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A Trumpian-Sized Lie? Visiting Author Debunks “Great-War-Made-Canada-Great” Myth

HALIFAX— Halifax is familiar with conflicts over how we commemorate our past. Just ask either side of the Cornwallis statue dust-up.

A new book about the way Canada remembers World War I argues that a toxic form of Anglo-Canadian nationalism called “Vimyism” has taken root in the past few decades.

Blending sharp-eyed journalism and scholarly insight, *The Vimy Trap: or, How We Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Great War* explodes the myth that WW I was the birth of the nation, boosting Canadian independence and bringing the country together.

“Vimyism has become the Official Story,” says Jamie Swift, author of a dozen other books on Canadian history and politics. “Claiming that WW I was anything but a futile disaster is a lie of Trumpian proportions.”

Swift’s co-author is former Dalhousie professor, the eminent historian Ian McKay.

The Vimy Trap poses hard questions. Was the Great War a futile imperial debacle or a proud, nation-building milestone? *The Vimy Trap* is a powerful probe of commemoration cultures. This subtle, fast-paced work of public history explains both how and why peace and war remain contested terrain in the landscapes of Canadian memory.

“*The Vimy Trap* is a long overdue rebuttal to the excessively patriotic prose fed to us by the usual Drums & Bugles brigade of historians,” says former infantryman Scott Taylor, veteran war correspondent and publisher of *Esprit de Corps* magazine.

Local radio personality Rick Howe will host a discussion of *The Vimy Trap* with Jamie Swift Monday, November 21st at the Halifax Central Library, Lindsay Children's Room (2nd floor), 5440 Spring Garden Road.

Jamie Swift is available for media interviews prior to the launch.

Since 1977 Between the Lines books has published books that embrace critical perspectives on culture, economics, and society.