

Introduction Volume 8

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In American football, the last two minutes of a game hold special relevance. As the game clock hits the final two-minute mark, the match is briefly stopped, commercials are being played, and players get a quick rest as they prepare themselves for the 'real' game (if the score is close, at least), as this is when 'crunch time' starts. Every decision by both teams is intensely debated, scrutinized and planned out, and can have lasting consequences for the outcome of the game. Crunch time – particularly in American football – can result in dramatic finishes or results determined by a single play or error, and certain players on the field can arise as key figures that were instrumental in their team's win or loss.

One could argue that European politics experienced a similar 'crunch time' in the aftermath of the First World War. As Europe's map was being redrawn following the Great War, politicians and activists from different regions and ends of the political spectrum engaged in intense debates on the (political) future of their respective region or nation.

The articles in this volume (partly from the 2021 NISE online conference) focus on this specific period, and via a wide array of cases illustrate how different political parties or actors became relevant, and how different solutions in different cases were being proposed. Moreover, in conjunction with the previous volume, volumes 7 & 8



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provide an extensive overview of national movements across Europe in the aftermath of the Great War and can function as clear cases for further comparative or transnational research.

Furthermore, NISE can announce two promising projects in the nearby future. First of all, in cooperation with ASEN, Ghent University and the University of Antwerp, NISE organises the upcoming *Nationalism and Media* conference in Antwerp from 5-7 April 2022. Further details (and registration) can be found on <https://nationalismand.media>.

Secondly, NISE has started a new digital project which will be conducted in its DIANE-database. In cooperation with the Maurits Coppieters Foundation, NISE will expand the 'DILINAME' (Digital Library of National Movements in Europe) project and construct a database that will comprise political documents of different national movements across Europe, and extensive historical overviews of the different national movements. The aim is to provide researchers a simple and quick overview of relevant political documents from different cases across Europe in order to conduct comparative and transnational research of national movements. We will post regular updates on the project, so be sure to follow or subscribe to our different channels!