

Summaries

Mehmet Can Dinçer: Central Europe under German Leadership. On the Question of Continuity in German History

100 years after World War I, a unified Germany has reached a position which is reminiscent of the Kaiserreich's central war aim: »Mitteleuropa unter deutscher Führung«. Calling for »Weltpolitik« and blaming Russia is in vogue again, just as denying the main responsibility for the outbreak of the Great War and Europeanizing the war guilt have been. Considering the socio-economic basis of the Second Reich, this essay highlights Germany's first ideological attempts to speak in the name of »Europe« and »peace« while acting in a contrary manner. It thus illuminates ties to the strategy of revolutionizing Ukraine as well as to the Armenian genocide.

Detlef Kannapin: International Capital Worries about the Euro-Asiatic Frontline. On Nationality Policies in Late Imperialism – The Example Russia-Ukraine

The main problem of Russian-Ukrainian antagonism is rooted in late imperialist constellations. The decline of the former Soviet Union and the disintegration of the constituent republics pose a potential security hazard around the Russian Federation. Global capitalism is not able to resolve the international conflicts, because this is prevented by the fundamental contradiction of the basic system. The example Russia-Ukraine is paradigmatic of current nationality policies in late capitalism because the implicit cooperation based on peaceful mutual respect is being recklessly destroyed, and the foreseeable consequences are being allowed to proceed in their destructive dynamics.

Werner Röhr: Debating War Guilt. New Publications a Hundred Years after the Unleashing of World War I

Based on the debate on war guilt that has been held since 1914, the article evaluates a number of current works on the history of WWI, primarily books that have been published in German in the course of a media campaign accompanying the centenary. It recognizes writings that review the historical backgrounds of the war in a scientific and holistic manner (e.g. Jörn Leonhard). Other works (such as Christopher Clark's or Herfried Münkler's) are reviewed critically, for they aim at exculpating Germany's responsibility in this war, thus performing historical revisionism.

Frigga Haug: »Not Abandoning the Fatherland ...« Rosa Luxemburg's Anti-War Politics

The article focuses on Rosa Luxemburg's analyses of World War I, in which she demonstrates the balances of power among the capitals involved in the struggle for colonies. She illuminates their fight of each against the other up to the point at which – with Germany becoming the new focal point – war is the only option left. This kind of historiography dwarfs other newly published readings of historians that aim at the

question of guilt. For the aims of Luxemburg's daily politics the struggle for nation and national identity becomes central in order to establish effective anti-war politics among the people.

Gabriele Dietrich: Caste-Democracy. Perry Anderson on India

Anderson ruthlessly dismantles Nehruism and Gandhism in India, and points out links between the caste system, religion, and democracy, but he underestimates the fascist potential of the Indian People's Party (BJP). He rightly criticizes the disastrous functioning of the electoral system, which is in urgent need of reform. Although, being a Marxist, he ignores contemporary social movements and the historiography of the Indian Left. Furthermore, he disregards ecological questions. – Nevertheless he has caused a lot of debate, which is welcome.

Robert Cohen: Individual Tragedies and the Process of History. On the Exchange of Prison Letters between Antonio Gramsci and Tatjana Schucht

Gramsci's sister-in-law Tatjana – rather than his wife Giulia – is his key contact during his prison years. Their extensive exchange of letters reveals as much about Tatjana's untiring efforts to keep and support him as they do about Gramsci's struggle to hold on to his intellectual faculties in the face of his deteriorating health. While Gramsci's work on the notebooks is not at the center of the letters they are the site of complex reflections on topics from Dante to Psychology and Judaism. As revealed in these pages, Gramsci's and Tatjana's tale of courage and suffering is representative of the fate of countless communists who have remained nameless.

Wulf D. Hund: Crusoe's Crusade. Marginalia to the War against the Devil in Daniel Defoe

»Robinson Crusoe« is a sneaky bestseller. The clever naming of its hero encompasses the pursuit of profit (»Kreutzer«), hegemonic cultural pretensions (»cross«), and oppressive claims to power (»cruiser«). The three volumes of the novel, superficially arranged as an adventure story, clandestinely promote European colonialism, Christian ascendancy, and white supremacy. Their message disguises slavery and genocide with the veil of a supposedly civilizing mission, and results in the call for a new Holy War (»crusade«). Against this backdrop, the political economy of the robinsonade turns out to be the exploratory and exploitative world tour of an imperialist strategist.