

Alex Demirović: Critical Theory and the Diversity of Emancipatory Perspectives. Social Movements have during the recent decades challenged the priority of the labour movement. Not only the liberation from wage labour is on the agenda of social movements and the left but also the overcoming of racism and sexism, equality of sexual orientations or the reconciliation of the social relation to nature. This is what Marx claimed when he spoke about the categorical imperative to overthrow all *relations* in which man is a debased, enslaved forsaken, despicable being. But the question arises as to how to bring these different perspectives together and whether the Marxian project of a critique of political economy is appropriate to its own claim or tends to reduce the whole of emancipation to only some limited goals. Demirović proposes making use of Marx' conceptualisation of structure and superstructure and elaborating this distinction with further arguments from Althusser, Adorno and Gramsci in order to conceive of the superstructures as a strategic means of differentiating the bourgeois society as a complex whole of social relations.

Hanna Meißner: The Social as Paradoxical Unity of Totality and Fragmentation. This article proposes a productive connection between the Marxian analysis of the structures of capitalism and the analytic attentiveness to the heterogeneity and instability of power relations and identities proposed by Judith Butler and Michel Foucault. Focusing on the question of gender relations it argues that social theory and critique face the challenge of taking simultaneously into account the totality of the capitalist mode of production and the fragmentation and complex situatedness of power relations and individual existences.

Sebastian Bandelin: Who can see what we don't see? On the Subject of the Critique of Ideology. The critique of ideology has often been criticised because it seems to imply a problematic gap between the perspective of the critical sociologist and that of the actor. The following article tries to show that the conception of the critique of ideology developed by Marx in his writings on the critique of political economy can avoid this problem insofar as the conception can be reconstructed as an instrument to explain the practical contradictions with which the actors are confronted in capitalist societies. The way in which these practical contradictions are explained shows also that the structures which first seemed to be natural preconditions for the actors are in fact the product of their actions.

Bob Jessop: Revisiting Economic Determinism: This article revisits the claim that the social relations of production determine, at least in the last instance, the overall nature and dynamic of social formations. The claim in its original form is often misunderstood, its later justifications are generally weak, and efforts to improve it are mostly unconvincing. An alternative interpretation is presented that identifies four complementary meanings of economic determinism that are all consistent with historical materialism. The fourth meaning draws on the relatively new concept of 'ecological dominance' but it was anticipated, the author argues, in certain arguments of Marx and Engels themselves.

Andreas Fisahn: Paschukanis versus Bloch. Bloch and Paschukanis have given a different answer to the question: What is law and what should happen to law in a socialist society? Paschukanis argues against Stalin's order to create a specific socialist or soviet law and was killed for his dissident approach. He explained the thesis that law is a creation of exchange in capitalist societies, and that therefore socialist law, he declares, is an oxymoron. Forty years later Bloch came to an opposite result: to prevent servility and oppression in "socialist societies" of the eastern world the tradition of human rights should be conserved and developed,

i.e. they should reflect the solidarity of the new post capitalist order. This debate is not only of historical interest, but represents a different approach to a theory of law and concerns the relation between social change and law as an instrument of this change.

Thomas Gehrig: Marxian Entropy. The essay critically engages with the debate on the numerous approaches that seek to connect Marxian theory with thermodynamics/entropy. Starting from the analyses of Podolinsky's energetics published in the 19th century I will go into its rediscovery in the ecological discourse of the 20th century – basically by Martinez-Alier - and the reaction of Burkett/Foster. The essay will conclude with a critique of Elmar Altvater's attempts to connect Marxian value theory and entropy.

Bernd Röttger: The Theory of capitalist „Landnahme“: a critical evaluation. The "Landnahme"-Theory tries not only to explain the processes of privatization, deregulation and financialization of the economy since the crisis of the 1970s. Following Rosa Luxemburg's "Accumulation of Capital" and Marx' remarks on "primitive accumulation", David Harvey and Klaus Dörre develop a heuristic framework for the interpretation of capitalist dynamics and reproduction *through* economic crisis. This article reconstructs their theories, examines their empirical plausibility and questions gaps in the Political Economy of contemporary capitalism.

Tom Strohschneider: DIE LINKE in crisis. After the fast ascent of the Linkspartei after the general elections 2005, there followed a period of stagnation that has continued until today. Since the general elections of 2009, die LINKE has been off the electoral winning track, internal conflicts over strategy and personnel characterize its image. However the party's weakness in its „third phase“ cannot be explained merely by self-preoccupation and soul-searching. The erosion of the traditional social-democratic milieu brings less grist to the mill of DIE LINKE than it did before. In east Germany the problems associated with an elderly constituency make themselves clearly felt. Moreover the party is faced with an altered discursive context (Fukushima, „enraged citizen“ – Wutbürger, economic crisis) and has to face up to the constellation in which the SPD and the Greens form the centre of force of a moderate opposition and the Piratenpartei succeeds with the promise of an alternative politics. The party's manifesto, which has been adopted at the end of October, admittedly proved the capacity of the competing currents within the party to compromise, but it is no answer to the questions of strategy and content the party will have to answer in the future, by itself.

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