

JÖRN SCHÜTRUMPF

Under a Faded Flag – the »Left«

Making a resumé of the revolutions of 1789, 1848, 1917 and 1918 and looking into the results, the author critically discusses the political use of the terms »left« and »right«. He examines the original meanings of these concepts in the first Parisian parliament of 1789, when both the left and the right were part of the revolutionary forces. Describing the fading away of the original implications of these concepts already by 1848, when it became obvious that it was not a question of »left« and »right« but of those »on top« and those »down below«, he debates the misuse of these concepts during the Stalinist era, to then ask if it is really appropriate for the new German party to refer to itself as »The Left«.

MARTIN SCHIRDEWAN

Onward to the Present

This article also, discusses the politics of »The Left« in Germany. Debating the »parallel society« comprised of the parliament and the broadening chasm developing between itself and the rest of the society, he looks into the consequences of the retreat of the state and the politicians' self-demotion to become simple agents of »globalized« economic interests. He analyzes the difficulties confronting the left, particularly in Eastern Germany, where the PDS grew into the role of a so-called people's party. The author proceeds to plead for a resolute re-orientation toward the struggle for an alternative political culture, enabling the Left to fill the gaps created in the society by the »there is no alternative« parties.

ULLA PLENER

For a New Party

Hopes and Illusions in 1990

The author reprints two articles she had written in November and December, 1990, when, as a member of a grass roots initiative for the rejuvenation of the Party of Democratic Socialism, (PDS) she pleaded intensively for the party to combine the role of a typical political party with that of a social movement. Confronted with its own history as a state party, the young PDS had to simultaneously cope with the parliamentary system's obvious incapacity to guarantee the necessary political influence to all of the various interest groups. The development toward becoming a »movement party« seemed to create an alternative.

WOLFRAM ADOLPHI Asiaticus, China 1937

Seventy years ago, on July 7, 1937, World War II began in Asia. Japan attacked China on a broad front. China was completely isolated by the western powers, and Japan was allied with Germany through the Anti-Comintern Pact. The author recalls the German communist Heinz Grezyb (1897-1941) who, under his pen name, Asiaticus, clairvoyantly reported on the war from China, the role of the Berlin-Tokyo Axis and the growing influence and strength of the Chinese communist movement. He also reflects upon the ignorance Asiaticus' analyses encountered later in the Federal Republic of Germany and even in the German Democratic Republic, but for other reasons.

GOOD INTENTIONS A Chrestomathy

This is »UTOPIE kreativ's« 200th issue, meaning that »UTOPIE kreativ« has been on the market – without interruption – for 200 months, or almost 17 years. This is an unexpected accomplishment, when seen from the perspective of the initial editorial staff that set to work in September, 1990, comprised almost exclusively of volunteers. GERD KURZE, one of the newest members of the staff, presents in this issue a collection of extracts from the editorials of the 200 preceding issues.

HELMUT BOCK Which is the German's Fatherland? 175 Years Ago: The Hambach Festival

The author evokes the Hambach Festival that took place on May 27th, 1832, where about 30 thousand men and women from various German states, kingdoms, grand duchies, duchies and cities gathered under the forbidden black-red-gold flags and banners. This festival, he concludes, must be seen as the first mass demonstration in German history. Convinced of the need for a consequent »people's sovereignty«, these revolutionary democrats, with their anti-monarchy and pro-republican demands, became the nucleus of the bourgeois-democratic movement that evolved later.