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978-1-107-03514-0 - Catholicism and the Great War: Religion and Everyday
Life in Germany and Austria-Hungary, 1914–1922

Patrick J. Houlihan

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Catholicism and the Great War

This transnational comparative history of Catholic everyday religion in Germany and Austria-Hungary during the Great War transforms our understanding of the war's cultural legacy. Challenging master narratives of secularization and modernism, Houlihan reveals that Catholics from the losing powers had personal and collective religious experiences that revise the decline-and-fall stories of Church and state during wartime. Focusing on private theologies and lived religion, Houlihan explores how believers adjusted to industrial warfare. Giving voice to previously marginalized historical actors, including soldiers and women and children on the homefront, he creates a family history of Catholic religion, supplementing studies of the clergy and bishops. His findings shed new light on the diversity of faith in this period and how specifically Catholic forms of belief and practice enabled people from the losing powers to cope with the war much more successfully than previous cultural histories have led us to believe.

PATRICK J. HOULIHAN received his PhD in History from the University of Chicago in 2011. He is Assistant Director of Student Preparation in the Career Advancement Office at the University of Chicago, where he has also taught in the History Department.

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*Religion and Everyday Life in Germany and
Austria-Hungary, 1914–1922*

Patrick J. Houlihan

University of Chicago



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To Bettina, Elisabeth, and Alexander

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“If war is an act of force, the emotions cannot fail to be involved.”

– Karl von Clausewitz, *On War*, translated and edited
by Michael Howard and Peter Paret (Princeton, NJ:
Princeton University Press, 1976 [1832]), 76

“The war is being conducted not only with guns and cannons
but also with weapons of piety and prayer.”

– Sven Hedin, *Ein Volk in Waffen* (Leipzig: F. A.
Brockhaus, 1915), 461

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Vienna: Verlag für Militär- und Fachliteratur Amon Franz Göth, 1938.

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As any scholar of the Great War knows, homefront and battlefield are inextricably linked. For my bookish battle, my family has provided love and support beyond measure, without which this project would not be possible; from the beginning, we were together “in the

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trenches,” as it were. My parents, Pat and Mary Houlihan, and my sister, Jessica, provided a loving family environment and happy childhood. My extended family, most particularly my maternal grandparents, Alexander and Dorothy Poplawsky, inspired my love of Europe, history, and culture: a project that has established transnational connections with my in-laws in Europe, particularly Joachim and Traute Domnick.

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PJH

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Note on the text

Geographic naming is a perennial issue in European history, and there is no singular satisfactory solution that will account for all contingencies of identity politics. My imperfect method has been to remain close to the archival sources, replicating the names most prevalent in the documents that I have read. I hope that this will help future researchers effectively follow up on the paths I have trodden. I make exceptions, however, for place names that are widely known in English, such as Vienna (not Wien) and Prague (not Praha/Prag).

Except as noted, scriptural references derive primarily from Donald Senior and John J. Collins, eds., *The Catholic Study Bible*, 2nd edn. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2006).

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Abbreviations

AAS	Acta Apostolicae Sedis
AASI	Archivum Provinciae Austriae Societatis Iesu
ABF	Archiv der Bayerischen Franziskaner
AFV	Apostolisches Feldvikariat
AOK	Armeeoberkommando
ASV	Archivio Segreto Vaticano
BA-MA	Bundesarchiv-Militärarchiv
BHStA	Bayerisches Hauptstaatsarchiv
BfZ	Bibliothek für Zeitgeschichte (Stuttgart)
DAG	Diözesanarchiv Graz
DLA	Dokumentationsarchiv Lebensgeschichtlicher Aufzeichnungen (Vienna)
DTA	Deutsches Tagebucharchiv (Emmendingen)
EAF	Erzbischöflichesarchiv Freiburg
EAK	Erzbischöflichesarchiv Köln
EAM	Erzbischöflichesarchiv München-Freising
EAW	Erzbischöflichesarchiv Wien
KAS	Konsistorialarchiv Salzburg
KBKM	Königlich-Bayerisches Kriegsministerium
KM	Kriegsministerium
k.u.k.	kaiserlich und königlich
MKSM	Militärkanzlei Seiner Majestät
NL	Nachlass
NFA	Neue Feldakten
ÖStAKA	Österreichisches Staatsarchiv-Kriegsarchiv
PH	Preussisches Heer
TLA	Tiroler Landesarchiv
TLVA	Tiroler Landesverteidigungsakten