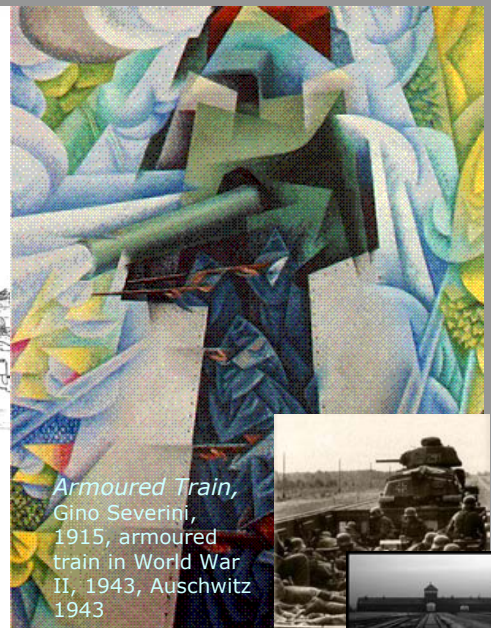




How a Goods and Passenger Carrier System Was Seen as an Angel that Would Bring Peace on Earth and How it Ended up as a Grim Warrior and Pre-condition for Modern Mass Destruction



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Armoured Train, Gino Severini, 1915, armoured train in World War II, 1943, Auschwitz 1943

In 1833 one of the most famous railway supporter Friedrich List argued: „How would it be possible in future that civilised nations would start wars when the majority of educated persons will be friends“ and he continued war would end „when the individuals of different nations will be bound together by thousand connections“ that will be enabled by railways. In 1909 when the German Minister for Public Works Paul Justin von Breitenbach opened a sea ferry line to Sweden he expressed a

very similar opinion: Transport and Traffic would be a „pillar of peace among the nations, a mighty supporter of the idea of peace. The livelier the exchange between the nations, (...) the more powerful and more resistant will be the peaceful connections which should entwine (*umschlingen*) the nations.“ Starting with these assumptions the paper will analyse the debate and then confront these positions with the real historical development.



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