

Dr Jonathan Boff

Lecturer

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About

As a historian, I am primarily interested in how institutions and individuals respond to the challenges of war. I believe that this is best studied using an approach which is both comparative and cross-disciplinary.

Qualifications

- PhD War Studies, King's College London
- MA History of Warfare, King's College London
- BA PPE, Merton College, Oxford University

Biography

I joined the University of Birmingham in September 2011 after completing my PhD at King's College London. Before returning to academia in 2005 I spent twenty years working in the private sector, much of the time in Asia.

Teaching

Undergraduate

- First Year: Practising History
- Second Year Core: Introduction to Strategy and Operational Art
- Second Year Option: Britain and the Second World War
- Third Year Core: Writing the History of War
- Third Year Option: Warfare at Sea from the Armada to D-Day
- Third Year Special Subject: The British Army on the Western Front

Postgraduate

- Convenor: [MA First World War Studies \(/postgraduate/courses/taught/history/british-ww1-studies.aspx\)](/postgraduate/courses/taught/history/british-ww1-studies.aspx)
- Convenor: [MA Military History by distance learning \(/postgraduate/courses/taught/history/military-history.aspx\)](/postgraduate/courses/taught/history/military-history.aspx)

Postgraduate supervision

I am happy to supervise projects on the military history of the two world wars, on British strategy from Gladstone to Churchill, and on morale and combat motivation. I am particularly keen to encourage projects with a comparative/international dimension.

Current projects I am supervising include:

- Aimee Fox-Godden, 'Inter-Theatre Learning in the British Army during the First World War'
- Andrew Duncan, 'The Training and Ethos of British Officers before the First World War'
- Peter McGuigan, 'Wiltshire Territorial Battalions during the Second World War'
- Nick Beeching, 'Worcester and the Worcestershire regiment, 1914-18'
- Carl Schuster, 'German Amphibious Doctrine from 1864'

Research

My current research focuses on the British and German armies and the development of modern warfare, 1914-1945, and on the connection between morale and military effectiveness.

I am working on a book for Oxford University Press on the Western Front, 1914-18, as seen through the eyes of one of the most senior German generals, Crown Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria.

In addition, I am working on British military attitudes to the use of extreme violence in the first half of the twentieth century, and on the role of materialism in causing wars.

Other activities

- Assistant Secretary, British Commission for Military History
- Councillor, Army Records Society
- **Thoughts on the First World War (<http://jonathanboff.wordpress.com/>)** - Jonathans blog

Publications

Authored Books

- **Winning and Losing on the Western Front: The British Third Army and the Defeat of Germany, 1918** (<http://www.cambridge.org/gb/academic/subjects/history/military-history/winning-and-losing-western-front-british-third-army-and-defeat-germany-1918>) (Cambridge University Press, 2012) (shortlisted for British Army Military Book of the Year).

Edited Collections

- (co-edited with Professor William Philpott) *Mastering the Industrial Battlefield: Military Transformation on the Western Front, 1914-18* (Ashgate, 2013)

Articles

- **Military Structures and Ranks** (<http://www.bl.uk/world-war-one/articles/military-structures-and-ranks>), British Library Online
- **Training to be a Soldier** (<http://www.bl.uk/world-war-one/articles/training-to-be-a-soldier>), British Library Online
- **How did WW1 most change life for women?** (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/guides/z9bf9j6>) BBC guides
- 'Logistics during the Hundred Days Campaign, 1918: British Third Army', *Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research* February 2012
- 'Combined Arms during the Hundred Days Campaign, August - November 1918', *War in History* 17:4 November 2010
- 'Air/Land Integration in the 100 Days', *Air Power Review* 12:3, Autumn 2009

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