

Make Law Not War: Lessons from Canada's Contribution to the 1919 Paris Peace Conference for Today's Uncertain World

October 29, 2024 | 6:00pm

The Military Museums, 4520 Crowchild Trail SW, Calgary

Faced with recent perceived challenges to global security, Canadian policymakers have called for the country to help strengthen the rules-based international order. But what does such a commitment mean in practice? This talk will highlight how Canada's contribution to the Paris peace conference of 1919 provides crucial contemporary lessons about the power and limits of international law, and Canada's role in the world. Like today, the Allied powers of the First World War saw the conflict as a titanic struggle over law and the rules-based order. Canada's delegation at Paris knew it was an epoch-making event. While they came to the conference mostly wanting increased recognition for Canada's war sacrifices, they left with a broader appreciation of the continued strategic risks facing the world, including ethnic-nationalism and authoritarian militarism.

Dr. Sean Richmond is a Canadian lawyer and Associate Professor in the Department of Law and Legal Studies at Carleton University. He researches and teaches in the areas of international law and international relations, with a focus on armed conflict, international criminal law, and Canadian foreign policy. Dr. Richmond is currently a Visiting Scholar at the Centre for Military, Security and Strategic Studies at the University of Calgary.

This Highlander's Lecture is hosted by the Centre for Military, Security and Strategic Studies in conjunction with Alumni All-Access.





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