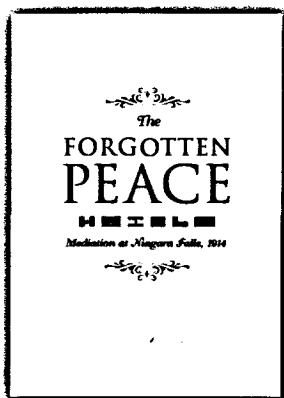


The Forgotten Negotiations

By Pam Isfeld



Canadians are justifiably proud of their country's focus on international conflict resolution. Yet how many of us know that the first and only international peace talks to be held on our soil took place in Niagara Falls, Ont., in 1914? Or that they involved, of all things, a mediation effort by Argentina, Brazil and Chile over a conflict between the United States and Mexico?

Somehow, this small but important moment had dropped out of our collective memory until Michael Small, Assistant Deputy Minister of Human Resources, spent a year at Harvard piecing the details together. The result is *The Forgotten Peace*, a lively case study of mediation and a snapshot of a moment when the eyes of the world were on Canada for perhaps the first time.

The scene was set on April 22, 1914, when U.S. President Woodrow Wilson sent the Marines to the Mexican port of Veracruz in an attempt to remove Gen. Victoriano Huerta from power after a *coup d'état*. Argentina, Brazil and Chile offered to mediate peace negotiations in a last-ditch effort to avoid a war. Canada was seen as neutral ground for the talks.

Small draws on a wide range of sources, including a selection of editorial cartoons and a one-act play, to outline and capture the atmosphere of the event. His book provides a valuable overview of the challenges that continue to face both mediators and negotiators today.

The Forgotten Peace is an entertaining and enlightening snapshot of a brief moment in Canadian history that deserves more attention.

Pam Isfeld is a deputy director in the Middle East Division, and serves as president of the Professional Association of Foreign Service Officers.

The Forgotten Peace: Mediation at Niagara Falls, 1914, by Michael Small, University of Ottawa Press, 152 pages, \$24.00.

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