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# Rethinking the Socialist Construction and International Career of the Concept “Bourgeois Feminism” FREE

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ON BASTILLE DAY 1889, German socialist Clara Zetkin announced to delegates from twenty countries assembled in Paris on the centennial of the French Revolution that “the emancipation of women, together with that of all humanity, will take place only with the emancipation of labor from capital.” Zetkin assured these founders of the Second International that they need not fear losing “proletarian” women to others who were claiming to advance their interests, especially the women's rights groups who held their own international congresses in the French capital that summer. Despite her own comfortable origins as the daughter of a schoolteacher and a doctor's widow who had herself co-founded a women's rights organization, Zetkin denounced the nonsocialist “bourgeois women's movement” as a vain effort “built upon sand ... [with] no basis in reality.” While challenging her overwhelmingly male...

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