

An Emeritus College Breadth Seminar

August 8, 2017

11:00 a.m.

The Era of the World Wars and Today

Dr. Don McKale, Class of 1941 Memorial Professor Emeritus
Clemson University



The era of the world wars has much to suggest about the present world, and especially about the US and Trump presidency. From 1900 to 1939, two major issues helped produce the wars. First, a cultural and political crisis in the West—in Europe and America—threatened seriously democracy and its values of human rights and equality. Second, a weak post-World War I global or international system failed to prevent another world war. Today, a similar anti-democratic crisis exists in America and Europe; and the US is threatening to unravel the multilateral diplomatic system that helped since World War II keep the world from another global conflict.

A Little About Don: From his roots in the pretty (although tiny) town of Clay Center, Kansas, Don went on to earn a PhD in history from Kent State University. Following a couple of teaching positions, Don joined the Clemson faculty in 1979. He has earned accolades for teaching excellence everywhere he's been, including the Clemson *Class of 39 Award for Faculty Excellence*. When Don attained emeritus status in 2008, he was completing his 20th year as the *Class of 1941 Memorial Professor* of history. His scholarly work has focused on modern Germany and Europe, World War II, and the Holocaust, which has led to eight books, several research grants, and international recognition. Don and his wife Janna live in Clemson, and they have three children and seven grandchildren.





