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Digital photos available upon request

**Twitter-ready Statement:** This wknd, 125 guests from 7 countries to meet @theWWImuseum in #KansasCity to discuss #WWI centennial.  
<http://ow.ly/jg1Mq> #WWIcentconf

**Shedding Light on “A Century in the Shadow of the Great War”**

National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial Hosts International Centennial Planning Conference March 22-24, 2013

This weekend, more than 125 participants from seven countries will gather at the National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial for “A Century in the Shadow of the Great War,” an international centennial planning conference.

The three-day event will provide a unique opportunity for participants to conduct preliminary discussions, formulate plans and develop collaborative initiatives for the international commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of World War I (2014-2018).

“As the American partner in international commemorative planning, we are proud to host our colleagues from around the world for what promises to be an informative and enlightening conference,” says Dr. Mary Davidson Cohen, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the National World War I Museum. “We hope the ideas shared and relationships formed this weekend will help lay the groundwork for many exciting plans to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> century’s first global conflict.”

Four international speakers will address the conference. These scholars will challenge the attendees to consider the monumental nature of the Centennial and how they can frame national and international dialogue surrounding this important commemorative event. Panel discussions will include participants from the Smithsonian Institution, Dartmouth College, National Gallery of Art, British Library, Australian National University and Mount Saint Vincent University.

Conference attendees include government officials, representatives of consular offices, scholars, museum professionals and heritage specialists from around the world. Organizations represented include the Imperial War Museum, Belgian Foreign Ministry, National Air & Space Museum, Australian National University, National Museum of African American History & Culture, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and AFS Intercultural Programs, Inc., to name a few.

The lead sponsor for the conference is the Government of Flanders (Belgium), Department of Foreign Affairs – Flanders House New York.

Additional sponsors include:

The Western Front Association  
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## Featured Speakers

**Annette Becker**, National Order of the Legion of Honour, Professor of Contemporary History at *Paris Ovest Nanterre La Défense* and a senior member of the *Institut Universitaire de France*. She is one of the founders and vice-president of the *Historial de la Grande Guerre* Museum and Research Center. She has written extensively on both World Wars, the extreme violence they nurture, with an emphasis on military occupations and the two genocides, against the Armenians and the Holocaust. She has devoted research to humanitarian politics, trauma and memories, particularly among intellectuals and creators, visual artists and musicians. She is a member of the 1914-2014 Centenary High Committee of France and of the Australian ANZAC Centenary Project. She will curate an exhibition on the *Mons Angels* apparitions in 1914 in 2014 at Mons.

**Vejas Gabriel Liulevicius** specializes in modern German history, with a particular focus on German relations with Eastern Europe. He completed his Ph.D. at the University of Pennsylvania and was a postdoctoral research fellow at the Hoover Institution on War, Peace, and Revolution. He has taught at the University of Tennessee since 1995. Since 2008, he has served as the director of the Center for the Study of War and Society. His first book was *War Land on the Eastern Front: Culture, National Identity and German Occupation in World War I* (Cambridge University Press, 2000). His second book, *The German Myth of the*

*East: 1800 to the Present* (Oxford University Press, 2009), is a study of the way in which Germans have viewed the lands and peoples of Eastern Europe over the last two centuries and up to the present day. In 2004, Germany's main magazine, *DER SPIEGEL*, published an invited article by Dr. Liulevicius, entitled "The Poisoned Victory: How the First World War in the East Shaped Hitler's Murderous Worldview."

**Michael S. Neiberg** is Professor of History in the Department of National Security and Strategy at the United States Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. He previously taught at the US Air Force Academy and was the Co-Director of the Center for the Study of War and Society at the University of Southern Mississippi. His published work specializes on the First and Second World Wars, notably the American and French experiences. His most recent book on the First World War is *Dance of the Furies: Europe and the Outbreak of World War I* (Harvard University Press, 2011). In October, 2012, Basic Books published his *The Blood of Free Men*, a history of the liberation of Paris in 1944.

**Sophie De Schaepdrijver** is an Associate Professor of History at Pennsylvania State University. Her main field of research is the First World War and she considers herself to be less a military historian than a historian of war and society. Her research focuses on a half-forgotten "front" of this war - the military occupations of 1914-1918 and their impact on both occupied and occupiers. She has paid particular interest to individual experiences of the German occupation of Belgium ever since her third book, *We Who Are So Cosmopolitan: the War Diary of Constance Graeffe 1914-1915* (2008), which focused on transnational experiences of invasion and occupation, and, even more so, on how the act of writing allowed women and men to make sense of these baffling events, to chart their allegiances and map out moral judgments. *Diary of an Occupation*, which analyzes a voluminous wartime diary left by Mary Thorp, an English governess in German-occupied Brussels and a privileged cross-class observer, continues this line of enquiry.

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