

ORGANIZATIONAL DETAILS

CONTACT:

Network 1914-2014
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REGISTRATION:

If you would like to join the seminar, please send an email to kongress@ialana.de as soon as you can, but not later than January 20th.

WEBSITE:

www.1914-2014.eu

LOCATION:

Hotel Le Privilège
Carrefour de l'Europe
Haudainville 55100 Verdun

We have reserved a contingent of rooms for accommodation. With breakfast, one night costs about 35 Euros per person. Please send a mail to kongress@ialana.de if you would like to have a single or double room.

Conference language is English.

Please save the date and pass this information on to interested persons.

Cover Photo © Flickr / Nabok:
Verdun, one of World War I's main battlegrounds.

100 years World War I

INTERNATIONAL PEACE SEMINAR

Learning from French-German history
Peace is the categorical imperative



25.-26.01.2013

Hotel Le Privilège
Carrefour de l'Europe
Haudainville 55100 Verdun

Organizers:



Collectif national
OTAN-Afghanistan

NETZWERK
1914-2014
Germany

With the support of:



INTRODUCTORY IDEAS

On January 19/20 2013 (for the first time in almost 15 years), representatives of the German and French peace movements met for a two day seminar in Berlin.

This meeting was convened to highlight the holding of the gathering of members of the German Bundestag and the French National Assembly, to commemorate and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Élysée Treaties. It was these treaties that lay the foundation to the French-German friendship and peaceful relations in the second half of the 20th century.

The seminar revived common actions of French and German peace movement. Among others this reflects in the common preparations of the international peace event in Sarajevo in June 2014.

It was agreed to conduct another seminar in 2014 as the beginning of manifold actions due to 100 years of the beginning of World War I. Peace movements from other countries should be invited to this event, among others from Great Britain, Russia, Serbia, Belgium, Austria, and Italy.

PEACE BETWEEN GERMANY AND FRANCE

Peace between Germany and France does not mean that France and Germany do not wage wars anymore! Both are currently involved in wars.

We reject the official talks of peace as their only function is to cover up the role these governments play in war and armed politics. We state: France and Germany are not at war against each other but fight in shoulder for shoulder for a neo-liberal, geo-strategic redistribution of the world and for the securing of profits and resources. They carry out these objectives in Mali, in Afghanistan, in Somalia, and in the Balkans. The so called war on terror strengthens and develops "terrorist forces" and is completely inappropriate to eradicate the social and ideological background of fundamentalism. War is terror against people. Peace and solutions to global challenges can only be achieved on the basis of civil conflict resolution, social justice, democracy, balance and reconciliation amongst the people and with nature. The role of both countries in the conflict in Syria needs an intensive analysis and debate.

Especially now, since the deep politico-economic European crisis and Europe's involvement in wars, historic developments and acute challenges have to be discussed. The German and French peace movements want to work together and in unison on this task of "peace and history of peace from the bottom up". Peace movement of both countries plan common activities which should be discussed and coordinated.

The aggressive role of both countries in the preparation of World War I, as well as the long-lasting, active – and often political– engagement for peace needs to be much more in our focus. World War I was not an "accident of history" but the inevitable continuation of politics of redistribution of world control in the beginning of the 20th century.

Historically, the role of resistance in the fight against the barbarian German fascism is not properly reviewed. More light needs to be shed on the fight of the French people (with few Germans) against occupation and terror. Germany's responsibility for two world wars must never be forgotten, especially 50 years after the signing of the Élysée Treaties. France's crimes in the colonial fight against the freedom and independence of Algeria and at the Indo-China war, neither the military interventions in Africa should also not be covered up.

Peace and freedom advocated by the peace movements of both countries was prosecuted, attacked and discredited. Today, the European militarization of the Lisbon Treaty stands squarely against, opposing peace and disarmament. The European Union's global interventionist politics brings war, suffering, and destruction to many parts of the world, among others to Afghanistan and Mali.

France still is a full blown nuclear power while Germany follows an illegal politics of nuclear sharing. "Never again war", the main fundamental lesson of two world wars has not been learned by the governments of Germany and France. We advocate a world without nuclear weapons and war. The neo-liberal politics of the governments on both sides of the Rhine violates daily the fundamental human rights in both countries and worldwide. They created a climate of war, of concepts of enemies and banalize the consequences of war.

For this weekend and for the next years our aim is to discuss what has been forgotten, concealed, and covered-up by these political 'celebrations'.

Our peace seminar is also a protest against the planned official festivities. Peace, friendship among peoples, disarmament, and civil conflict resolution should be the center of all reflections and considerations. We need a demilitarization of the minds. Our aim is a culture of peace.

FIRST IDEAS FOR THE PROGRAMM

Saturday 25.01.2014

8.30 – 10.30	International Coordinating Committee No to War – No to NATO meeting
11.00 – 13.00	Meeting on preparations of common working groups and activities in Sarajevo
14.00	Beginning of the Seminar Opening and Greetings, Jeannick Lepretre (France), Reiner Braun (Germany)
14.10 – 17.30	1. Session 1914 – 2014 Lessons from WWI for peace work today Aurélie Royon (France), Erhard Crome (Germany)
18.00 – 19.30	2. Session Militarization of EU and peace political alternatives Lydia Samarbakhsh (France), Julia Pippig (Germany)
20.00	Common Dinner on invitation by European Left with „Dinner Speeches“ Marie-Christine Vergiat (France) (tbc), Claudia Haydt (Germany)

Sunday 26.01.2014

9.30 – 11.00	3. Session Chauvinism, racism and hate as legitimation for WWI and today – The so called cultural manifest of October 1914 Reiner Braun (Germany)
11.30 – 13.30	4. Session No to War – abolish weapons: the preparations of the activities 100 years after the beginning of WWI from the standpoint of the peace movement Short introductions by peace activists from GB (Dave Webb, CND), Belgium (Ludo de Brabander, vrede), European Left Party (Claudia Haydt), France (Jeannick Lepretre, Mouvement de la Paix), Luxemburg (Claude Simon), Germany (Lucas Wirl, INES)
13.30	Summaries and agreements
14.00	Visit of memorial in Verdun