

## ULRIKE KÖPP

### The »outsiders« and the »insiders« view

The author discusses the contemporary handling of the cultural heritage of the GDR on the basis of the anthology »The Weimar classical period in the Ulbricht era«. She succinctly and convincingly illustrates that judgments are often reached, not through analysis of the subject matter, but rather as a means of confirming ideological prejudice. The author guides the reader toward the logical conclusion: the more vehemently the judge demands a conviction, free of ideology, the more ideological is his own standpoint. Pars pro toto Ulrike Köpp examines the bigotry that in Germany is mistaken today for culture.

## WOLFGANG FRITZ HAUG

### What is to be done?

A fundamental issue returns in a new guise

This article is a revised version of a lecture given at the Congress of the Swiss Worker's Party in 2002. Haug discusses the future role of leftist parties and whether political parties in general have not become superfluous. With reference to Bertolt Brecht, he pleads for an interaction between the various political movements and left parties. The necessity of supporting the development of these movements is evident. But it should be kept in mind that, whereas political movements are transient, political parties are characterised by longevity. He calls for a »radical Reformism« in the sense of Rosa Luxemburg's concept of »revolutionary political realism«.

## JÖRG ROESLER

### The New Economy – a recurring cycle?

Reflections on its place in the economic history from the 19th to 21st century.

The refinement of the New Economy is legendary. Already in the past, economic cycles tended to repeat themselves in close conjunction with the introduction of new technology, culminating in a boom and bust culture, especially on the stock markets. In the 1860's, the »founder's crash« followed the growth of the railroads. In the 1920's, it was the (predominantly American) automobile industry which set off economic expansion, resulting in global recession. The success of the prevailing »New Economy« values of the IT enterprises in the last decade, ended, as comparable historical events preceding it, in a crash. Also then a completely new kind of capitalist economic management was promised and again not fulfilled. An ensuing paradigm shift encompassing a rejection of the »neo-liberal« model cannot be ruled out.

## HORST DIETZEL

### More Differences than Points in Common

A Comparison of the Programmes of The PDS and The Greens

The author sees two different »programme philosophies«: The Greens abstain from an alternative social vision. They seek to change the society via twelve »key projects«. Their programmatic messages are focussed on concrete policies. For the PDS, the exact contrary is true. It sticks to its traditional claim of creating a new (a socialist) society. Much weight is given basic ideas of how to achieve and what is to be accomplished in a socialist

society, of the description of the world and of the development of the party itself. Much less weight is placed on concrete policies. The most pronounced differences can be seen in the assessments of global, of European and of national social relations. The PDS sharply criticises the current situation, but the Greens are rather reluctant to do so. The positions of the two parties approach one another in the fields of ecology, democracy and in the field of education, culture and science.

## MONIKA VON DER LIPPE

### National Press Coverage of the PDS

An Analysis of news coverage of the PDS  
during the Bundestag Elections in 2002

During the Bundestag election campaign in 2002, the PDS was mentioned quite often in the media. But little was reported on the political alternatives proposed by the PDS. The media interest was concentrated on speculations concerning probable success or failure, based on poll results and concerning a possible change in the leadership of the party. In spite of extensive political research done on the PDS, coverage in the media has yet to be examined. The author undertakes to fill this gap by focusing on the party's management of themes and the influence the party's PR had on media coverage.

## ULLA PLENER

### The »Social Democracy« tool of the SED-leadership in the cold war against segments of the labour movement (1948-1953)

Stalin's 1927 definition of »social democracy« as »the ideological support of capitalism« and his declaring an »insurmountable barrier« between communists and social democrats became a weapon in the battle against social democracy. Particularly after 1952/1953 ( and until the 1970's) it was used by the SED as a weapon in the cold war against SPD leaders. This proved counterproductive to the SED plans for unity of the German labour movement. The article, with the accompanying document dated December 1952, uses the minutes of SED meetings to examine this political development from 1948-1953.

## KARL-HEINZ-GRÄFE

### The rebirth of capitalism in Russia

The author examines the transformation of structures of state-socialist ownership into capitalist enterprises with reference to important economic sectors and individuals. Perestroika began with a denationalisation and decentralisation of both the state and the economy. Then in the aftermath of the disintegration of the USSR in 1991, the Yeltsin government and the communist organisation organised, with the support of international capital, a change of system in Russia. The privatisation of a substantial segment of national wealth, led to the formation of a new financial and industrial oligarchy in the economic sector, which determines the orientation of the economy, the politics, and the mass media. Representatives of organised crime were recruited principally from officials of the Komsomol, state and economic officialdom, engineers and scientists. These oligarchies carry the main responsibility for the ensuing poverty and social polarisation.