

ADOLF MUSCHG

Speech held on the Stairs

This is the speech that the President of the Academy of Fine Arts, Adolf Muschg, held, May 22, 2005, at the Academy's opening ceremony, on the Pariser Platz in Berlin. Reflecting back over the history of Jewish life in Berlin, particularly the 18th and 19th centuries – the periods that gave us Moses Mendelssohn, Henriette Herz and Rahel Lewin – the author examines the question »What if?« Jews in Germany would have had the opportunity to live a life in full acceptance and equality.

ARMIN BERNHARD

Antonio Gramsci's Approach to Education

Antonio Gramsci – the author says – was never only a theorist, philosopher or political activist, but also a pedagogue. The educational aspects allowed him a better understanding of the historical social process. After all, this process is, itself, a product of enlightenment. The author presents six theses in support of a democratization of education in Germany.

PARVIZ KHALATBARI

Demography – a Science with an Underdeveloped Theory

Demography is comprised of two essentials: statistics and the theory of the population. Whereas population statistics have been developed to near perfection, the theory of the population can be described only as underdeveloped. Even today, no method has been discovered that allows us to really understand population growth of the past. The author introduces a model of continuity and discontinuity, which could help overcome this theoretical weakness.

RICHARD SAAGE

Morus' »Utopia« and Power Hermann Oncken's and Gerhard Ritter's Interpretations of Utopia

Looking back over the long history of how Thomas Morus' »Utopia« was received by the public, the author detects a general lack of discussion of the questions of power, of foreign policy and of international relations. Exceptions to this rule are to be found in the works of Hermann Oncken (1922) and those of Gerhard Ritter (1940). Reviewing these texts, the author offers a more detailed approach to »Utopia«, itself, while also making a critical assessment of the political intentions behind the way these two scientists' view the »power State«, which ultimately helped legitimize the »Third Reich«.

GÜNTER WIRTH

Neglected Opportunities for a New Orientation Two 1948 Texts

Immediately after World War II, not few bourgeois German intellectuals – contrary to their educational tradition – developed socialist ideas on questions of social justice and of a planned economy. The author discusses the proposals of two of these theorists – Andreas Paulsen and of Friedrich Lenz – and characterizes the ignorance they met by the Soviet Occupation Zone authorities as »lost moments in history«.

DIETHER DEHM

Critical Public Opinion vs. Secret Service Media

The author – one of the new 54 member strong parliamentary faction of the Linkspartei.PDS in the Federal Parliament – pleads for strong efforts on the part of the Left to win »cultural hegemony« against the predominating power of mainstream media. The parliamentary Left faction, he maintains, will not be successful, if it concentrates its efforts on work within the parliament's closed doors. The Parliamentary faction – in the good tradition of the views of Rosa Luxemburg, Gramsci, Bourdieu – needs urgently to create a program for developing its own, shrewd, critical public opinion.

HORST GROSCHOPP

Democratic Left and Religion

The author – president of the Humanist Association of Germany – presents his expectations concerning the planned founding of a new »Linkspartei«, as a union grouping various left parties, movements and individuals. He asks especially to know the positions of the new party on questions of the separation of Church and State, the teaching of religion in the public school system and the role of non-religious forms of remembrance and mourning.

ANTONÍN DICK

Liberation from Labour

It was Aristotle, who with his triad »labor, liberation from labor by automated production, life activity« opened the discussion about the contradiction between labor and »life activity«. Demonstrating how Goethe, in his »Leiden des jungen Werthers«, criticized the uncontested rule of labor in the society, the author pleads for a similar approach today, made feasible through the high degree of productivity and made necessary through the enormous lack of employment.