

ANDREAS HEYER

The Burden of Conspiracy – Gracchus Babeuf's Theory of Freedom and Equality

Marx and Engels always tried to make the distinction between themselves and those, they referred to as utopian socialists (Robert Owen, Charles Fourier, Claude-Henri de Saint-Simon a. o.). But there were exceptions: Thomas Müntzer and Gracchus Babeuf. The author discusses Babeuf's political views and aims. Babeuf championed the cause of the poor and was the only one to publicly support their interests during the French Revolution – even in the aftermath of the Jacobins – always propagating the idea of total equality, as the real basis of freedom.

ULRICH BUSCH

Berlin. Vision of a Cosmopolitan City and Financial Restrictions

Berlin is Germany's largest city and has the country's largest population, but because of Berlin's division over many years and its specific post-war development, it does not attain the economic power of other metropoli and has to bear the burden of extremely high debts. The strength of Berlin – the author asserts – lies in its role as the capital of Germany and in the fields of science, education and culture. But because of the Berlin Senate's cost-cutting policy these assets are being threatened.

ULLA PLENER

Economic Democracy in the New Left's Programmatic Discussion

The author presents an overview of the discussion taking place over the past few years and examines the program of the New Left in Germany, that is evolving from a fusion of the Left Party/PDS and the Election Alternative Labor and Social Justice (WASG). Whereas the Social Democrats are sticking to ex-Chancellor Schröder's »modernization«, thereby ignoring the existence of capitalism and – consequently – ignoring economic democracy, the New Left is demanding economic democracy and debating the conditions that must be altered to achieve it.

JENS-EBERHARD JAHN

The Acceptance of the Unconditional Basic Income and Basic Income among the Membership of the Left Party/PDS

In continuation of the debate of an unconditional basic income, which has been taking place in »UTOPIE kreativ« since vol. 176 (June 2005), the author presents the results of a questionnaire among members of the Left Party/PDS concerning their acceptance of this idea and evaluates programmatic papers drawn up by the Left Party/PDS and the Election Alternative Labor and Social Justice (WASG). He concludes that there seems to be a

remarkable minority in the society pleading for an unconditional basic income and that the New Left should include this minority in their efforts to generally strengthen acceptance of this idea.

MARTIN MEIER

The Role of the Military in the Political Utopia, State Novels and Robinsonades of the Early Modern Age

Examining works such as Thomas Morus' »Utopia«, Bernard Le Bovier de Fontenelle's »Republic«-fragment, Johann Gottfried Schnabel's »Die Insel Felsenburg« (The Island Rocky Castle) etc., the author discusses the phenomenon that military and warfare are in dissonance to humanity's dream of an everlasting peace and a society of universal bliss, but forms nevertheless – as a result of historical conditions and personal experience – an essential element of varying utopia and Robinsonades, reinforcing the quest for peace.

GÜNTER WIRTH

Walther Harich's »Eastward Orientation« About Wolfgang Harich's Father – and Himself

In 1956, Wolfgang Harich (1923-1995) became one of the outstanding figures of communist opposition in the GDR. The author looks into the spiritual links that existed between himself and his father Walther Harich (1888-1931) and maintains that one of these links was formed by a deep-rooted »Eastward Orientation« which the two not only understood as an intellectual problem but also as existential. According to the author, the reflections of both father and son are worth remembering.

DIETRICH WAHL

Ernst Bloch on Possibility and Left Discourse

Ernst Bloch once elaborated complex tools for the research and realization of possibilities and alternatives. Dogmatic ideologues in the GDR condemned them as non-Marxist, but, even today, they are worth being studied and applied. It seems especially important to discern between topical possibilities, bound to already existing types and species on the one hand and far-reaching historical possibilities on the other. This helps solving epistemological problems, shaping pluralism and dealing with programmatic discourse.