

RENATE ULLRICH

Women's Power. Or: Why Medea Murdered Her Children

This article analyzes texts on Medea taken both from the works of Heiner Müller (1972, 1974, 1949-1982) and Christa Wolf (1996). The prism for the analysis is »Women's Power and Their Significant Impact on the Course of History«. The author shows that these new versions of the myth have been influenced by dramatic historical developments of the 20th Century. In reference to the oral version of Euripides, Müller uses the murder of the children to symbolize women's resignation from their historical impact and investigates its long-term effect on history. Referring to the myth's more traditional version, Wolf describes how and why an emancipated woman, with an immigrant background is stigmatized by the rulers and later transformed into the mythical figure of the murderer of children.

WERNER RUF

Africom – Resources Rather Than Freedom The US Lunge Toward Africa

Geostrategic concepts are apparently again determining international policy in the 21st Century. The reason is the quest to assure access to the planet's oil and gas reserves, due to be depleted within the next 40 years. World public opinion has hardly noticed that Africa is in the crosshairs of neo-imperialist interests and their global strategic objectives, which is virtually imperative given the »dark continent's« wealth in resources. Even though threadbare, »International terrorism« serves as a pretext. In the guise of a war on terrorism, this new form of colonialism will engender resistance and provoke precisely that »terrorism« that Africom & Co. went out to fight.

STEFAN AMZOLL

The Apocalypse is a Complete Revolution Interview with Eugen Drewermann on Past and Contemporary Apocalypses

All that is apocalyptic – according to Eugen Drewermann in this interview – is linked to the fear and, to a certain extent, to even the wish, that the world, as we know it, should be obliterated. End of the world fantasies are frontier experiences. That which had served to orient people, provide them with hope in darkness, now seems to be destroyed. Apocalyptic scenarios are at the same time basically renaissance fantasies. Hell is not the netherworld, but rather the diagnosis of the current situation. Today's capitalism is a system that can only be maintained through growth, somewhat like a proliferating tissue within our bodies. That is what is known as cancer. One needs only to add up the catastrophic coefficients – overpopulation, environmental destruction, a steadily growing energy consumption – to eventually arrive at the edge of the abyss. The apocalypse is the next step.

MARCUS HAWEL

The Normalized Nation? Concretized Coming to Terms With History and Interventionist Foreign Policy

»Whereas the conservatives are already angered that they read about the situation, the left is angered by the situation they are reading about.« Using this insight, the author develops his criticism of the exaggeration of Western values, that alone do nothing to guarantee peace and freedom. In fact, the modern Western trend is inclined to incorporate the catastrophic potentials akin to those that had led to Auschwitz. The author challenges the idea that the mere acknowledgement of past atrocities creates a sort of »normalcy«. This is also evident on the level of human rights and their embedding in a capitalist economy, where the capitalist law of value is imposed from behind a veil of human rights. Indeed, today human rights are being violently enforced, there, where the law of value has not been totally imposed. Therefore true peace, real community, where human rights can flourish, is only possible in a society that has liberated itself from the capitalist law of value.

GARNET HELEN BRÄUNIG

Punishment for Clients of Prostitutes Prostitutes' Clients Buy Above All Power

Should prostitution be seen as a pathological spin-off of patriarchy and therefore be abolished, or should the living and working conditions of the sexually employed simply be enhanced? In Germany, the demand for prostitution has always been handled with impunity. But this reluctance is not to be taken for granted. Christian Democrats have been demanding for a long time, that the clients of prostitutes be prosecuted and the new prostitution law of 2001 be revoked, a measure opposed by the SPD and Greens. According to most experts, that prostitution law did not do away with hypocritical moral standards, but with all moral standards.

WALTER SCHMIDT

The 1848/49 Revolution in German Historical Culture

The 1848 Revolution has never been a purely historical question to be handled only by historians in their ivory towers. At any given time, the social and political interests of different – even antagonistic – forces of the society, have been laid bare over questions of their support or opposition to 1848. From the beginning, only socialists and radical democrats have advocated making the revolution – as a whole, with explicit recognition of the revolutionary mass actions – a cherishable heritage. For decades they refused to be sidetracked from this objective. It was only during the Weimar Republic that German society half-heartedly began to take up the question of the revolution, whereby the German National Assembly was the morsel of tradition sought out as worthy of preservation. Recognition and esteem for the mass movements and the parliamentary tradition of 1848 was later accorded in the two German nations, which has been continued in unified Germany.