

On the crisis

Later they will say:
Back then, when war governed.
And they will devise
theories and ask themselves
how it could have gone so far
when no one saw it coming.

All individual factors will be
analysed
and their cumulative effect will be
reviewed
and they will
perpetually contradict themselves
although all are right.

In schoolbooks there will stand
a simplified and clearly comprehensible
version of events
and children will
as always
learn more dates
than contexts

No one will be crazy enough
to claim: The crisis was precipitated
on purpose
so that the rich
got richer
and the powerful more powerful.

Even when everything has changed
everything will still be
exactly the same.

Karin Monteiro-Zwahlen

Translation: Joseph Prestwich