

# Call for Sessions - WEHC 2015 [S20070]

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## Proposed title of the session

Cliometric Perspectives to the Study of World Wars

## Abstract

The issue of war is still extant in the Western and Eastern collective memories, since the feeling of sacrifice is still perceptible today in many of the participant (and other) nations. This subject has experienced a revival of interest with the celebration of the centenary of the beginning of the Great War. We believe that this proposal for a session on the various quantitative perspectives on the World Wars, with some emphasis on the First World War, should be a very well attended session not only because of the anniversary but because there is still so much to learn from the disruptions caused by the global total war in a quantitative perspective. Our proposal should be seen as complements to the seminal books on the economics of World War I and II (Stephen Broadberry and Mark Harrison, 2005, Mark Harrison, 1998). There have been many new studies on the extent of mobilization, economic or otherwise, impacts of the wars, the outcomes, and many of these studies have utilized new data and sources, as well as quantitative and qualitative methods to analyze the pre-war, wartime, and post-war economies (Blum, 2011, 2013; Caruana and Rockoff, 2007; Crafts and Mills, 2013; Edgerton, 2011; Eloranta and Harrison, 2010; Findlay and O'Rourke, 2007; Hantke and Spoerer, 2010; Fishback and Cullen, 2013; Jaworski and Fishback, forthcoming; Rockoff 2012; Tooze, 2007).

Here we aim to continue this stream of new research on the world wars, to investigate certain key questions relating to the war economies. In particular, there are four main facets that underlie our proposal: exploiting as many as possible new, complete and yet untapped databases (as for instance the "Morts pour la France" database of the French Ministry of Defense); addressing new issues and questions; encouraging comparative analyses of the economies at war; and incorporating various analytical methods and frameworks into the studies. In order to reach these goals, we propose a session that incorporates several countries and a variety of approaches, with a common thread of using cliometric techniques.

The lines of this session will incorporate various analytic methods including: spatial economics (analysis of regional disparities of the dead of the Great War in France; Guironnet and Parent); regional science to study the differences in long run regional activity based on the distribution of war production spending (Jaworski, Fishback and Rhode); microeconometrics and demographic economics (survival expectancy of French soldiers at the front; Guillot and Parent); operational research and transportation economics to assess the optimality of the strategy of mobilization in the "Plan Joffre XVII" (Gonzalez-Feliu, Ovtracht and Parent); quantitative analysis on the war effort (military, naval, resources, economy, government etc.) before and during the war (Eloranta, Blum and Osinsky); industrial organization about the impact of strategic raw materials (Schermer); anthropometrics of war about the role of nutrition in Germany during the war (Cox); macroeconometrics to assess the relationship between fiscal policy in war and war boom in comparative perspective (Minea and Parent); financial analysis of war bond issues in war times (Rockoff).

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## I. Corresponding Session Organiser

Prof. Antoine PARENT (Sciences Po Lyon [France])

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## II. Co-Organiser(s)

1. Corresponding Organiser.
2. Prof. Price FISHBACK (University of Arizona and NBER [United States of America])
3. Prof. Jari ELORANTA (Appalachian State University, Department of History [United States of America])

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## III. Expected Participant(s)

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2. Jari ELORANTA (Appalachian State University [United States of America])
3. Price FISHBACK (University of Arizona and NBER [United States of America])
4. Paul RHODE (University of Michigan [United States of America])
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7. Taylor JAWORSKI (Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario [Canada])
8. Matthias BLUM (University of Munchen [Germany])
9. Pavel OSINSKY (Appalachian State University [United States of America])
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12. Olivier GUILLOT (Université de Lorraine [France])
13. Jean-Pascal GUIRONNET (Université de Caen [France])
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