

## **The lesson of Basel 1912: Failure as a transnational force.**

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I am interested in exploring the parallels between then and now. It seems to me that the Left in Europe is not in step with the times, or perhaps not in step with what the times demand of it. Not even the prevailing discourse is as it should be today – it was the vacuity of this discourse and the failure to take rigorous and appropriate action which shocked so many in 1914. Once again, the European Left appears incapable of working together to develop a sufficiently radical response to the European crisis, and of following this up with the necessary measures and reforms. For all their differences, the deficits and contradictions of the Left are contributing to nationalist regressions. It may not come to a disaster comparable to that of 1914. However, it has not been established at the level of European policy how this can actually be prevented. Too many, even within the Left, lack the drive and commitment for a European federal constitution with a genuinely transnational democracy, which would be the alternative to the authoritarian – and therefore only illusory – solution to the crisis of European integration and hence of European peace politics and social internal policy.