

KURT PÄTZOLD

Paris in the Age of Arch-Enmity

August, 1944, Paris, suffering under German occupation since 1940, was liberated by French resistance fighters and US troops. The author looks back into the history of German-French relations since 1813, when, in the wake of the Napoleonic rule over Germany, Ernst Moritz Arndt claimed that »hatred for the French should last forever«. After repeated invasions of France by German troops, we, now for already six decades, have been living in peace. This is a reason for celebration – but a celebration that cannot be unreserved, after the two countries' participation in the aggression against Yugoslavia in 1999.

RAINER RILLING

Strong Economy and Strong Politics

The author discusses the conditions and prospects of a new and basically ambivalent kind of political rule: the neo-liberal empire. We are witnessing the formation of an imperial neo-liberalism, which is different from the neo-liberalist political order, we have become accustomed to, since the beginning of its political career in the mid-seventies. As a political order, the (US) neo-liberal empire is also very different from the imperial regimes of the early 20th century and must be analyzed as a political phenomenon in its own right.

KLAUS-RAINER RUPP

The TAMARA Project

The author describes his vision of an alternative to the TINA (There Is No Alternative) scheme of the neo-liberal »crusaders«: TAMARA (There Are Many And Real Alternatives). He pleads for a better connection between protest and real alternatives and discusses how the alternatives can be made understandable and attractive. He develops a »cone model« with four levels: (from top to bottom) eye-catching, informative, educational, and discursive. He outlines a »TAMARA town's« many interactive »cones« of alternatives.

HILARY WAINWRIGHT

The Forum As Jazz

The author, editor of »Red Pepper«, a British leftwing magazine, discusses her impressions of the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre in 2001, 2002, and 2003 and the problems the traditional political parties have in accepting the role of the new social movements. Her essay is included in the book »World Social Forum: Challenging Empires«, published by Viveka Foundation, New Delhi in 2004, and recently translated by the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation. The German edition is entitled »Eine andere Welt. Das Weltsozialforum«.

MICHAEL LÖWY

A New International?

This essay is likewise taken from the recently translated book »World Social Forum: Challenging Empires«. The author dis-cusses the history of the International Workers' Association – the International – since its foundation in 1864 and asks whether this worldwide network of social movements could already be seen as a sort of Fifth International. His answer is »No« – because of the lack of a network of political organizations (parties, fronts, movements)

capable of proposing an alternative project, that transcends the borders set by capitalism: the perspective of a society without oppressors and oppressed.

BOAVENTURA DE SOUSA SANTOS The World Social Forum: Toward a Counter-Hegemonic Globalisation

This is another essay published in the recently translated book »World Social Forum: Challenging Empires«. The author dis-cusses the Forum as a new social and political phenomenon. It is not a scientific conference – although scientists participate; it is not an International of parties – although party members are active; it is neither an NGO nor a con-federation of NGO's – although NGO's contribute a great deal to its development; and it is not a social movement – although it sees itself as a movement of the movements. But what is it, the final analysis? The author describes it as a critical utopia, as epistemology of the south and as political emergence.

ARTURO ESCOBAR Other Worlds Are (Already) Possible: Self-Organisa- tion, Complexity, and Post Capitalist Cultures

This fourth essay of the recently translated book »World Social Forum: Challenging Empires« focuses on the question of whether the framework, in which our thinking takes place, is wide enough to understand what is happening in today's society. The author draws our attention to such scientific categories as self-organization, non-linearity, and non-hierarchy to understand the complexity of processes not only in nature but also in society. He argues that the network of global movements, as well as cyberspace, could be described by these and other categories of the theory of complexity.

JENS LANGER Europe in Transylvania. Eginald Schlattner, a Poet in Europe

The author makes a portrait of the poet Eginald Schlattner, an ethnic German of Siebenbürgen (Transylvania) in Romania and simultaneously gives an impression of the current situation of the various groups in the area. He discusses the history – beginning in the 11th century – of the ethnic Germans in this region, recalls the fate of Schlattner, as a prisoner in socialist Romania, describes his current activities and explains, what he calls, the age-old pluralism in the vil-lages where Romanians, Hungarians, Germans and Sinti and Roma have lived together for ages and are now having to confront new European developments.

GÜNTER WIRTH »The Way to Death of the Armenian People««

The author looks back to the years 1895/1896 and 1914/1915 when Arme-nians were the victims of genocide in Turkey. He discusses how the massacres were reflected in the German press at the time, especially in the weekly »Christliche Welt«. He draws a line leading to modern descriptions of those events and discusses the role of Johannes Lepsius who, at the time, was en-gaged in calling German attention to Armenia. He also discusses the broad acceptance Lepsius later enjoyed in the GDR.