

Douglas Newton (historian)

Douglas is a retired academic. He taught history at Macquarie University, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, and was an Associate Professor teaching European History at the University of Western Sydney from 1991 until his retirement in 2008. He taught an Honours course on the First World War for almost twenty years.

Douglas is the author of a number of studies of war and peace, including two complementary works last year: *The Darkest Days: The Truth Behind Britain's Rush to War, 1914* (London, Verso: 2014), and *Hell-bent: Australia's Leap into the Great War* (Melbourne: Scribe, 2014).

One commentator had this to say about *Hell-bent*: “*Hell-Bent* takes as its subject one of the few chapters in Australia’s military history that has received little close attention: the nation’s decision to go to war in August 1914. The study goes some way to correcting the nationalist myopia that leads Australians to the belief that their history began with a beachhead on an isolated Turkish peninsula on 25 April 1915.”¹

His latest piece, published in February this year, focusses on the internationalist women's efforts to avert the WW1 in London in 1914: ‘At Daggers Drawn: The International Women’s Movement and the Struggle to Avert War, July-August 1914’, in Philip Deery and Julie Kimber, eds, *Fighting Against War: Peace Activism in the Twentieth Century* (Melbourne: Leftbank Press, 2015), pp. 10-31.

¹ Carolyn Holbrook, *Hell-bent: Australia's Leap into the Great War* by Douglas Newton – a review, *Australian Book Review*, Jan-Feb 2015