1914-2014

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Publisher

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No to War – No to NATO
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Peace flag in the sky – Since the global protests against the war against Iraq in 2003 the peace flag is a global symbol for peace © Flickr / Fernando de Sousa

» Heroism at command, how violently I hate all this, how despicable and ignoble war is; I would rather be torn to shreds than be a part of so base an action. «

Albert Einstein

» For decades an enormous amount of love and attention had been directed at him; now he decays somewhere in a ditch. «

Gerhard Goepel, an ordinary German soldier – described the presence of death by example of a French soldier.

1914-2014 Create Peace – Abolish War
Summer 2014 will be the commemoration of 100 years since the beginning of World War I.

By Reiner Braun

World War I fundamentally changed the political, social and economic landscapes around the world and many fundamental questions and challenges were placed on the agenda. It was a war of unforeseen cruelty, destruction, annihilation; it witnessed the technological development of war and the outbreak of total violence.

Formal political parties will actively interpret the results of the war and use them for their European policies. They see the EU’s Nobel Peace Prize 2012 as encouragement and will increasingly promote today’s EU as a force for peace. But to daily wage war and legitimise it while weeping crocodile tears about a past war is insincere and hypocritical.

The peace movement and critical and reflective people face a huge challenge. It is necessary to educate others about the economically disastrous and anti-democratic project of the “European Union”. It is necessary to destroy the myth about the civil force of Europe; it is a military force – it may not be comparable to the USA but it is interventionist and armament-oriented.

World War I 1914-2014: What lessons have we learnt?
It is only by acting together and acting internationally that the peace movement can be a social force for change, it needs to unite different social and societal organizations and political cultures.

The basis for actions by the peace movement is unmissable – “No to War and to all forms of national and international militarization”. There is no justification for war no matter how it is presented – human rights, humanitarian intervention, responsibility to protect, whatever the guise. “To put it bluntly: the nationalist and chauvinistic poison of 1914, has been replaced today by propaganda calling for the feigned defence of human rights or for defence against so-called Islamic terrorism. The underlying interests – both in 1914 and today – remain the same: a redistribution of the world according to the economic and other interests of the great powers. Historically and currently, war is anti-democratic and restrictive. Thus, engaging for peace always means to defend fundamental democratic rights and liberties against such things as surveillance, and censorship. Armament has to be fundamentally rejected. In 1914 new weapons such as tanks, airplanes and poison gas shells were developed. Today, there are global threats from the modernization of nuclear weapons, and drones are becoming an increasing danger step towards the automatization and robotization of war. There is a vast spread of old and new weapons systems around the world and now, as in 1914, the protest against weapons exports and the arms trade is a protest against the business of globalised murder.

War has destroyed and still destroys nature. The peaceful defence and preservation of nature is needed more than ever, especially to combat the climate catastrophe and for the life of future generations. Even today no trees are growing in Vietnam, Vietnam is still a victim of deforestation; the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki still suffer from the results of the only use of nuclear weapons so far. The possibility of completely destroying our blue planet Earth and all living things has not been banned – it still exists.

In 2014 the concept that there are alternatives to war has to be vigorously revived. In 1914, and the years that followed, Rosa Luxemburg and Alfred Fried (to name but two) were acting against the savagery of World War I. Today, comprehensive concepts of civil and societal alternatives are opposing the concept of war. The statement “there is no alternative” is a lie. Peaceful alternatives exist but have to be politically desired. The peace movement has always struggled for them; today, with the broad public knowledge of the catastrophic consequences of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, with growing insight of the misuse of the United Nations for the legitimization of war, and with a clearer view on the dreadful role of hegemonic powers in the proxy war in Syria, the struggle continues.

Learning the lessons of World War I means to abolish the institution of war. This will only work if the idea of global justice and a culture of peace gains a global foothold in politics and ethics.

This is the challenge we are facing in the preparation of actions around 100 years of World War I – in any country, with any of the manifold creative activities, and with the central international “peace event” in Saragossa in June 2014. Although it is always important to learn lessons from history, it is primarily a matter of shaping a peaceful future worth living in. We want a Gramsci’s “cultural hegemony” for peace. Without peace and other social movements this will not happen. As “the Internationale” says: There are no supreme savours / Neither God, nor Caesar, nor tribune*. Producers, let us save ourselves / Decree the common salvation.

[*Today we can also include parliamentarians/governmental democracies]*

Reiner Braun, Executive Director IALANA, Member coordinating committee “Peace Event Saragossa 2014” – www.ialana.de | www.ipb.org

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» No to War – No to NATO «

September 2013 | www.1914-2014.eu
Europe in between Crisis and War

By Gabi Zimmer

After the EU received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2012, the media reported on the EU peace project which, despite being hit by a severe financial crisis, has presented the longest ever continuous period of peace to Europeans, at least to those in the countries of “old Europe”.

Rarely has a decision by the Norwegian Nobel Committee been so disputed. What Obama received while entering office in anticipation of future political achievements, the EU received in retrospect for its founding myths. Back in 1957, the signing of the Treaty of Rome was largely about economic issues, reducing tax and other trade barriers. But at the same time, the EU was also created as a political peace project.

But as Obama ended up moving from “yes we can” to “yes we scan” the EU lost its innocence by engaging in the war against Serbia. With the creation of a common European arms industry, the creation of a European defence agency that is not controlled by the European Parliament and the support from EU member states in the Lisbon treaty to improve their military capabilities, the EU has taken a wrong turn.

Nevertheless, it is a credit to the EU today that economic conflicts inside the Union are not solved by military means. Unfortunately, many people take this achievement for granted.

Today we are already witness an increasing polarization of conflicts with the naming of winners and losers leading to increased tensions among the members. As a result, solidarity between member states has been revoked.

People in countries joining the EU believed one essential promise of the Union: European integration on the basis of solidarity, a Structural and Cohesion policy to reduce the economic and social disparities between the rich and poor regions in Europe. This is one essential element for guaranteeing stability and peace in Europe but this important achievement is under heavy attack.

But in the Fiscal Compact, the European Semester, negotiations on the future EU Budget 2014-2020 or the recent conclusions of the Council, we have seen the economically strong and powerful member states imposing their will on others. Austerity measures and youth unemployment rates of over 60% in Greece demonstrate that when the time comes to show solidarity, the response coming from European leaders is austerity.

The Council of Europe stated that aspects of the first memorandum between Greece and the Troika are in contradiction to the European Social Charter, and therefore illegal. The IMF as a member of the Troika admitted that their calculations were wrong. We read in the newspapers recently that “scientific” studies backing austerity measures had proved to be based on incorrect calculations. But all these facts did not make the European heads of state change their minds. We should not be surprised if people in Greece lose their faith in democracy and forces like the neo-fascist party Chrysi Avgi begin gaining ground.

But austerity inside the EU is just one side of the coin. If you destroy social bargaining, social security systems and environmental standards inside the union for the sake of more competitiveness, you also need other markets to sell your exports to. So the EU has become more and more aggressive on the international stage when it comes to opening new markets and gaining access to natural resources. One example of this aggressive trade strategy is the so-called “European Partnership Agreements” (EPAs). Recently, backed by a conservative majority inside the European Parliament, African, Caribbean and Pacific countries were blackmailed into concluding negotiations on free trade agreements in order to continue to have preferable access to the European market. Instead of our historical responsibility to many of these countries, we act like neo-colonialists, interested only in their markets and natural resources.

In 2009 the Renewable Energy Directive set a goal of all for the share of renewable energy in the transport sector by 2020. This target was meant to be reached mainly by using biofuels produced from food crops. This led to massive land grabs in the name of green energy, especially in the global south. Instead of producing wheat and maize, these countries produced biofuels for the EU. People were forced off their land and poor families went hungry to meet our biofuels targets. Today, EU biofuels policy is being reformed but the biofuel lobby has ensured that an initial report was watered down. It will be voted on in September.

Along with this international agenda, we are witnessing increasing military expenditure, despite the financial crisis. While the Troika insisted on deep cuts in the health sector, education systems, community services and public transport, the pressure is far less when it comes to military expenditure – especially if German and French deals are at stake. A recent study by the Transnational Institute (TNI) quoted an aide to then Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou on this issue: “No one is saying ‘Buy our warships or we won’t bail you out.’ But the clear implication is that they will be more supportive if we do.” The study also reveals that, in a time of austerity, EU military expenditure increased to €649 billion in 2011, equivalent to the annual deficits of Greece, Italy and Spain combined.

More recent global figures look even worse. The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) states that in 2011, world military expenditure is estimated to have reached $1.76 trillion – the highest ever.

Peace activists around the world mobilized again this year for a Global Day of Action on Military Spending. Once again, they warned that states with an overall high military expenditure are more tempted to solve conflicts by military means therefore opening the way for armed conflicts. This is even truer in times of an ongoing financial crisis and increasing nationalism around Europe. In this context we can no longer take peace in Europe for granted. That is why we are going to take action! On the occasion of next year’s 100th anniversary of the beginning of World War One, we will demonstrate that another Europe and another world is not only possible, but necessary. Let us stand together and take to the streets for a Europe and a world of peace!

» The lamps are going out all over Europe.
We shall not see them lit again in our time.«

Sir Edward Grey

Gabi Zimmer, Member of European Parliament, Chair of the European Parliamentary Group European United Left/Nordic Green Left (GUE/NGL) – www.guengl.eu
**Militarization of the EU**

By Claire Chastain & Lucas Wirl

In the struggle for (global) power the European Union is not the civil force and the project of peace it claims to be. It increasingly acts militarily and steadily increases its militarization by applying military logic and thinking to its international relations, to its pursuance of interests, to its concept of security, and to its internal structure and institutions. The EU is increasingly establishing itself as a global military player. This process is, under little to no democratic control and contrary to the ideas and aspirations in the minds of EU citizens.

Since 1992 the European Union has officially pursued a common foreign and security policy. The Common Foreign and Security Policy of the Maastricht Treaty was the cornerstone for a steady introduction of particular thinking, structures and processes into the security and military politics of the EU. With the Nice Treaty military comprehended safety and security reached a climax, establishing the EU as a global military actor. The Common Foreign and Security Policy of the EU pronounced 2013 as “the year of the European Citizen” aiming at focusing on the civil rights of Europeans and focusing on encouraging dialogue between all levels of government and civil society. If the EU would take its citizens serious, it would listen to them more carefully: in the survey “Eurobarometer 77/78” in 2012 “peace” was seen as the most important value the EU should represent and as the third most important personal value of the participants of the survey. It showed that peace and other social values matter most for Europeans. It is time that the EU incorporated these values more strongly than in the past two decades and that it needs to refocus its political orientation to peace and human needs. In achieving this it must also impose a policy of comprehensive disarmament – from astronomical nuclear weapons, Words are not bigger than actions; drastic reductions in arms exports and national military budgets, an end to the missile defense shield and binding commitments to a Nuclear Weapons Convention or a European Nuclear Weapons Free Zone are needed. Dialogue, critical discourse, and increased participation of civil society structures must be established in the EU; here the role of civil society and above all of the European Parliament must be strengthened. An increased role for the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to maintain peace on the European continent and worldwide, would enrich the one-sided, military approach to security by providing early warning and prevention mechanisms – on environmental issues as well as social ones.

It is a crucial challenge to raise awareness of how, by increasingly applying military logic to pursue its interests, the European Union is currently developing in the wrong direction. The Right2Water campaign has shown that people’s interests and wishes can prevail. Commemorating 100 years since the beginning of World War I is a great opportunity to start creating the world we want – a world of peace and solidarity with all people.

**Not war is revolutionary, peace is revolutionary.**

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**Rosa Luxemburg**

**In 1914 - 2014 | WE STAND FIRM TO ACHIEVE PEACE WITHOUT WEAPONS**

**INES Enhances the Social Responsibility of Scientists and Engineers Worldwide**

**INES Activities**

- Facilitating international professional and public discussion
- Organizing and supporting campaigns and conferences
- Running projects and offering critical fact-based evidence in support of international peace and security, sustainability, and justice

**INES Goals**

- Abolition of all nuclear weapons
- Promoting the responsible and sustainable use of science and technology
- Implementing ethical principles in the education of scientists and engineers
- Promoting disarmament for sustainable development
In 2014 international peace events 100 years after the start of WWI will take place in Sarajevo. What is the historic relationship between Sarajevo and WWI and why should peace events take place in Sarajevo today?

Mustafa Cerar: Many historians believe that the assassination of the Austrian heir to the throne in Sarajevo on June 28, 1914 was the trigger for World War I. This is widely seen as the official cause of the war. Also, Sarajevo is the town which was under siege for 44 months in the period 1992-1995 and its citizens suffered enormously. Thus Sarajevo is symbolically connected to World War I but is also a place where “the last war in Europe” was waged and showed its ugly face.

Ljulijeta Goranci Brkic: In the 20th century in Post-Yugoslav countries we have had nine different wars, all connected and damaging each individual country and the whole region. With this and the assassination of Franz Ferdinand in mind, Sarajevo looks to be the best place for the commemoration of 100 years since the start of WWI. From Sarajevo a message of peace and tolerance should be sent around the world.

The war in former Yugoslavia happened two decades ago. Ethnic and nationalist ideologies predominated. Is this divisive war still in the hearts and minds of the people of the Balkan?

Goran Bubalo: The successor states of Yugoslavia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) in particular, are still struggling with the legacies of war. Political, economic and social progress is hindered by a structural status quo which is based on ethnic divisions. Most of the current political leadership is not willing and able to address the legacies of the past – particularly the war crimes – to support reconciliation and to develop cooperative strategies with the other sides. In turn, large parts of BiH society are either following both antagonistic rhetoric and action or they are withdrawing into the private sphere as they do not see alternatives. At all levels these actors which promote dialogue, cooperation and issues of general public interest are overshadowed by dividing discourse and the inability to constructively deal with diversity and to transform conflicts in a peaceful manner.

According to an international assessment study, BiH today is suffering from an acute case of virtual statehood and only minimal institutional safeguards are in place to give the state a fighting chance of survival. It should be understood, that, after a war in BiH alone took 100,000 lives, there are still 450,000 people missing and mass graves are still being discovered. There continues to be talk of the possibility for a peaceful resolution. The use of nationalist rhetoric has been rising over the past three years; nowadays it dominates public forums and the media, leaving no space for positive stories that could help to break this fatal pattern.

Ljulijeta Goranci Brkic: The enduring effects of post-war trauma continue to plague BiH citizens and inhibit reconciliation. Because ethnic identity was a central motivating factor behind the violent acts committed during the war, many survivors retain deep and often traumatized grievances towards other ethnic groups. Youth one generation removed from the war have known only a BiH divided into mono-ethnic enclaves. Separate ethnic identities are reinforced by segregated schools and ethno-based curriculum that contain narratives of “the other” and inflammatory national rhetoric. Parents, teachers and the media perpetuate this fear and mistrust. Without being challenged to critically think about commonalities as well as differences, BiH youth tend to see themselves as “members of different societies.” Despite this sense of separation, the young are generally more resilient than older generations and more energetic and creative in resolving problems. Mobilizing youth to participate in interethnic exchanges, cooperation and social activism is critical to reconciliation.

Young people of different ethnic backgrounds are not necessarily violent towards each other, but many seldom have opportunities for exchange unless an NGO creates the occasion.

You are working in inter-ethnic structures. What are your experiences in processes for peace in BiH and what needs to be done to bridge the ethnic divides?

Goran Bubalo: As nationalist rhetoric is pervasive in BiH, with key influences, such as government officials, religious leaders, and the media playing a significant role in disseminating narratives that shape BiH society. Political parties or high-level officials control the nationalistic messages and, while many individual leaders support reconciliation, party affiliation often inhibits their ability to express personal opinions. Yet, the voices of key leaders are also crucial to mobilizing the wider community to find commonalities with their neighbors and engage around issues of mutual concern. This spring, BiH politicians of all backgrounds have joined the demonstrations against parliament, giving hope that such mobilization is possible.

Mustafa Cerar: Despite the widespread devastation that occurred during the war 1992-1995, Sarajevo is trying to restore its multi-ethnic structure and character. Sarajevo is a very unique town where you can find holy buildings of the three main religions close to each other and they function well, despite the recent wartime destruction. The process of reconciliation is on-going but it does not have a dynamic that citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina would like to see. Therefore the forthcoming event that will take place next year in Sarajevo will be an opportunity to give a new strength and momentum to this process.

There must be no more war after this!” [...] “No more war! No more war! Enough of it!” [...] “It’s too stupid – it’s too stupid,” they mumbled.»

HENRI BARBUSSE

INTERNATIONAL PEACE EVENTS IN SARAJEVO
An Interview
With Goran Bubalo, Ljulijeta Goranci Brkic & Mustafa Cerar

«There must be no more war after this!” [...] “No more war! No more war! Enough of it!” [...] “It’s too stupid – it’s too stupid,” they mumbled.»

HENRI BARBUSSE

Bridge across Miljacka River in Sarajevo – Over a decade after the wars, the city, the country, and the whole region still is building peace and reconciliation and is bridging divides. © Flickr / Alen Ovuka
At the Peace Event Sarajevo activists, practitioners and researchers of peace and active nonviolence can meet and exchange. It aims at creating positive experiences related to nonviolence, show solidarity, advance a Culture of Peace, and work towards overcoming rivalry and competition and towards developing inclusive policies. The Sarajevo Peace Event is an opportunity to review the achievements and challenges related to peace and nonviolence in Europe.

If you would like to be part of the preparatory process or the main event please contact us. The international coordinating committee consists of:

Alessandro Capasso (Italian Network for Civil Peace Corps, Trento) – capasso@gmail.com | Bernard Gérard (Geneva Graduate Institute) (IAC France - Paris – dannovgladis@gmail.com) | Christina Rossa (International Network for a Culture of Nonviolence and Peace, Paris) – secretariat@rupide.org | David Myhrén (Nyfiken, Copenhagen) | Dragosa Đorđević (HCA Banja Luka & Tuzla) – milosc@balkan.org | Goran Bubalo (Mreds za izgradnju mira - Peace Building Network, Sarajevo) – goran@bubalo.org | Ljulijeta Goranci Brkić (Nansen Dialogue Centre – Sarajevo) – ljulijeta.goranci@nansen-dialogue.net | Petra Wiesnegger (SOF Austria, Vienna) – politischerneuenvordring@gmail.at | Bróisí Bróin (ALANIA, Berlin) – hr@alania.de | Zana Zefkovic (Execonomia) – raffaello_pialor_markova@nansen-dialogue.net | Oktay I. Tunca – oktayntunca@gmail.com

There are working groups preparing the whole event – For specific contacts:

Future contact: forum@sarajevopeaceevent2014.eu | Youth contact: youth@sarajevopeaceevent2014.eu

Further information: www.peaceeventsarajevo2014.eu or www.1914-2014.eu

Numerous non-governmental organizations that have valuable experience with grassroots peacebuilding initiatives, are rooted within local communities, and some already participate in political dialogue from the local to the national level, particularly those with offices and regular activities in urban centers. However, the widespread lack of organizational capacity and the non-existence of a coordinating body for peacebuilding NGOs has led to a focus on individual projects. As a result, there is a lack of mutual awareness, contact and cooperation between organizations pursuing similar goals. Potential synergies are not being fully developed, mutual learning through the exchange of knowledge, experiences and resources remains sub-optimal. A targeted civil society contribution to peacebuilding on BiH, which by definition would need to follow an all-BiH strategy, is thus dissected into a myriad of small unconnected initiatives. Inter-ethnic cooperation and the promotion of an all-BiH peacebuilding agenda for reconciliation and cooperative development is currently not visible enough and is finding little access in the media as well as in public and political debates. There is a need for a strategic approach. NGOs committed to peace-building would have the potential to give an important push in this regard. Additionally, the capacities for engaging in political advocacy and for entering into political dialogue are currently low. Nation-wide outreach and the visibility of actions to mobilize larger support from within the broader BiH public will need to be developed if we want to advance peacebuilding and cooperative development and remind governmental authorities about citizens’ public interests.

Ljulijeta Goranci Brkić: And the Peace Event is a great opportunity for that and to generate hope, but it is also a duty, as we want to use it to break the ring of blood and fear keeping us apart and separated. We want to use this opportunity to show that a better future is possible.

And what about the international context? For example, some compare the situation in 1914 with today, in relation to the conflict over the new world order.

Goran Bubalo: BiH and the region of Post-Yugoslav countries is a good example of the New World Order - countries divided by interests, some big, some small from the eastern or western block, plus the interests of the Islamic countries on top of that - and all of them want to ensure they get their share and have their place. Clearly the western democracies used the wars in this region to expand their powers and as a justification for the continued existence of NATO in the world and a reason to expand its imperial interests in Eastern Europe.

Ljulijeta Goranci Brkić: We are living in a very turbulent and uncertain time. The world is over-shadowed by a huge economic crisis, depression, conflicts on a large or small scale, etc. There are several conflicts in the world at the moment that have an impact on the global political situation. Currently it is about those conflicts for which no end can be seen. As time goes on they get ever deeper and political actors such as the big powers, are not being seen as trying to solve them. On the contrary, they use them for securing their own positions in the world. It is a “game” that does not have an end and peace suffers. The world needs a stable peace now more than ever. Numerous organizations in the world are working on it, but it seems that is not sufficient. There is a need for a new strategy on how to contribute and reach a peaceful world. The Sarajevo Peace Event 2014 should be the place where such organizations from all over the world can discuss the current situation and also build possible concrete steps and activities related to strengthening peace and the non-violent resolution of conflicts.

What will happen in Sarajevo in 2014? Who is preparing the events, how can I and my organization be part of the activities in Sarajevo and/or all over Europe?

Mustafa Cerić: There will be huge four day event from June 6-9 that will gather people devoted to peace from all around the world. It will be a combination of international conferences, workshops, exhibitions, music and film festivals, street actions, artistic performances and youth camp.

Ljulijeta Goranci Brkić: Several international and domestic civil society organizations are involved in preparations for the forthcoming Sarajevo Peace Event in 2014. There are six working groups preparing for the whole event in Sarajevo on finance, forum, culture, youth, communication, and logistics. On the top of this there is the Coordination Committee, made up of several members of international and domestic civil society organisations, who are organis- ing all of the preparations.

Goran Bubalo: The Peace Event Sarajevo 2014 will be a meeting place for activists, practitioners and researchers involved in issues of peace and active nonviolence and who will review the achievements and challenges related to peace and nonviolence in Europe. This event will be an opportunity to present a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence in all its divers- ity. There will also be an open space to plan joint initiatives for the advance- ment of a Culture of Peace. If you want to join please write to the organizing committee, write to and meet with the organization(s) in your country already taking part in the preparations of the Peace Event, or just join us at the meee- ting in September. It is planned as a joint activity of all of us, peace builders, activists, young and old. Citizens from around the world are expected to join, and the doors are open to everyone.

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International Law
Before and after WWI

A Thumbnail Sketch
By Peter Weis

International law is as old as organized society. So is war. Therefore, presidents of today’s non-aggressi-

From War to Peace: a personal reflection

Trenches at “Altopiano di Asiago” – War and violence diametrically oppose sustainable ways of living. Nature slowly but steadily

» Should I tell you that all learning, all culture, all science is nothing but hideous mockery, so long as mankind makes war in the name of god and humanity with gas, iron, explosive and fire? »

Erich Maria Remarque

Women against War

By Kristine Karch & Aurore Royon

World War I started in August 1914. Bertha von Suttner, possibly the most resolute activist against the war, died shortly before. In 1905 she was the first woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize – for her activism in the women’s rights and peace movements.

T
he last words of von Suttner were “Lay down your arms! – tell it to everyone”. She died in May 1914 in Vienna. It was there that the World Peace Congress was to take place in the fall of 1914 – but the war and disagreement in the peace movement prevented the congress from happening.

World War I was the first war not only taking place on the battle field but in unprecedented dimensions on the home front, too. Women – not yet allowed to vote – were massively affected by the consequences. They were not only victims but also involved as active participants in the military service, or as workers in military industries. They were often offered a supportive “hinterland” for their husbands, sons and, for all of those engaged in fighting. In Germany, a large part of the bourgeois women’s rights movements supported the politi-

cy of war and founded the “National Women’s Service” in 1915. Social democ-

tic women’s organizations and female unionists called for patriotic acts of war.

In the beginning only a few women (and men) acted in opposition to the war. Rosa Luxemburg and Clara Zetkin

resisted nationalism and chauvinism and connected their demands for peace and equal rights by calling for a revolu-
tion against the capitalist system. In 1915, the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (IFBEI – WILPF) was founded in The Hague. It has struggled against any form of war and violence ever since. Their demands remain particularly relevant today as women around the world still have to struggle against war, violence, oppression and exclusion.

When analysing the causes of war, feminists identify patriarchy – the dominance of masculine values within society – as well as the institutional structures of capitalism, racism and militari-

sm. Male values are associated with hierarchy, rivalry, and competition with the rousing violence. So-called gender wars as well as concern and reconciliation, are not readily recog-
nized. This attribution of values is nothing but hideous mockery, so long as mankind makes war in the name of god and humanity with gas, iron, explosive and fire.

Erich Maria Remarque

Women against War

By Kristine Karch & Aurore Royon

World War I started in August 1914. Bertha von Suttner, possibly the most resolute activist against the war, died shortly before. In 1905 she was the first woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize – for her activism in the women’s rights and peace movements.

The next war will be more horrible than any of its predecessors.

Bertha von Suttner

War and Technology

By Dave Webb

August 1914 saw the end of a relatively peaceful century of scien-
tific discovery and invention in Europe. Then all countries involved in the war switched all available indus-
tory to military production and by 1918 dreams of a technological future had been shattered. The quest for military superiority has always been a driving force for technology even in times of peace and technology has made killing easier by developing new weapons that progressively distance killer from victim. Swords gave way to bows and arrows which were replaced by muskets which in Assad rifles, machine guns, heavy artillery and missiles. Now pilots fly drones from thousands of miles away and in the future the distance may be extended in space and time if robots determine who and when to kill.

New weapons also encourage countermeasures and armour, fortifica-
tions, and shields that have all seen major technical innovations. Developments in weapons and communications sys-

tems also help determine tactics and strategy and enabled war to spread to new environments – at sea and under it, in the air and in outer space – and reach new levels of destructive power. Although there have been numerous occasions in history e.g. Vietnam, Afghanistan when technical superiority has not led to victory, politicians insist that striving for technological supremacy is crucial and in the US in particular the military-industrial complex has institu-

tionalized R&D and created a perpetual arms race with other states and with the status quo. The “resolution in military affairs” has led to a quest for global domi-
nance and control and the “war on ter-
to” has enabled government agencies to deploy surveillance and intelligence gath-
ering technologies on a massive scale.

We are told that more and better military technology will ensure our security and that there are useful spin-

coffs. Scientists are themselves persuaded by these myths. Those working on the Manhattan project during World War II saw only the engrossing tech-
nical challenges. When their bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki killed hundreds of thousands, many regretted the part they played. Some hoped that nuclear weapons would be too terrifying to use and would make war obsolete but instead the US and USSR engaged in a terrifying arms race, attempting to achieve superior war fighting technology. Today, arms manufacturers and military coalitions like NATO are encouraging the spread of a militaristic culture which seeks control and containment.

The way we develop and use technology is a clear indicator of our value system. Currently we are faced with the enormous problems of climate change and nuclear annihilation, both consequences of thoughtless and self-

ish technological development. In response we see around the world those in control focusing on containment – pro-
tecting their interests, monitoring and controlling political unrest – at a time when we need global cooperation on an unprecedented scale. We urgently need to transform our war-based societies, and accompanying technologies, into ones that do not reflect the situation in Europe 100 years ago.

Dave Webb, Chair Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) – www.cnduk.org

Activities around the 100th Anniversary of World War I

An incomplete overview on the activities and events around the world.

AT

Exhibition: Eliezer & Misery. Living with the Great War 1914-1918 Under the title “Eliezer & Misery. Life with the Great War 1914-1918” there will be three exhibitions on the theme “World War I”.

Location / Date: Schallburg, Arstetten, Venne (1) / March to November 2014

Parties involved: Costa Schallburg, Costa Arstetten, Military History Museum Vienna

Further information: www.faberland estates.at / forum.musichistorisch.at

Conference: Living with the Great War The international World War One Conference “Living with the Great War. The First World War in a Global Perspective” is linked to the exhibitions “Eliezer & Misery. Life with the Great War 1914-1918”. The conference should ensure a discussion of the First World War in its global dimensions. The main questions will be: How did World War One influence different parts of social life? What reflects elation and misery and who or what (and when) ran through a process of disillusion or became supporters of the war?

Location / Date: Danube University Krems / 12.09.2013

Parties involved: Organization by the Ludwig Boltzmann-Institute for Research of War-Consequences

Further information: jrwiczek@gmx.at

BE

Peace Conference in Ypres The whole Faculty of Theology at the Catholic University of Leuven will move to Ypres for a special conference dedicated to the theme of war and peace.

Location / Date: Lakenhallen at the Grote Markt of Ypres / 6. March 2014

Parties involved: Faculty of Theology of the Catholic University of Leuven, Pax Christi Vlaanderen

Further information: www.paxchristi.be / js.honsens@paxchristi.be

Biking for Peace A special biking tour for peace. The tour is about 40 km.

Location / Date: The tour starts at the Big Square (Grote Markt) of Ypres (downtown) / In mid December 2013 a brochure will be prepared with further information

Parties involved: Pax Christi Vlaanderen and FV, the tourist movement of the Christian workers movement in Flanders.

Further information: vredeswinkel@paxchristi.be

FR

Peace Movement Congress What can we do to contribute a peaceful structure of societies and the world? One hundred years after World War 1 this question is still being asked. This Congress will discuss the question “What can society do for a sustainable peace in Europe and throughout the world?”

Location / Date: Not specified / Nov. 2014

Parties involved: Movement de Paix

Further information: www.mppaz.org / www.20epezoct.com jornal.lememoy.pngza.pezoct.com

Exhibition: Jaurès and Peace Issues in the early twentieth Century Jean Jaurès was a French socialist politician and historian. He was murdered immediately before the outbreak of World War I by a French nationalist. The exhibition shows the peace activities and deals with the questions of peace.

Location / Date: July to December 2014

Parties involved: Movement de Paix

Further information: www.mppaz.org / jornal.lememoy.pngza.pezoct.com

UK

Seminar: Manipulation of public Opinion & Propaganda of War. This Seminar will discuss the idea of the creation of a European civil peace corps. Invited people: Luisa Morgantini (EU parliament past vice president), Italy, Debra Raccanelli (Freuli Venezia Giulia president) Italy, Jov Vida (EU parliamentarian) Slovenia, Viviana Renucci (first vice president) Croatia. The seminar is a preparation for a similar event at Armed Peace Ears. The Seminar will be held at San Michele della Croce.

Location / Date: not specified

Parties involved: Italian Network for Civil Peace Corps

Further information: cpdappa@gmail.com


Location / Date: London / 04.08.2014

Further information: info@quaker.org.uk

Quaker Resource Kit

Further information: www.org.uk

Pilgrims for Peace During the “Week on Iona” Pilgrims for Peace: celebrating 100 years of Nonviolence, pacemaking, forgiveness, compassion and reconciliation.

Location / Date: Iona / 17-20.05.2014

Parties involved: FOR

Further information: www.org.uk

US

World War I Conference: Dissent, Activism, & Transformation WWI was a watershed event in modern world history. The war triggered dissent and activism; and it had an impact on political activism, social reform, and cultural expression. In turn, these developments transformed society, politics, and culture. This conference will explore the themes of dissent, activism, and transformation during the war and the immediate postwar era.

Location / Date: Georgia Court University, Lakewood, New Jersey / 17-18.01.2014

Parties involved: Georgian Court University; Peace History Society

Further information: www.org.uk/WWIconference.htm / hemets@georgiana.org

War and Technology

Activities around the 100th Anniversary of World War I ‘100 Years of Peace’ The network ‘100 years of Peace’ is an initiative to remember the dead and wounded of World War I. It was started in the fall of 2012.

As well as trying to give momentum to decentralized activities the network is organizing the following:

A.M.O.K. Parade

A.M.O.K. is a satirical demonstration. It aims at exaggerating and ridiculing statements and actions of politicians and peace by displaying absurd and grotesque group pictures and individual displays. It thus illustrates the lies and the madness of politics of war.

Location / Date: Cities in Germany / any year

Exhibition: Poster & Art on Peace Location / Date: see di trade union / not specified

Annual Meeting of Cooperation for Peace on “100 years of Pacifism”

Location / Date: Essen / February 21/22

Conference: Science in between War and Peace

Military and the Militarization of Science and Research then and now and deals with the questions of peace.

Location / Date: Potsdam / 11-12.04.2014

100th Anniversary: International Fellowship of Reconciliation

Location / Date: Konstanz / August 2014

Peace Conference by Trade Unions & possibly others

Location / Date: Berlin / September

Parties involved: among others Pax Christi, Maurers for Peace, IPPNW, FOR, JALANA, Forum Civil Peace Service, and DFG VR, a German section of War Resisters International

Further information: www.1914-2014.eu / info@1914-2014.eu

Conference: Conflicts Prevention & European civil Peace Corps

This Seminar will discuss the idea of the creation of a European civil peace corps. Invited people: Luisa Morgantini (EU parliament past vice president), Italy, Debra Raccanelli (Freuli Venezia Giulia president) Italy, Jov Vida (EU parliamentarian) Slovenia, Viviana Renucci (first vice president) Croatia. The seminar is a preparation for a similar event at Armed Peace Ears. The Seminar will be held at San Michele della Croce.

Location / Date: not specified

Parties involved: Italian Network for Civil Peace Corps

Further information: cpdappa@gmail.com

FOR Centenary Conference

In Cambridge the Fellowship of Reconciliation will celebrate its 100th anniversary. Among others with Rowan Williams as keynote speaker.

Further information: www.org.uk

War no more – War never again – Peace Vigil

Silent Peace vigil with the message “What do we want? War never again!” on the steps of St Martin-in-the-Fields on the centenary of the start of the First World War. Peace Pledge Union (PPU) would like to encourage groups to organise similar vigils in their towns & cities.

Location / Date: London / 04.08.2014

Parties involved: PPU, Pax Christi, QPSW, FOR, WILPF, PN


EX

PE

FR

IL
After the First World War the Treaty of Versailles included the creation of the ILO in the belief that lasting peace could only be achieved if it was truly based on social justice. When we leaders lay wreaths in remembrance next year they'd do well to remember that too. UNI will always work for disarmament and for a sustainable future – in short for peace and changing our modes of thinking to put them into practice are necessary to assure a future.

The first thing that comes to mind are the millions of people who could have made such a different impact on the world, but instead became victims, of greed for power and resources, of imperialism and nationalism. Two years later, despite many positive steps forward, not least the development of the UN and of civil society organizations, the industrial-military complex has grown ever stronger and weapons are becoming increasingly lethal and sophisticated. We need both young women and men to fight for human security, for disarmament and for a sustainable future – in short for what UNESCO labelled a culture of peace.

Scientists have warned that we must learn the lessons of the past if we are going to apply them to the present and change the future. In a nuclear armed world, the challenge is made all the more urgent. As Einstein warned, "The unleashed power of the atom has changed everything save our modes of thinking and thus we drift toward unparalleled catastrophe." Learning these lessons for peace and changing our modes of thinking to put them into practice are necessary to assure a future.

We learn from history that we do not learn from history. That is why for the enslaved and oppressed peoples of Africa, WWI was the first of altogether three world wars. The last one is the world war of the rich against the poor and hungry. A war in which they had been conducted by hundreds of thousands to the slaughter for the white men – but it was also the beginning of a comprehensive liberation movement whose success has not been achieved till now. But there is no such thing as a totally hopeless case and god will guide our journey to freedom.

The country of the great revolution and human rights and the land of Goethe, Schiller and Brecht should fight the evils of neo-liberal economics – on behalf of human rights and in the name of peace. That is the only way we can make this world a better place.

I would like to see political scientists take nonviolence as a serious course of study. If they did so, we could challenge and hopefully change the role of world governments that have a right to threaten or use lethal force as a means of self defence. This long standing building stone of armed force by governments must be removed. There are alternatives to violence and governments and armed insurgency groups can be challenged to use such alternatives.

In the Philippines we have a saying that anyone who does not look at the past does not know the future. In our country we feel a new sense of urgency to do more mentoring towards the younger peace activists. This is an important part of handing over the work of the past decades. In the same time, it is about handing over the work we at some point had been handed over. Nothing really is permanent, there is always the possibility for change, and change is always for the better.

I think we get what we prepare for. If we want a world where peace and justice prevail, we must teach ourselves to believe that peace is not a ‘utopian vision’ but a real responsibility that must be worked for each and every day in small and large ways. Any one of us can contribute to building a world where peace and justice prevail.

The great German-French reconciliation, for what is it way we can make this world to a better place.

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