

Remembering Muted Voices:

Conscience, Dissent, Resistance and Civil Liberties in World War I through Today

Many are remembering the 100th Anniversary of World War I (1914-1918). The USA joined the 'Great War' April 6, 1917. Over a 100 countries in Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas were involved in the Great War. Between 15 to 65 million died, if the casualties of Spanish Flu are counted. World War I led to World War II and the Cold War. The legacy of WWI continues today especially in the political geography and conflicts in the Middle East.

WWI also shaped the enduring foundations of subsequent peace movements in the 20th and 21st centuries. In this project we want to "unmute" the voices of those who resisted, dissented, and refused to participate in the madness of the 1914-1918 war. We are remembering what happened to civil liberties during this time, especially in the USA, in very hostile nationalistic environments that often silenced protests. This project aims to magnify these muted voices and enable their stories to be more widely known to the public, to academic historians, other scholars and teachers in classrooms all over the USA.

The project consists of three parts:

- a) **A Symposium on resistance and conscientious objection in WWI**
at the National World War I Museum and Memorial in Kansas City in October 19-22, 2017.

The Symposium is seeking to remember the whole range of people who objected and resisted in World War I from Peace Churches and other religious groups, to socialists and suffragists. We are encouraging an international dimension also. Further information on the Call for Papers see:

<https://www.theworldwar.org/remembering-muted-voices>

- b) **A Traveling Exhibition on Conscientious Objection and Resistance in WWI**
in the USA beginning 2017. This is being led by the staff at Kauffman

Museum at Bethel College, North Newton Kansas. The traveling exhibition will be suitable for museums, libraries, churches, educational institutions, and groups discussing the role of conscientious objection in wartime.

See the following link for plans about the exhibition:

<https://kauffman.bethelks.edu/Traveling%20Exhibits/Voices-of-Conscience/index.html>

For further information on hosting the exhibition, contact Dr. Annette LeZotte, Kauffman Museum, Bethel College, 300 E. 27th Street, North Newton, KS 67117 (alezotte@bethelks.edu, Tel 316-283-1612).

c) A Memorial for 2 Hutterite Conscientious Objectors and Others

Remembering all who suffered and even died following their mistreatment for their resistance including those held at Alcatraz and at Fort Leavenworth. Fort Leavenworth is 50 minutes from the National World War I Museum and Memorial. This memorial will be at the end of the Symposium on Sunday morning October 22, 2017 led by members of the Hutterian communities and others.

Co-sponsors include:

American Civil Liberties Union, American Friends Service Committee, Brethren Historical Library and Archives; Bruderhof Communities; Greater Kansas City Interfaith Council; Historians against the War; Community of Christ Seminary; Hutterian Communities (3); John Whitmer Historical Association; Peace History Society; Center for Mennonite Brethren Studies, Tabor College, KS; Mennonite Central Committee, US; Mennonite Historical Society; *Mennonite Quarterly Review*; National World War I Museum and Memorial; Plough Quarterly; The Sider Institute for Anabaptist, Pietist and Wesleyan Studies at Messiah College.

*Co-sponsors are supporting multidisciplinary scholarship on aspects of resistance and dissent in World War I and subsequent events. Co-sponsorship does not imply endorsement of any particular theological, ideological, or political perspective that might be aired at this academic conference.

We would welcome co-sponsorship by your organization.

For further information please contact Andrew Bolton (abolton@cofchrist.org)