

## DAVID BORISOVICH RYASANOV

### Preface to MECW in 1927

This is a reprint of Ryasanov's preface to the »Marx'/Engels' Complete Works« publishing project, which began in Moscow in 1927, but never reached completion. Ryasanov, born in 1870 in Odessa, participant in Lenin's »Zimmerwald Left« and in the October Revolution, being – in his own words – »neither Bolshevik, Menshevik, nor Leninist, but only a Marxist and, as such, a Communist«, founder of the Moscow-based Marx Engels Institute, was imprisoned by his Stalinist enemies in 1931 and murdered on January 21, 1938. His preface presents an impressive overview of the history of the publication of Marx' and Engels' works as well as the principles of edition that the original MECW initiators had conceived, when they began their ambitious project.

## ISABEL RAUBER

### The Democratic-Cultural Revolution A View from Latin America

The author, an Argentine philosopher, who lived in Cuba for several years during the military dictatorship, believes that humanity is forced – for the sake of survival – to re-found civilization on the basis of new models, and to autonomously create these new models in a process of searching and building. This will include new processes of transformation, and this transformation will be complex and take a long time to accomplish. It will be characterized by many certainties and uncertainties, by changes, advances and setbacks. Critically reviewing Lenin's ideas and the experience of socialism in Europe, she pleads for a new type of social transformation: from below and arising from within Capitalism, and for a new political culture.

## WINFRIED ROTH

### »We cannot continue to live like this« The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Democratic Revolution in Russia 1905-1907

The unsuccessful Russian revolution of 1905-1907 was one of the most dramatic and momentous events of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The author looks back into the escalation of contradictions in czarist Russian domestic policies, describes the war against Japan 1904-1905 as a fruitless attempt to overcome the crisis, reflects on the »Bloody Sunday« (January 9, 1905) as the beginning of the revolution and analyses its defeat in 1907. But this defeat, he adds, did not lead toward a peaceful development. The domestic problems remained unsolved, and the czarist regime sought once more its salvation in war – this time in the Balkans, which contributed to the outbreak of World War I and finally caused the February and October Revolutions in 1917.

JÜRGEN MEIER

## Scientology is Neither a Church, Nor a Sect Scientology – a Late-Bourgeois Science-Fiction-Ideology

Reflecting on the broad acceptance Scientology enjoys in the United States and the even broader public presence possibilities it won through close cooperation with the Moon Sect, the author describes this organization neither as a church nor as a sect or a religious community but as an aggressive aspect of a late-bourgeois ideology fighting for hegemony in the world. He sees the leaders of Scientology heavily engaged in a battle against the Credo of the French Revolution, »Freedom! Equality! Fraternity!« and he analyses Scientology's methods of camouflage used to win people over to a particularly aggressive capitalism packaged in an idealistic philosophy of an alleged »purely individualist« and »anti-government« programs.

MICHAEL WOLF

## Social Policies and Social Labor beyond the Welfare State: Life At Your Own Risk

We witness – the author says – a social upheaval, whose consequences we hardly recognized until recently. It is not terrorism that undermines our civilization, it is the law of the market. By subordinating all social development to this single law, the famous »contrat social« of the past will be step by step replaced by a particularism, aimed only at economic success, legitimizing the use of »non-economic force« to satisfy economic interests. The author analyses the consequences this transformation from the Keynesian welfare state to the Schumpeterian workfare state has had on social policies and social labor and concludes with Habermas, who, already in 1995, saw the danger of a moral erosion of the society that will damage every republican society at its universalist core.

GÜNTER WIRTH

## Kurella and the Wartburg Conference

This is a reply to Erhard Scherner's article about Alfred Kurella in No. 201/202 of »UTOPIE kreativ«. The author recalls the protestant pastor Otto Riedel from Härtertsdorf near Zwickau, the initiator of the Wartburg Conference of Writers from East and West Germany in 1954.