The conference, organised by the German Institute for Oriental Studies, Beirut, the German Institute for Historical Studies (DHI), Rome, and the Institut Français d'Études Anatoliennes (IFEA), Istanbul, set out to examine the political, social and cultural effects of the First World War in terms of how it is remembered as an historical event. Panel sessions inquired into the cultural forms of memory found in Italy, Greece, modern Turkey, Egypt, Syria and Lebanon. With respect to variations within and among these countries, it was assumed that different cultures of memory could be discussed as variable modes of understanding historical change. Conference presentations pursued an understanding of the effects these differences in memory have upon national identity and state formation.

The main discussion aimed at determining the significance of the First World War in national cultural memory. How was the war remembered? What was its influence upon the political identity and cultural conception of self in the countries of the Eastern Mediterranean in general and in the countries of the Near East in particular? Was it thought of as a ‘World War’ or rather as a distant war in which local actors were not directly involved? Or was it seen as a local conflict, with its confrontations constituting a preliminary stage of rebellion toward the realisation of national independence?

To examine the structural patterns of the collective memory of war, two panels were set up to compare and contrast how various national groups remembered the effects of the First World War.

The first, called “The political and social impact of the First World War” dealt with collective memories and changing forms of self-understanding under the impact of the war; national and social group discourses of the First World War; and the social effects.

The second, called “Symbolic processing of the First World War” dealt with images, histories and narratives of the war as reflected in war monuments, historiography, autobiographies and literature; war memories of Ottoman Army officers; ideological reasoning for war participation; and the creation of national myths.
List of contents

About the conference
The editors ............................................................................................................. V

Welcome address
Manfred Kropp .................................................................................................... VII

List of contents ..................................................................................................... XI

The First World War as a Factor of Political and Social Transformation
Olaf Farschid ......................................................................................................... 1

Panel I: The Political and Social Impact of the First World War

A: Collective Memories of Societies Participating in the First World War,
and Changing Forms of Self-Understanding under the Impact of the War

The First World War as the Defining Moment in Modern Armenian History
Richard G. Hovannisian .................................................................................... 25

Memory and Distorted Memory: the First World War in Italy
Paul Corner ........................................................................................................ 33

Politicizing the Past: World War I in Modern Greek Ideology
Ioannis K. Hassiotis ............................................................................................ 39

Armenian Property, Ottoman Law and Nationality Policies during the Armenian Genocide, 1915-1916
Hilmar Kaiser ..................................................................................................... 49

B: National and Social Group Discourses of the First World War

Babies or the Ballot? Women’s Constructions of the Great War in Egypt
Marilyn Booth .................................................................................................... 75

Clericist Catholic Authors and the Crystallization of Historical Memory of WW I
in Lebanonist-Particularist Discourse, 1918-1922
Dennis Walker .................................................................................................... 91

The Plight and Relief of God’s Nation: the First World War and the German Templar Community in Palestine
Helmut Mejcher .................................................................................................. 129
Changes in Protestant Assyrian Self-Awareness
after the First World War
Martin Tamcke ..................................................................................................141

C: The Social Effects of the First World War. Suffering during and after the War

The Commemoration of the “Spanish flu” of 1918-1919
in the Arab East
Guido Steinberg ..................................................................................................151

Ottoman Psychiatry in the Great War
Yücel Yankıdağ ..................................................................................................163

Panel II: Symbolic Processing of the First World War

A: Images, Histories, and Narratives of the War as Reflected in War Monuments,
   Historiography, Autobiographies and Literature

War Memorials and Cemeteries in Turkey
Klaus Kreiser .....................................................................................................183

The Cult of the Fallen Soldiers in Italy after the First World War
Oliver Janz ..........................................................................................................203

The Impact of the First World War on Lebanon’s History and Memory:
The Case of Shakib Arslan (1869-1946)
Axel Havemann ..................................................................................................213

Taming the Past, Shaping the Future:
The Appropriation of the Great War Experience in the
Popular Fiction of the Early Turkish Republic
Erol Köroğlu ......................................................................................................223

La «Grande Guerre» vue par la diaspora turque en Suisse (1918-1923)
Hans-Lukas Kieser .........................................................................................231

Individual and Collective Memories of the First World War
Christoph Schumann ......................................................................................247

A First-Person Account of the First World War in Greater Syria
Nicola Ziadeh ...................................................................................................265

The First World War as Represented in Autobiographies
in Contemporary Damascus
Khairia Kasmieh ................................................................................................279

Immediate Recollections of the First World War:
Two Ottoman Travel Accounts of Europe
Börte Sagaster .................................................................................................287
Monumentalism versus Realism:
Aspects of the First World War in Turkish Literature
Martin Strohmeier ...........................................................................................................297

The First World War as a Time of Moral Failure:
Its Reflection in Turkish Novels
Christoph K. Neumann ......................................................................................................321

B: War Memories of Ottoman Army Officers from Different Ethnic Backgrounds.
The Influence of Origin, Military Education and Common War Experience.

Divergent Loyalties and Their Memory:
How Three Albanians Shaped Their Histories of the Great War
Isa Blumi ..........................................................................................................................331

West and East as Analysed by a Disappointed Arab Officer
and First World War Veteran
Mahmoud Haddad .............................................................................................................345

Marshal Fevzi Çakmak’s Diaries: Records of the First World War
Nilüfer Hatemi ....................................................................................................................363

‘Sherifian’ Officers in Interwar Iraq and ‘Germanophilia’ –
A Heritage of the German-Ottoman Military Partnership?
The case of Ja’far al-‘Askari
Peter Wien ............................................................................................................................375

C: Ideological Reasoning of War Participation, and the Creation of Myths,
Legends and Heroic Figures

The Role of Islam in German Propaganda in the Arab East
during the First World War:
Aims, Means, Results and Local Reactions
Abdel-Raouf Sinno ............................................................................................................391

The “Traditional Turco-German Friendship” – Fact or Fiction?
Hans-Peter Laqueur ............................................................................................................415

Jamāl Pacha, en une version libanaise.
L’usage positif d’une légende noire
Youssef Monawad .............................................................................................................425

About the authors ..............................................................................................................447