

HELMUT BOCK
Napoleon Bonaparte
Contradiction and Trouble of a Bourgeois Hegemonic System

It was on November 21, 1806, in Berlin's Castle Charlottenburg that Napoleon signed the decree concerning the Continental System against Great Britain. The author discusses the consequences of this decree, which he regards as the most momentous French decision of the post-revolutionary age. Subsequently Napoleon's warfare – he says – became increasingly unpredictable and adventurous. The war against Great Britain opened the way for a new type of complex, global and very aggressive warfare, which engulfed not only European nations but also colonies in Asia, Africa and America – thus a forerunner of the World Wars of the 20th century.

MICHAEL WOLF
Hartz IV: An Activation of Exclusion or An Edifying Demonstration of the Violability of Human Dignity

The author discusses the Hartz-IV-laws as part of a ruthless violation of the social contract which, until today, had been the link between the individual and the society. This contract, he says, will be increasingly replaced by a particularization aimed exclusively at economic success and legitimizes even extra-economic force and pressure to satisfy its economic interests. The exclusion of a growing sector of the society, as it is intended by the Hartz-IV-laws, means the farewell to the 200 year old grand utopia of western politics: the democratic society of autonomous individuals.

RICHARD SORG
Capitalism and Social Work

Looking back into the history of Capitalism and its Janus-headed character as progressive, in the development of the productive forces, and reactionary, in the destruction of nature and mankind's growing polarization into rich and poor, the author presents an overview of the history of Social Work. ›Social Work‹, in this context, means the socially organized help for people who – for various reasons – are incapable, as individuals, to assure their own survival without external support. Neo-liberal Capitalism – the author concludes – is characterized by its ability to use the terminology of genuine Social Work as a cover to declare its ›reforms‹ non-negotiable and thereby thwart protest against them.

HANS-GERT GRÄBE
Knowledge and Education in Modern Society

The author does not discuss the question of knowledge and education at the level of the hectic activities developed by the reigning educational politics, when confronted with PISA-studies etc., but challenges the Left to examine the complex meanings of knowledge and education, when applied to

democratic-socialist policies, aimed toward a sustainable development and self-determination. The Left, he says, is always obliged to search for the seed of the new in the womb of the old. Competence must be viewed as a structuring power of the society which develops the competitive capacity to confront the structuring power represented by wealth in society.

PETER ULLRICH, ANDREAS MÜLLER Scientific Work with Free Software

Linux in comparison with Windows (Microsoft) and OSX (Mac) presents not only many practical advantages but – the authors say – also another political philosophy. Whereas conventional software is developed as a commodity, produced within capitalist competition, Open Source is created by a worldwide web of users and programmers, who, free of charge, develop software. Linux doubtlessly cannot be seen – as it is often argued – as the nucleus of a liberated society, but it refutes an ideological paradigm of capitalist production: It proves that cooperation is capable of presenting a better and more secure system than competition can. The authors review books that aid in making the transition from Windows to Linux easier.

ANDREAS FISAHN Results of the »Reform of Federalism«

The Coalition of CDU/CSU and SPD has passed a »Reform of Federalism« bill which, at first sight, seems to be only a bureaucratic and non-political act. But this reform – the author writes – must be regarded as a further tessera in the neo-liberal re-structuring of Germany. As a consequence of this reform, new obstacles are erected against social welfare, environmental protection is de-regulated, the universities and schools are forced to live in sharp competition with each other etc. Finally, the reform prevents the integration of East Germany, transforming it into the German Mezzogiorno. But history shows – the author concludes – that there will be a point where inequality strikes back against prosperity.

ELKE BREITENBACH, KATINA SCHUBERT It All depends on the Content Observations concerning the Program Discussion for a New Left

The authors reflect on the first Program Convention, held by the Left Party/PDS and the Election Alternative Labor and Social Justice (WASG) on September 30, 2006 in Hanover. They maintain that the »Programmatic Corner Stones«, published by some of the leaders of the two parties, can only serve as the basis for a Foundation Program of a New Left, planned to be formulated in June 2007. Many more discussions are necessary to clarify how the divergent positions and experiences of the mainly eastern based Left Party/PDS, on the one hand, and the mainly western based WASG, on the other, can be fruitfully combined.