

MATTHIAS KÄTHER

Marx' Methods of Reception

Why did Marx admire Diderot? This author says it is because he felt deeply inspired by some of Diderot's most important thoughts and methods of working. He admired how Diderot developed his views by discussing and disproving those of others. He learned from Diderot's encyclopaedic approach to the system-critical knowledge of his time and was impressed by Diderot's idea that originality does not mean the radical novelty of thoughts but the re-melting of materials that are already known into new ones of new quality. The author then discusses today's approaches to Marx' methods of reception. He finds it an unfortunate tendency that they – along with those of the pre-Marxist thinkers – are being forgotten.

EVELIN WITTICH

Debate About a Memorial To Rosa Luxemburg

The author – acting manager of the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation – discusses the newest developments in the long history of plans and ideas to erect a memorial to Rosa Luxemburg in Berlin – the city, where the famous revolutionary worked, in the years preceding World War I and in the months of the 1918 German November revolution. She was murdered January 15th, 1919. She reviews recent attacks on Rosa Luxemburg and sees them especially aimed at detracting from Luxemburg's positive image as a democrat, as an opponent to war, as a woman and – last but not least – as a symbol of democratic socialism. But this, the author concludes, should not stop the SPD-PDS-Senat of Berlin in its plans for the memorial.

MICHAEL BRIE

Rosa Luxemburg's and Alexandra Kollontai's Taking Sides Democratic Socialism

Rosa Luxemburg and Alexandra Kollontai – these two woman are among the few known examples of the many people who withstood the fatal logic of alienated liberation movements within the European social democratic and Soviet communist movements. They freed themselves from the predominating masculine logic of a merciless devotion to the cause and were not willing to accept that liberation degenerated into a bureaucratic matter, a bloody fetish for which first »the others« and then the own life had to be sacrificed. The author – a member of the managing board of the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation – examines the life, political ideas and objectives of these two outstanding revolutionaries, pointing out similarities until now not described in this way.

OTTO LACIS

What Are The Reasons For Failure Of CPSU?

The author – born in 1934, the son of Latvian communists, since 1956 working as a journalist and economist – discusses the reasons for the failure of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (the CPSU). He also harshly criticizes the course of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, which – as he puts it – revives the disastrous Stalinist ideology and rejects all market-oriented and democratic reforms, which are vital for Russia's

development in the third millennium. The author looks back at history, discusses what »socialism« meant, analyses the destiny of Marx' thinking in the Soviet Union and describes what he calls a »failed moral« of the communists. At the same time he refutes theories which argue that Russia in 1917 might have »fallen out of the civilization« and would now have to build a »capitalist formation«. It is necessary, he concludes, to create a civilised society. Leave it up to future historians to give it a name.

WILHELM ERSIL

Core Europe: Threats and Tendencies

In the aftermath of the failure of the European Constitutional summit in December, 2003, the author sees an unprecedented mood of crisis in the EU. The reason goes beyond the fact of the Polish and Spanish stubbornness in questions of majorities in future balloting. It goes back further in history to the war against Iraq in Spring, 2003 waged by the United States und Great Britain, and it lies deeper in the very hierarchical structures of the union. The author analyses the efforts some of the »pioneer« or »core« nations of Europe are undertaking to keep the EU ship afloat, as well as the reactions of the smaller and newer EU countries fearing a »Europe of different speeds«.

Assia Teodossieva

Bulgaria Between a Millennium's History and Globalization

The author – working on a scholarship with the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation – discusses the situation of Bulgaria, a country aspiring to join the European Union, but having the chance to do so, in 2007, at the earliest. The author contends, that this small country in southeastern Europe, feels almost forgotten – forgotten by the world but also forgotten by Europe. To make understandable what the Bulgarians expect and how they are preparing to join the EU, the author makes a retrospective into the long European history of the country, describing the winding route, full of contradictions, that Bulgaria has taken in the 20th century, showing the special problems linked to developments in the Balkans and with the demise of state socialism. He gives an impression of the pro-European mentality of the Bulgarian people.

Wolfgang Methling

Environment Policies – Impulses for Technological Innovation and Regional Development

The author – Minister for the Environment in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern – rejects the idea that technological innovation belongs solely in the domain of the economy and vehemently doubts the view that environmental policies are a hindrance to innovation. The obliteration of nature and the liquidation of work places – he argues – have often the same reasons. This is why those enterprises, considering nature a commodity open to be freely and limitlessly exploited, manipulated and substituted are out of step with modern times. Pleading for alternatives, the author describes efforts undertaken in his state to use renewable raw materials as well as re-usable energy. Among the remarkable examples he presents, are the use of the Organic-Rankine-Cycle method (ORC) in biomass processing in Friedland and in geothermic processing in Neustadt-Glewe.