

‘The Balkans for the Balkan peoples’. The socialist view of the Balkan states leading up to the Extraordinary Congress ‘Against War’ as illustrated in the *Basler Vorwärts*

Kathrin Pavic

This paper focuses on the socialist movement’s assessment of the Balkan crisis in general and the role of the Balkan League in particular. It aims to set the arguments of the social democratic daily *Basler Vorwärts* discursively in the context of the general discussion of the Balkan war and its protagonists. To this end, the paper examines articles published in the *Basler Vorwärts* leading up to and during the Socialist International’s Extraordinary Congress Against War in 1912.

The central question is that of where the socialist movement saw the threat of war as originating: What constituted the ‘terrible threat to civilisation and the proletariat’? In this context it is interesting to consider the extent to which the socialist perception of the Balkan League and the great powers involved diverged from the general discourse on the Balkan war. Particular attention will therefore be paid to how the great powers of Austria-Hungary, Russia and the Ottoman Empire on the one hand, and Greece, Bulgaria, Montenegro and, in particular, Serbia on the other, were characterised in the *Basler Vorwärts*.

Looking ahead to the Balkans of the 1990s during the wars in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, Serbia will play a prominent role in my analysis.