusive European perspective, of this difficult but fundamental cultural heritage of contemporary Europe. → R and I

> Strong emphasis will be put on new inter-institutional initiatives, new education tools and material that reinterpret cultural heritage and allow the development of new shared cultural perspectives in Europe. → I

It is evident that the questions are impact-oriented, the innovation is prioritized and we should strongly link the research to innovation.

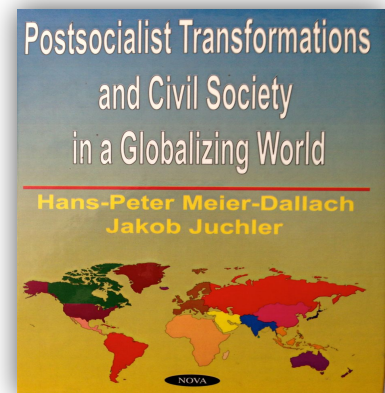
It is useful to focus on those issues to which our project is especially qualified to contribute directly and in a convincing way.

The term **"Forgotten East"** we found in the article of Włodzimierz Borodziej (Poland): "Divided and common remembering" ("Geteilte und gemeinsame Erinnerung", NZZ, [Erster Weltkrieg](#) 28.6.2014.).

On a conference in Georgia



The network World Drives and its Eastern European branch goes back to the year 1990. Starting with a Chernobyl project it expanded to a cooperation which executed INTAS projects, conferences in different countries: Belarus, Bulgaria, Georgia, Poland, Russia, Ukraine. World Society Foundation funded initial projects.



In the first periods of post-soviet era the roads to civil societies have been the predominant issue of research and discussion. A series of joint conferences addressed the transformation of Central Eastern and NIS, New Independent States, and Balkan countries. The shift from that focus to the heritage of wars since 2000 (date of edition) was not expected but has evidently its roots in global changes and crises.

Concepts and approach

The concept will be oriented to the approach:

- 1.) The role of war heritage in the dynamics of memory building is defined.
- 2.) A model of collective memory of war is explicated on a microscopic and macroscopic level.
- 3.) The memory regions are made explicit as basic for the concept as well as for the approach: its spatial and temporal frames.
- 4.) The empirical, discursive and innovative potential of concepts are described.

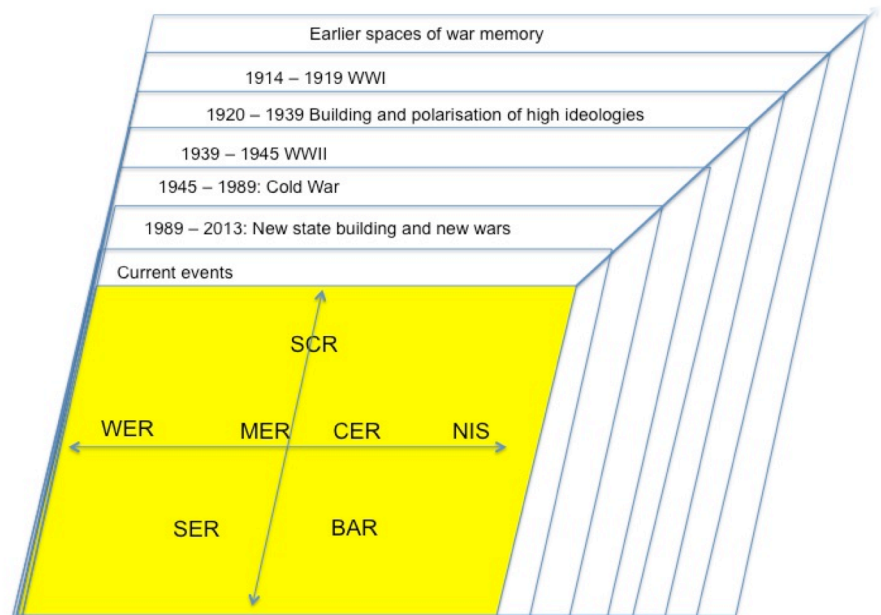
The concept / approach is illustrated by two figures (right side):

There is a paper available in German exploring the concept more in detail.

There are in general different empirical levels, the one is the microscopic memory of individuals and groups; the macroscopic levels consider collective memories on higher levels. Seven memory regions are described embracing countries as neighbors. Such a spatial geography of European heritage and memories of war is evidently much more complex than the graphic suggests. Modern forms of war are trans-national and even trans-continental and deterritorialized.

The memory regions and its probably very different experiences of war and periods vary from one time period to the other. Each case in the project will be described by the commonalities, differences and contrasts of how the collective memory tracks are continuous or changing. For instance, although Switzerland is in the same memory region its contrast to Germany and Austria is evident. However, the war-memory impacted the Swiss nation strongly.

The seven memory regions and its time spaces of war and war-like events



The figures illustrate the concept and approach of collective memory of war. The project should invest the efforts to make visible and concrete (empirically powerful) the country-specific perspectives. The seven memory regions and seven time spaces of memory deliver a first framework for developing the instruments of analysis, documentation, guidelines for interviews.

Strategies and phases

How to concentrate the efforts on research and innovation?

The project has to focus the efforts on regional and temporal scopes: "The Forgotten East - Heritage and future of wars":

→ Phase I: The project starts with the Eastern NIS fieldwork – conceptual, empirical studies of the cases.

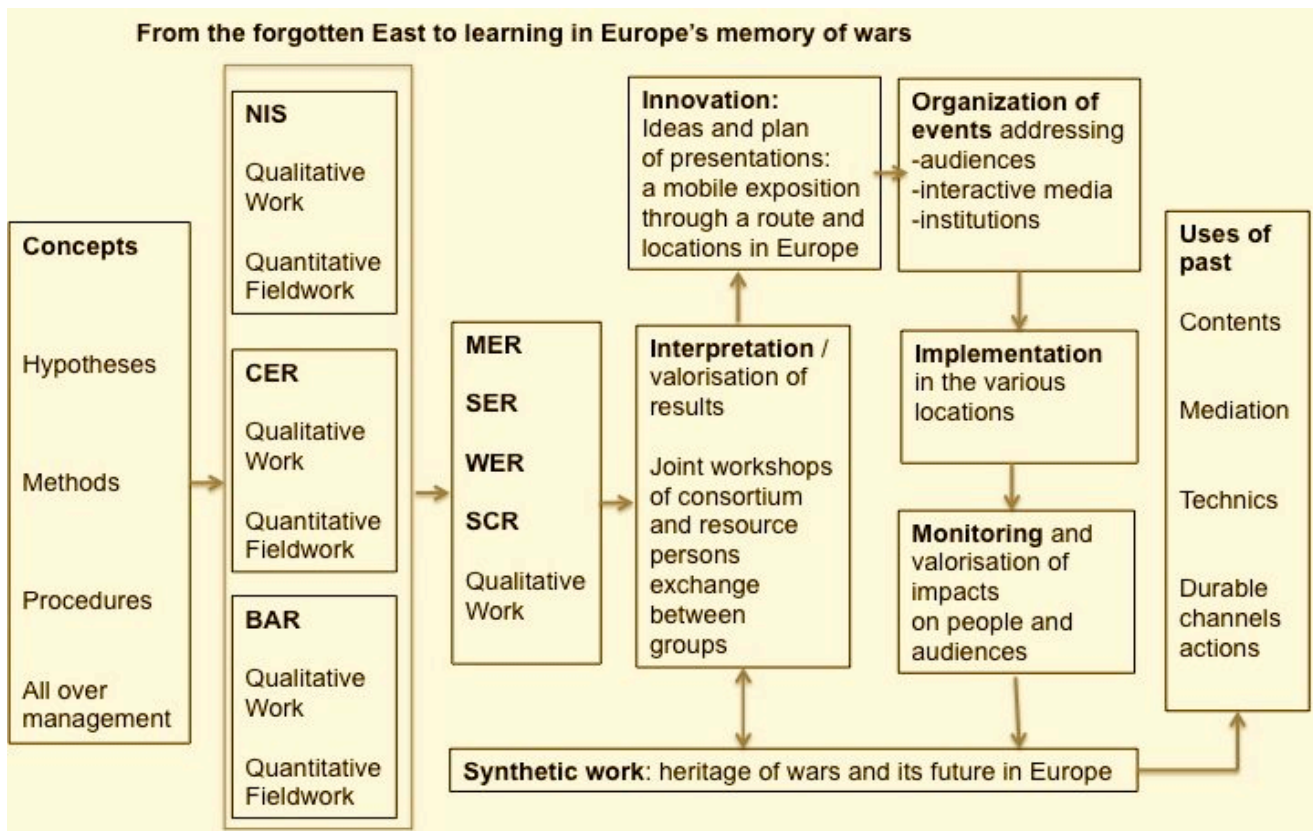
→ Phase II: The results become presented and mediated to the other "Western" partners and leaders of the other "memory regions".

→ Phase III: The results are interpreted, evaluated in panels by the whole network: The non-NIS teams elaborate their own, probably reduced, field work and documentations fruitful in order to gather relevant comparative insights.

→ Phase IV: The team specialized in communication and design develops the presentations addressing various audiences and actors, for instance, a mobile exposition located in public locations in the different regions, using interactive facilities to respond and participate in the revelation process of memories.

→ Phase V: The resonance and evaluations of the effects are completing the "uses of past" proceeding from the Eastern to the Western memory regions – its like a trans-border learning process. The different channels of memory and uses of past become transparent.

→ Phase VI: Durable impacts are searched by involving relevant actors: educational, cultural and touristic innovations in general as well as in specific countries and locations.



The overview is provisional but underlines the proceeding from "Eastern" to the "Western" hemisphere, a kind of interactive learning and linking research (quantitative, qualitative) to innovation. The map can be read as phases formulated above. The abbreviation of memory regions, see figures p. 3.

The organization of the network

Network: leaders, participants, partners, resource persons

The map shows the state of the organization of the leaders; each memory region operates under the direction of a leader.

NIS embraces under the direction of D. Rotman the Eastern European hemisphere with partners and participants explicitly listed on the following page. This structure is already perfectly established. They are looking back to continuous cooperation, mainly operating comparative surveys but also qualitative methods.

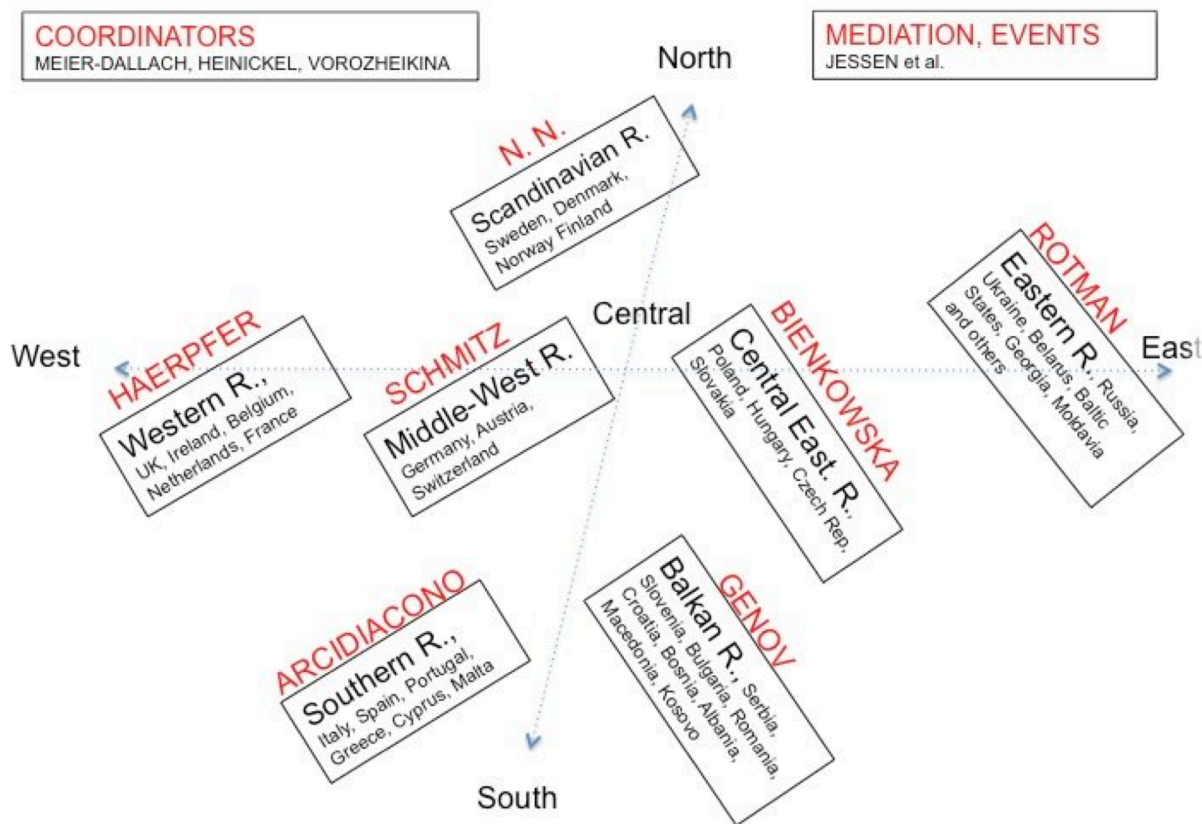
The leaders of the other memory regions are named in the map and agreed to cooperate and/or to take a leader role looking at the nations selected for the fieldwork and the steps of valorization of results. It is crucial to complete and establish the final organization.

It is necessary to include **efficient organizations and experts of innovation**, i.e. mediation processes, communication and organization of events. A first contact is initiated with IBIS (J. Jessen) but we should generate a list of probable places and events in the various memory regions.

Joint meetings and conferences will play an essential role; therefore we have to develop a plan of joint meetings already in the proposal.

The mediation and diffusion of results will be supported by **excellent resource persons** with deep insights into the “memory of war” in specific places who enrich the synthetic work as well as ideas for diffusion and future uses of past.

The organization plan foresees a **steering committee** including all leaders of memory regions who share the responsibility as well as the all over management with the coordinators.



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Composing the whole network: With the exception of Lithuania all NIS cases are Non EU-members but eligible as associated partners. We should build an optimal network including EU-members by the leaders: Central Eastern E. Region (**Poland**), Balkan R. (**Slovenia, Bulgaria**, Romania), Middle European R. (**Germany**), South Eastern R. (**Italy**), Western Europe R. (**UK**, Scotland), Scandinavian R. (**N.N.**) **Very relevant is the institutional background and profile of the leaders.**

Documents, expositions and uses of war heritage

- At the occasion of the anniversary 1914 – 2014 of WWI we observe and collect an impressing activity creating and presenting documents in nearly all countries of Europe. Additionally to the collection of literature addressing the issue we should carefully collect the information concerning the uses of past in the various forms (material, literal, artistic, virtual, event touristic culture).

- Thereby we should use the occasion for contacts with persons and institutions relevant in the memory of wars in a region, which we include into the corresponding points of the call.

Executive summary

Looking forward the following tasks are in the next time relevant:

→ Reflection and responses addressing the present state of the work and preparation

→ Ideas for innovation and its implementation

→ Statements addressing the memory regions, the national cases

→ Information concerning the network, institutional backgrounds

We are very grateful for – also a short – response until the 5th of September 2014.

The coordinators operate with a ppt version as a work-in-progress tool. We sent the first version to you and the second one will follow.

We outlined some issues in a more elaborated form as papers (available in German). "Das kulturelle Erbe des Kriegs in Europa", "Krieg und Weltgesellschaft", "Das Europäische Haus und das Gedächtnis der Kriege", "Wojna I Mir", Bulletin I (English).
