



JOURNAL OF BELGIAN HISTORY  
BELGISCH TIJDSCHRIFT VOOR NIEUWSTE GESCHIEDENIS  
REVUE BELGE D'HISTOIRE CONTEMPORAINE

## *Journal of Belgian History (JBH)*

# **Author Guidelines for sections (debate; current issues; PhD's; Literature Reviews)**

### **General Information**

The Journal of Belgian History is published by the Centre for War and Contemporary Societies (CegeSoma), 29 Square de l'Aviation, B-1070 Brussels (Belgium)

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### **1. Doctoral Dissertations Section**

Once a year, the JBH publishes abstracts of successfully defended doctoral dissertations related to contemporary Belgian history.

The abstracts will also be made available in open access on the JBH website.

Abstracts must be submitted to the chief editors via [jbh@cegesoma.be](mailto:jbh@cegesoma.be)

The **general instructions** are:

- The abstract must be maximum 5 000 characters long, spaces included
- It must be structured as follows:
  1. Brief presentation of the dissertation, name of the doctoral advisor, research context in a broad sense

2. Main issue and position in a broad scientific perspective
  3. Sources, methods, approaches and development
  4. Main conclusions of the research
  5. Expected publication(s) if any
- The title of the abstract must include: the title of the dissertation itself, the institution, the department/faculty, the day of the defense and the name(s) of the doctoral supervisor(s)

**Specific guidelines:**

- Always use clear language. When recurring to specific terms, clarify them in the text.
- Do not forget to use spell checkers
- Preferably, the text must not contain footnotes. If they are necessary, use as few as possible. For instructions, please refer to the JBH's general guidelines
- The text must not feature subtitles and appear as a continuous text
- For the layout, please refer to the JBH's general guidelines
- Only the first proof will be re-sent to the authors. The corrected proof must be submitted within a week

**2. The debate section (position papers)**

Regularly, the Journal of Belgian History features a discussion section concerning Belgian contemporary history. Contributions for this section are so-called **position papers**.

A position paper expresses a personal view on a certain topic, while being based on academic research. This essay can be written by a single author, multiple authors or a full research team. A position paper will often tackle a topical issue (an ongoing project or debate, a conference, a new publication, etc.), even though the author(s) can also choose to investigate a more general theme or field of investigation.

It is imperative that the essay is annotated and that the author(s) refer to scientific literature. Rather than being descriptive, a position paper contains a clear and personal standpoint.

Depending on the theme, multiple position papers on the same subject can be published in a single issue of the JBH. If necessary, the paper(s) will be preceded by a short introduction from the editor in chief or another member of the editorial board.

Position papers are not subject to external anonymous peer review. The editorial board verifies the quality, decides upon acceptance, and formulates comments if necessary.

**Practical guidelines:**

- A position paper contains between 10.000 and 25.000 characters.
- Contributions (or suggestions for contributions) should be sent to one of the editors-in-chief or to [jbh@cegesoma.be](mailto:jbh@cegesoma.be)
- Authors should have their text proofread.
- The general editorial guidelines should be followed.
- Preferentially, the text contains footnotes and paragraph titles.
- Authors receive a proof, which should be corrected within two weeks.

### 3. Literature Reviews

Every year, the JBH publishes a Library section on works about contemporary Belgian history selected by the chief editors. The reviewers are appointed by the editorial committee. The reviews will equally be available in open access on the JBH's website.

Texts must be submitted to the chief editors or via [jbh@cegesoma.be](mailto:jbh@cegesoma.be)

They must meet the following criteria:

- Maximum 10 000 characters, including spaces
  - The text must preferably include the next items: main focus of the publication (brief summary of the content), method used, main conclusions, stand in the scientific field, main original elements or added value of the publication, main critique points
  - The author must develop their critique (or other comments) by means of objective and scientific arguments
  - The author endorses their responsibility regarding their personal evaluation described in the review
  - The chief editors are entitled to comment upon a review or to refuse it
  - For specific or grammatical guidelines, please refer to the Doctoral dissertation section.
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