

MATTHIAS IVEN
Berlin – Rostock – Vienna
In Memory of the Philosopher and Physicist
Moritz Schlick (1882-1936)

The merited acknowledgement, the author says, for the life's work of Moritz Schlick – a philosopher and physicist who substantially contributed to the development of philosophy in general and to the conveyance of natural sciences and humanities in particular – is long overdue. Albert Einstein, Max von Laue, Max Born, Max Planck among others highly appreciated his major opus »Allgemeine Erkenntnislehre« (General Theory Of Knowledge) as essential to their own theories. His students loved him for his personal integrity. Moritz Schlick was murdered at Vienna University, June 22, 1936.

LOTHAR BISKY, JÜRGEN SCHEELE
The Digital Divide of the Society

Broadband-internet accessible to all, is a democratic necessity, the authors say, but reality lags far behind. The reality is a digital divide, a division of the population into information-haves and information-have-nots. The authors (Bisky, incidentally, is co-chairman of the newly founded German party, DIE LINKE – The Left) argue that the reasons for this digital divide are social, adding therefore new dimensions to social questions. They also discuss the spatial dimension of the digital divide. In conclusion they offer proposals to overcome this situation.

HARALD PÄTZOLT
A Radical Programmatic About-Face
of the Left?

Analysing the new quality and dimension of poverty in Germany, and describing, what he calls »the end of equality«, the author calls for the newly founded DIE LINKE party – The Left – to make a radical programmatic about-face. He pleads for a novel, moralist imperative: for an unconditional dedication to the weakest in society, to the individual of here and now. This should form the opening paragraph of the party program. It should be linked to the understanding of the »major issues« confronting our times: the end of »petrified capitalism« and the necessity of developing alternative ways of life.

FRITZ KLEIN
The Year of Fate 1917: Wilson or Lenin?
Setting the Course of World History

The words of George Kennan are still relevant: World War I was the true catastrophe of the 20th century, and, in the aftermath of the crash of soviet socialism, it seems fruitful, the author maintains, to seek a new approach to the historical reversal, whose drama is personified by the alternative between Wilson or Lenin. Both originally sought – through completely divergent

policies – peace without victors. Wilson then decided to enter the war to become one of its victors – but the task of winning a lasting peace has remained unfulfilled.

PETER BRANDT

Exemplary Life Adhering to the »Principle Left« The Memoirs of Hermann and Gerda Weber

Reviewing the works, »Prinzip links« (Principle Left) by Hermann and Gerda Weber, Hermann Weber's memoirs »Damals, als ich Wunderlich hieß« (Back When I Was Called Wunderlich) along with »Das Prinzip Links. Beiträge zur Diskussion des demokratischen Sozialismus in Deutschland« (The Principle Left. Contributions to the Discussion of Democratic Socialism in Germany), the author acknowledges the life and political engagement of the Webers and describes the merits of the memories as an element of social history and as a collection of interesting and fair portraits of friends, comrades and political adversaries.

FRIEDRICH W. SIXEL

The Year 1968 in the Federal Republic of Germany. A Memoir

The author, a German, who, since the seventies, has been living in Canada, critically reviews his leftist political engagement and failure in West Germany in 1968. He discusses the isolation of the students' movement, despite its ability to mobilize mass demonstrations. He reflects upon the debates concerning socialism in the German Democratic Republic, recalls the shock wave that the Soviet intervention in Czechoslovakia sent through the West European Left. He describes his work in the study circle »Revolutionary Process in the Third World« and pleads for a better understanding of today's capitalist structures and their efficiency.

ANDREAS FISAHN

Social Rights: Standards in the German Basic Law vs. the EU Constitution Draft Treaty

Despite wide-ranging discussions and efforts, there is still no uniform and specifically European social model, the author says. To discern the potentially positive and negative effects of the social standardisation, as foreseen in the EU Draft Constitution Treaty, the author compares the draft treaty to the German Basic Law. He concludes that, in contrast to the Basic Law, the draft aims at an economic agenda that excludes social policies that contradict market economy. This practically prevents social political integration at the European level. Reasons for the »No« vote to the draft continue to exist.