Diacronie studi di storia contemporanea invites contributions for a special thematic issue entitled “Memory, perception and politics of empire today”, focusing on the representation of the idea of empire in contemporary historiography, politics and memory. The special issue focuses specifically on the empires that collapsed at the end of World War I.

The study of empires is a dynamic field; we are constantly revising our knowledge of empires, inspired by newly discovered sources as well as new approaches. The context of historical writing itself significantly influences our perception of imperial history. Post-imperial realities also force us to rethink the empire. For example, intellectual interest in the empire as a political entity is growing in the literature in parallel with elaborations on the present condition and conflicts in ex-empire territories such as the Balkans, the Middle East, the Caucasus and Ukraine.

While the interest in empire is stimulating for academic historians, imperial nostalgia can become distracting and energy-draining, leading to an excessive preoccupation with everyday polemics. Political and ideological uses of the past, as in the case of neo-Ottomanism in Turkish foreign policy or “Ottomania” in contemporary popular culture, the identification of Russian historical territories with the space of the Tsarist Empire or the recovery of symbols and memories associated with this legacy, are examples of the challenges that complicate matters for the historian. Therefore, perhaps more than ever, we need to remember, revise, and contextualize our own historiographical journey and the interplay of several factors that shape our view of the history of empires in the 21st century. The memory of empires also plays an important role in our perceptions of multi-ethnic and multi-religious societies, challenging the boundaries of national narratives. Commemorations and celebrations are among most important public expressions of the imperial collective imagination, with tasks of legitimation and building mass consensus, and with particular attention to the anniversaries of historical events as key moments in the consolidation of the imperial imagination. The question of ruptures and continuities between empire and successor states is another interesting topic that generates fruitful academic debate.

Irredentism, as a political project oriented towards the dismantling of empires, or, in a very peculiar historical and interpretative twist, animated by the goal of nationalizing empires, presents itself in this sense as a mirror of particular importance for the analysis of political, ideological and cultural dynamics, especially at the turn of the 20th century.
This special issue invites contributions that present perspectives on how we remember and study the empires that collapsed at the end of the First World War. Possible topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Romantic discourses and nostalgia for empire;
- Shifts in the representation of empire in nationalist historiographies (rejection and/or incorporation);
- The commemoration and celebration of empires, past and present;
- Debates on the legacy of empires;
- Imperial nostalgia;
- The politics of empire and the revival of irredentist political projects.

**HOW TO SUBMIT AN ARTICLE**

Authors can submit abstracts and articles in Italian, English, French, Spanish or Portuguese (submissions in the latter language will be translated by the editorial staff). Articles will undergo a double-blind peer review process and should have a length of between 35,000 and 55,000 characters (including spaces), following the editorial guidelines and author instructions provided here. Abstracts and articles should be sent to the following email address: redazione.diacronie@studistorici.com. Please send an abstract of a maximum of 1500 characters (including spaces) by January 23, 2024; acceptance or rejection of proposals will be communicated by January 30, 2024. The deadline for submitting articles is May 15, 2024. For any additional information, you can write to the following address: redazione.diacronie@studistorici.com.

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