

HELENO SAÑA The Good and Evil

Encountering the good as well as the evil, is – the author writes – an element of the basic experiences of every human being. Though it seems old-fashioned, he pleads for a well-founded reflection of the two dimensions of interpersonal and social relations. In the depths of their souls – he maintains – people became unhappy, because they sought fulfilment outside the realm of good, preparing to disregard their conscience. But this – in the end – can only lead to chaos and destruction.

JOHN BELLAMY FOSTER, BRETT CLARK Empire of Barbarism

This is a translation from the December 2004 issue of »Monthly Review« (New York). Beginning with an analysis of the concept of barbarism in ancient Greece and Rome, the authors arrive at the conclusion that we are indeed living in a »new age of barbarism«, but this one has its roots not in religious fundamentalism, but rather in what Marx called the barbarism accompanying bourgeois civilization and what Rosa Luxemburg once referred to as »the rubble of imperialist barbarism«.

TIM ENGARTNER The German Railway Reform: An Example of Relinquishing State Regulation

The reform of the »Deutsche Bahn« (German Railways) must be classified as one of the most controversial transport policy decisions made over the past few decades. Whereas an increase in passengers and freight should have been given highest priority by a federal government, that once had promised »an ecological and social renewal«, the management aims relentlessly stock market flotation, the inflation of fares and the shutting down of sections of track, thereby implementing step by step neoliberal concepts.

TOBIAS MICHEL Health as Globalized Business

The author discusses the consequences of the privatisation of the German health system, which, in accordance with respective EU regulations, is now in progress. He describes the efforts of private hospital chains, rest homes, laboratories and insurance companies to fillet what used to be the public sector, forcing the State to surrender it to »the market«, while simultaneously, using that very State to prepare the field for broader »globalized« activities and to protect against undesired competition.

KATJA KIPPING »Just because he's human«: For a Guaranteed Basic Income

The author – Deputy Chair of the PDS and MP in Saxony – discusses the demand for a Guaranteed Essential Income for everyone and proposes to develop this demand into one of the few, but publicly attractive and mobilising essentials of PDS policy. She outlines the advantages of this guaranteed in-

come, not only for the individuals receiving it, but also for the society at large. She links it to the deep changes in the situation of employment while refuting objections from her detractors.

SASCHA LIEBERMANN

Freedom Rather than Full Employment: A Basic Income as a Way Out of the Crisis

An unconditional essential income is seen by the author as not only a means for coping with the challenges of daily life, in times of structurally high and increasing unemployment, but also for safeguarding political freedom as a whole. The reforms currently in progress do not strengthen individual autonomy, on the contrary, they create a climate of repression, which stands in sharp contrast to the demands for more social engagement and responsibility to be taken by the population.

MATTHIAS KLAUDIUS

Financing Education in Germany and Ireland

In looking at Ireland, a country, which, since its joining the EU in 1973, became a top player in technology, services and economic growth rates, the author poses the question of the relevance of the financing of education for accomplishing this development. It is, he maintains, particularly the promotion in the undergraduate sector, which contributes to the remarkable economic and cultural performance of the country. A comparison of Germany to Ireland, demonstrates that efforts to comprehensively privatise the costs of education are in process in both countries – to the same extent.

HEINZ SCHÄFER

PDS: A Sharpening of Profile is Indispensable; Heed also Western Positions

The author – member of the Council of Elders of the PDS – analyses the results of the State elections on February 20th, 2005, in Schleswig-Holstein. He describes the losses suffered by the PDS – already weak in the West. He demands that the party draw lessons from this electoral debacle, if it really wants to return to the Bundestag in September, 2006. He discusses the results of the Party Congress held in October, 2004, in Potsdam and criticises general »cowardly« attitudes, while pleading especially for broader attention being paid to the arguments of west German party organisations.

JURI HÄLKER

Does Criticising Capitalism Mean Opposing the System?

This is a discussion of the »Anti-capitalist Manifesto« of Alex Callinicos. The author appreciates Callinicos' objective, to contribute to, what he calls, the Marxist alphabetisation of the globalisation critics, while doubting that the general anti-globalisation-scene could be characterised as having the objective of overcoming the capitalist system. The author is particularly dissatisfied with alternatives Callinicos proposes. He describes them as being old-fashioned and not radical enough.