

The Balkan Federation, the Balkan Wars and the International: Social democracy in South Eastern Europe, 1908-1914

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The paper addresses the development of the social democratic organisations of South Eastern Europe and the activities of their members against the backdrop of the European crises and conflicts of 1908 to 1914. This was the setting from which, directly or indirectly, they exercised a significant influence on the activities of the Second International in this period. These activities reached their culmination in this context in the Extraordinary Socialist Congress in Basel. The focus here will be on the efforts of the groups and parties mentioned towards political rapprochement and integration with one another at a regional, transnational level, as well as the undeniably conflicting opinions and positions which manifested themselves in these projects and in the practical efforts to implement them; the relationship of the social democrats, some of whom were directly affected, to the war engaged in by their countries; their relationship to antimilitarism and/or their involvement in the war; and the significance of the International for the social democrats of South Eastern Europe and their connections to its institutions. Finally, the paper will discuss the position of the social democratic organisations in their respective countries and problems and conflicts within the individual movements.