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TIME AND ESCHATOLOGICAL PROPENSION IN THE BEGINNING OF THE 20th CENTURY

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As part of a history of temporal behaviours, the interwar period surely represents a very significant interval. Quite frenetic, anxious, the awareness of time acquires new nuances. After the terrible experience of the war, one could have thought that nothing was going to remain unchanged. The globalisation of such a conflict, once confined within the borders of a few countries, was pointing, itself, to a new direction of history, a surpassing of the old limits and an oecumenical impact. "The time of the ended world starts", noticed Paul Valéry, one of the most perspicacious analysts of the period. This world had seen empires disappearing, and new solidarities being built. The eurocentrism was starting to pale at the increasingly insistent contact with other cultures; the new generations were showing more interest in dialoguing with alterity. The issue of time grows more complex. "Secularised" and furious, running with faster and faster speed, time became a topic of reflexion, to the extent that it was supplying worries and projections of all kind. A wide bibliography reports on this reality, though no systematic study of this has been initiated by now. Sudden changes, more intense emotions explain, *grosso modo*, together with the internal logic of chronology, this predilection.

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