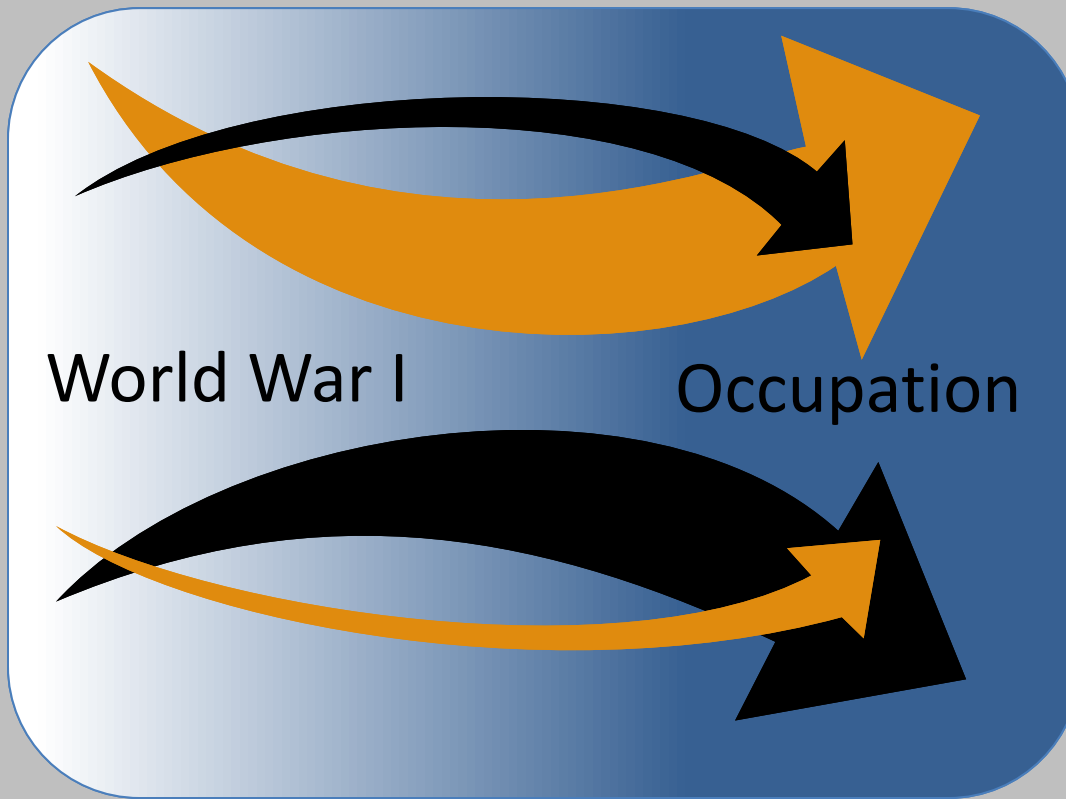


Did 'patriotic' civilians come from the elite more than 'traitors'?

Belgian Civilians in the Great War: A Social Political History (1900-1940)

Upper class
 Male
 Old
 French-speaking

Lower class
 Female
 Young
 Dutch-speaking



Patriots



Traitors



Why is this important?

- It revises occupations analyses beyond the 'resistance-collaboration' dichotomy
- It brings a social understanding to political behaviours

- Focus on political prisoners from both Belgian and German prisons (conceptually innovative)
- Threefold scale analysis: from statistical to individual samples
- Analysing social data from prison records & confrontation with judiciary sources, official decorations, patriotic federations and personal writings

How do I do that?

Research questions

- How did social conditions affect individual 'choices' and strategies under the occupation?
- Did post-war qualifications of the resulting behaviours strengthen or overturn pre-war social strata?

- Better off pre-war social conditions improved the chances to become a recognised 'patriot'; the opposite for 'traitors'
- Patriotic qualifications unequally democratised after the war

Expected results