

## **The revolutionary mass actions against the war in Germany 1916-1918**

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In keeping with the Socialist International's 1907 Stuttgart resolution, which was ratified at the Copenhagen and Basel congresses (1910 and 1912), left-wing social democrats (Spartacus Group, Bremen Left Radicals, Revolutionary Shop Stewards, USPD) sought to bring about a swift end to the war and a democratisation of the German Empire through political agitation, demonstrations and strikes. Contrary to the policies of the Majority Social Democrats, and despite enormous resistance, the German Left were able to win the support of the working classes for mass strike actions (Liebknecht strike, bread strike, munitions workers' strike). The spontaneous uprising in the German fleet at the beginning of November 1918 and the revolutionary wave that subsequently spread throughout the entire country were likewise motivated by a profound yearning for peace, by the desire for better living conditions and for political and social equality. This also applies to the mass uprising, initiated by left-wing socialist forces, which took place in Berlin on 9 November 1918.

In this context, the paper presents new research on the intermittent cooperation between left-wing socialists and left-wing bourgeois pacifists (financing of Spartacus pamphlets by the 'New Fatherland' League), an aspect which has been virtually ignored in the historiography to date. It also presents new findings on the largely ineffective attempts of Adolphe A. Joffe, the Soviet ambassador in Berlin, to exert pressure.