Lunedì 18 Novembre 2013

Escuela Española de Historia y Arqueología en Roma
via di Torre Argentina 18, 3 p. 00186 Roma
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Seminario internazionale

NEUTRALITY AND NEUTRALITIES IN THE GREAT WAR
Latest Approaches to Economic Warfare

NEUTRALIDAD Y NEUTRALIDADES EN LA GRAN GUERRA
Enfoques actuales para el estudio de la guerra económica

PROGRAMMA

09.15: Presentazione del seminario

09.30: Prof. Dr. Brunello Vigezzi (Univ. degli Studi di Milano)
La neutralità italiana

10.00: Prof. Dr. Fernando García Sanz (EEHAR-CSIC)
España: entre neutralidad y beligerancia

10.30: Pausa

11.00: Dr. Matthew Seligmann (Brunel University)
British Naval War Planning before 1914

11.30: Dra. Carolina García Sanz (EEHAR-CSIC)
Armageddon in the Mediterranean (1914-1915): Great Britain and Neutral Commerce

12.00: Discussione

13.00 Pausa

15.30: Dra. Ana Paula Pires (Universidade Nova de Lisboa)
Far far away. Fighting Undeclared Neutrality: the Portuguese Empire in Africa and Wartime Economy

16.00: Dr. Samuel Kruizinga (Amsterdam University)
NOT and SSS Comparing Dutch and Swiss Responses to the Allied Blockade, 1914-1918

16.30: Pausa

17.00: Dr. Bjarne Søndergaard Bendtsen (Aarhus University)
“Of course the Seaman had to do his Duty”. Danish Neutrality and the Economic War at Sea, 1914-1918

17.30: Discussione

18.00: Chiusura dei lavori

Organizzazione:
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Con la collaborazione di:

Confronting and Connecting Neutral Experiences of War through Belligerent Interferences

The war broke out in July-August 1914 and gradually involved other belligerents, allowing the neutrality of several countries for shorter or longer periods. These circumstances have received on the whole much less attention from historians. This conference aims to focus particularly on the inevitable extension of the fight to neutral countries, which represents one of the most complex challenges for states during the First World War. The conflict forced belligerents to build up military capabilities and to develop mechanisms to increase political influence in areas not only bordering the enemy but also far from hot spots.

The initial illusion of a short war and an imminent and lasting peace may explain the learning curve of the warring strategies implemented in neutral arenas. This learning experience shaped the British blockade, which has been traditionally studied less intensively than many other warfare aspects. Therefore, it may be valuable to rethink the scope and instruments of naval, economic and political coercion, which, far from being a faint hope, turned out into a “might is right” wherever it was possible. For instance, the study of what has been considered a pre-blockade phase (before March 11th, 1915), beyond the more controversial legal aspects, allows a better understanding of belligerent plans for neutral markets.

On those bases, this seminar seeks for contributions looking at different neutral scenarios by exploring areas of belligerent influence and international rivalries at stake. We target a study of the neutrality side tending to the comprehension of the total economic warfare. We will discuss whether the so-called “blockade” was adaptable and profitable to the national interests involved in each of the stages of the war, either in Scandinavia (North Sea) or in Mediterranean Europe. Thus, we may satisfactorily revise and qualify the relations between total war and merchant states. In fact, profiteering and patriotism were not preclusive. There was always a strong national alibi used against the enemy that explains the mobilization of the belligerent communities abroad to capture neutral commerce.

This seminar, open in space and time around neutral countries within the general framework of the First World War, will discuss objectives, incentives and chronology of warring intrusions as well as neutral mechanisms of self-defense. This activity is a part of the research project:

“El Mediterráneo en las relaciones internacionales de España durante la Primera Guerra Mundial” (HAR2010-16680).