



PRESS RELEASE

Professor Margaret MacMillan explores the impact of conflict on society as part of the IWM Institute's first in-person Annual Lecture



© Ander McIntyre, Professor Margaret MacMillan; © Jeff Overs, Reeta Chakrabarti.

Following the opening of IWM London's critically acclaimed Second World War Galleries, the IWM Institute is pleased to announce **Professor Margaret MacMillan** as key speaker for its 2022 Annual Lecture. MacMillan is a professor at the University of Oxford and an IWM Trustee, best known for her book *Peacemakers: The Paris Peace Conference of 1919 and Its Attempt to End War*.

This year's discussion, titled [*War: How Conflict Shaped Us*](#), will take place at IWM London on 23 March 2022, and is the second in the IWM Institute's series of Annual Lectures. Focusing on her book of the same name, MacMillan's discussion will be an opportunity for visitors to hear one of the world's most eminent war historians question the complex relationship between war and society. The Lecture will be chaired by BBC Newsreader **Reeta Chakrabarti** and will be followed by an audience Q&A.

Placed within the context of IWM London's brand-new Second World War Galleries, *War: How Conflict Shaped Us* will explore how one of the most devastating conflicts in human history was followed by profound social, technological, political and economic change, which enhanced the lives of millions around the world. From how conflict during and since the Second World War has shaped our society, to whether war is a permanent part of human existence or something we can overcome, the Lecture will examine whether war – destructive, cruel and wasteful – can also enable much-needed social progress, becoming a positive force for change.

IWM London's new Second World War Galleries and The Holocaust Galleries opened alongside each other on 20 October 2021. The Second World War Galleries, which provide the background to this Lecture, preserve the first-hand experiences of those who witnessed this seminal period in global history through more than 1,500 collection items and personal stories from over 80 countries. Highlighting the vastly different experiences of those affected with significant new acquisitions for IWM's collection from China, the US, Japan and from across Britain's former Empire, IWM's Second World War Galleries tell the truly global narrative of this conflict for the first time. The combination of these international stories together with the many objects and displays revealing British experiences, such as a deconstructed 1940s house that brings to life the devastating impact of the Blitz on ordinary lives, means that these galleries provide a deeply personal background to this Lecture.

Professor Margaret MacMillan said: *"Imperial War Museums has a long and honourable history of attempting to understand and explain war and I am proud to be part of that tradition. To understand ourselves and our world, we need to reflect on the role that war has played in human affairs and, sadly, is still playing today."*

Gill Webber, Executive Director of the IWM Institute, said: *"Six years in the making, our brand-new Second World War Galleries provide an important microcosm to explore the role war can play, both good and bad, in the development of the societies we live in today. The IWM Institute was established to deepen public understanding of war and conflict, so we are delighted to be joined by Professor Margaret MacMillan as she utilises this lens to unveil the impact of conflict in our everyday lives."*

War: How Conflict Shaped Us is the second of a yearly series of Annual Lectures organised by the IWM Institute, inviting some of the world's most prominent speakers to discuss and find solutions to the pressing conflict-related issues of today. 2022's discussion will be the first to be staged in person, after last year's inaugural Lecture with David Miliband – CEO of the International Rescue Committee and former UK foreign secretary – took place online during the Covid-19 lockdown. The Annual Lecture forms part of the IWM Institute's innovative programme, along with virtual and in-person discussions, the [Conflict of Interest](#) podcast, and original research projects.

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For further press information and interview requests please contact:

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Notes to editors

IWM Institute 2022 Annual Lecture

War: How Conflict Shaped Us

Wednesday 23 March 2022, 6:30 - 7:30pm

Tickets £15

Tickets can be bought online at [iwm.org.uk/events/annual-lecture-2022](https://www.iwm.org.uk/events/annual-lecture-2022)

A recording of the Lecture will be available to watch online afterwards on the IWM Institute's website.

IWM Institute

The IWM Institute is Imperial War Museums' innovation hub, bridging the gap between academic research and public engagement. Working with world-leading institutions and an Associates Network of experts from the fields of arts and culture, media, policy, academia and the charity sector, the

IWM Institute takes a considered long view on contemporary conflict, helping people draw connections between the past and present, all rooted in rigorous research.

iwm.org.uk/iwm-institute

IWM

www.iwm.org.uk

IWM (Imperial War Museums) tells the story of people who have lived, fought and died in conflicts involving Britain and the Commonwealth since the First World War.

Our unique collections, made up of the everyday and the exceptional, reveal stories of people, places, ideas and events. Using these, we tell vivid personal stories and create powerful physical experiences across our five museums that reflect the realities of war as both a destructive and creative force. We challenge people to look at conflict from different perspectives, enriching their understanding of the causes, course and consequences of war and its impact on people's lives.

IWM's five branches which attract over 2.5 million visitors each year are **IWM London**, IWM's flagship branch that has recently transformed with new, permanent and free Second World War and The Holocaust Galleries; **IWM North**, housed in an iconic award-winning building designed by Daniel Libeskind; **IWM Duxford**, a world renowned aviation museum and Britain's best preserved wartime airfield; **Churchill War Rooms**, housed in Churchill's secret headquarters below Whitehall; and the Second World War cruiser **HMS Belfast**.

IWM London

IWM London tells the stories of those whose lives have been shaped by war through the depth, breadth and impact of our Galleries, displays and events. Explore the [First World War Galleries](#) and iconic Atrium; extensive new [Second World War](#) and [The Holocaust Galleries](#); discover stories of bravery in [The Lord Ashcroft Gallery: Extraordinary Heroes](#) or take in our latest major temporary exhibitions.

Open Wednesday to Sunday: 10am – 6pm except during school holidays and half term, when we are open seven days a week. Also open bank holidays. Closed 24 - 26 December. Free admission.

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