

WERNER SCHMIDT
 Peter Weiss – An Intellectual
 in a Divided World

This is an article in remembrance of the writer, painter and film producer, Peter Weiss, who was born 90 years ago, November 8, 1916, in Nowawes (today Potsdam-Babelsberg). In 1939, Weiss, fleeing German fascism, went to Sweden and remained there until his death in 1982. The author looks back especially upon Weiss' rich and world-acclaimed literary production and mirrors the close relationship between his works, on the one hand, and his political engagement against fascism, war and in favor of socialism, on the other, which, at times, encountered opposition.

ERHARD CROME
 After the Elections is Before the Elections

The author discusses the Left Party/PDS' September 17 election results in Berlin (13.4%) and in Mecklenburg-West Pomerania (16.8%) – the two states, where the party had been participating in governing coalitions. His observations are in connection with the formation of a new Left Party, planned for early summer 2007 by the leaders of the Left Party/PDS and the Election Alternative Work and Social Justice (WASG). He describes new challenges, while pleading for a triangle of a) the ability to develop alternatives in daily policies, b) the cultivation of close relations with the social, ecological, feminist, and peace movements and c) the readiness to present new concepts of socialism.

WOLFRAM ADOLPHI
 Cadre Party. Outline of an HKWM-Entry

The newest volume (vol. 7 – letter »K«) of the »Historisch-kritisches Wörterbuch des Marxismus« (HKWM – Historical-critical Dictionary of Marxism) is scheduled for publication by the Argument Publishing House at the end of 2007. The author presents his outline of the entry »Kaderpartei« (Cadre Party) to this volume discussing the views and politics of Marx and Engels, Lenin, Rosa Luxemburg, Stalin, Gramsci, Dimitroff, Mao Zedong, looking into the critical debate by Serge, Djilas, Abendroth, Dutschke, among others, as well as into the party theory by Michels (1909), Lenk and Neumann (1968) among others and debating new approaches to party organization.

JÖRN SCHÜTRUMPF
 Rosa Luxemburg, the Bolsheviks
 and »Certain Questions«

The author recalls Rosa Luxemburg's assassination by reactionary soldiers on January 15, 1919 and the subsequent assassination of her thoughts and scientific works, along with the persecution of her defenders, such as Paul Levi, by Stalin and his German apologists. He pleads for today's Left to take a vivid approach to her life and work. Paul Levi raised »certain questions«

to Clara Zetkin about Rosa Luxemburg's heritage. According to the author, one of the decisive questions concerned the relationship between socialism and democracy.

CAREN LAY

Farewell to the »Breadwinner Model«

The New Left's Family, Social and Labor Politics

While defending the welfare state against neo-liberal strategies, at times, the Left Party/PDS, the author states, attempts to defend old concepts inscribed into German social law, that are also incompatible with modern socialist ideas. The »Breadwinner Model« is one of these old welfare state concepts, that must be discarded. It is based on the traditional partition of the labor force along lines of gender and must be regarded as part of a growing »welfare orientation«, that includes elements of patriarchal authority and constraint. The author develops six fields for a new, alternative approach.

CARSTEN HERZBERG

Participatory Budget: a Left Transformation Project?

Analyzing the experience made with a participatory budget in two German communities, the author shows that such a budget does not necessarily become a left transformation project, but can also end up a very formal bureaucratic act. The author refers to the applied examples in the state capital, Potsdam and the Berlin district, Lichtenberg. The example of Lichtenberg, governed by the Left Party/PDS, the author says, can be considered as the most democratic participatory budget in Germany, but social questions and ideas, that lead to alternative solutions for the whole society, must still be included to a greater extent.

MARCUS HAWEL

»Normalized« Foreign Policy

Coming to Terms with the Past and Revival of a German »ius ad bellum«

In capitalist states, the logic of capital, the author says, demands a foreign policy, that necessarily includes a »ius ad bellum«: the right to go to war. But following World War II, the collective memory in Germany imposed, for a period of time, a critical appraisal of the German past, thus placing this »normal« right to go to war into question. Currently, Germany is »normalizing« its foreign policy – and also »normalizing« its right to go to war. To bring this under control, the author pleads, tactically, for a strengthening of the UN and European mechanisms, and, strategically, for a socialist, cosmopolitan utopia of a world of détente, where eternal peace is needed.