

# CEGESOMA NEWSLETTER

## NO 63 - FEBRUARY 2021

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### THE COLD WAR

Discover the third episode of our series 'The Librarian Talks'. [\[MORE INFO\]](#)

### BELGIUM WWII

Belgium in exile in London. Marcel Louette and Leo Vindevogel : two very contrasting destinies. [\[MORE INFO\]](#)

### INVITATION

An international online conference on 11 March about the destruction of Monuments. [\[MORE INFO\]](#)

### EHRI

A statement on the importance of preserving research freedom. [\[MORE INFO\]](#)

### ADOCHS

A progress report on this project designed to improve the quality control process for digitized heritage collections. [\[MORE INFO\]](#)

### PUBLICATION

'Nekschot. Oorlog, geweld en bevrijding in Tongeren' : Liberation in South Limburg: a history marked by violence. [\[MORE INFO\]](#)

### READING ROOM

You are welcome to use our reading room by appointment and in strict observance of the safety rules. [\[MORE INFO\]](#)

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## What's new on the Belgium WWII website



### In the lands of exile

During World War II, some 15,000 Belgians found refuge in Great Britain. They are mostly civilians, primarily women and children. It is the largest exile community even if it is far from the figures of WWI and the British fears in this respect. Among them are also a series of political leaders, [parliamentarians](#) and trade unionists. The Belgian government did not reconstitute itself in the British capital until 22 October 1940.

Several new contributions evoke this Belgian exile on the Belgium WWII website. If we have to wait until autumn to really talk about a [government in London](#), as early as June-July 1940 [Marcel-Henri Jaspar](#), Albert de Vleeshauer and [Camille Gutt](#) reached the British capital. After their wanderings in France, Spaak and [Pierlot](#) remained blocked in Spain for several weeks. Once on British soil, the government resolutely committed itself to the Allies and prepared for the post-war period. Among the controversial issues that will be addressed are the [Royal Question](#), [the preparation of the post-war period](#) and the repression of collaborations. But for many Belgians, London also means the radio. It is from London that in a radio broadcast the Belgian journalist [Victor de Laveleye](#) presents his famous V for Victory sign which

will be taken up by everyone, including the occupier and the British Prime Minister Winston Churchill. Propaganda is also at war... It is in London that the future Belgian army is reconstituted, including the famous [Piron brigade](#).

### Singular destinies

But there are other new items on the pages of the site as well. [Marcel Louette](#) passed away on the eve of his 71st birthday, on 23 February 1978. The war completely changed the destiny of this Antwerp schoolteacher of liberal obedience. One of the pioneers of the Resistance, he is at the origin of one of the most important resistance movements in Flanders: the Witte Brigade. Cegesoma also keeps [important archival funds from this resistance organisation](#).

Another totally different political commitment evoked on the site is that of [Leo Vindevogel](#). A deputy in the Chamber of Representatives and mayor of Renaix, he is the only Belgian parliament member sentenced to death and actually shot for collaboration. In Flemish nationalist circles, his trial was considered by some as emblematic of the failure of the repression. But how accurate is this view? Can we speak of a "[judicial assassination](#)"?

In short, a website to check out. If you want to be regularly informed of our news and what's new online, please join us on our Facebook page.

Chantal Kesteloot

### Other news

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# National forgetting and memory : the destruction of 'national' monuments from a comparative perspective

Online conference

[War and Society](#)   [World War II](#)   [Conference](#)



Seventy-five years ago, on 16 March 1946, the Yser Tower was blown up by members of the resistance, who are still unidentified today. On this occasion, the Yser Tower Museum and the international platform NISE (National movements and Intermediary Structures in Europe), in cooperation with CegeSoma, are organizing an international conference on 11 March 2021 devoted to the question of so-called national monuments destroyed in particular contexts. Because of the sanitary conditions, this event will take place online.

## Four sessions and three thematic presentations

The conference is based on four thematic sessions involving 13 contributions. The sessions will be held in parallel two by two.

1. Nation vs. Regional vs. Local Memories
2. Nation-state, ideology and monuments
3. Global and contemporary perspectives
4. The politics of resurrection

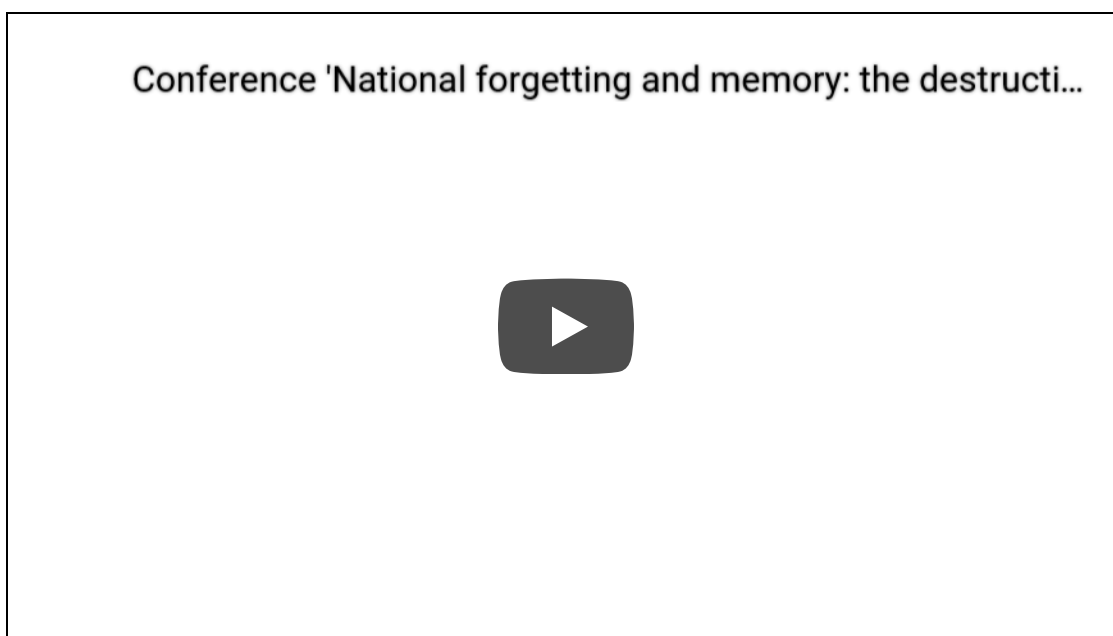
These four sessions will be accompanied by three thematic presentations. A first one (Ann Rigney, University of Utrecht) will focus on monuments and collective memory as a cycle of stabilization and contestation. The second (Kas Swerts, University of Antwerp/*ADVM*) will focus on the more specific case of the Yser Tower. A final presentation (Thomas Cauvin, University of Luxembourg/International Federation of Public History) will be dedicated to the interaction between the destruction of monuments and questions of public history.

### A resolutely international perspective

The conference will explore different national contexts, from Belgium to the North American continent, including, of course, Central Europe, without forgetting the very particular situation of South Africa. Chronologically, the reflections will go from the beginning of the 20th century to the most contemporary developments. On an ideological level, the question of the legacies of fascism and communism will of course be considered, but the new practices and the new relationships that democratic societies have with their past will also be evoked.

### Practical information

Find **below** an introductory film on the destruction of the Yser Tower and by clicking **[HERE](#)** the introductory file of papers and speakers as well as the day's program. The conference will be open to everyone.



11/03/2021 - 10:00 to 17:15

Registration mandatory : Register before 8 March by sending an email to [info@nise.eu](mailto:info@nise.eu)

More information on : [www.museumaandeijszer.be](http://www.museumaandeijszer.be) and [www.nise.eu](http://www.nise.eu)

#### Main language

English

#### Partners





TAGS

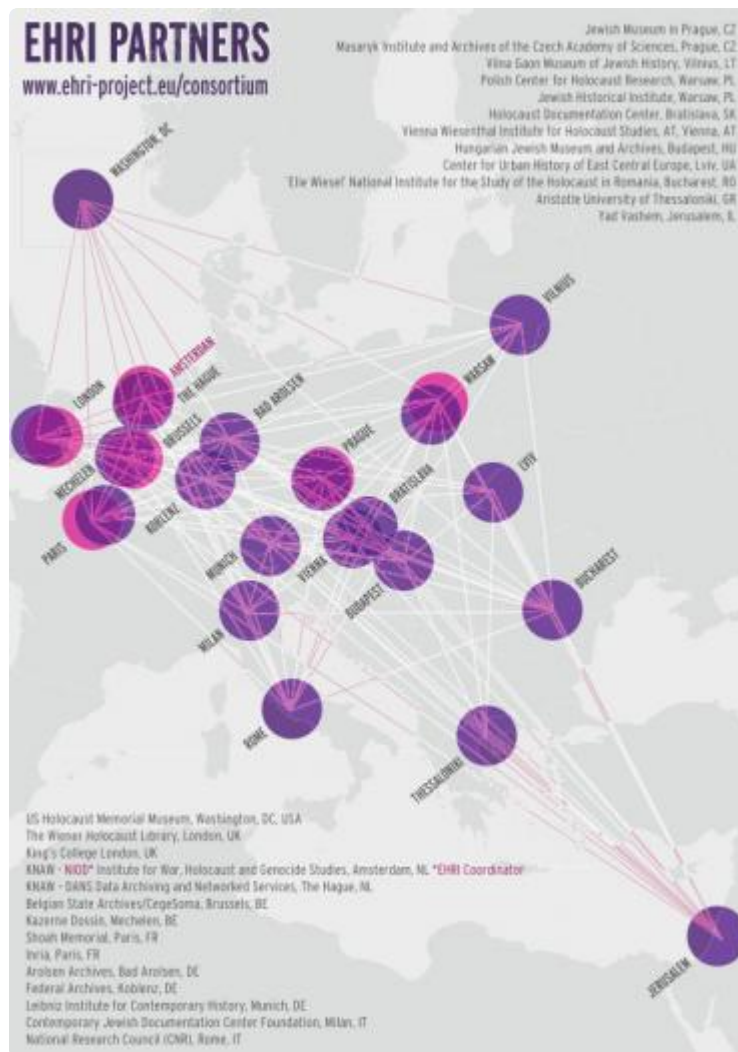
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## A statement from EHRI on the importance of academic freedom for research on the Holocaust



Following recent court cases in Poland against Holocaust researchers Barbara Engelking and Jan Grabowski, the preliminary outcome of which is that both must apologize for some of their conclusions about the history of the Holocaust, EHRI (European Holocaust Research Infrastructure) released a statement on the importance of preserving research freedom. EHRI, which is working to make as many sources as possible available for research on the Holocaust, declares its solidarity with Barbara Engelking and Jan Grabowski and stresses that a courtroom is not the most appropriate place to make the complexity of human behavior during a genocide understandable and comprehensible.

You can read the full text of the statement [HERE](#).

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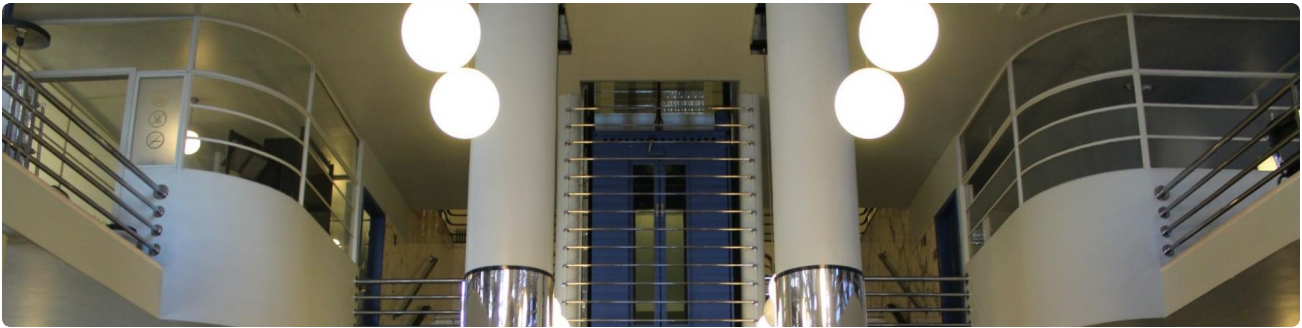
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## Welcome to our reading rooms

Our reading rooms reopen **on Tuesday 5 January 2021** and can be freely accessed upon appointment and under strict observance of the safety measures in force.

Reservation of workspace in the reading room must be made by e-mail to the State Archives in question at least 2 workdays before the visit. You can find the contact details of our repositories [here](#). (CegeSoma : [cegesoma@arch.be](mailto:cegesoma@arch.be)).

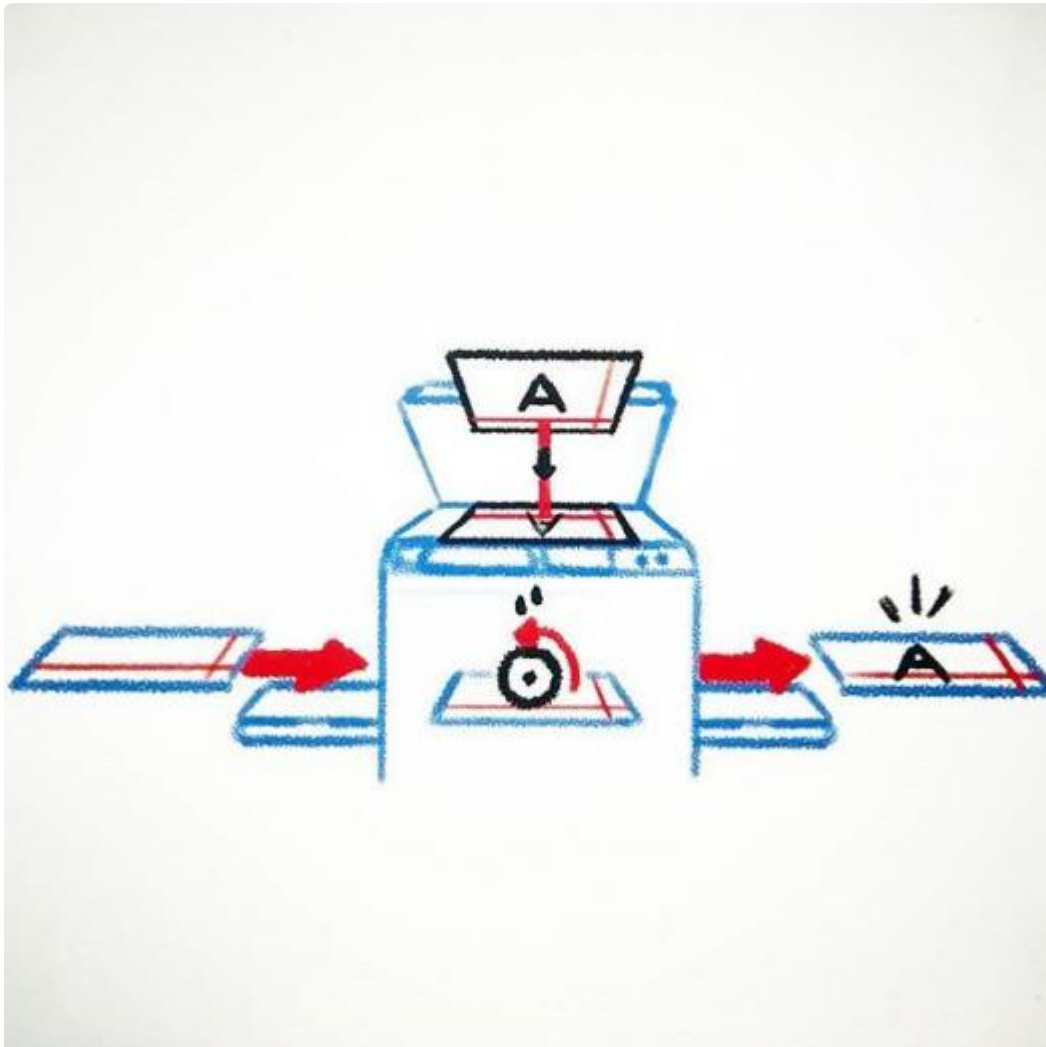
Please consult the [special preventive measures against Coronavirus/COVID-19](#) to best prepare your visit.

You can stay informed about further developments via our website and via [Facebook](#).

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## ADOCHS - Project progres



On 10 February, the annual meeting of the research team and the scientific committee of the ADOCHS (Auditing Digitalization Outputs in the Cultural Heritage Sector) project was held, dedicated to the improvement of the quality control process of digitized heritage collections. This event gave the opportunity to review the progress of the project in 2020 and its future evolution.

The past year was marked by the completion of the dissertations of [Anne Chardonens](#) and [Tan Lu](#) (VUB), the fruit of active collaboration between the partners of the ADOCHS project and the two researchers. A detailed article on this event is available on the project's website: [ <http://adochs.be/phd-theses/> ].

Anne Chardonens presented the continuation of her work on the development of new methodologies for improving the quality of metadata. The semi-centralized management of authority data based on Wikibase software is at the heart of her research, and in this regard she made a presentation on the publication of CegeSoma's personal authority data in the form of Linked Open Data through a Wikibase instance.

Tan Lu focused on improving the quality of digitized images. Through the development of mathematical algorithms, he proposed new analysis methodologies allowing the precise identification of physical

damage to original documents (most often found in the form of stains, scratches or tears for example). By identifying these gaps, he improves the intelligibility of the documents, and facilitates the extraction of information during OCR processing.

Finally, [Chloé Brault](#) presented the progress of the methodological guide. As a reminder, this document, intended for digitization workshops at federal scientific institutions, aims to bring together the research carried out as part of the ADOCHS project while offering a series of organizational and practical tools to best address heritage digitization at each stage of the process.

Through the ADOCHS project, the notion of quality is thus approached from different angles by researchers with the same intention: to develop both technical and organizational tools offering cultural and scientific institutions new perspectives for the conservation, enhancement and dissemination of their collections.

A study day will conclude the ADOCHS project in September 2021. This colloquium will be an opportunity for the three researchers of the project - Anne Chardonens, Tan Lu and Chloé Brault - to present the progress they have made, while inviting national and international researchers to discuss the question of quality in the digitization process.

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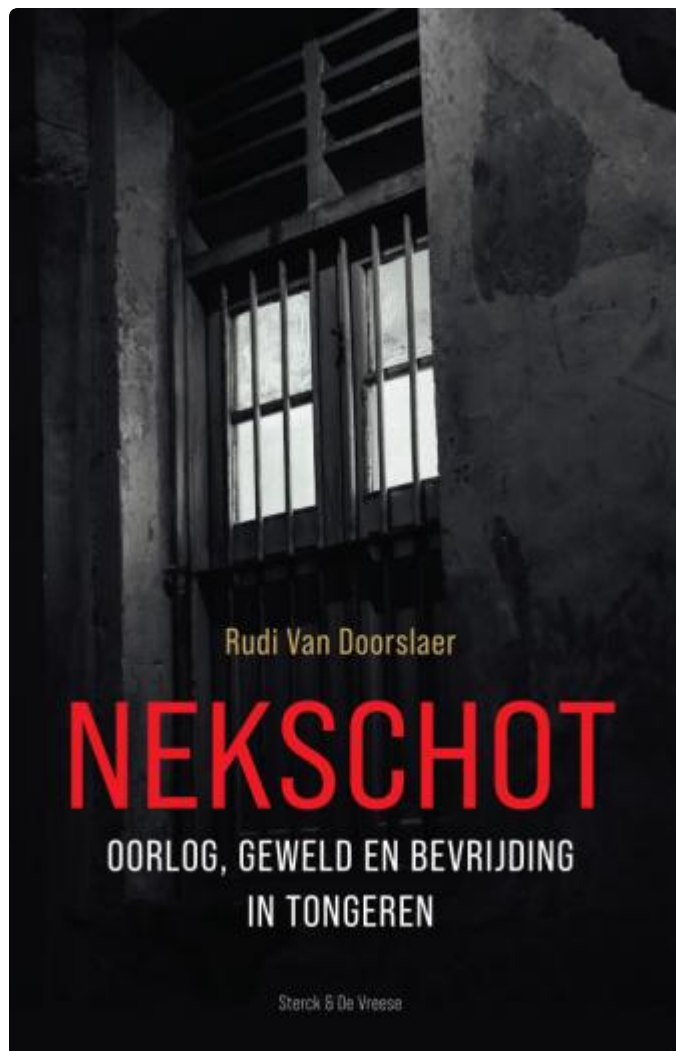


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# Nekschot

## Oorlog, geweld en bevrijding in Tongeren

[World War II](#) [Book](#)



"Nekschot" tells the story of the liberation of South Limburg, culminating in the summary execution of five collaborators on 9 September 1944 in Tongeren. That bloody day is an offshoot of the civil war that plagued Limburg during the last year of the war. For months afterwards the partisans remained present in the streets of Tongeren, a time of terror for some people. Yet this is not just a fight between white and black. The New Order regime led to a social catastrophe in Limburg. This is how the partisans of Tongeren turned into desperados fighting against New Order collaborators.

This study is based on a unique range of sources, but above all on judicial documents from the 1951 trial of the eight partisans held responsible for the executions.

In "Nekschot", Rudi Van Doorslaer also looks for an explanation of the extreme war violence in Limburg

**PRODUCT DETAILS****Binding:** paperback**Number of pages:** 176 p.**Format:** 21,5 x 14 cm**Publishing date:** 2021**EAN/ISBN:** 9789056157029**Editor:** Antwerpen, Sterck & De Vreese**AUTHOR(S)**

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[Rudi Van Doorslaer](#)**PRICE**

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22,50 € (postage not included)

[ORDER](#)[LOOK INSIDE](#)**TAGS**

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[collaboration](#) [Liberation](#) [Resistance](#) [Local history](#) [Flanders](#) [Violence](#)

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## The Cold War in the CegeSoma Library

The 'Cold War' in the CegeSoma library ... Under this title, we invite you to discover the third theme of our series 'The Librarian's talks'. Each theme will be the occasion to dive into our collections and will be illustrated by a video and a text to complete the information contained therein.

**Watch the third episode of our video series 'The Librarian's Talks: 2. The Cold War in the CegeSoma Library'.**

### La Guerre froide - De Koude Oorlog



By its nature and by its "Mission statement", an institution like CegeSoma, dedicated from the beginning to study the Second World War "in its immediate consequences", was inevitably led, by dealing with the "Royal Question", to address the "Cold War" phenomenon. And the progressive extension of its chronological field of investigation since 1996-1997 has oriented it more and more towards this problematic.

But, basically, what is the "Cold War"? Among a hundred more or less happy definitions concocted by political scientists, we could define it as a phase of strong geopolitical tensions between the United States and its allies and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, from the aftermath of the Second World War (1945-1947) to the disappearance of communist regimes in Eastern Europe (1989-1991). This temporal framework is still considered by some to be rather narrow, and some would like to see it extended to the period following the "October Revolution" of 1917, that is, to the whole interwar period... and even a little more.

The conceptual field covered by this theme is thus vast, all the more so since our "Cold War" proved to be multidimensional, activated by political-ideological and economic, but also cultural differences pitting two vast entities, the communist "Eastern bloc" (with its Asian and other annexes) and the "Western liberal democracies" (and their more or less exotic allies) against each other. In any case, this bipolarization was translated, for nearly two generations, into an arms race and a myriad of peripheral conflicts, not to mention the



phases of internal agitation specific to the two geopolitical groupings, the moments of appeasement ("peaceful coexistence"), the original and more or less successful attempts at political experimentation ("Eurocommunism", "third way", "non-alignment", "socialism with a human face", etc., etc.).

The Centre's library has therefore set out to gather the largest possible corpus of books on the subject, and has succeeded to a certain extent, with the understanding that its research on the subject will always remain somewhat on the horizon: the closer it believes that it is approaching its "definitive" conclusion (is there something definitive about historical research?), the further away it will be, given the regular publication of new titles closely or remotely related to this theme.

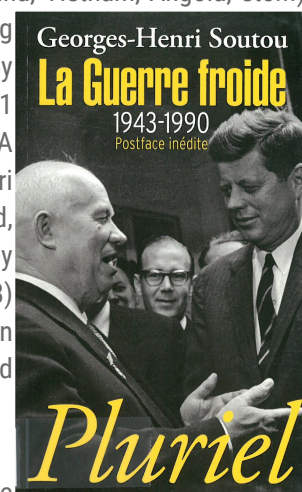
### An abundant harvest!



In the end, out of the nearly 85,000 titles in our book collections, all subdivisions combined, about 7,000 of them can be closely or remotely linked to the "Cold War" concept, as long as we take into account the conflicts linked to decolonization and the "peripheral wars" usually associated with it (Indochina, Vietnam, Angola, etc...).

The layman will no doubt find inspiration in first learning about some classic works of synthesis, such as those by Yvan VANDEN BERGHE, *De Koude Oorlog 1917-1991* (Leuven, Acco, 2002), Odd Arne WESTAD, *The Cold War: A World History* (Allen Lane, 2017) or Georges-Henri SOUTOU, *La Guerre froide 1943-1990* (Paris, Fayard, 2011). The *Dictionnaire de la Guerre froide* edited by Claude QUETEL and published by Larousse (Paris, 2008)

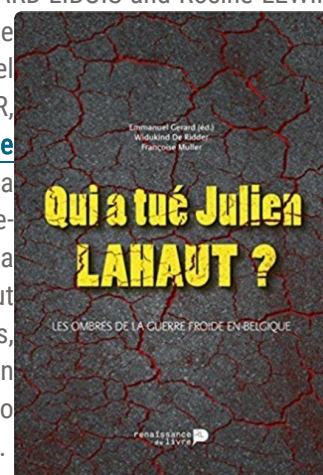
may also be of interest to him in this regard. To move on to more substantial things, is it necessary to recall that our collection was intended to be eclectic, as much as possible.



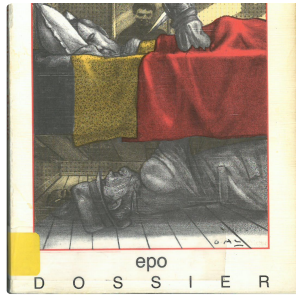
Researchers who intend to limit themselves to the Belgian framework will first have access to the excellent *Oost West, West Best : België onder de Koude Oorlog, 1947-1989* by Mark VAN DEN WIJNGAERT and Lieve BEULLENS (Tielt, Lannoo, 1997) as well as *La Belgique entre la Guerre froide et l'Europe (1947-1953)* by Jules GERARD-LIBOIS and Rosine LEWIN (Bruxelles, Pol-His, 1992), without forgetting the research conducted under the direction of Emmanuel GERARD, Widukind DE RIDDER and Françoise MULLER,

**Qui a tué Julien Lahaut ? Les ombres de la Guerre froide en Belgique** (Brussels/Waterloo, CegeSoma/La Renaissance du Livre, 2015), which is both a "home-

made" production and which has benefited from a bilingual publication (titled in Dutch: *Wie heeft Lahaut vermoord? De geheime Koude Oorlog in België*, CegeSoma/Dauidsfonds, 2015)...and largely transcends the single assassination of Julien Lahaut, deputy in the Chamber of Representatives and president of the Belgian Communist Party, to embrace the whole small world of anticommunism in Belgium around 1949-1950....



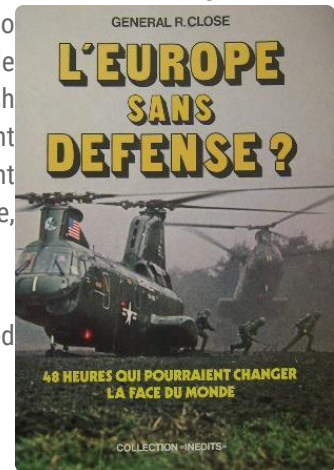
Needless to say that, in our bibliographical collection, we have taken into account the vision of things of ALL political sensibilities, from the least... moderate left (Hans DEPRAETERE-Jenny DIERICKX, *De Koude Oorlog in België*, Berchem, Epo, 1985) to the most assertive liberal right...within the framework



of NATO (Robert CLOSE, *L'Europe sans défense ? 48 heures qui pourraient changer la face du monde*, Brussels, Arts et Voyages, 1976), without forgetting the point of view of Christians (right or left), of the anarcho-pacifists or of the new far right such as the '60s "Jeune Europe" movement...? And is it also necessary to recall that the reading of these multiple works in both national languages as well as in English or German (to mention the most important contributions) can be usefully completed by our opulent archival collections on the subject (Fonds Legrève, Fonds Van Lierde, etc., etc...)?

Researchers who wish to know more will still be able to consult the computerized inventory of our library on the internet, using the "Pallas" search engine.

Alain Colignon, Librarian



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