David Cameron, British Prime Minister, in a speech at London’s Imperial War Museum: (The aim will be a commemoration) “that captures our national spirit in every corner of the country, something that says something about who we are as a people.”


Statement on the homepage of the Belgian federal commemoration website: “Belgium played an important role in the conflict, not least through the courageous resistance shown by our soldiers during the German invasion. ‘Poor little Belgium’ earned the admiration of the world. It is only fitting, therefore, that Belgium will play a central part in the centenary commemorations.”

Source: Belgian Federal Commemoration website

Statement on the German War Graves Commission's theme site ‘100th Anniversary of the First World War’: “The First World War changed the lives of the people, societies and states in Europe. The common memory of this collective nightmare, its causes and effects is, therefore, an indispensable part of the European integration process.”

Source: German War Graves Commission’s theme site ‘100th Anniversary of the First World War’

Turkey’s Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu at a ceremony marking the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Çanakkale, part of the Gallipoli campaign, in Gallipoli, March 18, 2015: “Our people fought shoulder to shoulder on these sacred lands to protect the heart of the people and the state. A hundred years later the Turkish state stands against those who seek to divide our people.”

Source: Ayla Jean Yackley, Reuters, 18.03.2012

- How do these statements link the past to the present?
- Which of the four statements is conveying a notably different message?
- What makes this message different in purpose from the other three?

Invent 1 - 2 more sentences to add at the end of each quote as a credible continuation of the speech.