

# Call for Session - WEHC 2015 [S10078]

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## **Proposed title of the session**

War and Economy. The consequences of wartime taxation, public debts and expenditure in the late medieval and early modern period

## **Abstract**

What was the impact of war-related finance on the economy, during wartime and in the aftermath of war? Did wars serve as a factor of transformation and change for the economy, or not? Did wars function perhaps as a 'growth-lever' in the long run, or were wars just destructive?

Wars always strained state structures and its finance-raising capacity, but could also entail a driving force of change, stimulating institutional reforms that could even change the game rules for the economy as a whole. Institutional changes might be limited during warfare itself, but the reverberations of war lasted long, even for decades after peace was signed. For example, double-entry procedures in the Spanish Imperial accounting system were brought in after the War of Independence of the Thirteen Colonies. The impact of warfare on the economy was not limited to the years of conflict themselves and their immediate aftermath but lingered on in time precisely because it infused the political discourse and became the main reason for introducing changes in the economy and in the states regulating that economy. In this way, wars were not always just negative phenomena; they could also be stimulating for the economy, depending upon the flexibility of the government; they might even have stimulated the development of capitalist structures in Europe.

We invite papers that deal with wartime effects on the economy as a whole during and/or after the war, and/or papers that distinguish between groups (who profited, who were hurt most), and/or papers analyzing the novel expedients that were tried out during wartime and thereafter, and/or papers looking at the proceeds of wartime expenditure (to what degree was this all 'money lost', or could the domestic economy also (partly) profit from these expenses, for example war entrepreneurs, the armaments industry and the navy establishment).

We invite in particular papers that entail a comparison between wars and/or between states, and/or between warfare within and outside Europe. The focus of the period is late medieval and early modern.

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## **I. Corresponding Session Organiser**

Prof. Marjolein 't Hart (Huygens Institute for the History of the Netherlands and VU University Amsterdam [Netherlands])

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## **II. Co-Organiser(s)**

1. Corresponding Organiser.
  2. Prof. Rafael Sanchez Torres (University of Navarra [Spain])
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## **III. Expected Participant(s)**

1. Patrick O'Brien (University of Oxford [United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland])
2. Augustin Gonzalez Enciso (University of Navarra [Spain])
3. Pepijn Brandon (University of Amsterdam [Netherlands])
4. Farley Grubb (University of Delaware [United States of America])
5. Annemieke Romein (Erasmus University Rotterdam [Netherlands])
6. Sergio Solbes Ferri (University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria [Spain])
7. No input.