

JÖRN SCHÜTRUMPF

Thinking »Without Railings«

The Left at the Threshold of Becoming of Age?

For approx. 90 years, the socialist-internationalist Left in Germany functioned wedged in, on the one side, between the Russian Revolution and on the other, the Social Democratic Party. Now, a new epoch seems to have dawned. But new difficulties arise with the liberation from this heteronomy. For the new program it will not suffice to simply refer back to the »Golden Seventies«. The Left must say goodbye to many old habits – while sustaining the need for, what the author sees as, a sovereign understanding of its heritage.

WERNER SEPPMANN

The Dynamics of Exclusion

The Socio-Cultural Consequences of Social Splitting

Under the conditions of neoliberal development of the society, not only is there a constant deepening of the dichotomy between rich and poor, but also an increase in the differences within the lower classes. There is not only the difference between the employed and the unemployed, but there are also new differences inside the world of the employed and even within the same enterprise. The core staff is surrounded by a growing group of employees, burdened with extremely high demands and receiving extremely low wages. This hinders the employees' understanding that they have common interests.

MICHAEL WOLF

»Help that Mobilizes«

Ideology and Reality of a Socio-Political Stereotype

The author makes a critical examination of the »help that mobilizes« theory and the practice of the so-called »Hartz«-Laws allegedly aimed at the reduction of the number of unemployed. He discusses the extremely insignificant empirical and theoretical foundation of the »help that mobilizes« stereotype, analyses the institutional conditions for this »help« and arrives at the conclusion that the »Hartz IV«-regulations do not support the unemployed in acting with self-determination but, on the contrary, forces them into a sort of self-colonization.

RAINER FERCHLAND

A Governmental Paradox

The Second Report on Poverty and Wealth

In its report published in March 2005, the German Government expected public opinion to accept the two following messages: 1) in Germany, poverty and wealth are growing; 2) Government policies promote more social justice. The report therefore – in spite of the many areas of serious

analysis – degenerates into a work of government propaganda. Nevertheless, it still furnishes facts, useful in mobilizing public interest against this growing social injustice.

ALEXANDER GALKIN

The Aftermath of World War II: Cleared Paths and Unheeded Lessons

The author, an officer of the Red Army during the liberation of Germany from fascism in 1945, makes a summary of the 60 years that followed. He examines efforts undertaken for the creation of a new world order, writes of the necessity of accepting the equality of all nations and peoples as a basis for international stability, appeals for the strengthening of, what he calls, a sustainable antifascist immunity and closes with the lesson, that there is no better mechanism for regulating social problems than those found in a democracy.

ALBERT EINSTEIN

A Letter Against Inquisition

This is the translation of a letter Einstein wrote in June, 1953 to William Frauenglass – a New York school-teacher who asked him for help against the hearings of the HUAC (House Un-American Activities Committee). Einstein vehemently pleads for »the revolutionary way of non-cooperation«.

SIEGFRIED GRUNDMANN

Albert Einstein – an Utopian? Remarks Concerning a New Book of Hubert Goenner

Siegfried Grundmann discusses Hubert Goenner's description of Einstein – in his book »Einstein in Berlin 1914-1933« – as »politically naïve« and »without political influence«. Grundmann analyses Einstein's political initiatives beginning with the 1914 appeal entitled »An die Europäer« (»To the Europeans«), recalls his initiatives undertaken commonly with Heinrich Mann, Rudolf Olden and others and comes to the conclusion that there are not many natural scientists who engaged themselves in politics like Einstein.