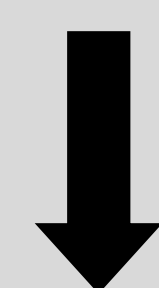
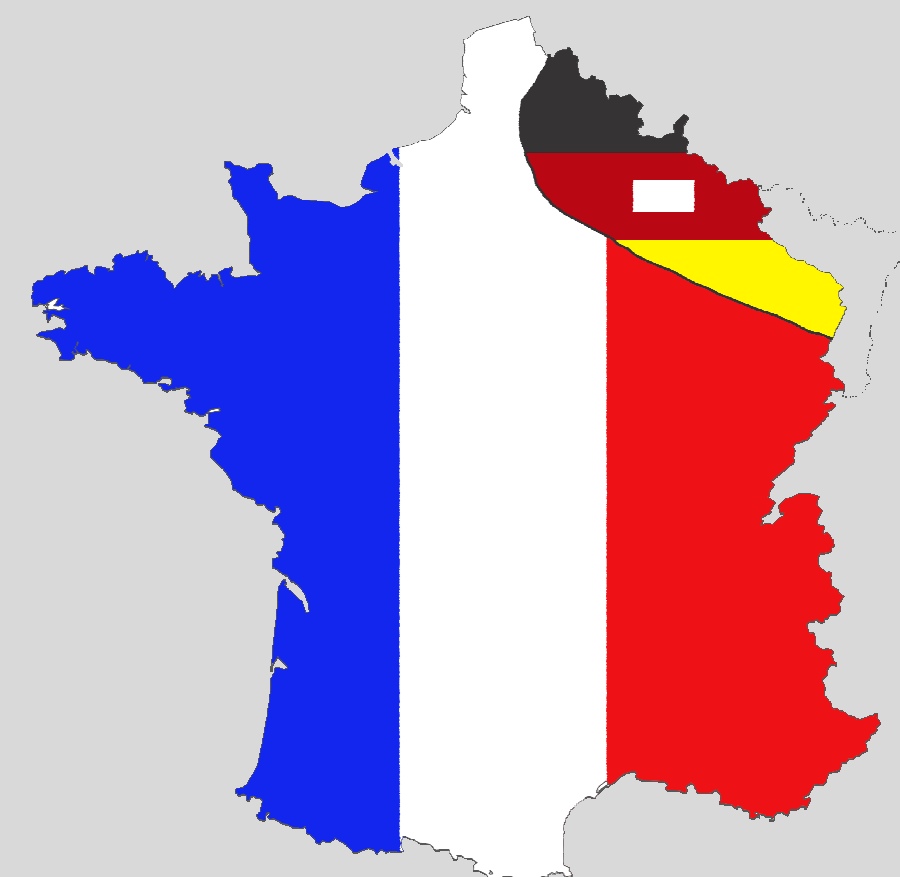


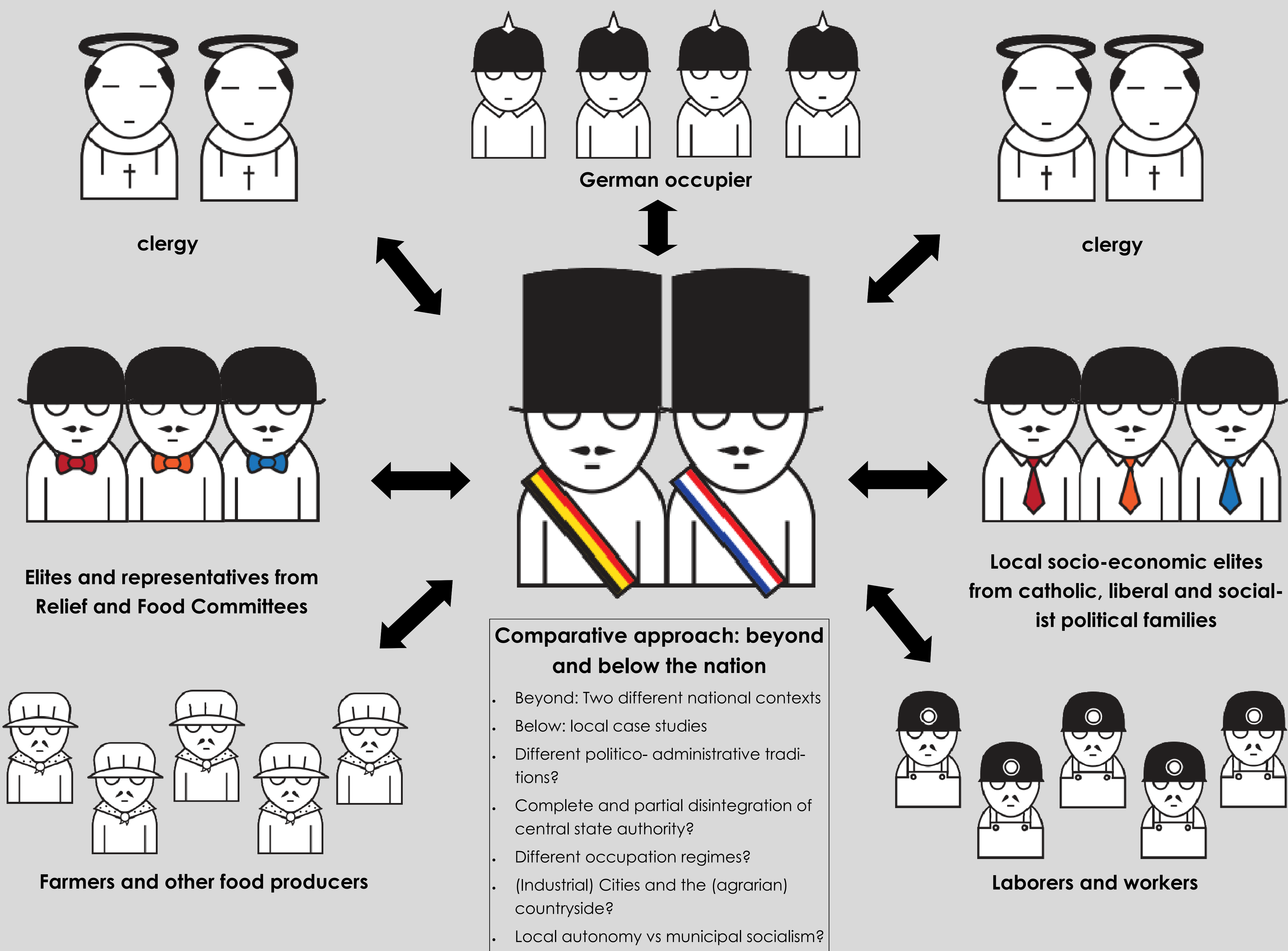
# Mayors in occupied and liberated Belgium and France: 1914-1921

**Content:** The importance of the local governmental level grew considerably during the partial disintegration of state authority in the occupied territories. This caused a process of re-localization of daily life. As a 'mediator' between different social groups and other powerbrokers, the mayor is a highly suitable figure to research the changing relationships of power caused by the occupation. The central questions are focussing on how mayors in occupied France and Belgium tried to legitimate their actions and how they interacted with different actors such as local elites, the population and the occupier.



## Processes of re-localization and contexts of state disintegration:

a political, social and economical shift to the local level in the occupied territories during World War I



- 1. Feeding the local population**
- National Relief and Food Committee
  - Strict Public and communal initiatives
  - Relations with surrounding cities and communes
  - Negotiating and improvising
  - Old habits, new solutions?
  - Specific French and Belgian solutions?

- 2. Maintaining order**
- Controlling prostitution
  - Social protest and foot riots
  - Resolution of conflicts between consumers and producers : usury and speculation
  - Relations between local police forces and German police forces
  - War policing? New tasks, solutions and initiatives

- 3. Relations with occupier and occupied population**
- "Obéir l'occupant, servir la population!"
  - Coercion, cooperation, discussions, negotiating and repression
  - Mayor's public performances and presentations
  - Opposing deportations
  - Post-war purification and war memory