"César de Paepe, *[On the True Causes of War].*" *Workers Unite!: The International 150 Years Later*. Ed. Marcello Musto. New York: Bloomsbury Academic, 2014. 229. *Bloomsbury Collections*. Web. 26 Apr. 2023. <<http://dx.doi.org/10.5040/9781501302367.0065>>.

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César de Paepe, [*On the True
Causes of War*]⁷²

I take the floor not to oppose the project as a whole, but to oppose the phrase that states that we want peace in order to arrive more promptly at social reorganization. It seems to me that this phrase expresses a false idea, consecrates a vicious circle, because peace itself can only be the outcome of social reorganization. If I had to express my sentiments to the Geneva [Peace] Congress, I would say: we want peace as much as you do, but we know that so long as there exists what we call the principle of nationalities or patriotism, there will be war; so long as there are distinct classes, there will be war. War is not only the product of a monarch's ambition; for instance, in the [French] Mexican Adventure [of 1862–67], the true cause of war was the interests of some capitalists; war is the result of the lack of equilibrium in the economic world, and the lack of equilibrium in the political world. If the Geneva Congress believes that peace may be secured in the current social context, it is illogical: the ends justify the means.

⁷² This text corresponds to the synopsis of a speech given by César De Paepe (see note 22) to a session of 4 September 1867, at the Lausanne Congress. It was published in L1867 and is also included in PI, I: 122–3.