

## Exhibiting War

What does it mean to display war? Examining a range of different exhibitions in Britain, Canada, and Australia, Jennifer Wellington reveals complex imperial dynamics in the ways these countries developed diverging understandings of the First World War, despite their cultural, political, and institutional similarities. While in Britain a popular narrative developed of the conflict as a tragic rupture with the past, Australia and Canada came to see it as engendering national birth through violence. Narratives of the war's meaning were deliberately constructed by individuals and groups pursuing specific agendas: to win the war and immortalise it at the same time. Drawing on a range of documentary and visual material, this book analyses how narratives of mass violence changed over time. Emphasising the contingent development of national and imperial war museums, it illuminates the way they acted as spaces in which official, academic, and popular representations of this violent past intersect.

Jennifer Wellington is Lecturer in Modern History at University College Dublin, Ireland. She received honours degrees in Law and English from the Australian National University. Following this, she completed her PhD in history at Yale University, where her PhD thesis was awarded the Hans Gatzke Prize for Outstanding Dissertation in a Field of European History. She regularly gives public lectures in museums, libraries, and schools, and appears as a panellist at public events as well as on radio and television.

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*The Great War, Museums, and Memory in  
Britain, Canada, and Australia*

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Jennifer Wellington

*University College Dublin*



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