In the immortal words of Spanish philosopher George Santayana, "Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it." In these uncertain times, with essential debates about the future of the European Union, continued viability of NATO, and the role of the U.S. in world affairs, we are excited to present this important and timely journey. Join professors Chuck and Rebecca Thomas on a learning journey exploring the First World War, touted as a "war to end wars" but one which actually laid the foundations for Communism, Fascism, Nazism, and an even more catastrophic world war a generation later.

We will begin in Vienna, the former imperial capital, where the fin de siècle clash between tradition and modernity is reflected in the art and architecture of that magnificent city. A tour of Schönbrunn Palace will highlight Austria-Hungary’s former role as a powerhouse in Central Europe, and a trip to the Army History Museum’s Sarajevo Room will illuminate the assassination that precipitated the war. We’ll be sure not to miss the Salmbräu’s locally brewed beers and old world cuisine or the charms of Grinzing’s quaint village wine gardens along the way.
From Vienna, we will continue exploring key places in the unfolding of World War I -- Hallstatt and Bad Ischl, in Austria, followed by Bled and Kobarid, Slovenia, and finally Paris, where we will visit the Palace of Versailles, location of the signing of the most important peace treaty ending the war. Along the way we will explore the expanding nature of the war, which eventually encompassed large parts of Asia, Africa, and the Americas. We will also pay special attention to the seismic political forces that the war set in motion.

This is not a normal battlefield tour; rather, it is an endeavor by two specialists in this period to explore the “Great War” in its multiple contexts and to examine its enduring legacy in the form of what was destroyed, what was changed, what survived, and what we can learn from its dark aftermath that may inform how we all can better navigate the strange times we live in today.

Book your spot today to join us June 19-30 and explore From Vienna to Versailles!