

GERHARD ZWERENZ Ernst Bloch's double Revolt

Zwerenz deals with the question, what effect could Ernst Bloch have had in Leipzig had he not been initially hindered and finally expelled. In prohibiting Bloch to teach, the GDR missed its first and last chance for reform. There is an essential difference between the philosopher Ernst Bloch and such opposition forces that later evolved as Havemann and Bahro. Bloch's opposition was not directed toward reforms but toward a revolutionary transformation. But his lack of success and even the hopelessness of his enterprise nevertheless is no disqualification of Bloch's »socialist reformation« attempt.

EDELBERT RICHTER On the military hegemony of the U.S.

A look at the U.S. economic development of the preceding century, could lead to the conclusion that the United States economy is dependent upon the arms industry in order to function. Already President Franklin D. Roosevelt's military policy was primarily more a reaction to the domestic economic crisis than to the external threat posed by Hitler. The same can be seen in the cold war period and Reagan's exorbitant military spending program. Today, the conflicts with states producing petroleum, the most vital natural resource for western economies, have replaced the previous east-west-conflict. Aside from economic interests, the main incentive for these conflicts stems from a necessity to protect access to these vital resources. Thus, the danger to the Creation of life, as such, today is interwoven with the question of peace.

ULRICH BUSCH Berlin-Brandenburg: A second attempt at amalgamation?

Berlin and Brandenburg, historically and economically, form a regional entity. The present territorial separation should be seen as less than optimal and offers little perspective. The first attempt to reunify these territories by plebiscite in 1996 was defeated. A second plebiscite is now contemplated for 2006. In the meantime, the conditions for an amalgamation have substantially changed. Considerably divergent demographic, economic, and social processes can be observed between the conurbation of Berlin and its suburbs, on the one hand, and the other more distant and more rural geographical regions of Brandenburg on the other. Nevertheless an amalgamation of these »Länder« would open up new formal opportunities for the region as a whole.

BERNFRIED HELMERS About the destiny of the constitutions by the unification of Berlin and Brandenburg

Helmers discusses what would happen to the constitutions if these two »Länder« if the amalgamation between Berlin and Brandenburg should take place. He takes a critical look at the regulations written into the Berlin-Brandenburg treaty, which did not carry a majority in the plebiscite held May 5th, 1996, and proposes an early and broad-based popular participation in the preparations of the new unification treaty and particularly in the new constitution.

GÜNTER WIRTH Hans Peters – a Berlin Politician

In his contribution Hans Peters recalls to memory Hans Peter, a Berlin politician in the period immediately following World War II. Peters was a CDU member, Professor of Public law and politically active in Berlin from 1945 to 1949. In 1946 he published a book, that subsequently became an important polemic for a new cultural orientation of Germany. From today's perspective in unified Germany, his theses regain their importance.

HANS-GEORG DRAHEIM Fritz Behrens' and Arne Benary's concepts of socialistic economy theory

In reflecting upon the socialist concepts of the GDR Marxist economists, Fritz Behrens' and Arne Benary's, the author exposes their propositions for the construction of socialist economy, e.g. concerning the basic problems of economic effects and coordination, as well as management of the national economy. This article demonstrates the relevance of Behrens' and Benary's economic concepts and propositions in the current discussions of socialist economy in the political program.

HELMUT MEYER The GDR was different

Twelve years of unification, publications giving a predominantly ideologically prejudiced image of the GDR are still in the majority. On the other hand, the majority of the East-German population rejects this portrayal of their history. Their experiences in the GDR as well as their disappointments in unified Germany, confirm them in their view of the GDR. This view is here reflected through concrete experiences. The GDR was different from its portrayal in official GDR propaganda. But it was also different from the image generally transmitted through literature, politicians' statements, and the dominating press of the Federal Republic since 1990.