

WHAT READERS THINK

Lessons of 1914

Contributed to The Globe and Mail
Published Tuesday, Apr. 22 2014

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Jack Granatstein is right that the centenary of the First World War needs to be marked well ([Why Is Canada Botching The Great War Centenary?](#)– April 21). He is also correct to say the war played an important role in Canada's evolution on the world stage.

Sorely needed in planned commemorations, however, are occasions at which to reflect on what we have learned from that war, given the disturbing parallels between the worlds of 1914 and 2014. Has the world averted a possibly catastrophic arms race? Has diplomatic intervention trumped the recourse to arms in situations of conflict? Is the United Nations any better than the League of Nations was in preventing war? What can we learn from the First World War to help mediate the conflicts in Ukraine, Syria and elsewhere?

These are urgent issues in their own right, but by incorporating them into our reflections, the events of a century ago can be made much more relevant to today's younger audiences.

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