

PETER BIRKE

»We are the Social Democrats of the 21. Century«. A Commentary on the Rise of the Right Wing Politics in Denmark

Since the elections in November 2001, Denmark is being governed by a liberal-conservative minority coalition that is dependent upon the »populist« Dansk Folkeparti. Immediately following its election, the new government introduced repressive anti-migrant policies, whose extent and inhumane character was unprecedented for Western Europe. It also launched an offensive to cut state expenditure and to diminish the influence of trade unions. But none of this is completely new to Danish politics. They are rather an intensification of policies of the previous social-liberal government, which by 1994 had already implemented the »New Labour« principles including welfare-to-work programmes and law-and-order-policy. Indeed, Stuart Hall's 1983 statement – »the radical right has capitalized on the deep weakness of Labour Socialism« – seems to describe the situation in today's Denmark quite adequately. The outcome of this situation is contradictory: while, for example, Denmark is currently the country with the highest number of industrial conflicts in the EU, the Danish trade unions have lost membership and political influence. In this context, the article discusses the perspectives of the official and the unofficial labour-movement.

FRIGGA HAUG

Gender – career of a concept and what is behind it

The category »gender« marks the (tentative) end of a theoretical-political debate on the inequality and oppression of women. Whereas this category does overcome the fixation on essence and nature that the concept »woman« implies, it accomplishes this only at the price of abandoning the project of liberation. Instead, here the concept of »gender relations« (in rough analogy to »production conditions«) has been chosen to elucidate the emancipationist impetus of the debate on gender. This concept enables us to analyse the integration of the sexes in the general social context and to describe the ways in which gender relations are modified as society changes.

VOLKER WOLTERSDORFF alias LORE LOGORRHÖE Queer Theory and Queer Politics

The author presents an introduction into the roots and the development of the Queer Movement in the United States in the Nineties and describes Queer as a radical leftist project. After discussing the central points of queer theory concerning the establishment of sexual standards and the treatment of »deviations«, he looks into the academic and political reception of Queer in Germany and arrives at five proposals for the further theoretical and political development of Queer in conjunction with a critical view of the standardisation of sex and sexuality in opposition to neo-liberalism.

ARMIN BERNHARD

Education as Treatment of Human Resources. The Destiny of Human Nature in a Globalizing Society

The Marxist category ›alienation‹ – the author maintains – contains already all the dimensions necessary to identify and interpret the educational problems of a neoliberal society going through the process of economic globalisation, without reducing these problems to pure economism. It not only aids in understanding the fragmentation of identity itself, but even the fact that the maturation of the education of human nature forms an indispensable aspect of this fragmentation. Bernhard goes on to discuss ways of developing an educational system that does not restrict itself to a treatment of human resources centered only around their market-oriented exploitation. In contrast to the centrifugal forces of neoliberal modernisation – the author concludes – the project of ›human incarnation‹ must be created.

Wieland Zademach

Performance-Oriented Thinking or Social Justice. Have the Churches Lost Their Social Voice?

The Author analyses some of the basic studies published by the Catholic and Protestant Churches in Germany over the past 20 years concerning the future of the world of work and the employment / unemployment situation. He includes in his study some related ›papal encyclicals‹. He detects, what he refers to as, »astonishing contradictions« between these declarations and the way the Churches practically confront the consequences of mass unemployment. Speechlessness and silence – that is what the author sees in the Churches reaction to a situation which demands a completely new approach, with the objective of overcoming neoliberal capitalism – as was formulated by the World Alliance of reformed churches in its ›processus confessionis‹ in 1997 in Debrecen. But, Zademach concludes, throughout history reforms of society were never successful without reforms of the Church itself.

MEINHARD CREYDT

Adornism. Motives of a Transition

Realising that Theodor W. Adorno's (1903-1969) social-critical thinking is still popular, the author discusses different aspects of what he calls »Adornism« and criticizes those, of the »Adornites,« who tend to use the philosopher's opinions as an »negative idyll of critics,« for not being courageous enough to dare an open view of the society that seems less monolithic than the one once described by Adorno. He logically argues in favour of making Adorno's thinking productive for the discovery and analysis of social processes which – contrary to the »monolith«-theory – constitute the »double character of the society«.