Alex Demirović: Multiple crises, authoritarian state and radical democracy. The article sketches out three arguments: a) The financial crisis that dominates the economic and political processes since 2008 transforms the transnationalized network state into a new form of the exceptional state. Arguing against those who describe the actual conjuncture as authoritarian statism, Demirović argues that the new is a governmentalized austerity state. b) Since long critical state theory argues that democracy is in a crisis. But the process is not one of a constant decline but rather a cycle; and the cycle is determined by the compromises between social classes. c) In the recent crisis of democracy not only new actors appeared fighting for real democracy but also the theories of radical democracy became radicalized. This is demonstrated in the discussion of the approaches of Jürgen Habermas and Chantal Mouffe. The theory of democracy overcomes the liberal distinction of economy and politics and tends to democratize social complexity in itself.

Anne Steckner: Marxist discussion about political parties revisited. Different from approaches to political parties with an affirmative stance towards capitalist domination, Marxist social theory claims to assess the role of parties within Bourgeois society from a critical perspective. Nevertheless, existing debates on political parties in capitalism suffer from a narrow focus on forms and functions. They tend to become functionalist and reductionist on class struggles instead of analyzing different relations of domination. Due to this shortcoming, it is necessary to develop a materialist understanding which takes into account some helpful insights from Gramsci’s concept of political and societal party. His understanding of domination as hegemony provides us with rich analytical instruments: Now we can grasp more precisely to what extent parties play a crucial role in organizing consent within society and how they manage to do so. By critically assessing the Marxist debate on political parties and enriching it with a stronger focus on hegemony, I want to offer a more comprehensive conceptual framework which might be useful for empirical studies.

Anne-Kathrin Krug, Jakob Graf: Luxemburg and Gramsci’s Theory of organization today – between an emancipatory approach and non-historical utilization. Big parts of the left refer to Rosa Luxemburg and Antonio Gramsci as two main theorists of organization theory. In this article, we present their thinking towards problems of class consciousness, the activity of the masses, bureaucracy, political parties, parliament and hegemony. We argue that in main regards they complement each other. Finally we figure out how one can use this theoretical approach under today’s different conditions and which problems might appear if we don’t bear in mind such differences.

Alexander Neupert: Partiality and Orientation. The paper deals with the importance of common theoretical positions for cooperation between political forces. Intended is a critique on the idea that mere shared interests are a sufficient foundation for such efforts. Discrepancies between partial interests and a wider orientation are discussed in reference to Rosa Luxemburg and Anton Pannekoek.

Holger Oppenhäuser: Democracy beyond left and right? The new right-wing populism and the ambivalences of direct democracy. Starting point of the article is a right-wing populist campaign against the European Stability Mechanism (ESM) in Germany, which lead to the foundation of the party „Alternative für Deutschland“ (AfD). Initially the actors of this campaign, their general criticism of the EU, their narrative about the economic crises and
their social basis are analysed. But the right-wing populists were also part of a broader coalition in civil society, which called for direct democracy in general and a referendum on the ESM in particular. Therefore the second part of the article analyses the underlying concept of democracy and shows why neoliberals and national-conservatives opt more and more for direct democracy. These issues point to ambivalences of direct democracy, which should not be overlooked by leftists.

**Thomas Wagner. Citizen’s protest in the cooperation trap.** Private Companies as well as public administration offer more and more possibilities to citizens to participate in the planning and execution process of big projects. Often this is a form to neutralize protest and to implement new forms of domination.

**Alex Demirović: No time left.** His recently published book on the economic crisis Wolfgang Streeck, one of the advisors of the former chancellor Gerhard Schröder, is a harsh critique of the trajectory of economic policies parties in Germany followed since the late sixties. The article discusses the arguments and proves the contradictions in Streeck’s approach. Streeck argues that mass support of the welfare state capitalism in the early seventies eroded. Capital withdrew its trust in democratic capitalism as the compromise between social classes. Thus an unexpected crisis of legitimation began. The state under the leading role of social democratic parties started with measures to ensure the loyalty of the working class but failed in a specific way. Crisis management led to crises on a higher level. Streeck’s approach claims to be critical. But nevertheless it doesn’t draw the necessary consequences, i.e. a critique of the social democracy that finally turns out to fail as a project: crisis management leads to the recent crisis of the EU and the monetary union. His recommendations: to go back to the ruins of the welfare state are not convincing. The book shows that social democracy confronted with the results of its own policies is perplexed.

**Jannis Milios, Dimitris Sotiropoulos. The Eurozone: Crisis as chance for the capitalist attack.** The article criticizes the usual narrative, that the indebtedness of the southern countries of EU is the result of reckless borrowing, exaggerated consumption and productive weakness. It is shown how current account imbalances worked for some years as an accommodation process. However, the Euro is not just a currency, it is a “mechanism” to impose capitalist power, to force permanent processes of restructuring labour. The contemporary crisis of the Euro is not just the outcome of a wrong policy, it is a process of capitalist attack in class struggle.

**Albert Scherr: Open Borders? Migration Regimes and the Problems of a Critique of Nationalism.** Nation-state based migration regimes have often fatal consequences. Their justification presupposes the superiority of nationally designed interests in relation to the needs and the human rights of migrants. As a result the legitimization of migration regimes is called into question, and open borders are reclaimed. In this paper positions are discussed which nevertheless try to justify the necessity of nation states and their migration regimes. Against this background it is argued that it is required to develop a critical perspective which avoids the apparent alternative, open borders or justification of existing migration regimes.
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