

JÜRGEN MEIER

»Somewhere, there is a Smile for Everyone ...« To Commemorate Dmitri Shostakovich's 100th Birthday

Dmitri Shostakovich, the great Soviet-Russian composer (1906-1975), is described by the author as being one of the greatest symphonists of the 20th century, who had also succeeded in nearly all other musical genres and was remarkably obligated to human progress. After presenting an overview of his most important works and their acceptance – or non-acceptance – by the Stalinist leadership, the author summarizes, he was not a child prodigy, like Mozart, but a musical genius, communist and functionary in the red sky of a society, that promised to liberate the people's hearts and their conditions from the alienation of their being.

MICHAEL R. KRÄTKE

Tax and Basic Rights: The Right to a Basic Income

This is another contribution to UTOPIE kreativ's discussion of the Unconditional Basic Income which began in the Summer, 2005. Whoever speaks of an Unconditional Basic Income, the author says, is talking about a broadening of current civil rights and must be aware that the appeal for such an income is only the starting point of an appeal for a radical reform of the social state and taxation in general. Every attempt to place the social and economic civil rights on a par with the political civil rights, places into question the foundation of bourgeois society and exposes the scandalous contradiction between economic and social inequality, on the one hand, and formal political equality, on the other.

KATJA KIPPING

Is Marx a Must for the New Left?

The author, vice-president of the Left Party.PDS and a member of parliament, pleads for the New Left Party – to be founded in Summer, 2007 – to take an intensive, but un-dogmatic, approach to Karl Marx. Marx' understanding of the economy, as the anatomy of the society, she says, gives room for a complex – and not solely economic – description of the society. A wider approach should also be sought to the traditions of the Left which includes, besides the workers' movement, also feminist, anti-racist, anti-fascist, ecologist and anti-repressive movements. And last but not least Marx' thoughts should be seen as a constant intellectual source for leftist politics.

ULRICH SCHACHTSCHNEIDER

Is Social Sustainability a Concrete Utopia?

Concepts of sustainability in various fields of the development of society, the author says, must be examined for their potential as aspects of left strategies. He discusses the compatibility of initial attempts at solidarity-

directed sustainability like ›communitarity‹, equality and regionalisation with the post-Fordist dominance of capital markets and concludes that there (still) is obviously no attempt at social sustainability, that can be defined as a real left transformation project adapted to conditions of a modern sustainable society.

PETER STRUTYNSKI
Export of Human Rights?
Decisive is »How« it is Done

The universality of human rights, the author says, is one of the generally accepted principles of international law. The same is true for the understanding, that the defence of these rights is no longer exclusively ›a domestic affair‹. But if so – who decides which kind of ›export‹ of human rights can be tolerated? Is it acceptable, that the ›export‹ of human rights became a stable element of the foreign policy of the leading Western countries? The author discusses the contradictions between the defence of human rights, on the one hand, and the right of non-interference in the domestic affairs of other nations, on the other.

THEODOR BERGMANN
Between Hope and Despair –
The External Effects of 1917

This is a review of Aleksander Kan's book ›The Swedish Bolsheviks 1914-1920‹, which still only exists in its original Swedish-language version. Kan, the author explains, presents the entire material concerning the relationships between the workers' movements in Sweden and Russia during World War I and the Russian Revolution, 1917-1920. He shows, first of all, the reciprocal solidarity and then the disintegration of this solidarity because of the split in the Russian revolutionary movement, on the one hand, and the Branting wing of the Swedish social-democrats taking sides with the Western powers, on the other.

WERNER SEPPMANN
Marxism and the Sermon
on the Mount Christianity

The author sharply criticises the policy of the German Catholic Church's leadership of declaring critics of the official church, such as Eugen Drevermann or Hans Küng, persona non grata. He explains that there is a growing number of Christian grassroots movements, that do not submit to the hierarchy's absolutism and secondly he discusses the history of Christianity as an articulation of the cause of the oppressed. The concept of the equality of all beings in the eyes of God, he says, must be objectively regarded as progressive. Early Christianity was fully reality-oriented. The orientation toward the afterworld only began in the 4th century, when Christianity became Roman State religion.