

‘War against war’ – historical continuities in international peace protests

Björn Allmendinger

Two years after the Basel Peace Congress, those proclaiming a stance ‘against the imperialist war’ (Zetkin) and calling for peace, justice and international solidarity had largely fallen silent. The Second International dissolved, leaving an organisational and institutional gap. It was some years until this gap was filled by the Comintern, which was unable to achieve the intensity and momentum of the international socialist congresses in Amsterdam (1904), Stuttgart (1907) and Basel (1912).

The aim of this paper is to identify historical parallels and to underscore the relevance of the 1912 peace effort today. In this context, it looks in particular at the international activist groups in the anti-globalisation movement against the war in Iraq (2003). It analyses the internal discourses within the movement regarding the success and failure of mobilisation against the war in Iraq and suggests possibilities and perspectives for future international peace protests.