

JÖRN SCHÜTRUMPF Germany Transforms Itself to Become Recognizable

With the end of the Cold War in 1989/90, there was a widespread view in West Germany, that the East would transform completely, while the West would remain intact. The author questions this assumption and discusses four theses concerning the transformations in unified Germany: The lumpen proletariat returned; the elite lost its humility; the Social Democrats did not know what to do with their victory; the political Left came into a key position – whether it likes it or not.

HUBERT LAITKO »Socialism or Barbarism?« Jürgen Kuczynski and the Problem of Historical Alternatives

The author takes the viewpoint that, for the well-known (East) German social scientist, Jürgen Kuczynski (1904-1997), the historical alternative »Socialism or Barbarism« formed the central credo of both his historical understanding and his view of the future. The author discusses in particular Kuczynski's »Dialogue with My Great-Grandson« (1983) and »Repeated Dialogue with My Great-Grandson« (1996) which he sees as the main documents of this scientist's political and scientific legacy.

WERNER RUF The Barbarization of the ›They‹ – The Barbarization of the ›We‹

Discussing the question of our perception of ourselves, we – in order to confirm our positive values – need to ascribe negative qualities to »the others«. The author holds that this depiction of »the others« often says more about ourselves than about »the others«. He then looks into two current problems: the new concept of the enemy, which evolved after the demise of the bipolar world, and the war on terrorism which he describes as a de-civilization project.

ISABEL LOUREIRO Rosa Luxemburg and the Landless Workers' Movement in Brazil

The Rural Landless Workers Movement in Brazil is struggling for a land reform allowing them to individually acquire land. That means a struggle to preserve a mode of living and production often seen as »archaic«. The author discusses insights the movement could obtain from the works of Rosa Luxemburg: her defense of direct action and of the experience of the masses; her striving for radical democracy; and her fight for socialism as the alternative to the barbarism of capitalism.

EVELIN WITTICH

Rosa Luxemburg and the Discussions of the Contemporary Socialist Left

Summarizing international conferences and seminars held by the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation in Moscow, Guangzhou, Porto Alegre, Buenos Aires, Johannesburg, Berlin and Erfurt, the author reflects particularly upon the discussions that have taken place around the themes of Rosa Luxemburg's understanding of politics, democracy and governing responsibility; around her accumulation theory; as well as her struggle against militarism and war; and finally on the theme of the significance Rosa Luxemburg's teachings have for contemporary social movements.

THEODOR BERGMANN

Paul Levi – the Tragic of a German Revolutionary In Between the Parties

Paul Levi had been ignored for a long time, nearly forgotten. The situation has recently changed. The two main currents of the German worker's movement are attempting to appropriate his memory for their respective banners. The author therefore undertakes to add another perspective to this unique personality. He describes Levi's struggles with both the social democrats and the communists during the twenties and arrives at the conclusion that Levi would have been proud to have been described as a »Luxemburgist«.

PAUL LEVI

Opposition, Responsibility and Government

These are reprints of two articles by Paul Levi (1883-1930), written in 1922 and 1928. In both texts, the author discusses the question of whether or not the Left should participate in capitalist governments. In the first article he contends that participation can be necessary, but never responds to what he calls the essence of socialism. In the second, he concludes that the true and overwhelming responsibility born by the Left is that of opposition.

RICHARD SORG

About Violence Along the Path of European Development

The author reviews the book of Urte Sperling and Margarete Tjaden-Steinhauer (Eds.) »Gesellschaft von Tikal bis Irgendwo«, a collection of texts about »European tyranny, social upheavals and societies of inequity«. He especially acknowledges the new approach undertaken in the articles toward problems, such as the relations between humanity and nature, where in the traditional European mindset, a nearly limitless exploitation of non-human nature in favor of humanity is taken for granted.