

ANDREAS HEYER

Utopian Profiles

Richard Saage, political scientist, considers utopian thought to be an important part of European cultural and social history. In this article, Andreas Heyer's discusses the 4th part of Richard Saage's history of utopian thought in Europe from the antiquity to the present. This part concentrates on works from science and literature such as Huxleys »Brave New World«, which in part, represent a negative as opposed to a positive utopia, as well as discussing feminist and ecological utopias, and the utopias and anti-utopias of the totalitarian regimes of Germany and Russia.

JOACHIM BISCHOFF

The end of neoliberalism and the future of economic democracy

The epoch of labour society has been and gone. The western world is confronted with fundamental changes in the fabric of society, its institutions and structures. Social security, wage bargaining, the regulation of the labour market, the role of public utilities and services, redistribution and taxation are all under pressure. To stop this process of the capitalisation of the whole of social life, a new approach to economic democracy is needed. Democratic control of capitalist production and markets is no antiquated relic of the history of the working class movement. Economic democracy entails a double reform: on the one hand introducing democracy to the core of capitalist corporations; on the other developing the means of regulating financial markets and institutions and implementing forms of planning and controlling economic developments.

VIOLA SCHUBERT-LEHNHARDT

No budget is neutral to gender. Gender budgeting as a way to more democracy in society.

The article begins with a description of the various consequences of two new German laws (one in the field of unemployment and another one in health care) on men and women. As a result of such experiences, demands have been made internationally for a strategy of gender budgeting to be practiced. In some countries this political strategy is already being implemented. The article describes the assumptions, the steps and the instruments of this strategy. It then gives an overview of existing initiatives in Germany. Finally, it analyses how this strategy may influence the democratisation of society in general.

MARIO KESSLER

The KPD and Anti-Semitism in the Weimar Republic

Some recent books offer a vivid examination of the relations between the Nazi regime and medical experts at German universities and research centres.

Ernst Klee's work, *German Medicine in the Third Reich*, demonstrates that scholars who are originally dedicated to human integrity can betray it just as profoundly as anybody. Werner Schmidt's memoirs show how a young student of medicine who is labelled as »half-Jewish« manages to survive in an inhuman world. Like Victor Klemperer's diaries, Schmidt's book should be read by anyone who wants to know more about life and death in Nazi Germany.

PETER ULLRICH

Antisemitism etc. Conditions and limits of solidarity (of the left) with Palestine/Israel

In his article, Ullrich traces the difficult, changeable history and development of the German left's attitudes to Israel and the conflict in the Middle East in general, to Zionism and Palestinian nationalism. He points out that often this has little to do with positions in view of the conflict itself, but rather with personal unconscious and collective identities. He emphasises that viewpoints within the left on this matter are often very contradictory, while at the same time attempting to pinpoint some of the basic, dominant tendencies within the West German left since 1949 and in Germany as a whole after 1989.

KLAUS HÖPCKE

Three programmes – one Party?

This article is based on a speech given by Klaus Höpcke at the conference organised by the RLS in November to mark the 15th anniversary of the PDS. The aims, values and methods of the party during the 15 years since its clear departure from Stalinism are investigated. The author looks back on the three party political programmes of 1990, 1993 and 2003. He discusses the identity, origins and future of the party and the emerging question of whether it is one and the same party pursuing these aims, as well as the values and methods underlying them, in all three programmes.

FLORIAN WEIS

The PDS in the western Länder

This contribution deals with the PDS' present situation in the former Federal Republic of Germany. It points out differences between East and West on matters such as the perception of the state or the relevance of migration issues. In the West, the PDS is part of a much larger, yet splintered West German left and has established itself on an extremely low level. Without prospects in the West, which could in the long term include a move away from the present form of the PDS as political party, the PDS has no future as emancipatory party for the whole of Germany.