



Pictures

Picture 1: Boys practicing for war. Photograph from: Landesarchiv Baden-Württemberg, Generallandesarchiv Karlsruhe, 69, 2.

Picture 2: Children play war games, children from Wuppertans "Warteschule" (nursery school). Photograph from: Pinneberg-Museum

Picture 3: Military observes crawling exercise by a youth company Photograph from: Landesarchiv Berlin, F Rep. 290 (03) Nr. 59050.

Picture 4: Advertising for war orphans. Postcard from: private property.

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***Military Youth
Education at the
Beginning of the
20th century***

October 1–2, 2025

Alte Mensa / Old Mensa
Johann-Joachim-Becher Weg 5

JOHANNES GUTENBERG
UNIVERSITÄT MAINZ



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SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 1ST

9:00–9:30

Welcome and introduction

1. MOBILIZATION IN SCHOOL

9:30–11:00

Lukas Boser

*“Switzerland does not have an army, it is an army.”
The making of citizen-soldiers in Swiss primary schools*

Emma Papadacci

Preparing for combat. School military preparation for teenagers in France and Great Britain

11:30–13:00

Christa Hämmerle

“Gathering on the spot [...]”. Gym instruction and target practice for the militarization of the male school youth – the example of the late Habsburg Monarchy

Felix Maskow

“Even the youth did their duty enthusiastically”? Wartime educational mobilization in the war editions and supplements of German school reading books during the First World War (1914–1918)



2. MOBILIZATION IN ASSOCIATIONS

15:00–16:30

Werner Benecke

The triumph of civilian education over military mobilization. Why Russia refrained from military training of the country's youth

Nazan Maksudyan

Paramilitary Youth Education in the Ottoman Empire. State Orphanages, Scouting Associations, Sports Clubs

17:30

City tour followed by wine tasting



SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 2ND

9:00–10:30

Andrew Donson

The Military Training of German Male Youth in the First World War and the November Revolution

Markus Raasch/Julia Tilentzidis

“Ha, was soll ich Soldätles tun?” (“Ha, why should I play soldier?”) Military youth education from the perspective of those affected

3. MOBILIZATION FOR AND IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LIFE

11:00–12:30

James Marten

Creating Nurseries of Patriotism. Conditioning American Youth for War at the Turn of the Twentieth Century

Sabine Frühstück

Mobilizing on Tatami Mats. Japanese Children and the Battles for Empire

14:00–15:30

Manon Pignot

Enlisting in spite of everything. The case of French Juvenile Combatants

Valentina Boretti

“China has hope!” Ludic preparation for national emergencies in the early decades of the 20th century

15:30

Final Discussion