

Summaries

Peter Jehle: Don Quijote's Act of Emancipatory Interpretation

Although Don Quijote's illusionary understanding of the world as formed by chivalric romance gets him into trouble time and again, it also enables him to pursue his own social mission in a consequent manner. His particular interpretation neutralizes the contradictions between the good intentions of his actions and their results, but also fails increasingly as he meets people who already know his story. When others act as if the world of the errant knight were still in good standing, his own world begins to tumble down. Upon receiving the Cervantes Prize, Juan Goytisolo gave a speech in which he praises the mad Don Quijote as a role model. Only those who can consider the fences of Melilla to be a fortress will not refuse refugees their solidarity.

Erich Hackl: Circumstances that Cannot be Made Up. History and Literature in two Novels by Robert Streibel and Edgardo Cozarinsky

The article discusses two recently published novels, contrasting them with respect to how they translate historical material into literature. While Robert Streibel's *April in Stein* deals with the massacre of captured partisan fighters by the Nazis during the last weeks of the Second World War, Edgardo Cozarinsky's *Lejos de dónde* tells the story of a female Auschwitz-accomplice who is mistaken as a Shoah-survivor by her son who subsequently begins to retrace her supposed Jewish roots. Whereas Streibel's novel benefits from his intimate knowledge of the historical material, becoming both fiction and true, Cozarinsky fails in attempting to make up circumstances that should not be made up.

Frank Voigt: Walter Benjamin's Studies of *Die Neue Zeit*

The article introduces and discusses 220 excerpts taken by Walter Benjamin from the Marxist journal, *Die Neue Zeit* (1883–1923). Benjamin studied the journal and categorized the excerpts during the summer and fall of 1934 while visiting Berthold Brecht in Svendborg. By retracing his engagement with the journal, the article brings together Benjamin's historical materialism, his reflections on the education of the working class and his conception of the intellectual. In light of this material, the article shows the development of Benjamin's historical materialism in the programmatic essay, *Eduard Fuchs, Collector and Historian*. Against a fetishized concept of culture, the construction of the work's previous history on the basis of the reception of art and science is a precondition for the division of the work; it enables distinguishing critical elements from aspects that contributed to a catastrophic course of history.

Robert Cohen: Sum of the Exile – On the Collection of Letters to Brecht during the Exile Years

The 2000 pages of this collection contain more than 1500 letters written to Brecht between 1933 and 1949. The letter writers include friends, colleagues and comrades, lovers and publishers and theater people, the topics range from intimate love letters

and worries about lack of money, lack of papers and attempts to get out of Europe, to ideological disputes, anxieties about Nazi Anti-Semitism, the Stalinist evolution of the Soviet Union, and the war. Later letters convey the postwar reality of a Germany in ruins. This unique collection contains the totality of the exile experience. Rather than trying to turn its disparate themes and topics into a coherent narrative this essay introduces them in non-systematic and fragmentary fashion.

Jost Hermand: From Text to Pictures. Heiner Müller's »sublimated« Utopia

Heiner Müller's life as a playwright in the GDR was remarkable in many ways. The article retraces his early works and his belief in socialism that is reflected in his dramas. It then reflects on changes in his work, especially the move from text to pictures. Despite his various attitudes towards the political system he lived in, Müller kept, negated and lifted (sublimated) his utopia.

Stephan Krüger: Thomas Piketty: An Important Contribution to the Political Economy, but no Follow-Up to Marx' *Capital*

Piketty's *Capital in the 21st Century* is reviewed with attention to three aspects: i) his theory of capital accumulation with its general formula $r \gg g$; ii) his statistical analysis of increasing inequalities in income and wealth distribution in modern capitalist societies, iii) his political proposals for a ›good society‹ via tax regulations (in particular international wealth taxes) and a new organization of the welfare state. Although the article discusses the weak points in Piketty's theory of accumulation, his detailed picture of distribution of income and wealth during the last 200 years is applauded. Piketty's political suggestions are limited to the sphere of distribution and do not take into account the necessity to transform production relations. As a result, his book is an important contribution to modern theory of political economy, but not a follow up to Marx's *Capital*.

Luz Gómez García: »Why do the Muslims Hate Us?« Jihadism and the West

Departing from the attacks on the satirical magazine, *Charlie Hebdo* and the Jewish supermarkets in Paris, the author critically deals with the typical perspectives on Islamism and Jihadism. As the article emphasizes, the murders were not committed by ›oriental‹ religious fanatics but by young French men. Their acts are analyzed as violence with particular European roots: The colonization of the Arab World and Anti-Islamism which is nothing more than a form of racism.

Buchhandlungen, die das Argument-Verlagsprogramm führen

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