

REINHARD MOCEK
 On the Treshold of the »Intellectual
 Modern Times«

The author reviews a new edition of Francis Bacon's famous work »Of the Proficiency and Advancement of Learning«, originally published in 1605, republished in 1623 and translated into German at the end of the 18th century. Hermann Klenner recently edited and commented an entirely new German translation by Jutta Schlösser, entitled »Über die Würde und die Förderung der Wissenschaften«. The topicality of the book on the role of sciences in the development of a humanitarian society, the author says, remains uninterrupted.

HELMUT SEIDEL
 On the Practical and Theoretical Relationship
 between Man and Reality
 The new Edition of Chapter I, Vol. I of Marx'
 and Engels' »Deutsche Ideologie«

In honor of the (East) German Philosopher Helmut Seidel (1929-2007) »UTOPIE kreativ« reprints this article which was originally published in the GDR in the journal »Deutsche Zeitschrift für Philosophie« No. 10/1966. At the time, the article provoked a sharp discussion opposing Seidel's view of practice being a central category of Marxism and ultimately in opposition to a creative approach in dealing with the Marxist history of theories in general. As a consequence, the author was banned from teaching and publishing for a couple of years. His plea for a vivid exchange between the systems and new understanding appears also topical for current left debates.

ELKE SCHERSTJANOI
 Reminiscence of the GDR

Seventeen years ago, on October 3rd, 1990 the two German states became united. Since then, in the Eastern part of the unified country there is much reminiscence about the German Democratic Republic (GDR). Reviewing the book »Wohin treibt die DDR-Erinnerung?« the author analyses attempts by the mainstream political circles and media to scrutinize, steer and censor these memories, to exaggerate the value of certain memories and devalue and suppress others, as well as alleging a monopoly of the »correct and only way« of viewing the history of the GDR.

TILMAN VOGT
 » ... let's go to it!«
 The Decline of the GDR in the Light
 of Friedrich Pollock's Theory of State Capitalism

The title »let's go to it« refers to a slogan chanted in November/December 1989 by demonstrators in the GDR, who showed their readiness to go West, to the D-Mark, if the D-Mark does not come to the East. In contrast to, what

he calls self-righteous and malicious Western political analyses of the fall of the GDR, the author uses Friedrich Pollock's Theory of State Capitalism (1929) to describe the GDR's economic problems as being based on trying to surpass western private capitalism with a planned state capitalism, while simultaneously being incapable of stimulating needs, specific to the latter.

JOHANNES SCHILLO

Humba Humba DäDeRä

Political Education Overcomes the Totalitarian State with the Three Letters

The author analyses efforts undertaken by the extra-curricular political education courses to handle the history of the German Democratic Republic (GDR). The mainstream, he says, takes it for granted that the victorious Federal Republic of Germany excludes the history of the GDR from the common history. Its research could be a fruitful source for further development instead of being an object used to indelibly legitimize the »correctness« of its own course and decisions. To be in line with that »mission« institutions of political education have become »harmonized«

RENATE SCHUSTER

The Wende – the Fall of a Myth?

Debating many of the arguments, which, since the collapse of the GDR, are being used to describe what actually happened during the 40 years of the existence of the second German state, the author proposes to discuss the GDR as a sort of »Promised Society«. This does not bring her to an ultimate opinion, but it helps her to make the contradictions more transparent of that »socialist« society and to show that the Wende itself can be seen as both a victory and a defeat.

HELMUT BOCK

About a Man Who Set Out to Forestall the Revolution

200 Years Ago the Prussian Reforms Began

This is in memory of Karl Freiherr von und zum Stein, born on October 26th, 1757 – in the period of Frederic II's victories over the French in Rossbach and over the Austrians in Leuthen – who 50 years later, in June, 1807 with his »Nassauer Denkschrift« (Nassau Memorandum) created the spiritual basis for the Prussian Reforms. Under his leadership they began to be implemented on October 9th, 1807, initiating the durable transformation from the feudal to the bourgeois Prussian state. Stein's »humanitarian conservative« thoughts and actions, the author says, include elements of solicitude worth revival, even today.