

Remembering the Finnish Civil War in 1918
Risto Alapuro

In the Finnish Civil War of 1918 an internal and an external dimension were superposed in a way that has made the remembrance of the conflict extremely ambivalent. The two Russian revolutions in 1917 created conditions both for polarization and the gaining of independence from Russia. Consequently, the War has no commonly shared name, but it is called the Civil War or the Internal War, or, alternatively, the War for Freedom. It resulted in the exclusion of the defeated from the nation as being “those who had no fatherland.” In the dominant view the rebels had put themselves in the service of their mortal enemies, the Bolshevik Russians. A fierce opposition existed between the views of the White victors and the defeated Reds up to the post-World War II period. In the 1960s the nationalist interpretation was fragmented, first in literature and then in scholarly research and elsewhere in the dominant culture. A new phase following the collapse of the Soviet Union has multiplied the approaches, reviving views close to the victors’ perspectives, advancing the treatment of the terror and repression, and heightening the attention to the memory of the War.

Civil War’s victims and commemoration in post-war Spain (1939-2005)
Jose Luis Ledesma, Javier Rodrigo

Among the different latitudes of the Spanish recent past, the Civil war of 1936-39 is the most influential on the present. In fact, social identities and political legitimacies in the last Seventy years have been constructed in Spain in reference to the enormous division between winners and losers of that war. Memory of the war and of political violence has shaped the limits of the most significant political processes in Spain, as democratisation. And among the different aspects of the conflict, its victims have been the most relevant in the sphere of public remembrance. They have been publicly remembered, erected as collective moral, political and identity references, or “forgotten”, both during the general Franco’s

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military dictatorship (1939-1975) and the democratic period (1975-2006). This article aims to observe their presences and their absences, to explain how three different generations have constructed and represented memory of the war and the victims, officially or not, through a 66 year period.

*Broken bonds and divided memories.
War time massacres reconsidered in a comparative perspective*
Riki Van Boeschoten

This paper discusses the emergence of “divided memories” in the aftermath of war time massacres in Greece and Italy. Based on ethnographic research in the Greek community of Drakeia, it focuses on an apparent “ethnographic enigma”: the formation of a strong anti-partisan memory in a community previously organized in the Resistance movement. Using comparative material from Italian communities, the paper describes the variety of responses to war time massacres and reflects on what seem to be important factors in shaping such memories: the political context, the process of transmission, social structure, local politics and cultural patterns. It will be argued that the divided memory is neither an exception nor a universal response to war time massacres: it appears rather as a socio-cultural mode of action, rooted in the community’s social life, but at the same time shaped through interaction between the local and the national level.

*From «frozen memory» to the encounter of remembrance
Memorials to the Second World War in Tito’s Yugoslavia*
Heike Karge

Public remembrance in Yugoslavia, and in Eastern Europe in general, can not be subsumed under the label of „official remembrance”. Instead, the 1960s show a much greater diversity in terms of agents and practices of public remembrance, a diversity, that can be traced on the level of local, communal as well as all-Yugoslav remembrance practices. These practices had been forceful incentives to change even parts of the official war narrative. Approaching the topic of public war remembrance from this perspective will highlight aspects of agency and creativity of the various actors involved, avoiding thus a depiction of the political elite as the only forceful “memory agent”.

France: Civil War and Liberation
Philippe Buton

Have France experienced a civil war during the Liberation? The answer, for a long time, was obvious as far as the historians community is concerned. Then, the historical debate has become more complex while the french memories of the second world war became lessedulcorated and the time of new questions arose. In the last decade, historians began a new debate, combined with complementary researches, that allowed a clearly more sharpened reply.

Websites of Memory:
The American Civil War and the Advent of the Internet
Eleni Paschaloudi

The American Civil War, as any other civil war, was extremely violent, divisive and negative. However, it is really astonishing that Americans refer to it as an event that finally contributed to the nation's unification, part of its heroic past. Rather than looking at the war as a tragic failure and trying to understand it, or even condemn it, Americans, North and South, chose to view it as a glorious time to be celebrated.

In the case of the American Civil War, the Internet constitutes a field of primary interest. Besides the official collective memory, cyberspace allows to groups and individuals to construct and maintain their own particular view of what the War really meant. As the internet public sphere allows anything to anyone, contributes to the democratization of memory and commemoration.

There are literally thousands of sites and millions of pages that relate to the American Civil War. In terms of memory and for the purpose of this paper they can be separated in two vast categories: those that function as vehicles for the official public memory and the ones that differentiate and project different views. Nevertheless both categories lead us to a general conclusion: Memories remain and /or become vivid recollections because they contribute positively to personal and social identity and thus serve to maintain or enhance self-esteem. In the case of the American Civil War, maintaining the memory on a nationwide level and maintaining the memory on a local family and personal level did not have the same objectives. The government officials preserved the memory of the war as a reference to the nation's unity. People in the south preserved a different aspect of memory in order to sustain a positive group and self-concept after the war.