In the late 19th century, European workers struggled to build transnational solidarity practices. It all started with the foundation of the International Workingmen’s Association in 1864, in a context marked by the increasing circulation of people, goods, and money. British, French, German, Swiss, German, and Italian workers would share information, coordinate strikes and demonstrations, and send money abroad when other workers were in need. But promoting international solidarity proved to be a tough challenge, ridden with potential tensions, misunderstandings, and failures. The practice of internationalism was closely related with larger intellectual and political debates, which shaped the history of European labour movements until World War One and beyond.

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