

SUSANNA BÖHME-KUBY Future Generations and Tucholsky

Kurt Tucholsky (1890-1935) is being read in Germany – but how? Do people read him as a political journalist? Or much more as an immortal humorist and satirist? Do opinions still diverge on Tucholsky's articles, poems, books and political standpoints? The author discusses the permanence of Tucholsky's works and the current effects of his political statements.

THOMAS MARXHAUSEN »MEGA – MEGA« and No End in Sight

The publication of the comprehensive works of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, drafts, excerpts, letters and other forms of papers, in a Marx Engels Complete Edition (Marx-Engels-Gesamtausgabe – MEGA) has a long history, and is still in development. The author looks back to the first MEGA, which began in the Soviet Union during the 1920s, but was discontinued in the 1930s. He also reviews the initiation of the second MEGA in Berlin (GDR) in 1975 and discusses the ongoing efforts for the MEGA since 1990.

RAINER RILLING A Forgotten Left?

Debating the upswing of the Left, focus is often only on the Latin American Left or the Left in other parts of Europe. The Left in the United States or in Canada seem to be forgotten. Reviewing an article written by Stanley Aarowitz for the periodical »Situations«, the author reveals some of the more recent North American developments. He shows that this Left has tested a wide range of political proposals and organization techniques without much success.

LUIGI WOLF Re-Foundation of the Left – Also in France?

The author discusses the 33rd Congress of the French Communist Party, which was convened from March 23-26, 2006. He describes how the gigantic mobilisation against the discrimination of first-employment youth, as well as the »Non« to the European Constitution Treaty, have played decisive roles in the adoption of a resolution to postpone, until autumn 2006, a decision on a communist candidacy in the 2007 elections, and to appeal, now, for an anti-neoliberal, unified, left candidacy, that would open the way for a re-foundation of the Left, in general.

Friedrich W. Sixel

The Unconditional Basic Income – A Way to Modernized Socialism

Taking part in the discussion on unconditional basic income, and particularly in view of the contributions made by Ulrich Busch (UTOPIE kreativ 181) and Sascha Liebermann (184), the author contends that the society finds itself helpless both in face of mass unemployment and in its confrontation with a type of growth, that destroys all perspectives. This, the author contends, is why the Left has to accept the primacy of nature – and not just the primacy of work. The struggle for the unconditional basic income could form the key to this new understanding.

MEINHARD CREYDT

The Liberation of Labour

The contemporary society – the author says – scandalously accepts the tremendous amount of subaltern, restrictive labour, which neither needs, uses nor develops human capabilities. But under conditions, where labour is necessary and unavoidable, people can only be free, when the production is organised in such a way, that makes labour attractive. The author demands a renunciation of the single-minded course, concentrated solely around higher efficiency, to focus on the enhancement of the social attractiveness of labour.

HEINZ SCHÄFER

Darmstadt 1950. Preceding the Banning of the KPD in 1956

In August, 1956, the Constitutional Court of Germany banned the Communist Party of Germany (KPD). The author describes how he experienced, already in September 1950, efforts to politically isolate the party, when he participated in a peace demonstration, in Darmstadt, in commemoration of the city's destruction through air raids in 1944. The demonstration, organised by the Union of Nazi Victims and peace organisations, was forbidden on short notice, and the participants persecuted, some suffering life-long consequences.

Günter Wirth

The Other Transformation

With the intention of discussing, in a broader historical framework, the transformation of East Germany since 1989, the author offers biographical studies of German personalities of the period between 1945 and 1951. Looking into the decisions made, at the time, by the scholars Gerhard Kaiser, Fritz Klein, Walter Bredendiek, Klaus-Peter Hertzsch, Kurt Meier, Hans Georg Thümmel and Wolfgang Ullmann, he exposes the diversity of paths taken by people, who, after the Nazi dictatorship, wanted to participate in the building of a better society – whether in East or West Germany.

HEIDRUN HEGEWALD

Women's Pictures

This is the laudatory speech held in Berlin by the German painter, Heidrun Hegewald, for her Angolan colleague Maria Manuela Sambo. Also presented are some of the creations of Maria Manuela Sambo, who majored in German Language and Literature Studies from 1985 until 1993, first in the GDR, then in united Germany. She later became a painter, expressing the destiny of the African in today's world.

DORIS KATHEDER

From »Girlie« to »Görl«?

Girl Images Between Assertion and Reality in Non-Commercial Youth Magazines

Reviewing German non-commercial magazines »Görl« (Girls), the »fan-zine« »Things are Queer« and the website »Mädchenandermaus« (Girls Using the Mouse), the author makes an analysis of differences between these publications and commercial youth magazines like »Bravo Girl!«. She also discusses the intentions behind the non-commercial publications, creating a new unity in authenticity, communication and action.

CHRISTOPH SCHAUB

The Banlieue and the Fire

Urban Space and Aesthetic Self-Maintenance in the Rap Lyrics of La Rumeur

Against the background of the recent riots in French suburbs, the author explores the lyrics of the Paris based rap group, La Rumeur, and explains the idea behind this group's rap music as an anti-hegemonic practice of (self)education. Furthermore, the author explores its political images of urban space while analysing related metaphors of self-maintenance.

MICHAEL BRIE

What Would Rosa Have Said?

In this contribution to the Rosa Luxemburg Conference held by the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation on March 5, 2006, the author sees the Left confronted with two different policies of the ruling classes: on the one hand, an imperial, authoritarian neo-liberalism and a policy of a multilateral, social-democratic shaping of the finance-market capitalism, on the other. The Left, he says, is challenged to overcome its traditional schism to block the domination of the first of these two policies, which produces a tendency toward barbarism. He pleads for solutions characteristic of the radical humanism represented by Rosa Luxemburg.

GEORG FÜLBERTH

Capitalism

This was also a contribution to the Rosa Luxemburg Conference (see summary above). The author discusses seemingly »simple« questions, such as »what, by the way, is capitalism?« and »when did it begin – and where?«, reviews Marx' very rare mentioning of the word »capitalism« itself, remembers Rosa Luxemburg's »great idea of capitalism« and concludes that »space« could be the key word for the new »global« capitalism while pleading for a courageous approach to what he calls »green fly socialism« (as opposed to »grasshopper capitalism«).

MICHAEL R. KRÄTKE

Nine Provisional Answers to Nine Difficult Questions

In this third text, published here as a result of the Rosa Luxemburg Conference, the author presents his views to the same questions discussed by Fülberth (see summary above), thus reflecting the vivacity of the debates at the conference. The author concludes that capitalism will only come to its end, when its »being without an alternative« is no longer an accepted fact and its absurdity, its impertinence, is widely understood.

MANFRED SOHN

Marx, Luxemburg and the Indispensability of Feminism

This author debates a part of an article written by Evelin Wittich in UTOPIE kreativ 185 (March 2006) about Rosa Luxemburg and contemporary Left discussions. The text in question contended that in German literature, Rosa Luxemburg is still not seen as a feminist. Reviewing a book written by Christel Neustüß in 1985 and presenting her conclusion about Rosa Luxemburg's role as a decisive link between Marxism and Feminism, he shows that Evelin Wittich's judgement is not completely correct.