

JÖRN SCHÜTRUMPF

1956 or: The Reformability of Stalinism

Looking back at the history of Socialism, Bolshevism and Stalinism, that has developed since 1917, the author draws the conclusion that the long period between Stalin's death in 1953 and the demise of Soviet State socialism in 1989/91 should be viewed as the consummation of the period of decline of the 1917 revolution, characterized by the efforts of the heirs of the revolution, in preparation for the roles they would assume in a raging Russian capitalism. Khrushchev, the author says, reformed what he could in 1956, but the opportunity for building democratic socialism had long since passed.

WOLFGANG SCHELER

The Ability to Make War and Peace: The World Community after the Turning Point

Many of the wars, which have been fought since 1990 – the author says – can be described as wars of secession, wars for independence, civil wars, ethnic and religious wars made possible by the demise of the previous world order. But the dominant wars of this new period are those which are waged by the capitalist centers against the periphery, imperialist wars for the transformation of the world order. But even now, the ability to make war is contrasted by the ability to make peace, nurtured simultaneously by the same social order. War is no natural law, but remains a result of political policy.

JÜRGEN LEIBIGER

The Demographic Turning Point and The Financing of the Welfare State

The author contradicts the viewpoint, expounded upon by neo-liberals, that there is no alternative to the further rollback of the welfare state. He pleads for a single social security system, structured by the abolition of an income threshold, above which dues are waived; the abolition of restrictions in the mandatory security; the inclusion of public officials, freelancers and the self-employed in the mandatory social security; and the inclusion of all forms of income into the basis of assessment.

ILJA SEIFERT

Policy for the Disabled: Large Objective and Small Steps

The life of disabled persons – the author says – mirrors the general deficits in the society. Therefore, improvements for the disabled are improvements for the society as a whole. From 1998 to 2005, the red-green coalition promised a paradigm shift: away from the patronizing treatment toward that of self-determined participation. The promise remains unfulfilled, and the new CDU-SPD-Government coalition accord does not give grounds for optimism. Those who want to economize at all costs, are indifferent to the possibility of improving the quality of life for all.

NINO DAVID JORDAN

Land of Milk and Honey or Land of Famine? Against the Accommodating Contrast

This is one of several articles in the discussion on the unconditional basic income. Debating the approach taken by Ulrich Busch (UTOPIE kreativ No. 181, November, 2005), the author pleads for the recognition of the premise, that the overwhelming majority of people want to work – either for self-fulfillment or for obtaining supplementary goods. The insinuation that, without a »discipline of hunger«, people would no longer work, must be regarded as absurd. An unconditional basic income would enable people to begin to create self-determined economic systems.

KARL REITTER

Basic Income Rather Than Land of Milk and Honey. An Answer to Ulrich Busch

This is another article discussing Ulrich Busch's approach in the debate. (See Jordan summary above). The author maintains that the concept of unconditional basic income is not focused on consumption but rather on the possibility of throwing a »wrench into the works« of class production, refusing wage labor, rebelling against the process that groups people into classes and countering the embodiment as a working class within a capitalist production.

BERND HÜTTNER

Recognition, Redistribution, Justice. Problems of a Post-Fordist Left

The author analyses the presence of a social and a cultural left in Germany: a social left of the workers movement and the traditional left parties, on the one hand – and a cultural left of the new social movements, on the other. He demonstrates how their variations can be discerned and are concretized in distinct ways of thinking and acting. He demands that the new »left party in the making« should include both of these traditions.

WILLI BEITZ

Mikhail Sholokhov – a terra incognita?

In the fifties and sixties of the twentieth century, Mikhail Sholokhov was undoubtedly one of the most appreciated Soviet writers worldwide. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1965. But when in 1974, Solzhenizyn publicly repeated in Paris the legend that »Silent Flows the Don« was plagiarized, none of the Slavists of West Germany defended Sholokhov and East German literary specialists also buried their heads in the sand. Using previously unknown material, this author attempts to find a balanced approach to this famous writer.