

ANDREAS HEYER
 Way Stations to a Disappointment
 Kleist's Letters from Paris (1801)

The author examines the letters written by the German writer, Heinrich von Kleist (1777-1811), to his fiancée and his sister in 1801 and describes them as essential for understanding his contradictory life, which ended in suicide at the age of 34. Kleist, the author says, lived in confrontation with the society and his times, which he found alienating. These letters allow an insight into his attempt to digest, with the help of literature, what was otherwise hardly discernable.

WALTHER L. BERNECKER
 The Spanish Civil War
 and Coming to Terms with History
 Politicizing History and the Right to Remember
 in Democracy 1975-2005

The term »Culture of Remembering« became increasingly popular and the author explains that it would seem necessary to consider the differences between the elements forming this social phenomenon: for instance between the instrumentalization of the past in the sense of »politicizing history«, the coming to terms with the past through judicial means, often referred to as »history politics« and finally the collective memory which can never be fully controlled by political policies. The author discusses these differences, using the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939), which was followed by a 36 year long period of brutal dictatorship (1939-1975) as his point of reference.

MIRKO BEER
 Report on being Ordered to go to Spain
 from October 10, 1936 – June 3, 1939

This report (discovered in EKKI-archives) was written by Dr Mirko Beer (born in 1905 in a Jewish-Hungarian family) concerning his engagement in the Spanish Civil War. Following his medical studies in Vienna, Beer was working for the International Workers Aid in Subotica and Berlin, invited to Moscow in 1932, he was sent to Spain in October, 1936, where he established under the name of »Oskar Goryan«, the medical services for the International Brigades. Returning to Moscow in 1939, he was jailed in July, 1941, under the pretext of »espionage« and executed in prison, August 4, 1942.

SIEGFRIED WENZEL
 Socialism of the 21st Century?

The author critically discusses Heinz Dieterich's book »Socialism of the 21st Century. Economy, Society and Democracy after Globalized Capitalism« (German edition, Berlin 2006). He emphasizes the necessity of seeking alternatives to capitalist economy, while doubting that Dieterich's idea of

substituting a non-equivalent exchange of goods and services for one of equivalence would be the solution to the problem. Instead, he pleads for the strengthening of democratic control of the market economy and for the slow but steady development of better instruments of economic regulation.

HORST DIETZEL

»New Challenges« in the Programs of the Left

Remarkable changes have taken place in the German Left since May 2005, when the then PDS and the newly founded »Election Alternative Labor and Social Justice« (WASG) decided to embark on a process of convergence to – ultimately – form a new party. The author analyses the programs of the two parties, and their recent papers elaborating on basic points of the program of the future party. He criticizes the fact that the term »challenge« is limited to challenges emanating only from capitalist policies. This, he says, leads to a strong underestimation of challenges arising from the development of production forces, in general.

MICHAEL FABER, JONAS BENS

For a Modern and Colorful Left!

The Social Question Extends Beyond Hartz IV
and Capital Tax and Demands Solutions

This is also a contribution to the discussion of the new party program of the German Left. The authors plead for a broader approach to the social question. Social problems, they say, cannot be solved through enhanced social services. Youth policies, anti-discrimination policies, minority policies, the fight against the waning solidarity between people –all demand more than money. Therefore, they conclude, the Left needs a new, socialist debate about basic values.

DIRK JÖRKE

To Learn from the Greens, Means Learning How to Lose

The author compares the development of the Greens in the old Federal Republic of Germany, during the 80s with that of the Linkspartei.PDS today, and discusses the dangers associated with becoming generally accepted as a »normal« parliamentary party. The Greens, he says, set out as a party to transform the nation, and stressed such values as grassroots democracy, pacifism, feminism and ecology. But then they discarded these »ideological burdens« and were ready to enter coalitions – even with their former arch adversaries, the CDU and FDP. Do Left Party politicians, the author asks, have the strength to avoid such a development?