

MORUS MARKARD

»Elite«: A Term of Anti-Egalitarian Struggle

Showing that the term »élite« does not help in relevant discussions and cannot exactly stipulate which groups of people could be characterized by it but serves political aims the author critically analyses these political role of the term. To speak of »élite« makes sense only in connection with speaking of »masses« or »broad masses« at the same time. The use of the term »élite« is politically calculated and tends to be an instrument of anti-egalitarian attitudes which in face of their dramatic historical tradition must not be played down.

HANS-GERT GRÄBE

Virtual Power and Actual Countervailing Powers. On the Globalisation of the Economy

The complex transformation processes prevalent nowadays are often described using the word »globalisation«, whereby this is often understood as being an unchangeable law of nature, and used to gloss over unpalatable, apparently unavoidable developments. But what makes really the point in »globalisation«? The author discusses »virtuality« as one of the central points: the growing role of concepts and ideas in the preparation of production processes in contrast to the real production places with their real people and real living conditions.

LOTTE ARNDT

The Cuban Social Realism at the Beginning of the 21st Century

Cuba sees a transition which shakes the post-revolutionary system. But it would be too simple to characterise this transition as »the way from plan to market« or as a copy of »the Eastern Europe way«. The author discusses the contradiction between the reforms of the economy on the one side and the preservation of the political structures on the other and speaks about the concept of unity and independence as well as about the growing diversification of the society.

JOCHEN WEICHOLD

Escape into Conformity

»Die Grünen« – the German Greens – were founded 25 years ago. In the course of the 1980's, the party developed from one which prioritised ecological issues into a radical democratic party exercising left pressure on the SPD on a variety of issues. In the wake of the breakdown of socialism and the reunification of Germany, the party changed from a left ecological anti-capitalist organisation to an organisation of ecological reform and civil liberties. This paved the way for the party's shift to the political centre which has been observed since the 1990's.

MARIO KESSLER

Jürgen Kuczynski – a Dissident Loyal to the Party Line?

On September 17th, 2004, Jürgen Kuczynski (1904-1997), one of the outstanding social scientists of the German Left and of the GDR, would have celebrated his 100th birthday. To honour him, the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation held a symposium on November 16th, 2004, in Berlin. The author outlines the life of J. K., remembers the extraordinary scope and extent of his scientific work and discusses his unique way of handling the contradictory relation between the scientist and the member first of the KPD, then of the SED and finally of the PDS.

GÜNTER KRÖBER

Jürgen Kuczynski and the Nobel Prize

Jürgen Kuczynski never got the Nobel Prize, but the quality of his work brought him close to the famous award. The author recalls J. K.'s own thinking about the prize, the Swedish attempts to nominate him for the prize in 1987, 1988 and 1989, and the friendly relation between J. K. and the Nobel Prize winners Jan Tinbergen and Wassilij Leontief as well as between J. K. and another prize candidate, John Kenneth Galbraith.

ROSA LUXEMBURG

The Russian Revolution 1905.

Speech, written down by a police informer

This is a speech by Rosa Luxemburg held in Hamburg on November 14th, 1905 at a meeting with about 2000 attendants, among them 300-400 women, focussing on the question of the character of the Russian Revolution and the role of the general strike for the worker's movement. It is printed here for the first time following the hand written notes of a police informer found in the Hamburg archives by UTOPIE kreativ Editorial Board's member Ulla Plener.

GÖTZ DIECKMANN

Murdered 60 Years Ago: Albert Kuntz

ALBERT KUNTZ

Letters out of Nazi Detention

Albert Kuntz, born in 1896, was murdered in the Nazi concentration camp Mittelbau-Dora in the night from January 22nd to January 23rd, 1945. Belonging to the leading circle of the KPD, he had been arrested already in March, 1933 and since then held captive in different prisons and camps. Dieckmann gives a short outline of Kuntz' life. Four letters of Kuntz, written between January 31st, 1934 and October 1st, 1944 speak of the courage and the vital energy of this antifascist fighter.