

# “Remembrance” or “Lest We Forget”: Rethinking the War to End All Wars

By [Michael Welch](#), [Yves Engler](#), and [Dr. Jacques R. Pauwels](#)  
Global Research, November 21, 2018

Region: [Canada](#), [Europe](#), [World](#)  
Theme: [GLOBAL RESEARCH NEWS HOUR](#)

*And I can't help but wonder no Willie McBride,  
Do all those who lie here know why they died?  
Did you really believe them when they told you 'The Cause?'  
Did you really believe that this war would end wars?  
The suffering, the sorrow, the glory, the shame  
The killing, the dying, it was all done in vain.  
For Willie McBride, it all happened again,  
And again, and again, and again, and again.*

– from Eric Bogle’s song The Green Fields of France. This verse was deleted in Joss Stone’s rendition for the Royal British Legion’s 2014 Poppy Appeal.

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Length (59:43 )

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*(This is a repeat broadcast of an episode originally airing November 7, 2014)*

One of the most devastating conflicts in history the First World War drew in all the major powers at the time. Eight and a half million soldiers and Six and a half million civilians are estimated to have perished in the war that was supposed to end war. [1][2]

Set off by a diplomatic crisis, triggered by the assassination of Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand in June of 1914, The Great War as it was known at the time lasted four bloody years. On November 11, 1918, Germany became the last of the Central Powers to capitulate and sign an armistice with the victorious Allied Powers, signalling the end of the war.

To this day, the 11th hour of the eleventh month is set aside to reflect and honour those military men and women who paid the ultimate cost to secure a more peaceful and just world. The occasion is referred to as Remembrance Day in the British Commonwealth.

The spirit of Remembrance Day has shifted in recent years, especially in Canada.

Following the centenary of the start of World War I, the Canadian Prime Minister credited the war as a critical ingredient in establishing the country as an independent nation. [3]Harper stokes national pride over Allied victories in Ypres, Vimy and Passchendaele rather than lament a tragic loss of life over a mostly pointless war. [4]

Cautionary warnings about the terrible toll of war with slogans like “Never Again” and “Lest We Forget” seem to have been eclipsed by imperatives to paint the sacrifices of military men and women serving the State (for whatever reason) as heroic and necessary.

Today, Remembrance Day may as well be called “Thank a Soldier for your Freedoms Day.”

Without disrespecting those who have died serving in past conflicts, it is worth reflecting during Remembrance Week on exactly why World War I and other twentieth century conflicts were waged in the first place. Were these wars truly for democracy, peace and democracy? Or were there more cynical motives being pursued by Canada and the other major powers?

To this end, this week’s Global Research News Hour interviews two prominent authors and dissident thinkers on the century old conflict known as World War I and Canada’s role in this and other military forays.

*Yves Engler is an activist and author of numerous books on Canadian foreign policy including [The Black Book on Canadian Foreign Policy](#), [Canada and Israel: Building Apartheid](#) and his latest [The Ugly Canadian: Stephen Harper’s Foreign Policy](#).*

*Dr. Jacques Pauwels, Canadian historian and author of the 2000 book [The Myth of the Good War: America in the Second World War](#) . He has a French language book on World War I available now. An English version will be available in 2015.*

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The [Global Research News Hour](#) airs every Friday at 1pm CT on [CKUW 95.9FM](#) in Winnipeg. The programme is also podcast at [globalresearch.ca](#) . Excerpts of the show have begun airing on [Rabble Radio](#) and appear as podcasts at [rabble.ca](#).

The Global Research News Hour now airs Fridays at 6pm PST, 8pm CST and 9pm EST on Alternative Current Radio ([alternativecurrentradio.com](#))

Community Radio Stations carrying the Global Research News Hour:

CHLY 101.7fm in Nanaimo, B.C – Thursdays at 1pm PT

Boston College Radio [WZBC 90.3FM NEWTONS](#) during the Truth and Justice Radio Programming slot - Sundays at 7am ET.

[Port Perry Radio](#) in Port Perry, Ontario –1 Thursdays at 1pm ET

[Burnaby Radio Station CJSF out of Simon Fraser University](#). 90.1FM to most of Greater Vancouver, from Langley to Point Grey and from the North Shore to the US Border.

It is also available on 93.9 FM cable in the communities of SFU, Burnaby, New Westminister, Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody, Surrey and Delta, in British Columbia, Canada. – Tune in at its new time – Wednesdays at 4pm PT.

Radio station [CFUV 101.9FM](#) based at the University of Victoria airs the Global Research News Hour every Sunday from 7 to 8am PT.

[CORTES COMMUNITY RADIO CKTZ 89.5](#) out of Manson's Landing, B.C airs the show Tuesday mornings at 10am Pacific time.

[Cowichan Valley Community Radio CICV 98.7 FM](#) serving the [Cowichan Lake](#) area of Vancouver Island, BC airs the program Thursdays at 6am pacific time.

Campus and community radio [CFMH 107.3fm](#) in Saint John, N.B. airs the Global Research News Hour Fridays at 10am.

Caper Radio CJBW 107.3FM in Sydney, [Cape Breton](#), Nova Scotia airs the Global Research News Hour starting Wednesday Morning from 8:00 to 9:00am. Find more details at [www.caperradio.ca](http://www.caperradio.ca)

RIOT RADIO, the visual radio station based out of [Durham College](#) in Oshawa, Ontario has begun airing the Global Research News Hour on an occasional basis. Tune in at [dcstudentsinc.ca/services/riot-radio/](http://dcstudentsinc.ca/services/riot-radio/)

Radio Fanshawe: [Fanshawe's 106.9 The X \(CIXX-FM\)](#) out of London, Ontario airs the Global Research News Hour Sundays at 6am with an encore at 4pm.

Los Angeles, California based [Thepowerofvoices.com](http://Thepowerofvoices.com) airs the Global Research News Hour every Monday from 6-7pm Pacific time.

Notes:

1) Ulanis, Boris (1971). Wars and Population. Moscow. p. 85

2) Clodfelter, Michael (2002). Warfare and Armed Conflicts- A Statistical Reference to Casualty and Other Figures, 1500-2000 2nd Ed. Page 479

3) Lee-Anne Goodman (August 4, 2014). Canadian Press; 'Prime Minister Stephen Harper calls First World War essential to country's development'; [http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2014/08/04/prime\\_minister\\_stephen\\_harper\\_calls\\_first\\_world\\_war\\_essential\\_to\\_countrys\\_development.html](http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2014/08/04/prime_minister_stephen_harper_calls_first_world_war_essential_to_countrys_development.html)

4) [Thomas Walkom](#) (August 5, 2014), The Toronto Star; 'Stephen Harper fails to see that World War I was a mistake'; [http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2014/08/05/stephen\\_harper\\_fails\\_to\\_see\\_that\\_world\\_war\\_i\\_was\\_a\\_mistake\\_walkom.html](http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2014/08/05/stephen_harper_fails_to_see_that_world_war_i_was_a_mistake_walkom.html)

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