

JÖRG ROESLER
»DDR« and DBR
Politics of Language in the Cold War

During the Cold War, the two German States tried hard to avoid calling each other by the correct name. They invented other names and insisted on using them in official language and the media. Two examples: The Federal Republic of Germany only used the correct term DDR in quotation marks: »DDR«; and the German Democratic Republic invented for the other state the abbreviation DBR (German Federal Republic). The author offers many other examples and reflects upon their political backgrounds.

UWE SONNENBERG
Lev Kopelev. West-East Reflections

The author presents what he calls a political portrait of the Soviet-Ukrainian writer, Lev Kopelev (1912-1997) who first came to Germany as a Red Army officer in 1945, was later sent to the Gulag, struggled for human rights in the Soviet Union, emigrated to the Federal Republic of Germany, made tremendous literary accomplishments in both the Russian and German languages and became a political and moral institution in East-West affairs.

RICHARD HEIGL
Wolfgang Abendroth's Party Theory

Examining the discussions surrounding the formation of a new Left Party in Germany, the author recalls the (inconclusive) project of the foundation of a left-socialist party in 1968 in West Germany and reflects on the contributions to the party theory made by Wolfgang Abendroth (1906-1985), one of the leading intellectual personalities of the left-socialist, New Left.

LUTZ BRANGSCH
Basic Income: A Forgotten PDS Concept

As a participant in the debate, for the past couple of months, »UTOPIE kreativ« has been supporting the idea of a (conditional or unconditional) basic income. The author characterizes the Government-initiated »Agenda 2010« process as a fundamental conversion of the entire complex of social relations. He then examines the basic income concept that the PDS presented to the Bundestag (Federal Parliament) already in 1993.

JUDITH DELLHEIM
Basic Income or Basic Security

This also, is a contribution to the basic income debate. The author pleads for a more substantial approach to Marx and Engels. It is not enough, she contends, to refer to one or the other sentence of the writings of classical communist theory. What is really needed, instead, is a better understanding of the functioning of social reproduction, as well as, the conditions of its transformation. She discusses particularly the key words »special link in the chain« and »social division of labor«.

MORUS MARKARD

Who Needs Education?

The author discusses the approach to education presented by Armin Bernhard in »UTOPIE kreativ« (Nr. 183) and develops his own critique of the »setting limits« tendency predominant in education. He says, as long as the bourgeois society is incapable of fulfilling the promise of equality of opportunity, the »setting limits« concept will be an attempt to impose the acceptance of these critical social relations on individuals.

TORSTEN FELTES

National Educational Standards – A Neoliberal Project

Some people, the author maintains, regard educational standards as »neutral instruments« needed for bettering the functioning of schools. But the very concept of such standards, negates the ideal of creating the responsible critical adults and favors the ideal of creating personalities of well-integrated »functional« members of the society. Following this line, the author criticizes as well, current programmatic positions of the Linkspartei.PDS.

HEIKO LANGNER

Capitalist Modern Age – Or Modern Capitalism?

The author discusses the social scope covered by proposals of the Linkspartei.PDS in its concepts for social change and concludes that this problem will be at the core of the debates for the fusion of the Linkspartei.PDS and the WASG in the coming months. He demands especially that the weight of the debates be centered around how the current social system is to be characterized: as a capitalist modern age or as a modern capitalism?

GESINE LÖTZSCH

Ash Wednesday 2006

German parliamentary tradition has it that on Ash Wednesday, political leaders publicly present their harsh and somewhat carnivalistic views of their political adversaries. The author, a member of the Bundestag since 2002 and deputy chair of the parliamentary group, DIE LINKE, presented her views, February 28th, 2006, in Ingolstadt, Bavaria.

VADIM BELOCERKOVSKIJ

The Politics of the Federal Republic of Germany and Russia

The author presents a critical view of the policies of Russia's president Vladimir Putin and the general economic, social and political development of Russia since 1990. He fears that German politicians, seeking good relations with Russia, could underestimate the dimensions of the crisis.