



Why Fight?

Politics and ideology in militaries and paramilitary organisations

Organising Committee: Yiannis Kokosalakis and Lior Tibet

Webinar programme

SATURDAY 20 February 2021,

All times GMT unless otherwise indicated. [Register](#) for the zoom webinar.

10.00 - 10.15 Introductory remarks (Yiannis Kokosalakis)

10.15 - 11.30 Keynote: Sönke Neitzel: “What are soldiers fighting for? Remarks on the German case from the *Kaiserreich* to the Berlin Republic”

BREAK (10 mins)

11.40 - 12.40 Panel 1: Military identities

Pre-recorded papers, please watch in advance on historyhub.ie/why-fight

Jenna Byers, “The Battle for History; Identity in the Army of the First Austrian Republic”

Kirill Nazarenko, “The ideology of the 'Old' naval officers during the Civil War in Russia (1918-1921)”

Colin Brett Gilmour, “Symbols of the Volksgemeinschaft? Re-evaluating the Ideological Role of Orders and Decorations in the German Military during the Second World War”

BREAK

12.50 - 13.50 Panel 2: Ideology and military practice

Pre-recorded papers, please watch in advance on historyhub.ie/why-fight

Alan Donohue, “German Ideological Influences on American Cold War Strategy: The US Army Historical Division, 1947-1954”

Ákos Bartha, “Theory and praxis of 'total racialism': 'Ragged Guard' and KISKA auxiliary forces in Hungary (1938–1945)”

Jason Koutoufaris-Malandrinos, “Fake it till you make it: The concept of a democratic army (1916-2001)”

LUNCH

15.00 - 16.15, PST 07.00 - 08.15 Keynote: Pierre Asselin, “‘Determined to Fight, Determined to Win’: Communist Military Strategy in the Vietnam War”

BREAK

16.25 - 17.25 Panel 3: Motives and Functions of Paramilitaries

Pre-recorded papers, please watch in advance on historyhub.ie/why-fight

Karianne Hansen, “The Meaning of the Bunker: Examining SS paramilitary violence in the Bunker of Block 11 in KL Auschwitz”

Joshua Chakawa and Tinashe Tony Chikafa, “The Strategic Logic of Using Militias for Counterinsurgency in Zimbabwe’s War of Liberation”

Efrosyni Panayiotou, “Why the Cypriots fought: The goal of Enosis and the EOKA struggle”

BREAK

17.35 - 18.35 Panel 4: Political Strategies

Pre-recorded papers, please watch in advance on historyhub.ie/why-fight

Stefan Kurz, “The Austrian ‘Volkswehr’ as political army and factor in post-war politics”

Iaroslav Golubinoy, “Between reds and whites: the Russian Socialist-Revolutionaries government and its People Army in 1918”

Jonathan Matthews, “The Wrong War? Zionist Parties in British Mandate Palestine during WWII”

Concluding remarks (5-10 mins).

List of participants

Sönke Neitzel is Professor of Military History and Chair of War Studies at the University of Potsdam. His latest book is *Deutsche Krieger: Vom Kaiserreich zur Berliner Republik - eine Militärgeschichte*.

Pierre Asselin is the Dwight E. Stanford Chair in the History of US Foreign Relations at San Diego State University. His latest book is *Vietnam’s American War: a history*.

Jenna Byers is a PhD student at King’s College, London, specialising in national identity construction in the army of the First Austrian Republic.

Kirill Nazarenko is Professor of History at Saint-Petersburg State University, specialising in the history of the Russian Navy. His latest monograph is *Ledovoi Pokhod Baltiiskogo Flota: Korablekrushenie na more Revoliutsii*.

Colin Brett Gilmour is Colin Gilmour recently defended his doctoral thesis at McGill University on the ideological utility of hero culture in Nazi Germany. He is currently undertaking further research into the political role of orders and decorations as vessels of “symbolic capital” in wartime society.

Alan Donohue earned his PhD in History from Trinity College and is currently an independent researcher. He is working on a monograph on the ‘forgotten year’ of the Eastern Front, 1943-1944.

Ákos Bartha is a researcher at the Institute of History of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

Jason Koutoufaris-Malandrinos is a lawyer based in Athens and a PhD candidate in Constitutional Law at the University of Thessaloniki.

Karianne Hansen is a first-year PhD student at the Stanley Burton Center for the study of the Holocaust and Genocide, University of Leicester. Her research interests centre around the Auschwitz concentration and extermination camp, with a particular focus on integrating prisoner perspectives and deconstructing ‘survival’.

Joshua Chakawa is a Senior Lecturer at the Department of History of Midlands State University. He has published extensively on the war of liberation in Zimbabwe and is currently working on a book project on Security Force Auxiliaries.

Tinashe Tony Chikafa is an MA candidate in Conflict, Security and Development at the University of Sussex.

Efrosyni Panayioutou is a PhD candidate at University College Dublin. Her research interests include the modern history of Cyprus and the Mediterranean region in the context of the development of political ideas and concepts, political violence, and decolonisation.

Stefan Kurz is a research assistant at the Military History Museum/Military History Institute in Vienna and a PhD candidate at the University of Vienna. His research interests include the military history of the Habsburg Monarchy, military diplomacy, and the history of the Armed Forces of the Austrian First Republic.

Iaroslav Golubinov is a senior researcher at the Institute of History and Archaeology, Ural Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

Jonathan Matthews is a PhD candidate in the Department of History at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. His research explores the way nationalist literature dealing with Irish Independence and the Easter uprising disseminated and later influenced anti-colonial movements within the British Empire.

Lior Tibet is a PhD candidate at the Richard Koebner Minerva Center for German History at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Her research focuses on Nazi cultural policy towards Ireland, 1933–1945.

Yiannis Kokosalakis is Marie Skłodowska Curie Fellow at the UCD Centre for War Studies. He has recently completed a monograph on the rank-and-file of the Soviet communist party. His current research examines the function of political officers in the Red Army.