
World War I on Social Media

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this announcement is to highlight the teaching of the historical phenomenon of the First World War through social media. The study focuses on relevant thematic pages on twitter. The visualization of distant historical phenomena helps in the better reception of the historical information and in the empathy of the learner. There is a wealth of material on the internet, especially on pages from the United Kingdom, Australia and the United States. This material highlights many aspects of World War I, both military events and other social issues, such as the lives of civilians in war-torn countries, the propaganda of political leaders, and everyday human stories hidden in life. of soldiers and their families.

Keywords: *World War I, Social Media, ICT.*

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Introduction:

World War I is an important historical phenomenon, which shaped the image of modern Europe, but also of the Middle East. After the end of the Great War, the borders of many European countries were demarcated, empires were dissolved and the foundations of the revisionist phenomenon were laid, which led to the rise of nationalism and totalitarianism in many European countries, but mainly in Germany. For Greece, the First World War had equally important consequences. The National Divide caused the division of the Greek state temporarily into two governments and the foreign intervention. The delayed entry of Greece into the war was accompanied by glorious victories of the Greek army. The realization of Greece on the two continents and the five seas (Treaty of Sevres) was followed by the Asia Minor Catastrophe (Treaty of Lausanne) and the final end of the Great Idea, as it had been formulated since the 19th century. Therefore, the examination of the historical event of the First World War is necessary for the understanding of the modern world both in the European continent and in the Middle East.

Objectives-theoretical framework:

The aim of the use of Information and Communication Technology in the teaching of History, and specifically of the First World War, is the better reception and understanding of historical knowledge, the strengthening of historical literacy and digital literacy. Social Media has become very popular and is a familiar but also attractive way for learners to communicate [1], [2], [3], [4]. Their use in education raises some questions [5], [6], but their integration into teaching is constantly gaining ground [7], [8], [9]. Pages and accounts, which refer to historical figures, periods and events, are now widely available on the internet. However, special vigilance is needed in the use of the above accounts, because many users are possessed by ideological or national motives and not by purely scientific or pedagogical criteria and goals [10], [11]. Therefore, thorough filtering of historical information and crises expressed on the Internet is needed. Preferred for research and work are topics that do not cause ideological and national tensions. It is also considered good to keep events as far apart as possible from the modern generation. World War I is a historic event that affected almost the entire European continent and the Middle East. A century has passed since the events, when all the national and ideological tensions that the moderns carried with them at the time have been eliminated.

Using twitter is considered safer than other social media [12], [13], [14], such as facebook [15], [16]. Abroad there are several accounts with historical content, which are considered credible but also relatively nationally neutral. Of course, there are also nationally oriented accounts, which aim to project the history of a nation or social group. The latter are dominated mainly by the patriotic or ideological character of the nation or group under consideration. This is not necessarily a disadvantage, provided that it is boldly declared or "transmitted" to the account visitor and therefore prepares accordingly. Of course, social media does not seek thorough historical analysis, but the goal is to visualize historical information. For the collection of visual material, such as photos, maps, blueprints, works of art, etc., Social Media - especially twitter - can prove valuable. Visual material, which would require repeated visits to relevant archives and libraries, is available for viewing and editing online. A relatively recent topic, based on the length of time occupied by human history, such as the First World War, offers rich visual material for research. The main reason is the existence of photographs from the time, but also print media, mainly newspapers and propaganda posters.

The First World War on twitter:

There are many pages on twitter, which have as their theme the First World War. The number of these accounts has increased significantly in recent years due to the celebration of the centenary of the outbreak of the Great War. There are

even users who record what happened on the fronts of World War I or in the states that participated every day a hundred years ago. This is essentially a historical chronology of the evolution of the war. There are accounts that deal with national participation in the First World War. Other accounts focus on the social dimension of the war and how it affected the lives of the participants. In other words, they focus on social history and not, as most do, on military and political events. Of course out of all these accounts only a few are considered reliable and usable in the educational process. Because all these users have different focus on historical events and different methodology in the development and approach of visual material, it was deemed appropriate to divide them into categories. Thus, specific accounts can be used depending on the approach desired by the researcher. That is, if it focuses on the history of a state that participated in the war or in the general military and political events or on the human side of the Great War.

Recording the daily development of the war:

These accounts focus on documenting the day-to-day development of World War I, both on the battlefield and at the political level. The richest material in this category is World War I Live. It is an English language page and focuses mainly on articles from the press of the time. It also contains many cartoons and sketches that can be used to study the feelings of public opinion of the states that participated in the war. Most of the material comes from sources in the United States. There are a plethora of articles on all fronts of the war and in all countries, both those that participated and those that were affected by the Great War. The articles are recorded by indicating the date of publication of the news before and after the event to which they refer. Thus, this account is suitable for a calendar search of war events and not a thematic one, as the relevant search is easier.



Figure 1: World War I Live user account.

Another account that records the daily development of the war is the Great War Diary. It is also an English-language page focusing on the contribution of British troops to the Great War. Greater reference is made to the hostilities that took place on the Western Front and in the Middle East, as there was also significant British military involvement. The recording is done on a daily basis. The date of the historical event is proposed and its description follows. Therefore, the search is based on the date of the events and not on the states or regions involved. In this account there is rich photographic material from the war fronts. The photos are mainly related to the British military involvement in the war. Many maps and blueprints of military operations are also published. There are still frequent references to contemporary articles about World War I that act as hyperlinks. In general, it can be characterized as a remarkable and useful account, as it contains rich and remarkable visual material as well as historical analyzes.

Another noteworthy page on twitter is WWI covered live. The daily events of the Great War are recorded. The method of recording the material is mainly descriptive and is followed by the indication of the date of publication. Contains rich photographic material, as well as reprints of modern historical analyzes. The publication of the material is done without a specific method. This makes it difficult for the researcher to search and utilize the material. Despite this difficulty in searching for the material, this is a very remarkable account, because it contains rich visual material but also reposts from other relevant twitter accounts.

One account that records only the events that happened every day during the Great War without containing any visual material is WorldWar1 Day by Day. It records the daily developments of both the war and the general events related to the war and the participating states. This page can be used as a historical diary of the Great War, but because it does not contain visual material for exploitation, it cannot be exploited otherwise.

Finally, another page that records the events of the war on a daily basis is RealTimeWWI. This account uses descriptive logging of events, not chronological ones. Therefore, it becomes difficult to search the material of the page, because there is no specific method of recording the events. However, quite rich photographic material is published. Plans and maps are included, but it is difficult to search for the relevant material, because there is no chronological record of the events.

All the above pages continue to publish daily visual and not only material. Therefore, there is material to be published for both the year 1917 and 1918. In fact, during these years, Greece went to the Great War, a fact that makes the material to be published extremely valuable for researchers.

Accounts associated with a warring state:

On twitter there are accounts that deal with the participation in the First World War of a warring state. Thus, the researcher knows that the material is mainly about the participation of this particular state in the war. In other words, it is mainly a national history and secondarily a description of the overall history of the First World War.

A first page dealing with the participation of Turkey, then the Ottoman Empire, in the Great War is Turkey in WW1. In this account, which is also related to the Greek history and participation in the war, as Turkey was the main opponent of Greece in the war, the posts are made mainly in English. The material published is both photographic from the time, as well as images from museums related to the military history of the Ottoman Empire. Titles of relevant English and Turkish books are also published, as well as historical articles on the internet in the above languages. There is material in the account which can be utilized in relation to Greek history.

Another account, which deals with the participation of a state in the First World War and specifically of Australia is Australia in WW1. Rich visual material is published on this account. There are many published photos of the time, focusing of course on the involvement of Australia and Australian soldiers in the war. Several newspaper articles of the time are also published, as well as propaganda posters. Finally, historical articles are being republished that refer to Australia's participation in the Great War and beyond.



Figure 2: Australia's involvement in the Great War.

Scotland's Great War account contains material that focuses on the involvement of Scottish soldiers in the war. It mainly republishes photos of soldiers, but also of modern events commemorating the participation of Scottish soldiers in the war. Historical articles are also republished.

Finally, another account referring to a state's national involvement in the war is the WW100 New Zealand, which contains material on New Zealand's participation in World War I. Articles about the season are republished, as well as photos. There are also propaganda posters about the war, as well as photographs from museums, monuments and attractions related to the involvement of New Zealand soldiers in the war.

The above pages are mainly related to the states of the old British Commonwealth. This is explained by the extent of the soldiers' participation in the Great War on almost all fronts.

Publication of human stories:

Along with the glorious military events unfolded daily human stories, usually tragic, of the soldiers who took part in the battles. This human dimension of the war is the focus of the pages that publish mainly material related to the personal stories of the protagonists of the war, ie the soldiers and their relatives.

A page that publishes rich material on the human factor in war is ww1photos .org. It contains many photos of mostly British soldiers and their families. Soldiers are usually named, but there are many anonymous. Especially the family photos of the soldiers from the homeland contain a special emotion, as we do not know for most if they survived the war. Many historical articles about the Great War are republished. In general, it can be characterized as a very rich source for the social historical record of the consequences of the war on a human level.



Figure 3: the human side of the Great War.

Another account with valuable material for the human side of World War I is the WW1 Family Letters. This account republishes articles, as well as letters from soldiers who participated in the war fronts. These are mainly British soldiers and their families. The letters are a direct source of the time, but at the same time extremely enlightening sources of the human agony of the protagonists of the war and their families.



Figure 4: Letters from the front.

Another page related to the personal stories of soldiers and other protagonists of the war is Lives of WW1. It contains material, both visual, ie photographs, as well as stories from the stories of soldiers and other people. It mainly concerns British soldiers.

These pages are extremely useful resources for studying the human side of war. They can give the researcher material for very important anti-war messages, which touch all people regardless of nationality.

Specialized accounts:

There are accounts on twitter that focus on specific issues of the war. They can not be included in thematic categories, as there are no other pages that create a relevant group.

A remarkable page is War Art, which publishes visual visual material related to the First World War. In other words, it contains propaganda posters about the war, but also works of art, mainly paintings on the subject of military operations. It is a special account, as it combines history with artistic interest.

The National WWI Museum account belongs to the Museum of the same name, located in Kansas, USA. Of course, it publishes material related to the museum, as well as references to the involvement of the United States in the Great War.

Finally, it is worth mentioning the page Europeana 1914-1918, which contains historical material related to the First World War. These are mainly publications of contemporary articles and analyzes related to the war.

Conclusion:

All the above twitter pages offer excellent and abundant visual material to the researcher of History. However, they are also a useful tool for the teaching of the First World War and offer a trigger for the writing of synthetic works and studies, both in the field of military and political history, as well as in the social and human side of the Great War. Utilizing this latest anti-war and tragic picture of war, extremely valuable conclusions are drawn for the entire history of Mankind, but they are also a guide for the avoidance of similar human tragedies in the future.

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