

# Introduction Volume 7

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As Covid-restrictions are starting to ease up, discussions on what the post-covid world should entail have flared up. The pandemic laid bare fault lines in modern society, which subsequently raised questions as to how (or if) these fundamental issues should be addressed. The debates themselves appear to indicate the feeling of a 'new normal', a sense that the old mechanisms do not have the same efficacy as before, and new alternative approaches or methods should arise to address contemporary and future issues.

One could argue that a hundred years ago, a similar feeling of a 'new normal' took shape following the First World War. As old empires collapsed and new maps were being drawn, debates and questions arose across the globe on how the 'new normal' should be shaped and moulded. In particular, sub-national and regional movements across Europe took up the debates. They not only discussed the prospects of the 'new normal' in their own regions, but transgressed their borders, looking across Europe for similar cases, finding others with whom they could discuss alternative or novel ways to give meaning to the period after WWI.

The focus on sub-national and regional movements after the First World War formed the basis for the Annual NISE conference which took place on 28 May 2021. In cooperation with the Italian journal *Nazioni e Regioni* and the *Consello da Cultura Galega*, the conference (following the 2019



NISE Warsaw conference which addressed the issue of ‘national minorities’ following WWI) focused on the way the implementation of the principles of nationality and national self-determination after the Great War were fraught with inconsistency, resulting in new issues and question being raised on the regional, national, and international level. Four different sessions – ‘Irridentism and Periphery’, ‘Irridentism and Minorities debated’, ‘Diversity and Repression’, ‘Minorities and Diplomacy’ – delved into various aspects of the general questions that were being raised following the First World War, and the problems following the inconsistent implementation of the principles of nationality.

The articles in this volume stem from this conference and include a number of cases across Europe. They not only highlight the intricate and diverse ways in which different regions and (sub)-nations dealt with the post-war context and the themes addressed in the conference, but also illustrate the transnational character of these movements: protagonists of these movements travelled across Europe, finding inspiration or legitimacy from other regions, or forming friendships or alliances that could strengthen their own claims.

Finally, while this volume only includes a section of the articles that were being presented at the conference, all presentations during the conference were recorded, and you can find them online at <http://www.nise.eu/europe-reframed-online-conference-now-available-online/> It does seem that online conferences (or the element of presentations being recorded online) are a tiny piece of the ‘new normal’ puzzle: henceforth NISE will always strive to record its presentations (NISELecture, conferences, etc...) in order to present its findings to a wide audience.