

HELMUT BOCK

Old Prussia's Twilight of the Gods Tragicomic Impressions

The author looks back upon October 14, 1806, when the Prussian army and state were irreversibly crushed on the battlefield, in the twin battles of Jena and Auerstedt, by the French army under Napoleon's command. He concludes with Gneisenau's verdict, that the French revolution had awakened the forces of the people and had given them their appropriate domain. Clausewitz, on the other hand, said the Prussians ignored the fact that although their military machine was still functional, it had lost its spirit and capability to fight.

HANNAH ARENDT

Rosa Luxemburg

This is a reprint of Hannah Arendt's essay written on the occasion of Peter Nettl's publication, in 1967, of Rosa Luxemburg's biography. She praises the author for having written such a comprehensive biography in English style – long, thoroughly documented, rich in footnotes and quotations – about the life of this exceptional woman. She particularly appreciated his description of the political differences between the Social Democratic Party of Poland and Lithuania, to which Rosa Luxemburg belonged as a founding member, and Lenin's Party of a New Type.

TANJA STORLØKKEN

Women in Obscure Times Rosa Luxemburg and Hannah Arendt

The Norwegian author reflects upon Rosa Luxemburg and Hannah Arendt, both of whom brought enlightenment to the obscurity of the periods of their lifetimes and continue to do so even today by encouraging people to challenge totalitarian, barbarian and authoritarian tendencies. Since a few years, Hannah Arendt's thoughts have been undergoing a remarkable and well-earned renaissance. The author argues that this renaissance should in part be also attributed to Rosa Luxemburg, because Hannah Arendt, despite her criticism of Marxism, was linked to the revolutionary through many values and views held in common.

JOACHIM TESCH

Social Aspects of Urban Renewal

The author discusses urban renewal, particularly in East Germany, where it is taking place under conditions of social and demographic transformations. Confronted with the fact that, despite all assistance programs and all efforts to re-urbanize, nearly all towns in East Germany (with the exceptions of Leipzig and Dresden) are losing inhabitants to migration to the countryside or to the West of the country. All policies that have been applied, the author says, have been helpless reactions and he predicts that the destruction of the GDR-built suburbs and a higher inflation in the urban centers will be the consequences.

RONALD LÖTZSCH

The SED-dominated GDR A State of Workers and Peasants Free from Exploitation?

This is the entire article, that had been published, in a slightly abridged version, already in 1991 in the »Berliner Linke« journal. The author calls for a thoroughly critical approach to the history of the German Democratic Republic, seeing it as the history of a State created and dominated by the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED) and inseparably and invariably connected to the contradictory development of the CP-USSR and the Soviet Union. He especially characterizes Stalinist »socialism« as a system of special exploitation, misusing the ideals of the workers movement.

ISABEL ERDEM

Anti-German Left or Anti-Leftist Germans?

The author analyses the aims and attitudes of the so called »Anti-Germans« (Anti-Deutsche), who, since a few years, have been provoking serious discussion among the radical Left. She critically examines the thesis of the »Anti-Germans« fighting what they call »typical German behavior«, investigates their anti-racist and anti-capitalist approach and pleads for an unambiguous dissociation from the »Anti-Germans« by the emancipatory Left.

PETER GÄRTNER

Civil Rights, Cuba and Left Politics

The author reflects debates that arose around three members of the Left Party/PDS Group in the European Parliament, who, February 2, 2006, voted in favor of an EU Resolution on Cuba. He sees a necessity in maintaining these discussions, because they are fundamental to Left politics. He does not support the resolution and pleads for a deeper understanding of the complexity of the civil rights question and its concrete influence on people's everyday lives.