

DIETER WITTICH

Thomas S. Kuhn and Marxism

Rather than a historiographic nor philosophical approach Thomas S. Kuhn in his study, »The Structure of Scientific Revolutions« (translated into more than twenty languages and published in more than a million copies worldwide) pursued a question of scientific theory. He investigated how any given scientific community chooses ideas of guidance, »Paradigms«, for conducting their work and to what extent these ideas are accepted and used collectively before being eventually replaced by newer ones. Kuhn explored the ontogenesis of scientific theories. By conceptually incorporating the subject of scientific work into his considerations and semantics he discovered similar structures in other social spheres. He referred particularly to analogies to be found between scientific and political (or social) revolutions.

1953: Death of the Dictators – a Vicious Circle for the SED. Documents

March 5, 1953 Josef Stalin, the Soviet Dictator, died in the vicinity of Moscow. Subsequently his empire was thrown into a long crisis. Over a period of weeks the threat to communist rule grew in the German Democratic Republic (GDR aka »East Germany«). During this time the oppression of the middle class, the peasants and the workers intensified. This led in the GDR to the rebellion of June 17, 1953. The historian, Wilfriede Otto has selected documents pertaining to the policy of the communist party of this period. These documents are published here for the first time.

LOTHAR SCHRÖTER

Military force against terrorists?

Anyone seeking to prevent mass murder such as that committed September 11, 2001 must seek out the causes of terrorism. The author examines this question parting from the thesis that the current western military crusade »against terrorism« is in reality, simply the application of the military doctrine decided upon by NATO and its member states following the demise of the block confrontation. Included is the point of view that the »war on terrorism« – like the »peace enforcement« and the »military intervention against humanitarian catastrophes« before it – is simply a camouflage for the underlying geo-strategic power policies of those feigning such »noble« motives.

WOLFGANG TRIEBEL

State, Church and Military marching hand in hand

This essay handles the issue of military chaplains in the German armed forces. Due to the US government's declaring its »crusade« against terrorism in the aftermath of »9/11« and the arrogance displayed by the 1999 NATO-doctrine calling for imposing peace by military might, it has become clear that not only the Arab world is standing at the brink of new wars. Critical questions about logic and purpose of military chaplains are currently being raised throughout the German military. They are being posed because German involvement in military adventures has become more likely. It seems apparent that foreign military intervention will be »consecrated« by the German churches.

DIETER KIRCHHÖFER

A New Culture of Learning

The momentous changes in work relations that took place at the beginning of the 1990s produced also serious transformations in the culture of learning. At the very core of this process stands a radical individualisation. In his comment Kirchhöfer points to various threatening developments associated with this phenomenon. He mentions particularly the growing tendency toward making education a commodity, which will deepen social differentiation and shift the weight of expenses for education onto the individual. But changes in the culture of learning and education also earmark the development of new roles of a ›critical public opinion‹, toward new work relations, modes of living and learning, new and necessary civil participation and transitions in educational institutions as well as the profession of educating.

STEFAN BOLLINGER

No eastern German social scientists

The *Anschluss* leading to the unification of Germany signified, for the majority of East German intellectuals, their exclusion from the scientific community. Experts view this process as a radical exchange of elites. This not only meant a discontinuation of the careers of many East German scientists but has resulted as well in a deficit in expertise in certain number of fields and disciplines. The initiative »Social Scientists East« is engaged in aiding those East German social scientists, to become re-integrated into the scientific community. »Social Scientists East« enjoys the support of prominent scientists world wide.

HORST DIETZEL

PDS at the Crossroads – Deliberations on the Debates of a Re-Orientation

Even before the election campaign of 2002, there existed controversy as to the course and profile of the Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS). These debates had been particularly fuelled by the electoral results in the federal state of Saxony Anhalt, interpreted by some as a defeat. As a consequence a majority in the party opted for a purely oppositional profile while seeing participation in coalition-governments as still being a feasible option. In the author's view the future of the PDS depends on its ability to play a perceptible role in daily politics. At the moment, the PDS gives more the picture of an organisation widely paralysed by internal controversies. Dietzel concentrates mainly on reviewing the different positions in current debates.