

Why it is so difficult to remember 1918?

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I am interested in the memory gap between the huge attention the centenary of the beginning of WW I got in 2014 and the conceivably lesser attention for the centenary of the end of the war this year. Is it easier to remember going to war than peacemaking? My first argument is that the lessons learned from the beginning and the end of the First World War differ – there is an “European lesson” learned from the beginning but the conclusions drawn from the end of the WWI are national ones. Remembering 1918 is to remind ourselves that we live 'in contrast', as **Dariusz Kosiński** put it. These lessons tell us something about the way nation and democracy are understood and lived in the European countries. The conclusion I would like to draw from these arguments is that we need to change history museums into an institution where democracy (and nation??) is lived and not only exhibited.