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Organizing a Global Idiom. Esperanto, Ido and the World Auxiliary Language Movement before the First World War

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his chapter describes and analyses the notion that a new and simplified form of globality could be established by the adoption of a standardized auxiliary language. The global network was emerging and expanding during the second half of the 19th century with the interaction and interdependence of the telegraph cable network, steamship lines, the railway system and other kinds of postal transmission systems. Thus the term 'world auxiliary language' represented a program for the world-wide spread of a language which would match the developing global system of communications and transportation. Driven by the blessings of global transit, a pentecostal global conception emerged not only of unlimited accessibility but one in which the whole planet appeared ready for conversion by a suitable project. Délégation pour l'adoption d'une langue auxiliaire international organization had the goal of choosing the best from among the numerous global auxiliary languages that then existed and of achieving its world-wide adoption.

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