

MAX KOCH: The Crisis of Democracy in Chile

Thirty years ago the government of Unidad Popular (UP) was brought down in a coup d'état. An analysis of its reform politics seems to be of more than historical interest as it is associated with a rare attempt to transform economy and society in a socialist way, thereby proceeding democratically and respecting opposition parties. While US and Cuban foreign policy have been discussed at length by others, here I will concentrate on the internal factors that led to the rise and fall of the UP. Firstly, I outline the political and economic developments that led to the election of Allende; secondly, I discuss the reforms of the UP; and finally I look at the crisis of democracy in 1973.

ANJA LAABS: Subsidized Hunger

The most important mechanisms for the protection of national agriculture are subsidies and tariffs. Subsidies promote the productivity in the own country and make trade possible on the world market under world price conditions. Tariffs protect the own economy against cheap imported goods. Both mechanisms were indispensable conditions for the development of today's industrialized countries and made them what they are today. However, the WTO (World Trade Organization) wants to restrict exactly these mechanisms more and more. That mainly has strong impacts on the developing countries, which do not have a chance to develop their own stable economies without this protection. The consequence is an export-oriented economy in the developing countries, whose conditions are determined by the industrialized countries. Such a unilaterally oriented economy reacts sensibly to fluctuations of world prices and is unstable.

OLIVER SCHOELLER: »Bertelsmann leads the way!«

On the sociopolitical relevance of a German think tank

The Bertelsmann Foundation was set up in 1977 by Reinhard Mohn, head of the Bertelsmann company. The success story of the company and the foundation began in the provincial West-German town of Gütersloh. Since then, the foundation has grown into a corporation operating on a global scale. The analysis of the foundation's activities has revealed how ambivalent these pursuits are. Whether spreading its own corporate culture, formulating ideas for educational reform or the intended transformation of society, in each case the foundation follows the guiding light of its own economic interests. In so doing it pursues a single-minded corporate concept, which may explain its exceptionally enduring success.

JÜRGEN KLUTE: New Challenges Ahead for Co-Determination and the Concept of Economic Democracy

The IT revolution causes economic changes that significantly differ from the rather steady development in the post-war era. These changes led to a dramatic decrease in the demand for labour in almost all classical sectors of employment. At the same time we witness deep changes with regard to how

employment is organised. Both processes create new challenges for co-determination and the concept of economic democracy. New concepts and organisational patterns are required to face these challenges.

JOCHEN EBEL, BERTHOLD KÜHN: A Model to Reduce Unemployment by Shortening Working Hours

In this text a model to solve the problem of unemployment by shortening work hours is presented, played through and explained. It demonstrates that it is possible to reduce unemployment by shortening working hours without reducing the net wage of all employed people and that in all this leads to an increase in economic strength. The plausibility of this model is depicted using example calculations. The aim is to put more people to work and sink the unproductive expenditures for unemployment.

ULRICH BUSCH: Critique of Property Rights and Alternative Options to the Private Control of Property

Criticism of property rights and/or private property is as old as the object itself. Four forms of critique can be distinguished: conservative-romantic, moral-ethical, naive-utopian, and dialectic critique. The latter is not directed at the abolition of private property but rather at its dissolution. The central point of departure is the objective process of real, material socialisation of production. Proceeding from this premise different options for the organisation of private property can be envisioned – as different ways to socialise and democratically reorganise structures of ownership.

HANS GEORG TROST: The Property Question in the Programme Debate of the PDS

The position of the PDS on the question of property in democratic socialism has played an eminent role since the beginning of the programmatic debate. Some fundamental positions emerged right from the outset, in particular regarding the plurality of property forms as well as the social orientation and/or »social obligation« of property. It is emphasized that the main concern is not legal titles (property rights), but rather the real, material control over the resources of economic power. In this context, public property is of particular significance.

PATRICK CUNINGHAME: Arguments for Studying the Autonomia

Sergio Bologna is among the leading intellectuals of the »Italian Operaism«. He maintains a sympathising, yet critical attitude towards the social movements that were created by the autonomous workers, students, radical feminists and alternative youth movement of the 1970s. His essay »The Tribe of the Mules« is one of the most comprehensive studies about the social origin and composition of an important political and social mass movement in Italy. It is this very movement that the current network »centri sociali«, the free radios and the antiglobalisation movement are rooted in.