

The peace issue and resonance of the congresses of the Second International in the Transylvanian social democracy

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The fact that Transylvania remained in the craft era until the final decade of the 19th century raises the question of the level of development of the Transylvanian labour movement. The industrialisation of Transylvania took place around the turn of the century, and local guilds in some industries slowly began to evolve into centralised unions. Nevertheless, until shortly before World War I, not even fifteen percent of Transylvanian workers were members of an organised union, with even less belonging to a workers' party. The Budapest administration ignored Transylvania's acute 'nationality issue'. Smaller factions within the party superseded each other one by one.

Using the above brief outline of the development of the labour movement in Hungary and Transylvania before World War I, the paper will explore perceptions of the peace issue. It will comment on whether events such as the Bosnian crisis (1908) and the subsequent Balkan Wars (1912-13), as the climactic events in the imperialist competition between Austria-Hungary and Russia, were able to reach and mobilise the Transylvanian workers. The paper will also take a closer look at whether, and in what way, the peace issue resonated at all in Transylvania in the wake of the Stuttgart, Copenhagen and Basel conferences.