



Announcement and CfP

International Conference on

“The Impact of World War One on China’s Modern History”

University of Vienna, Austria, July 4-6, 2014

July 2014 will mark the 100th anniversary of the beginning of World War One. WWI significantly changed the global economic and political structure; in particular, its influence on modern China was profound. While the Revolution of 1911 and the subsequent founding of the nation marked the end of an old era, World War One has fundamentally changed China’s modern history, giving rise to a series of historical events such as the transformation of China into a modern sovereign country, the rise of China’s Communist Party, the course of the revolution, the Sino-Japanese war and the deconstruction of the traditional Chinese social structure. Unfortunately, academic research on the relationship between World War One and the history of China is scarce. On the 100th anniversary of World War One, the University of Vienna will organise an international conference titled “The Impact of World War One on China’s Modern History”. The conference will be held in Vienna, the capital of Austria, July 4-6 2014.

1. Themes of the conference include:

- 1) The Beiyang Government and World War One
- 2) China’s reflection on and contribution to World War One
- 3) The Paris Peace Conference and China’s modern diplomatic history
- 4) World War One, the May 4th Movement and Nationalism
- 5) The Impact of World War One on China’s intellectual world

- 6) The Russian Bolshevik Revolution, the Soviet Union and China's Communist Party
- 7) World War One, the Japanese-German War and Japanese occupied Shandong province
- 8) The influence of World War One on China's national economy
- 9) China's major historical figures during World War One

2. Event details

- 1) Date: Friday 4th to Sunday 6th July, 2014
- 2) Location: University of Vienna, Austria
- 3) Conference language: Chinese and English
- 4) The conference consists of four sessions: politics, economics, thought and culture, and international relations
- 5) Main organiser: Department of East Asian Studies/Sinology, University of Vienna

3. Participants

Around 20 scholars from mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and other parts of the world are anticipated to attend the conference. The main criterion for assessing the qualification of a formal participant is the abstract he/she contributes.

The conference organisers will pay for:

- 1) The international travel expenses of the scholars officially invited
- 2) Accommodation during the conference
- 3) Relevant transportation costs during the conference
- 4) Conference lunches and three dinners

In addition, participants may also bring along anyone who has been admitted by the committee and who is willing to pay their own expenses. The conference organisers intend to allocate ten places to those who can cover their own expenses (travel costs, accommodation, etc.).

4. Abstracts & Papers

Participants are invited to submit an **abstract of 200-300 words in English or Chinese** to Daniel Fuchs: daniel.fuchs@univie.ac.at. Please include a brief biographical statement (max. 150 words). The **deadline** for the submission of the abstract is **March 15, 2014**. We will notify you by April 1, 2014 if your proposal has been accepted.

Accepted participants are then required to submit their **full paper** (8,000-15,000 words, English or Chinese) to daniel.fuchs@univie.ac.at by **July 1, 2014**.

5. Documentation

A compilation of papers in English and Chinese, including ca. 20 articles, will be published as a result of the conference. In addition, there will be audio and video recordings available after the conference.

6. Co-organisers

- 1) www.21ccom.net
- 2) The Eastern Publishing Co.,Ltd

7. Contacts

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Further information in Chinese:

http://www.21.ccom.net/articles/dtxw/news_2012110594827.html

Attachment

Themes of “The Impact of World War One on China’s Modern History”

1. Summary

Traditionally, academic research on the impact of World War One on China’s modern history has been scarce. The existing research focuses primarily on areas such as the war decision taken by the Beiyang government, the conditions of the 150,000 Chinese workers who were involved in the war in Europe, the Peace Treaty of Versailles and the May 4th Movement, Japan’s 21 demands of 1925 and Japan’s occupation of Shandong and China’s economic development during World War One.

Once the capital of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Vienna is deeply embedded in the history of WWI. One hundred years later, scholars from all over the world will convene at the University of Vienna to retrospectively discuss the great impact of WWI on China’s modern history.

2. Main themes of the conference

There are four main themes in the conference

(1) Political impact: Due to World War One, Bolshevik Revolution broke out in Russia and the Soviet Union was established, which not only led to Sun Yat-sen’s enactment of the so-called “Three Principles of the People”, but also directly led to the founding of China’s Communist Party. The founding and development of China’s Communist Party fundamentally influenced China’s historical development and political system.

(2) Ideological and cultural impact: That China, as a victorious nation of World War One, was not treated fairly at the Paris Peace Conference gave rise to the May 4th Movement. Through the promotion of the vernacular Chinese, substantial western

elements were incorporated into Chinese culture, and communist left-leaning thought was able to proliferate. Since then, Chinese culture has been in a state of flux, in accordance with which the composition and function of the intelligentsia closely related to the cultural system in China has changed; China's intellectual world and the Chinese intelligentsia started to become more diversified.

(3) The impact on international relations: Since World War One, China has adopted an active initiative-taking approach in the domain of international affairs and became a victorious country. It started to develop its capacity of negotiating with major countries in the world, of identifying its role on the international stage, and of integrating with the world in its own way, and soon became a modern sovereign country. In that sense, it is inadequate or even impossible to interpret the transformation of China's national history without considering the larger background of international relations. For instance, Japan taking the opportunity of Germany's defeat to occupy Qingdao and then the entire Shandong province laid a foundation for its all-out invasion of China in the 1930s. The influence of the Sino-Japanese war on Chinese history cannot be overstated; it provided an opportunity for China's Communist Party to develop and prevail.

(4) Economic impact: As a result of World War One, western countries' neglected their economic interests in China, whereby Chinese national capital was given space for development, fundamentally changing the future course of the Chinese economy which had been dominated by western countries since the Opium War.