

Oppenheim for Contemplation

This is a collection of reflections made by the lawyer Heinrich Bernhard Oppenheim (1819-1880), who, because of his unwillingness to convert from the Jewish to the Christian faith, was refused a professorship at Berlin University. A radical democrat, in 1848 Oppenheim participated in revolutionary activities, he published a declaration of human rights close to that written by Robespierre during the French Revolution, but later turned to a national-liberal ideology.

ARNE C. SEIFERT 15 Years of Transformation in Central Asia and the OSZE

The Eurasian continental block, consisting of Western Europe, Russia, Central Asia, China, India and others, forms – the author says – Europe's most important »strategic reserve«. If Europe really wants to develop self-defined global policies, it must develop a close, fruitful and mutually beneficial cooperation with the Central Asian states – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan – that derived from the Soviet Union.

THEOCHARIS N. GRIGORIADIS Business Diplomacy and EU Regulatory Policies in the German-Russian Natural Gas Partnership

The author, studying in Berkeley and Moscow, examines the practice and the various aspirations placed in the German-Russian natural gas partnership. Germany seeks to become the hub of the EU's natural gas economy. Because of an almost total dependence upon gas imports, E.ON/RuhrGas and Wintershall have worked very hard for a consolidated partnership with Gazprom. Consequently this is leading to a conflict of interests with the EU Commission, also seeking to dominate the EU's natural gas economy.

JÖRG ROESLER The »Historical Wages« Cuba's Experience with an (almost) Unconditional Basic Income

Considering the intensive debate in »UTOPIE kreativ« over the past two years, on an unconditional basic income, the author prefers to analyze the question based on practical experience, recalling the »historical wages« that existed from 1964 to 1973 in Cuba. At the time, Fidel Castro and Ernesto »Che« Guevara were enthusiastically in favor of labor free of sanctions and controls, but the project was halted, because of many contradictions that could not be resolved under the reigning economic and social conditions.

BEATRIZ STOLOWICZ

The Latin American Left: Where Do We Stand?

The Latin American Left, the Mexican author says, underestimates the new strategies of the continent's bourgeoisie and right-wing politicians. With pride in some left-wing governments over the last decade, there was a general belief that it would be possible to change the neo-liberal course through »modern«, »responsible«, and »realistic« left policies. But the right wing is striking back with dirty election campaigns, persecution of left candidates and tremendously anti-democratic activities. The Left needs to take this into account.

JAIME CAYCEDO

The Democratic Alternative Pole – The Colombian Left's Political Unity in Action

The Colombian author analyses the AP-PDI agreement signed December 6, 2005 and describes it as a big step in the direction of people's unity (Unidad Popular). This is, he says, totally new for Columbia, because it means overcoming the chronic divisions of the Left. While in the past, opportunist groups tended to exclude the more radical sectors of the Left, there is now a broader understanding that the Left forces need to be united to effectively fight the predominance of the Colombian bourgeoisie and transnational capital.

MARCUS HAWEL

Sense of Freedom and Right of Resistance The Relevance of Art. 20.4 of the Basic Law to the Current Situation

Leading up to the G 8 Summit in Heiligendamm (June 2007) protesters opposed to the summit were portrayed as being close to terrorists, although they had never propagated the use of force. This, the author says, shows just how absurd the discussion of legitimate resistance can become. Characterizing the German military missions in Kosovo and Afghanistan as being in violation of international law and even terrorist in nature, he defends the right of resistance against these on the basis of article 20.4 of the Basic Law.

GERHARD ZEIDLER

Herbert Grohmann. Racist Politician and Doctor. On the Interaction between Nazi- Anthropology and the Public Medical Service in Occupied Poland during World War II

The author presents a detailed reconstruction of SS-documents concerning the German doctor Herbert Grohmann (1908-1945?), who, comparable to the Auschwitz-doctor Josef Mengele, participated, as a high-ranking SS-officer, in the »Germanization« activities of German anthropologists in occupied Poland 1939-1945.