

HERMANN KLENNER

Forward, Forgetting Nothing: The Babelsberg Conference of 1958

The author reflects back upon the Babelsberg Conference of 1958, organized by the SED leadership in order to thwart a process of emancipation of the jurisprudence in the GDR set in motion for overcoming Stalinist deformations of socialist justice, State structures, their ideological legitimisation and consequences. The author describes the motivations and views of the young scientists, who like himself, were harshly attacked because they were proponents of these transformations. He also describes the methods used by the party leadership to suppress, not only their »hostile« opinions, but also to thwart any future steps toward emancipation.

MICHAEL LÖWY

Destructive Progress. Marx, Engels and Ecology

The Thoughts of Marx and Engels – how do they coincide with modern ecology? Can Marx be read from an ecological perspective? Which achievements of Marxism are essential for an ecological-socialism, corresponding to the challenges of the 21st century? And which of Marx' views must be »revised«? The author discusses these questions on the basis of two prerequisites: first, the ecological questions do not constitute a central element in Marx' theory, and second that the written views of Marx and Engels concerning the relationship between human societies and nature are ambiguous. That's why discussions are necessary and helpful.

ROLF KUHN

New Chances for a Disturbed Landscape

This is a photo-illustrated discussion of the character of the International Building Exposition »Fürst Pückler Land« which opened in 2000 and is scheduled to run until 2010. Southern Brandenburg, a landscape characterized by tremendous former opencast coal mines is the scene of efforts to heal the wounds of these industries and simultaneously to develop »new landscapes« that could bring opportunities for a new development for the entire region.

JOACHIM H. SPANGENBERG

Sustainability: Conception, Basics, Challenges, Applications

Sustainability – the author says – probably forms the most emphasised conception ever developed in politics. Given the primacy of politics, the policy of sustainability has to take on a double challenge: On the one hand it must widen the spatial and temporal dimensions of politics to insure that future generations as well as distant nations and their citizens are included in all political considerations; and on the other, it must integrate all policies into a general strategy of sustainable development. Discussing these challenges the author debates, for example, against what he refers to as an »economistic narrowing« of the perspectives and calls for an understanding of sustainability as a »social theory«.

DETLEF KANNAPIN

The International Ideology. Notes on Hardt/Negri's »Multitude«

The author discusses »Multitude« as a successor book to »Empire« also written by Hardt and Negri. Whereas »Empire« provided an analysis of global rule from the standpoint of the centers of power, »Multitude« provides the opposite perspective: It focuses on the forces which could, or have already begun to fight against global capital. Unfortunately – says the author – »Multitude« does not offer answers to the most pressing questions of this struggle. He concludes that it is as if Hardt/Negri, as modern international ideologues, resemble those of the 19th century in Germany, who, as Marx and Engels observed, only invent new phrases for interpreting the existing world.

MARKUS GILLES

Gifted and Ungifted Students

There is a popular notion that we all live in a competitive society, with the same opportunities for each. The author analyses the reality behind this assumption and focuses his discussion on the conditions determining for young people their access to universities. There is, he notes, undoubtedly a close and direct connection between class origin and educational or professional perspectives. The educational system serves as a legitimate space for the conversion of economic into cultural capital, which as a consequence permits the renewed acquisition of economic and social capital. Those, who lack the necessary economic capital, are excluded from this process from the outset.

HUGO EBERLEIN

Memories of Rosa Luxemburg. Original and Falsification

Following the assassination of Rosa Luxemburg on January 15th, 1919, Hugo Eberlein (1887-1941; executed by the Soviet NKWD) wrote three short texts, in which he recalled actions, made in common with Rosa Luxemburg, that had taken place immediately following the beginning of the war in August, 1914. These texts, recently discovered in the archives, are published here, for the first time, in their entirety. Also published, is a text first printed in 1978 in Berlin, GDR, which used passages from the original manuscripts, but which, when taken in the context of the whole document, becomes a counterfeit, serving a deliberately falsified account of history.

LOTHAR RATAI

In Which Epoch Are We Living?

The author discusses definitions of our epoch e. g. »age of globalization«, »society of knowledge« or »society of information« and arrives at the conclusion that our period is characterized by the transformation from assembly line production to automation. From this standpoint, globalization becomes a result of automation, and we can be certain – the author says – that this process is far from coming to a close. It is rather only in its beginning stages. It cannot be »prevented« – but the conditions of its realization can be influenced: through the common struggle of the employed and the unemployed.