

Blood and ink: Matrices of Pacifist Discourse in the Context of the First World War –

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The huge documentary drama *The Last Days of Mankind* by the Austrian satirist Karl Kraus (see my Portuguese translation, Lisboa, Antígona, 2003) ranks among the most prominent attempts at an oppositional literary confrontation with the First World War and represents one of the great monuments of pacifist literature in the 20th century. In my paper I propose to show that, despite its profound originality, Kraus's fierce indictment of the German and Austro-Hungarian war politics rests upon a model of literary and intellectual intervention that can be fruitfully compared with critical interventions by other participants in the European public sphere at the time. Based on a typological approach, I will, thus, attempt a comparative diagnosis of the use of similar discursive strategies and of the occurrence of shared critical motifs in other selected writings by a number of European authors, including Aquilino Ribeiro in his series of articles *É a guerra!*