

MICHAEL BRIE
The Spark of Hope in the Past.
Remembering the Autumn 1989

The author reflects back on the fifteen years, since 1989, feeling a duty to fulfill Walter Benjamin's call for a historical materialist writing of history, that is not to be overpowered by conformism, not to be characterized by the wish to empathize with the victor, but rather attempts to fan the spark of hope in the past. There, he says, lie the chances for a social and democratic transformation, for the emancipation from the dominance of the capital, patriarchy and imperial rule.

WOLFRAM ADOLPHI
The Party of Democratic Socialism:
Outline of its History

A history of the PDS has yet been written. As a contribution to the discussions concerning the route the party has taken during its 15 years of existence and will take in the years to come, the author outlines the origin, the tradition, the electoral successes, the influence by internal and external factors on the electoral results, the question of cultural and ideological hegemony in the society, the opening of the party to the society and the opposing tendencies, as well as, the contradictions between the primacy of governing, against that of being in the opposition.

ROLF REISSIG
Left Socialist Policies
in Governmental Responsibility

A left socialist party in governmental responsibility – this is a novelty in German history. The author discusses the repercussions of this unique social test on the PDS, itself, on the other parties, on the general public, and on the political culture. He sees the controversially discussed project, as one of a strategic learning process, whose potential for stimulation and reflection apparently has been largely underestimated. He, therefore, pleads for also an international exchange of experiences between the comparative parties.

ULRICH BUSCH
East-Germany: Economic Policy Options
for 2005 to 2019

The government's *Aufbau Ost* («East Development») program as well as the Dohnanyi-Most-proposal are questionable as concepts of economic policy for East Germany. Neither the continuation of the current policy nor a radical break with it and the implementation of a Special Economic Zone

will lead East Germany onto the road of a self-supporting development. The government policy is applying growing pressure on state budgets, but offering no guarantee for an economic upswing. The proposal of a radical course correction also implies the risk of destroying the living standard, already attained.

MAX KOCH

»There has never been as much ideology,
as there is today«.

On Sebastian Herkommers Book: Metamorphosen der Ideologie

The author discusses the last work of Sebastian Herkommer, whose death in September, 2004 deprives the left of one of its most eloquent intellectuals. The book, on the one hand, picks up the ideological theoretical debates of the 1970's and 1980's, while, on the other, touching also on the structural changes of post-Fordian capitalism, correspondingly modifying original theoretical concepts.

JÖRG ROESLER

The Relative Wage. Jürgen Kuczynski's Instrument for the Assessment of the Working Class Situation

With this article, »UTOPIE kreativ« continues its publications of the papers delivered at the 100th birthday of Jürgen Kuczynski colloquium, in autumn, 2004. The first texts were published in »UTOPIE kreativ« vol. 171. In this article, the author presents his views on the applicability of a category: relative wage, which Kuczynski discovered and developed, to assess the situation of the working class. In examining the labor conditions in Germany since 1990, Jürgen Kuczynski demonstrated the importance of the relative wage for understanding the development of profits in relationship to living conditions.

WOLFGANG GIRNUS

Jürgen Kuczynski. Colloquium for his 100th birthday

The author summarizes the speeches held at the colloquium for the 100th birthday of Jürgen Kuczynski, the internationally renowned Marxist, economist, political and social scientist. Each speech was dedicated to a different aspect of his productive life: »Socialism or barbarism?«; »The relative wage«; »Social inequalities and cultural differences«; »Kuczynski as dissident true to party principles«; »How does a Marxist live with contradiction?«; »Kuczynski and the Nobel Prize«.