

CEGESOMA - State Archives

NEWSLETTER

No 78 - October 2022



NEWS

RESEARCH

Participate in the survey 'Memories, opinions and knowledge about the Second World War' within the framework of the FED-tWIN programme People@War.

► [Read more](#)



LIBRARY

Discover some newly acquired works about the Cold War.

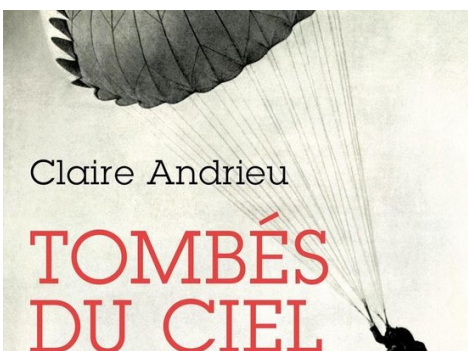
► [Read more](#)

AGENDA

COLLOQUIUM

Make sure to register for the colloquium 'Media and Cultural Life in Occupied Western Europe (1940-1945)' on 7 and 8 November.

► [Read more](#)



PUBLIC HISTORY MEETING

Do not miss our special edition on 16 November, about downed allied pilots in Europe (1939-1945) with historian Claire Andrieu.

► [Read more](#)

RESEARCH

BELCOWAR

Launch of the FED-tWIN programme 'Belcowar' (Belgium and the Cold War), about international trade and macroeconomic pressure of the US on European countries.

► [Read more](#)



RESISTANCE PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

The presentations made during the conference in the State Archives in Liège are now accessible online.

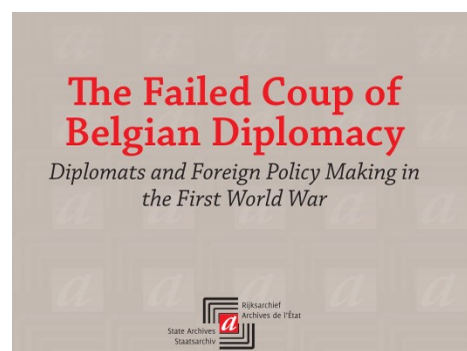
► [Read more](#)

PUBLICATION

THE FAILED COUP OF BELGIAN DIPLOMACY

In his new book, Michael Auwers re-examines traditional interpretations of Belgian foreign policy during the First World War.

► [Read more](#)



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Flexmail

Take part in a scientific survey :

MEMORY, KNOWLEDGE AND ASSESSMENT OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR.



The CegeSoma/State Archives in collaboration with Ghent University is currently carrying out a study about the social history and impact of the Second World War within the framework of the FED-tWIN project People@War. You can help us by filling out the questionnaire (approximately 15 minutes) which is part of a long-term research project. This study aims to, among others, compare the responses with previous public surveys (from the 1980s and 2000s) and help us, through content analysis, identify models that will allow us to better understand the manner in which our vision of the past is shaped, significantly or not, by all sorts of factors.

In practice, all topics should be considered, but if you do not wish to respond to particular questions or if they are not applicable or, conversely, if you would like to expand on your answers, this is not a problem. You only need to provide an e-mail address to participate.

At the end of the questionnaire, we also ask if you have any sources that could help expand and enrich research into the Second World War through the testimonies of people who experienced it. In particular, we are thinking of personal diaries, but other sources of interest include letters, photographs, memoirs and, potentially, other types of relevant documents.

Thank you in advance for your participation and cooperation! Please feel free to share this call for participation.

Link to the survey : <https://forms.gle/X49BRr5Mc3z1jKPE9>

Other news

Launch of new calls for candidates for the EHRI-Conny Kristel scholarships - 2023

THREE QUESTIONS TO ... Léo Baudelet,

Belgium WWII – new content

News from the Wikibase Resistance project

Study Day on the Resistance at the State Archives in Liège

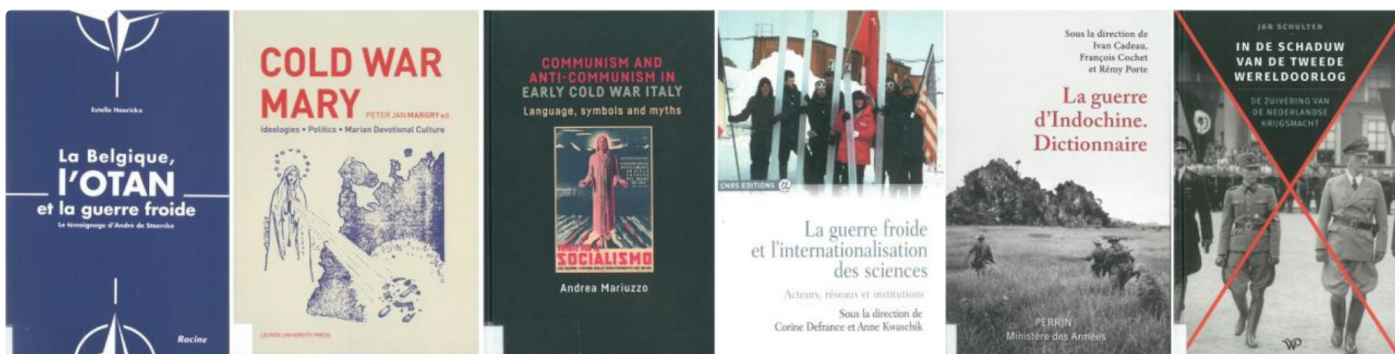
New issue of the JBH (2022-3)

The Great(er) War of Military Occupations in Europe

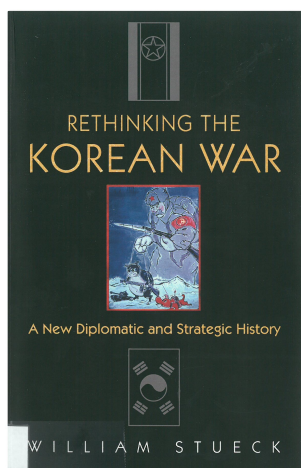
Research: The SNCB/NMBS and deportations during WWII

THREE QUESTIONS FOR ... Gertjan Desmet,

New catalogue for the CegeSoma library

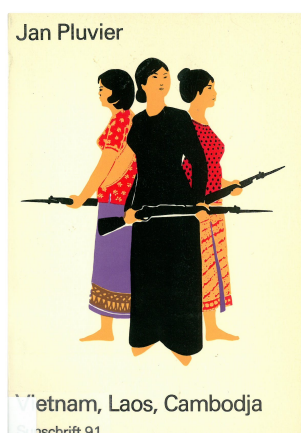


Latest news from the “Cold War”... (Library - October 2022)

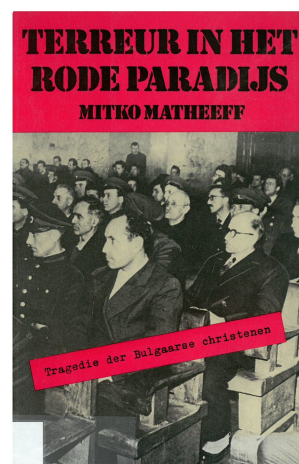


As previously mentioned in this column, CegeSoma has integrated a number of works into its collections that are related to various aspects of the Cold War as its Mission Statement was officially extended (in 1996) and now covers the “short 20th century” (roughly from 1914 to 1991). Much has changed since then and, while this mission was confirmed when CegeSoma was integrated into the State Archives in 2016, recent budget cuts have led us, after consultation with colleagues, to focus our attention on more specific research fields. Starting from this year, we will focus on acquisitions related to decolonisation in a Belgian framework, but without excluding studies that are deemed particularly remarkable related to our European neighbours (the Netherlands, France etc.). Furthermore, our attention will home in on Belgium’s relations with the European Union and its preceding institutions (Benelux, ECSC, EEC, EC etc.), as well as various pressure groups and “influencers” that marked the Cold War period, be they pacifist movements; youth movements; associations of former resistance fighters working for peace and “détente”; agencies that were openly anti-communist or which harboured refugees fleeing the “Eastern Bloc” etc.

However, before applying this selective approach and notwithstanding the current budgetary... frugality, the CegeSoma was able, as one may remember, to enrich its collections with an important set of works from the Library of Sint-Niklaas that largely focus on this subject even though they overlap chronologically with the period analysed (most of them were produced between 1970 and 1990). Moreover, CegeSoma has continued to acquire a number of titles that may be of interest for seasoned research professionals and the wider public alike.



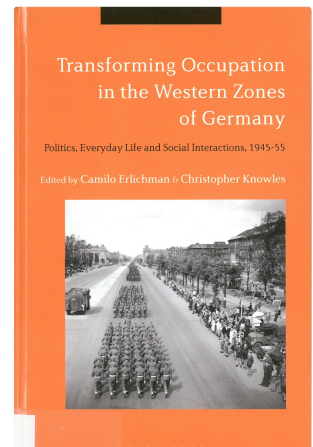
Of these recent acquisitions, we would like to draw attention to the excellent dictionary *La Guerre d'Indochine* (edited by Ivan CADEAU, François COCHET and Remy PORTE), which was published in Paris in 2021 as a result of collaboration between the Librairie Académique Perrin and the Musée des Armées. There is also the very well-documented *Cold War Mary: Ideologies, Politics, and Marian Devotional Culture* edited by Peter Jan MAGRY and published in Leuven by Leuven University Press in 2020. Also worth mentioning is the more classic work *Transforming Occupation in the Western Zones of Germany: Politics, Everyday Life and Social Interactions, 1945-1955*, which was edited by Camilo ERLICHMAN and Christopher KNOWLES in 2018 and published by Manchester University Press. The immediate aftermath of the war and the impact of occupation and purges are the subject of a book by Jan SCHULTEN, *In de schaduw van de Tweede Wereldoorlog: De zuivering van de Nederlandse Krijgsmacht* (Zutphen, 2022), which one can qualify as a “must-read” in this field where the Netherlands are concerned. Anyone interested in Italy will certainly find something to their taste in *Communism and anti-communism in early Cold War Italy: Language, symbols and myths* (Manchester, 2018), especially if one is passionate about political semiology. Belgium has not been left out either, as can be seen from the major work undertaken by Estelle



Estelle Heericks, *La Belgique, l'OTAN et la guerre froide* (Racine, 2019). Peter Jan Magry, *Cold War Mary: Ideologies, Politics, and Marian Devotional Culture* (Leuven University Press, 2020). Andrea Mariuzzo, *Communism and anti-communism in early Cold War Italy: Language, symbols and myths* (Manchester University Press, 2018). Corine Defrance and Anne Kosachik, *La guerre froide et l'internationalisation des sciences* (CNRS Éditions, 2021). Ivan Cadeau, François Cochet, and Remy Porte, *La guerre d'Indochine. Dictionnaire* (Librairie Académique Perrin, 2021). Jan Schulten, *In de schaduw van de Tweede Wereldoorlog: De zuivering van de Nederlandse Krijgsmacht* (Zutphen, 2022).

HOORICKX in *La Belgique, l'OTAN et la guerre froide* (Brussels, Racine, 2022), but it should be noted that the title may be somewhat misleading as the work is largely based on the accounts of André de Staercke, a well-connected man at the time...

Finally, those who are keen on diplomacy and military history may wish to consult *Rethinking the Korean War: A New Diplomatic and Strategic History* by William STUECK, which was published in 2004 at Princeton and Oxford. This work is a bit older but still relevant. And finally, we round off our rather eclectic selection with *La Guerre froide et l'internationalisation des sciences: Acteurs, réseaux et institutions* (edited by Corine DEFRANCE and Anne KWASH), Paris, 2016. This book demonstrates that the concept of "Cold War" was multifaceted and sometimes discreetly touched on unexpected subjects and issues. In short, in spite of the somewhat... particular period we currently find ourselves in, the new arrivals are of good quality and their subject matter is rich, regardless of whether they are recent or older publications!



Media and cultural life in occupied Western Europe (1940-1945)

Colloquium

World War II [Colloquium](#)



Press, radio, cinema, literature, theatre, spectacles... In German-occupied Europe, all of these sectors are under strict control of the national-socialist apparatus. Their fate is thus linked. However, current research rarely addresses them as a whole. **The aim of this colloquium is to bring together researchers specialising in the study of media and cultural life under the occupation in an international approach.** The focus shall lie on the cases of Belgium, France, Luxembourg and the Netherlands, which will also allow us to compare these different systems of occupation, between military and civil administration, or pure and simple annexation.

This conference, to which we are pleased to invite you, will take place at CegeSoma on 7 and 8 November 2022 and will bring together specialists as well as early-career researchers. Presentations will be about 20 minutes long and held **in English or in French**, followed by a discussion at the end of each panel.

This symposium is sponsored by the Scientific Research Community 'Cultures of Spectacle' (FWO Research Foundation Flanders), in collaboration with the Study and Documentation Centre for War and Contemporary Society (CegeSoma), the Institute for Media Studies (*KULeuven*) and the *Institut de Recherches Historiques du Septentrion (IRHiS, UMR 8529 - Université de Lille)*. The Research Foundation *FWO* is providing additional support.



07/11/2022 - 09:30 to 08/11/2022 - 17:00

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Date: from 7 to 8 November 2022 (9.30 am - 5.00 pm)

Place: CegeSoma, Square de l'Aviation 29 in 1070 Brussels

Participation fee: 15.00 € per day (lunch and coffee break included) - (special student fee: 10.00 € per day)

Registration: mandatory, until 2 November 2022 at the latest: isabelle.ponteville@arch.be or +32 (0) 2.556.92.11 - please indicate which day you want to attend (7 or 8 November or both days). Please pay in advance to the account of CegeSoma: IBAN: BE12 6792 0045 0092 - BIC: PCHQBEBB + communication : 7 and/or 8 November 2022 + Last name and first name. Your registration shall be effective upon payment.

LINK TO PROGRAMME

Organising team:

- Louis Fortemps (*Université de Lille – KULeuven*)
- Roel Vande Winkel (*KULeuven*)
- Chantal Kesteloot (*CegeSoma/State Archives*)

Main language

English
French

Partners



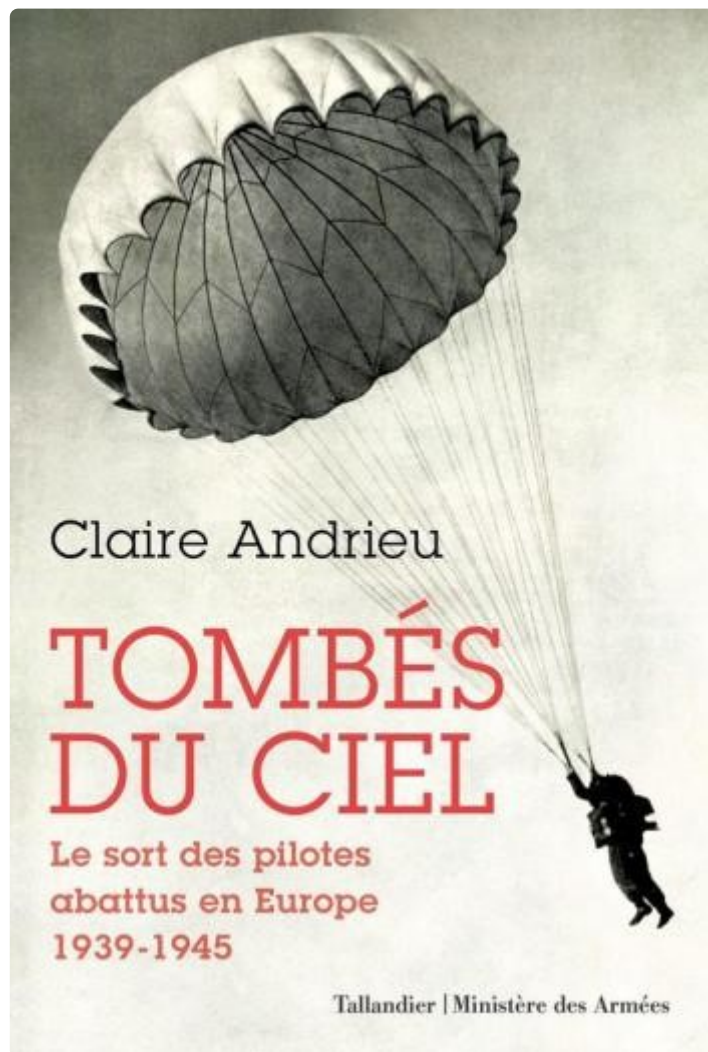
IRHiS

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Fallen from the sky. The fate of pilots shot down in Europe, 1939-1945.

CegeSoma Public History Meeting (2022-5)

World War II [Conference](#)



Conference-debate in French with guest Claire Andrieu (Sciences Po, Paris)

An interview conducted by Alain Colignon (CegeSoma/State Archives)

More than one hundred thousand airmen were thrown to the ground after their aircraft crashed between 1939 and 1945. More than half of this number lost their lives and a third were taken prisoner. Almost a tenth of them managed to escape from their pursuers. When confronted by these men who 'fell from the sky', civilians did not all react in the same way: the French of May-June 1940 resisted the invaders; the British took the Luftwaffe airmen prisoner in a civil manner; the occupied French hid downed Allied pilots and helped them reach England; Germans lynched them from 1943 onwards. In this innovative and wide-ranging study, Claire Andrieu has studied the behaviour of civilians and the causes of their diverse attitudes when faced with an unexpected and urgent situation. The interest of Andrieu's work lies not only in the precision of the facts recounted, but also in the comparative and explanatory dimension that she brings and, perhaps above all, in the reflections, the historiographical perspectives and the new fields of research that this topic invites.

The CegeSoma has the great pleasure and privilege of inviting you on 16 November for an exceptional Public History Meeting with Professor Claire Andrieu, guest of the International Chair of the Second World War in 2022-2023 and winner of the Baron Velge Prize in 2022 (Program of the Chair on the right). She will be interviewed by Alain Colignon (CegeSoma) about her latest book published in 2021 by Editions Tallandier. An English version will be published in December 2022 by Cambridge University Press.



Claire Andrieu is Professor Emeritus of Contemporary History at Sciences Po, Paris. A specialist of the Second World War and the Liberation of France and Europe, she is also a former member of the Study Mission on the Spoliation of Jews in France and a member of various foundations for the memory of the Shoah, the Resistance, the memory of slavery and the Commission for the Compensation of Victims of Anti-Semitic Spoliation. She is the author of numerous works on the Resistance, Collaboration, the spoliation and persecution of Jews, the Liberation, etc.



Alain Colignon is a historian from the University of Liège. For many years, he has managed the library of the CegeSoma/State Archives. He is the author of various works on the history of the Occupation and the intimate life of the population in wartime, and he specialises in studies on the Collaboration and the Resistance, he is currently preparing a book on Walloon society between 1930 and 1940.



16/11/2022 - 12:30 to 14:00

PRACTICAL INFORMATION:

Where: CegeSoma conference room, Square de l'Aviation 29 - 1070 Brussels

When: Wednesday 16 November 2022 (12.30 - 14.00)

Registration required: isabelle.ponteville@arch.be or 02.556.92.11

*** Lectures by Professor Claire Andrieu within the Program of the International Chair for the History of the Second World War 2022-2023**

- Tuesday, November 15, 18h30 : Tombés du ciel. Les civils face aux pilotes abattus en Europe, 1939-1945. Auditorium : R42.5.503 (DRION). This inaugural lecture will be followed by the awarding of the Baron VELGE Prize and a reception (R42) (ULB)

- Thursday, November 17, 18h00-20h00 : Les civils de France : de la résistance à l'invasion (mai-juin 40), à la Résistance.

Auditorium : AY.2.112 (ULB)

- Thursday, November 24, 18h00-20h00 : Les civils du Royaume-Uni et d'Allemagne : People's War versus Volksjustiz.
Auditorium : AY.2.112 (ULB)

- Thursday, December 1, 18h00-20h00 : Les lynchages en Allemagne, un indicateur de la nazification de la société.
Auditorium : AY.2.112 (ULB)

Free admission - Please register : [Online form](#)

Information : phisoc.ulb.be

Contact : com.phisoc@ulb.be

Main language

French

Belcower : Belgium and the Cold War (2022 -)

FED-tWIN Programme

Cold War



BELCOWAR. 'Belgium and the Cold War: Gaining or Losing Sovereignty through Pax Americana' is a joint initiative of the State Archives and KU Leuven being carried out within the framework of the FED-tWIN programme of the Belgian Science Policy Office. By funding a long-term research project, the expertise of a federal scientific institution and a university is combined and strengthened.

BELCOWAR studies the economic impact of the Cold War on Belgium. It focuses on economic policy, particularly with regard to international trade (the so-called GATT rounds), and the effects of the US macro-economic policy pressures on European countries. Two types of expertise are combined in this project. Unexplored archives preserved by the State Archives are analysed on the basis of political and economic concepts generally applied in political sciences. This allows for innovative historical research into the manner in which European countries have tried to shape their economic policies in the context of the Cold War. It will also allow further exploration and exploitation of the rich archives of various political and corporate bodies. More precisely, BELCOWAR will make it possible to establish fresh ties between the academic community and a new generation of historical researchers. Political and economic historical research can give new impetus to the study of the Cold War and expand the existing political and cultural approaches to the topic by focusing more on how the economic dimension has

shaped transatlantic relations. In this sense, BELCOWAR will culminate in the development of a veritable line of research in which many other social actors will be involved in addition to state agents and companies.

In the first two years of the project, the focus will be on fundamental research into the so-called GATT Dillon Round (1960-1961). In terms of service to the public, a finding aid will be drafted that will enable researchers to navigate the different archives related to the political and economic history of the Cold War and Belgium. Thanks to this guide, archives that have already been made accessible will benefit from visibility within the Belgian and the international research communities. A conference dedicated to a political and economic approach to the Cold War will also be organised at CegeSoma during this period.



26/10/2022

Project manager(s)



Project member(s)



Partners



TAGS

[Economic history](#) [International relations](#) [Cold War](#) [Political history](#)

Study Day on the Resistance at the State Archives in Liège

Review of a successful initiative



On 17 October 2022, the State Archives in Liège and CegeSoma organised an information and reflection day in Liège focusing on new tools that have been made available to the public and are aimed at refreshing and disseminating the history of the Resistance during the Second World War in Belgium. What follows below is a summary of the day's proceedings and links to the slides of the papers presented.

The morning session was dedicated to a general overview of the topic, an introduction to the website [Belgium WWII](#) and an evocation of the rich collections of the State Archives in Liège.

After the Head of Service, **Michel Trigalet**, gave his welcome address, **Fabrice Maerten** of CegeSoma presented an overview of [the Resistance and related sources](#) to the over sixty attendees. His colleague, **Chantal Kesteloot**, then summarised the [the multiple ways in which the website Belgium WWII can help](#) enrich one's knowledge of the subject. After that, **Anne Jacquemin** and **Bernard Wilkin**, both from the State Archives in Liège, discussed several relevant archival fonds preserved at the Liège repository, including the [the archives of patriotic associations](#) and [the files created in the course of inquiries of the public prosecutor in Verviers into persons who were presumed to have died during the Second World War](#).

The afternoon session was dedicated to the resources of IHOES, the innovate Wikibase Resistance project and discussion

Micheline Zanatta, president of IHOES first highlighted [the numerous archival fonds related to the Resistance held by the Institut d'Histoire ouvrière, économique et sociale](#). **Anne Chardonnens** of CegeSoma then introduced [the project Wikibase Resistance](#) that will (and already partly does) improve accessibility to hundreds of thousands of files about resistance fighters created in the wake of the conflict, while also allowing for an analysis of the Resistance "from below".

Finally, four debate sessions were hosted respectively by **Fabrice Maerten** of CegeSoma (*How to retrace the history of the Resistance in your municipality*), **Lionel Vanvelthem** of IHOES - **Benjamin Blaise & Julien Paulus**, Territoires de la Mémoire (*How to enrich and valorise the history and memory of the Resistance today*), **Chantal Kesteloot** of CegeSoma (*How to concretely set up projects aimed at exploiting the findings obtained via publications, expositions...*) and **Vincent Vagman** of Projet-Histoire (*How to retrace the history of the Resistance in your family*). These sessions gave attendees the opportunity to discuss their favourite subjects with the different hosts.

A history still in the making

Michel Trigilet provided the concluding remarks to bring to a close a study day marked by its conviviality (thanks to the State Archives in Liège for their flawless organisation!) and the richness of the papers and debates. The originality and variety of the presentations and discussions, as well as the interest of the attendees demonstrated that the history of the Resistance still has a bright future ahead of it.

Other news

[Launch of new calls for candidates for the EHRI-Conny Kristel scholarships - 2023](#)

[THREE QUESTIONS TO ... Léo Baudelet,](#)

[Belgium WWII – new content](#)

[News from the Wikibase Resistance project](#)

[Take part in a scientific survey :](#)

[New issue of the JBH \(2022-3\)](#)

[The Great\(er\) War of Military Occupations in Europe](#)

[Research: The SNCB/NMBS and deportations during WWII](#)

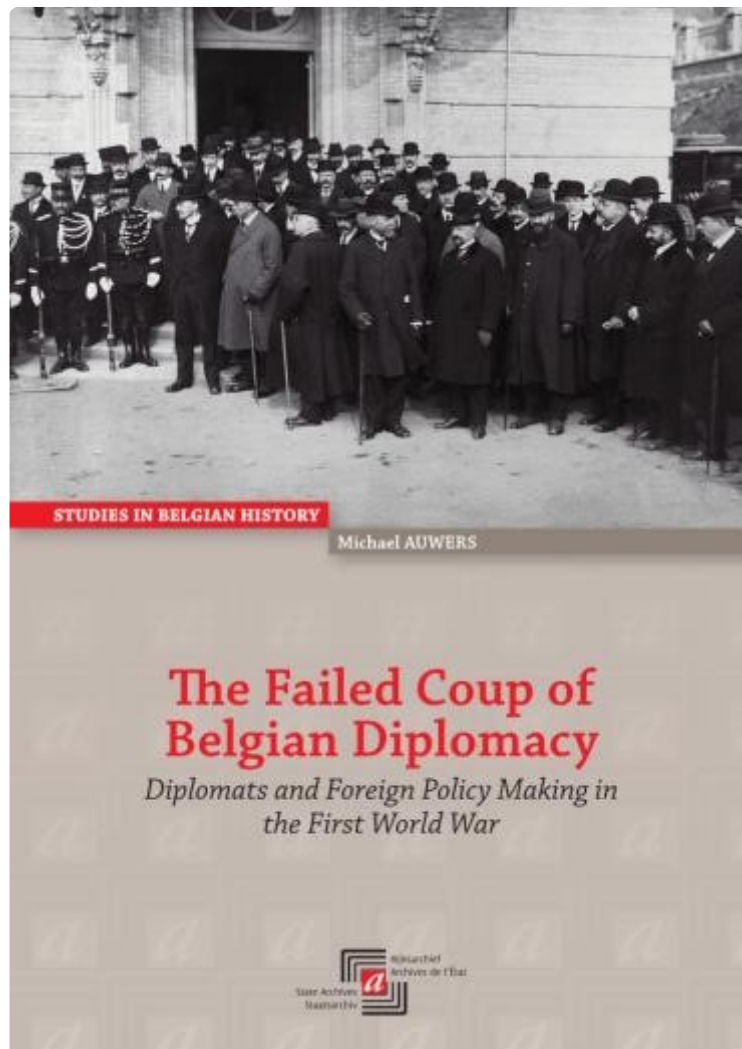
[THREE QUESTIONS FOR ... Gertjan Desmet,](#)

[New catalogue for the CegeSoma library](#)

The failed coup of Belgian diplomacy.

Diplomats and Foreign Policy Making in the First World War.

World War I



The Failed Coup of Belgian Diplomacy challenges conventional ideas about Belgian foreign policy during World War I. According to the prevailing narrative, the inexperienced politicians representing Belgium at the Paris Peace Conference made a strategic mistake by betting heavily on territorial expansion at the expense of, among others, the neutral Netherlands. That narrative attributes too much power to politicians as makers of foreign policy and underestimates the impact of diplomats. The book aims to correct these ideas. It sees the implementation of Belgian foreign policy as the result of a conflict between diplomats and argues that an emerging and impatient generation of young diplomats, inspired by the colonial ventures of the late King Leopold II, pushed aside their older colleagues, sidelined King Albert I and took over the reins of Belgian diplomacy.

Through this Belgian story, The Failed Coup of Belgian Diplomacy nuances the common narrative that describes World War I as a decisive period for the takeover of the diplomatic apparatus by European politicians. In most belligerent countries, diplomats were surely accused of incompetence. Many of them were also removed from the center of European politics in the early stages of the war and failed to regain their influence at the peace conference.

In Belgium, on the other hand, a group of young diplomats managed to shift politicians from neutrality to an annexationist program with relative ease. The ultimate Belgian failure at Versailles, this book argues, was largely caused by the lack of consensus within the diplomatic corps on foreign policy objectives. This absence weakened the cohesion and effectiveness of Belgian diplomacy.

PRODUCT DETAILS

Binding: paperback

Number of pages: 228 p.

Format: 17 x 24 cm

Publishing date: 2022

EAN/ ISBN: 9789463912938

Editor: Brussels, State Archives (series Studies in Belgian History vol. 12, publication no 6304)

AUTHOR(S)

[Michael Auwers](#)

PRICE

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ORDER

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