

GÜNTER WIRTH

The Aesthetics of Resistance

Impressions of a »Post-Socialist« Reading

The author reviews Peter Weiss' (1916-1982) »Ästhetik des Widerstands« (The Aesthetics of Resistance). Recalling Volker Braun's opinion that this famous novel should be seen as a »quarry« – as a huge source of material, enough for generations to come – he shows how fruitful it can be for today's socialist thinkers to work this »quarry«. He delves into »the aesthetics« as an »authority« on the character of resistance; into the links between aesthetic analyses, contemporary events and historical excursus as well as into the utopian potential, concluding with expressing the hope that this novel could aid in supporting a convergence between the utopian and reality.

JOHN P. NEELSEN

Agriculture and Nutrition – Hourglass of the Capitalist Production Method

Despite public attention's focus being predominantly on high technology, it is absolutely wrong, the author holds, to underestimate agriculture, the state of which, is a clear barometer for the state of the social system, as a whole. 55-60 per cent of the world's population live in rural areas, 45 per cent of the world's working population are peasants. 854 million people are starving, but starvation is not the result of an absolute lack of food, but of politics. It is concentrated not in towns, but rather in rural areas. In this discussion, the author analyses agriculture not as one economic field among others, but as a complex phenomenon with economic, social and ecological dimensions.

ULRICH BUSCH

A Decrease in the Population of East Germany Does Not End Unemployment

Analyzing the rapid decrease in the population of East Germany, caused by migration, as well as a declining birth rate, the author shows that this development not only has an impact on quantity but also on quality. A mutation in gender proportions – a 10 to 9 men-women relation –, an aging of the population and a drop in the educational, qualification and cultural levels are some of the expressions of a deep-rooted social transformation, which does not lead to a decrease – as some had believed – but rather to a stabilization of the high rate of unemployment.

BENNO HERZOG

Arbeit, Work, Trabajo ...

Europe: Cultural, Political and Economic Aspects of the Term »Work«

The term »work« – the author shows – has various meanings from one European language and culture to the next. This has to be understood by all

those seeking a common basis in the fight for a Social Union in Europe. »Work« has the connotation of a contribution to individual well-being, the basis of the wealth of nations, a weapon in the struggle for liberation from oppression, an expression of religious spirituality, a guarantee of autonomy and freedom, a patriotic virtue, an economic necessity, and even an enjoyment. The author examines history and pleads for open-mindedness toward concepts for the term »work« at variance with one's »own«.

JOCHEN WEICHOLD Quo vadis, Greens?

The author sees the following characteristics in the development of the German Greens since 2005: 1) a slow return – after seven years in government – to the role of an opposition party; 2) support for their traditional positions in high profile environmental problems; 3) a change of the strategic focus from ecology to civil rights; 4) broken relations to non-parliamentary movements; 5) a revival of an inner-party Leftwing; 6) the existence – despite adamant denials – of common positions with the The Left Party; 7) a strong wish to come back into a government coalition – but a – just as strong – indecision about their possible partner(s).

JAN KORTE Injustice Knows No Betrayal The Discussion of German »Betrayal« during World War II

Beginning with a review of the book »Das letzte Tabu: NS-Militärjustiz und Kriegsverrat« (The Last Taboo: Nazi Military Justice and War Betrayal) by Wolfram Wette and Detlef Vogel and showing that even at present, those found guilty of »War Betrayal« and sentenced by Nazi martial law, are still considered to be traitors, since no law has granted them a general rehabilitation. The author, a member of the Left caucus in the German federal parliament (DIE LINKE, im Bundestag), then describes the efforts undertaken by his party to overcome this anachronistic situation through having a new law legislated, and the opposition his caucus is confronting from the Bundestag majority.

KARL-OTTO ESCHRICH The Mystery of the Magnetic Fields of Sun and Earth Hommage à Fritz Krause

This is to honor the mathematician and physicist, Fritz Krause (born in 1927), who, in the mid-sixties in the GDR, together with Max Steenbeck, discovered the so-called »Alpha effect« which aided decisively in understanding the dynamo theory of the magnetic fields of celestial bodies.