

Stages of World War I Historiography

in a perspective of environmental history

- A central focus of environmental history is on

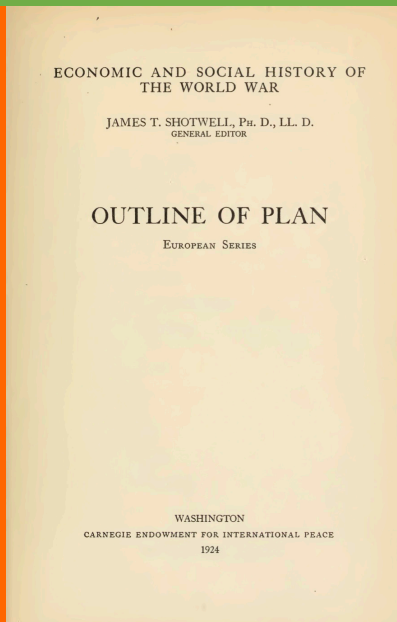


- the interdependence of humans and nature
- the linking up of micro- and macroscopic levels
- the entanglement of regional, cross-regional, transnational and global aspects
- connecting short, intermediate and long time spans

Stages of World War I Historiography

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- Interwar period
- 1960ties to 1980ties
- 1980ties and 1990ties
- Centenary



- Official War Histories
- Carnegie Series
- War Guilt Issue
- Social and Economy History
- **Paradigma of Cultural History**
- Transnational and global approaches
- Picking up of environmental issues in the history of warfare

Stephan Lehnstaedt

Occupied Landscapes on the Eastern Front

- focuses on the occupational policy of the German and Austro-Hungarian empires in formerly Russian Poland, on the surveys that the occupational powers took and on the pragmatic approach that shaped the measures taken in this context.
- shows that surveying served first and foremost the immediate goals of exploiting the natural resources of the occupied land, but at the same time tried to avoid ethnic conflict
- includes essential aspects of an environmental history approach to the history of World War I by looking into the interdependence of human action (the surveys) on the one hand and the exploitation of nature for war-related reasons.
- links up and extends the results of the Carnegie Series by including a region that was not so much in the focus of the series.

Yaroslav Golubinov

Oil as a Resource and Element of Defense

- focuses on the role of oil on the one hand as a resource in the mobilisation of the belligerents and on the other hand as an element of defence, a way to make war and a method of warfare.
- shows that in Galicia as well as in Romania the use of oil as an instrument of war and destruction took precedence over economic, environmental as well as local considerations.
- stresses the fact that pre-war oil disasters served as a rehearsal as to how the natural resource could become an ally in the defence of a particular position.
- links up with studies on the role of economic aspects in war, with studies on total war and with most recent studies of the environmental histories of the First World War.

Oksana Nagornaya

Occupied Landscapes and Environmental Transformation

- starts off from the symbolic perception of Galicia by the Russian military as well as the political and social elite of the country, which defined Galicia – the province to be conquered – as natural part of “indigenous” territories.
- points to the militarisation of the environment as a consequence of the war, the transformation of the landscape into a zone of combat, the role of the environment as an instrument of war in this context, the resulting dramatic changes to natural ecosystems and the fight with the extremely rugged local nature and terrain, when constructing new trains lines and roads.
- Stresses the medicalised perspective taken in debates in regard to th environment
- links up with the paradigm of cultural history, but extends this to a considerable extent by linking up with recent studies on the environmental as well as medical history of World War I.

In conclusion

Three questions

- What is the more specific role that nature plays in the surveys that the German and Austro-Hungarian empires took in formerly Russian Poland and in what manner did this differ from the way the former Russian authorities had looked at nature before the war?
- What specific relevance did oil have as a natural resource at the beginning of the war and to what extent and in what way did its importance change during the course of the war specifically for Austria-Hungary and for Russia?
- Which of the three discourses presented is more pervasive in your analysis of the dealing of the Russian command and elite with occupied landscapes and environmental transformation, the environmental one, the medicalised one or the cultural one?

Thank you
for your attention

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