

Demonstration of unemployed
people in Essen, 1923
Haus der Essener Geschichte/
Stadtarchiv (City Archive)



The exhibition spans from the invasion of the troops in January 1923 to the celebrations on the occasion of the withdrawal in 1925. The focus is on the experiences of the local population and the local occupation soldiers. In addition, the commemoration of the occupation is addressed. For the Ruhr area, this phase in the aftermaths of World War I marks the beginning of a developing regional identity.

THE EXHIBITS Around 200 impressive exhibits, rare film footage as well as photographs depict everyday life during the Ruhr Occupation. Some particularly spectacular objects were acquired on loan from major European museums, including a rare shooting target from the Ruhr Occupation, uniforms and equipment from French and Belgian occupation soldiers, and an original machine gun. Parallel to the exhibition, there will be an extensive accompanying programme with lectures, two film evenings, and an interactive workshop on racism in the past and present.

