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BOOK LAUNCH OF *NO FREE MAN: CANADA, THE GREAT WAR, AND THE ENEMY ALIEN EXPERIENCE* BY DR. BOHDAN S. KORDAN

The book launch of Bohdan Kordan's *No Free Man: Canada, the Great War, and the Enemy Alien Experience* will take place at Saskatoon's McNally Robinson Booksellers on Thursday, October 27, 7:00 pm. The launch is part of a national speaking tour that will include presentations in Toronto, Montreal, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Calgary, Victoria, and Ottawa.

Approximately 8,000 Canadian civilians were imprisoned during the First World War because of their ethnic ties to German, Austria-Hungary, and other enemy nations. Although not as well-known as the later internment of Japanese Canadians during the Second World War, these incarcerations played a crucial role in shaping debates about Canadian citizenship, diversity, and loyalty. Tracing the evolution and consequences of Canadian government policy towards immigrants of enemy nationality, *No Free Man* is a nuanced work that acknowledges both the challenges faced by the Government of Canada as well as the experiences of internees and their families.

Bohdan Kordan gives particular attention to the ways in which the political and legal status of enemy subjects configured the policy and practice of internment and how this process – magnified by the challenges of the war – affected the broader concerns of public order and national security. Placing the issue of internment within the wider context of community and belonging, **Kordan** further delves into the ways in which wartime turbulence and anxieties moulded public attitudes towards the treatment of enemy aliens. He concludes that Canada's leadership failed to protect immigrants of enemy origin during a period of intense suspicion, conflict, and crisis. Framed by questions about government rights, responsibilities, and obligations, and based on extensive archival research, *No Free Man* provides a systematic and thoughtful account of Canadian government policy towards enemy aliens during the First World War.

This project was funded by a grant from the Endowment Council of the Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund.

About CFWWIRF

The Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund (CFWWIRF) was established to support projects that commemorate and recognize the experiences of all of the ethno-cultural communities affected by Canada's first national internment operations of 1914 to 1920.

For more information on the Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund contact the Program Manager, Andrea Malysh, toll free at 1-866-288-7931.

www.internmentcanada.ca

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