

Alex Demirović: The tiger's leap. Considerations in defense of the presence. Modernity establishes an orientation towards the future and is expecting all solutions from forthcoming times. Arguing against Hegel and referring to Walter Benjamin's concept of now-time the article argues for a radical immanence and defends a re-orientation (also in left politics) towards the presence.

Fabian Georgi: Contradictions in the 'Long Summer of Migration'. Outlines of a Materialist Border Regime Analysis. Today, the analysis of migration and migration policy from a perspective of critical political economy is necessary, because of the dramatic conflicts surrounding the so-called "refugee crisis" of 2015/2016, but also because explicitly materialist analyses of these issues have been marginalized for years, with problematic effects. Thus, the article sketches a theoretical and methodological outline of a materialist border regime analysis. It first criticizes problematic aspects of the influential "ethnographic border regime analysis" approach and then, by relying on regulation theory, develops a materialist understanding of migration and border regimes. Starting from a discussion of the social and political conflicts around German migration policy in 2015/2016, the article then goes on to identify three migration-related structural contradictions that are regulated within migration and border regimes: accumulation by dispossession and the autonomy of migration; labour conflicts; and the structural chauvinism of national welfare states.

Silke van Dyk and Elène Misbach: The political economy of volunteering. Refugee policy and civic engagement in contemporary capitalism. Starting out from the huge movement of aid to refugees in Germany, the article deals with the political economy of volunteering within its wider socio-economic and political context. The authors ask in how far civic engagement and volunteer involvement are not just appreciated as part of the new "Willkommenskultur" ('welcome culture'), but explicitly exploited and co-opted as a productive resource in the context of welfare state cutbacks. The social and economic implications of the political economy of volunteering are discussed, i.e. the status of social rights in contrast to charitable help, the professionalism and quality of services being provided by (non-trained) volunteers as well as the hierarchical interdependence between volunteers and refugees. At the same time, we take the specifics of the field "aid to refugees" into account since the anti-racist appeal of volunteers' engagement should not be underestimated in times of new right-wing populist forces. The article finally deals with the question in how far practices of politically explicit "recalcitrant civic engagement" might prevent the co-optation and exploitation of volunteer involvement in contemporary capitalism with its restrictive border regime.

Sebastian Mui: Aid between deterrent and profit. Conflicting interests of social work in refugee shelters of for-profit organisations in Berlin. With the recent influx of asylum seekers, also the number of refugee shelters in Berlin has risen over the past year. On the one hand, the installation of new facilities was a necessary measure to avoid homelessness. On the other hand, putting refugees into camps and group facilities has been an integral part of the restrictive asylum policy aiming at deterrence. Many of these refugee camps are run as a lucrative business by private companies. Social workers working in these camps, employed by the enterprises and paid by the state, act in an institutional context that is full of contradictions and conflicting interests. Their own aspiration to 'help' and serve the idea of 'human rights' can clash with requirements of control and restriction. Social Workers'

possibilities to reject such unwanted functionalization are limited, because of their institutional dependence, the prevailing legal regulations and their weak representation of interests, among other factors.

Karin Scherschel: Citizenship by work? Labor market policy in the protection of refugees between opening and selection: The paper discusses current changes of the German labor market for certain groups of refugees. On the one hand, we can observe a partial opening of the labor market. Especially the economy welcomes the idea of opening the labor market for refugees. On the other hand, this policy establishes a perspective that puts a strong emphasis on economical benefits, even in the field of refugee protection. This policy is inconsistent with the idea of human rights, which state a right to work. Some researchers argue that the access to the labor market will be a chance to get citizenship rights. In contrast to this view, I argue that the focus on labor market participation leads to a classification of 'good' and 'bad' refugees. At the same time, the partial opening is a gateway for 'activation policies' with different sanctions intervening into the refugee protection system.

Dorothea Schmidt: Germany's arms exports policy – Arms transfers fuel wars and force people to flee. The laws regulating the exports of arms are relatively strong in Germany. But in practice, until today all German governments, irrespective of their political affiliation, have only made weak efforts to enforce the compliance of laws and regulations and hardly any attempts to close loopholes like the uncontrolled licensed production in other countries. This is why German arms, especially small arms like machine guns from Heckler & Koch, are not only used by government agencies to which they have been officially delivered, but also, often as a result of a blowback effect, by their opponents, e.g. ISIS militia groups. The article retraces the transfer of arms to Iraq, Afghanistan, and Syria in the last decades and argues that this has contributed to the prolongation and brutalization of the wars in these countries. Hence, the German export of arms must also be seen as a major factor for the ongoing migration of refugees to Europe. Finally, this raises the question, if there are tendencies to stop or at least to reduce the fatal exports.

Angela Schweizer: The economy of the land-in-between: informal occupations of undocumented sub-Saharan migrants in Northern Morocco. The following article is based on my fieldwork in Morocco and represents anthropological data collected amongst undocumented sub-Saharan migrants in Morocco. They want to enter Europe in search for a better life for themselves and to provide financial support for their families. Due to heavy border security control and repression, they find themselves trapped at the gates of Europe, where they are trying to survive by engaging in various economic activities in the informal sector. The article begins with an overview of the European migration politics in Africa and the geopolitical and historical context of Morocco, in light of the externalization of European border control. I will then analyze the various economic sectors, in which sub-Saharan migrations are active, as well as smuggling networks, informal camps and remittances, on which they largely depend due to the exclusion from the national job market.

Felix Syrovatka: France begins to move! France is in motion! In spring 2016, a huge movement against the French labor law reform formed and is since then protesting in the streets and squares all over France. The article examines these struggles and asks, why the movement is currently on the rise. It discusses the struggles in relation to the general crisis dynamics and focuses on the protests of trade unions and civil society (Nuit Debout). Furthermore, the labor law reform of the Valls-Government is being illustrated in the context of the recent French labor market policy and its continuities.

Aaron Tauss: Venezuela: The crisis of the “Bolivarian Revolution”. Three years after the death of Hugo Chávez, the “Bolivarian Revolution” in Venezuela has plunged into the deepest crisis in its 17-year history. After winning a two-third majority of Congress in the parliamentary elections late last year, the country’s right-wing opposition is now pushing for the ouster of President Nicolás Maduro via a recall referendum. The main reason for the election results is Venezuela’s deepening socio-economic crisis. Hyperinflation, food shortages, water-supply problems, electricity rationing and rising crime make everyday life increasingly burdensome for the majority of the population. The article argues that Venezuela’s two main economic problems – hyperinflation and shortages - need to be analyzed against the backdrop of the deepening of the extractive and export-oriented model of accumulation under Chavismo, the failure to develop an alternative, non-capitalist economy and the ongoing political destabilization campaign launched by the country’s oligarchy and its international allies.

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