

JÖRG ROESLER

## GDR and Federal Republic: The Refused Comparison

Serious historians demanded, already at the beginning of the Nineties, that the history of Germany after 1945 be completely rewritten. The political task of the unification of a people which, for more than 40 years, lived under totally different political and economic conditions cannot be solved, they said, without accepting that the dual German history now constitute the common grounds for a new and complex approach to the German history, as a whole. Pointing out that this demand, unfortunately, went unheard, the author discusses some historical events and contexts which show the importance of seriously comparing the political, social and economic developments in the two German states and the close interrelations between them.

WANG LIYONG

## China's Foreign Policy in the 21st Century – Where does it lead?

The author – visiting fellow to the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation – discusses the prospects of the Chinese foreign policy since the beginning of the Open Door Policy in 1978, and the complex implementation of market economy structures in 1992, on the one hand and these two policy changes under the conditions of a rapidly transforming international environment on the other. Should China take part in the global system, or should it be its challenger? Should the U.S. be seen as a friend or an enemy? What about a renewal of the relations with Japan? Could there be a »half-alliance« with Russia? And what about the EC? The author reflects upon various Chinese views and approaches.

ZHANG MINJIE

## Workers' Migration inside China

In 2002, 100 Million Chinese migrated inside their own country: migrating from the villages to the cities, in the search of work and better living conditions. The author looks back upon the history of workers' migration in the People's Republic of China since 1950, shows how in the fifties the organized migration, from the countryside into the cities, helped to industrialize the country. He describes the sharp division between the villages and the cities created by the total control and regulation of the movement of every individual, during the Sixties and Seventies, and discusses the tremendous consequences of what is now taking place, as a multi-faceted process of free mobility, growing unemployment and deep social contradictions.

AXEL RÜDIGER

## Globalization: Are Politics Still Possible?

The author discusses what it means, and how it happens, that »globalization« is seen so predominantly as an exclusively economy-based »reality« which – as is always claimed by its protagonists – not only cannot be influenced by politics, but itself creates prevailing conditions, that demand a certain and immutable kind of politics – without alternative – in all other fields of life. Is there really no alternative?, he asks and – after reflecting upon the genesis of the discourse on state and politics from Karl Marx and Max Weber to Pierre Bourdieu, Michel Foucault and Ernesto Laclau – presents ideas on how to break with the essentialist logic of modern rationalism, to find a new approach to achieve the goal of a fundamental democratization of the society.

**JOCHEN WEICHOLD****Environmental Politics in the Age Of Neoliberalism**

Characterizing the old Federal Republic of Germany as a »model student« in the field of environmental politics among the developed industrialized countries, the author analyses the developments which have taken place since German unification and comes to the conclusion that this unification marked a turning-point from a »model student« to a »black sheep«. Despite the fact that the unification treaty included what was called an »environmental union«, environmental politics were more and more viewed as an obstacle to economic investment, and under the pressures of rising unemployment and growing social problems, the remarkable popular interest in environmental issues at the time of unification, waned in public opinion.

**LOTHAR SCHRÖTER****The Military Power Of The European Community**

In 1992, the »Petersberg Tasks« outlined what the military forces of the EC countries should do in the future. There were three main tasks formulated: humanitarian missions; peace-keeping missions; and war fighting missions, with the aim of resolving conflicts and creating peace. The author looks into the hierarchy of these three tasks, and into the weight which is politically allotted each of them to arrive at the conclusion that, in the end, all is concentrated toward strengthening the purely military aspect of EC power and giving the EC world-wide military capability.

**Wolfgang Fritz Haug****Thoughts Of June 2, 1967**

Invited by the Denkwerkstatt (idea workshop) created in Berlin in the spring of 2003, by Florian Havemann, with the support of the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, the author looks back into the political development of the Federal Republic of Germany and of West Berlin in 1967/68 – not out of reasons of nostalgia for the period of political upheaval and his own engagement in the student movement of these years, but in the search for a way out of the one-sided picture that the West and East German left have of one another. He is searching for a shared basis that could be described as a common historical consciousness of the German left.

**FLORIAN HAVEMANN****68ers East**

Referring to Wolfgang Fritz Haug's presentation, the author, as one of its protagonists, draws a picture of the group, of about 200 young people, in East Berlin, that in 1968 – deeply impressed by and full of sympathy for the developments in Prague, which opened the door for a renewal of socialism – tried to develop their own concept of socialist thinking and living, of liberty, democracy and revolution. The movement was abruptly brought to an end by the GDR authorities, following the intervention of the Soviet Union and its allies into Czechoslovakia, August 21, 1968. By connecting his personal experience with questions about the year 1968 in general, the author lines up with Wolfgang Fritz Haug in the effort to make history productive for modern left thinking and behavior.