The great, inspiring example
German pacifist responses to
British Conscientious Objectors

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## Numbers of soldiers executed by army authorities during WW1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nation</th>
<th>No. of Death Sentences</th>
<th>No. Executed</th>
<th>% of death sentences executed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Great Britain</td>
<td>3,118</td>
<td>361</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austria-Hungary</td>
<td>1,175</td>
<td>1,148</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
‘[i]n the English war ministry they are firmly convinced that German soldiers will be just as incapable of dealing with mad women as the gentlemen of the island realm.’

_Berliner Lokalanzeiger_
Saatfrüchte sollen nicht vermahlen werden:
Seeds for the sowing should not be ground 1941

• “This demand is, like >>Never again war<<, not an expression of sentimental longing but a command.”

• [diese Forderung ist wie >>Nie Wieder Krieg<< kein sehnsüchtiger Wunsch sondern Gebot.]
Tagebücher December 1941
War Resisters International
Ernst Friedrich 1894 - 1967: A German Conscientious Objector

True heroism lies not in murder, but in the **refusal** to commit murder. Let the great, inspiring example of consistent conscientious objectors be our model. They suffered death for their consistent "No!" rather than themselves become murderers! I WILL NOT!’
The Prevention of War

‘It is true that capital is the cause of every war. But the guilt of war rests on our shoulders.

It is we proletarians that make the conduct of war possible; it is for us likewise to prevent wars!

Refuse to serve!

Bring up your children so that they may later refuse to render military and war service!’
Anti-war museum, Berlin

You had the sad courage to murder men or to accept their murder, come in and have the courage to look at your own shameful acts.
Nach dem Kriege: Der deutsche Kronprinz als Schwerstarbeiter...

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Après la guerre: Le Kronprinz d’Allemagne, 'homme de peine'...

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... und der kriegsverletzte Proletarier bei seinem täglichen „Sport“.

... et le prolétaire mutilé dans la guerre, exécutant son « sport » cotidien.
Reactions to the book

We should show this book especially to women. One or two might faint, but far better to faint at the sight of this book than after getting a telegram from the battle zone.

This book is a weapon against war. Anyone who can look at it without shuddering is not a human being, but a patriot.

Kurt Tucholsky 1926

War against War! Is one of the most shocking books I have ever seen. But this is not just a picture book. It begins and ends with a passionate plea to understand the causes of war and to take steps to prevent it.

Bruce Kent, 2014
‘A professional murderer paid by the state, who is trained in murder-schools (called barracks) privileged by the state in the carrying out of the most gruesome of crimes, the murder of human beings!’
‘The father that makes gifts of toy soldiers to his child mobilises the war idea’
‘The little helmet made of paper will one day be a steel helmet on the head of a murderer’
Der Kaiser rief! Man war zur Stelle,
Hat manchen Feind bezwungen
Und wie die Alten sangen heit,
So zwitschern auch die Jungen!

Grüßt mir das blonde Kind
am Rhein
Ich wandre in die weite Welt,
Auf Straßen und auf Gassen,
Du findest mich, ich alles schön bestellt,
Nur mich findest du verlassen.
Germany is a republic - I thought. Germany wants peace - I thought. There should be a Peace Museum in a peaceful republic, I thought. But as the pacifistic republic did not have enough money for such a work of peace (an armoured cruiser being more important and more expensive), the silly idea came to my mind, to open an 'Anti-War Museum': in the centre of Germany, in the heart of Prussia, in the midst of Berlin (five minutes away from the police headquarters).

Ernst Friedrich, »Vom Friedensmuseum zur Hitlerkaserne«, St. Gallen 1935
Anti-war museum, Berlin: 1933 and today
Helene Stöcker 1865-1943

• Studies in Berlin, Glasgow, Bern
• 1902: Doctorate in literature
• 1905: founds Bund für Mutterschutz und Sexualreform
• 1906-32 Editor: Die neue Generation
  “our task […] involves sexual reform and also social policy and modern culture in general.”

• November 1914: co-founder, Bund Neues Vaterland
Catherine Marshall, 1890-1961

The National Committee in 1916.
back row (L to R): Rev. Leyton Richards, Morgan Jones, John P. Fletcher, Alfred Barratt Brown and Bertrand Russell.
Lida Gustava Heymann 1868-1943 and Dr Anita Augspurg 1857-1943

The world war has proved that the male state, founded and built up on force, has failed all along the line; we have never seen clearer proof of its unfitness. The male principle is divisive and, if allowed to continue unchecked, will bring about the total destruction of humanity.’
Lida Gustava Heymann, 1917/1922
Helene Stöcker
1915: delegate to the International Women’s Congress at The Hague
1916: elected to committee of pacifist group ‘Völkerrecht’ (Law of Nations)
1919: delegate to women’s peace congress, Zurich, founder member of WILPF
1921: founder member of International War Resisters
1922-1932: committee member of German League for Human Rights
1923: founder member of Friends of the New Russia
1926: joins Revolutionary Pacifists group
1933: emigrates to Zurich
1938: German citizenship revoked by Nazis
1940: moves to Sweden
1941: emigrates to the US; 1943: dies in New York
‘In these difficult times, that have destroyed so much of our hopes of people and institutions, if there’s one thing that gives us the strength to carry on and preserves our faith in humanity, it’s hearing about the ideals and actions of the Conscientious Objectors during the war – in England and other countries.’

Helene Stőcker, 1922
‘…to reveal the true face of militarism in all its hideousness. It hardly makes a difference whether the militarism is French, German or English, and we must beware of flirting with it – the only proper response is to determinedly turn our backs on it’

Martha Steinitz 1921
‘Stronger than all violence, than the sabre and the rifle, is our spirit, is our will! Repeat these three words: "I will not!" Give content to these words and all wars in future will be impossible.’

Ernst Friedrich, War against War, 1924
Edlef Kőppen *Heeresbericht* 1930

- ‘There’s nothing more to be said but that I, I, I, am no longer part of this war. I am no longer part of this war.

- […]

- I keep telling you: just shoot me. Follow your ridiculous war laws and just shoot me dead. But I am no longer part of it. I don’t want the guilt any more.’

- Chapter 16 section 16
‘The war is the greatest crime I know. I am guilty of it. I have been guilty for years. People have been killed by my command. Now here’s an end to it.

[...]

And I am thinking more clearly than ever before in my life: it is a crime to have any part in this murder for even a second longer.’

Chapter 16 section 16