

Antid Oto's commentaries on the Balkan wars of 1912-13 in the liberal Kiev newspaper *Kievskaja mysl'*

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The correspondent of the liberal *Kievskaja mysl'* ('Kiev Thought') during the Balkan wars was Leon Trotsky, living in Vienna and writing under the pseudonym of Antid Oto.

His investigative strategy: To observe the carts of Serbian farmers in military service from a moving train and estimate the resulting losses. To avoid taking part in the fighting himself by interviewing tourists, prisoners of war and casualties. Further concerns: Respect for soldiers of all religions. The portrayal – despite censorship – of the unequal distribution of land ownership, feudal dependencies, the conditions of the newly emerged working classes and the material interest of the governments. Consequences: An increased awareness of economic relationships. Avoidance of the patriotic whirlwind at the outbreak of the First World War.

The connections between material interests and military developments were a concern of the 1912 congress too. Trotsky also perceived in the interwar years that the Second World War was inevitable unless radical revolutionary changes in society were to break down its prejudices.