

The debate between Charles Andler and Jean Jaurès on the German social democrats' desire for peace

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In 1897, Charles Andler (1866-1933) presented a doctoral thesis entitled *Les origines du socialisme d'Etat en Allemagne*. It focused on Bismarck's social legislation, which was more progressive than that of democratic France. Jaurès, who had attended the ENS at almost the same time as him, and like him had committed himself to socialism and the Dreyfus cause, also dedicated his (second) *thèse* to German state socialism. In his search for its origins he went back as far as the Reformation and Luther, while Andler took a more antithetical line with Hegel as his starting point.

When Andler was appointed professor at the Sorbonne in 1904, it was as a representative of a new German philology which was assigned the task of elaborating the differences between Germany and France and proving the superiority of the French system. After his installation as a university lecturer, Andler distanced himself somewhat from Jaurès, accusing him of underestimating the aggressive potential of the German Reich and overestimating the German social democrats' desire for peace. This dispute with Jaurès in 1912-13 forms the focus of the paper.