

Abstracts

■ *Jürgen Jenko: Die Bergarbeiterschaft und der Aufstieg des Anarcho-Syndikalismus im Ruhrgebiet bis 1919*

In the revolutionary period between 1918/19 and 1923/24 the syndicalist movement in Germany obtained social relevance – at least temporarily. In addition to the craftsmen predominating in quantitative terms, the syndicalist movement succeeded in this time period to attract other members and “mass workers” in metal industry and mining. Having laid the foundations for the organisational breakthrough during the strikes of December 1918 in Hamborn, the syndicalists witnessed a massive influx of new members in the entire region in the course of a strike wave the following spring. At the end of the year, the organisation comprised of at least 34.100 miners and was supported by unionists as well as syndicalists until the organisational split in 1920. Most studies on syndicalism still rely on workplace-oriented aspects. For further research, this essay advocates a more profound analysis of the “proletarian lifestyle” in specific Ruhr cities. Additionally, the process of constructing and reformulating a collective identity as well as its social localisation by symbolic and communicative actions is examined. In this framework special attention is given to the gender-based character of syndicalism.

■ *Ulla Plener: Am Beginn der wissenschaftlichen Grundlegung gewerkschaftlichen Wirkens – Theodor Leipart: Aufklärer und Verfechter der Wirtschaftsdemokratie*

Though trade union leader Theodor Leipart is regarded as a key actor in the history of German trade unionism he has not attracted much attention since his death in 1947. Neither trade union historians nor activists have made efforts to reconsider his role in the first half of the 20th century. This article focusses in particular on Leiparts attempts to establish a scientific basis of trade union activism. Starting with an overview on Leiparts ideological background his political ideas and strategies are investigated thoroughly. Furthermore his role as a principal investigator of ideas and practices of the so-called “Wirtschaftsdemokratie” is described more detailed in order to evaluate both trade union and social policy evolution in the 1920s and early 1930s.

■ *Klaus Tenfelde: Gewerkschaft, Wissenschaft, Mitbestimmung. Von der Forschungsstelle für Wirtschaftspolitik des ADGB bis zum WSI in der Hans Böckler-Stiftung – Stationen und Funktionen eines gewerkschaftlichen Think tanks*

Since the 1990's, the role of knowledge and science as incentives of modernization during the 20th century has increasingly become investigated by historians. Seemingly trade unions, and the labour movement as a whole, have not been among the forerunners of such developments. Contrary to this perception, this article analyses efforts of the German trade union

movement to scientifically penetrate the mechanisms of market capitalism long before the foundation of the well-known “Wirtschafts- und Sozialwissenschaftliches Institut” (WSI) on the initiative of Hans Böckler as early as April 1946. It becomes apparent that, on the grounds of a deeply rooted trade union interest in social statistics and legal conditions of work, a network of young economists and social scientists has evolved since the 1920’s that, partially related to some rather open-minded academic institutes, actively reconstructed such efforts on Böckler’s incentive. Thus, the influential WSI rests in a mainstream of “scientification” of politics throughout the 20th century.

■ *Marc von Miquel: Ortskrankenkassen im Dritten Reich*

The German “Allgemeine Ortskrankenkassen” and their self-governing bodies founded in the course of Bismarck’s social legislation in the 1880s generated an acceptable instrument in the process of social and political emancipation of the social democratic labour movement. As institutions within the compulsory health insurance, the “Ortskrankenkassen” were confronted with sanctions and persecutions in the Third Reich that included forcible replacement of the social democratic management and administrative personnel as well as liquidation of the self-administration. So, the “Ortskrankenkassen” were exploited for the benefit of Nazi-welfare-policy. Focusing on Rhineland and Westphalia, the article analyses developments and quantitative dimensions of personnel exchange since 1933. It also illustrates ambivalent usage of the “Ortskrankenkassen” for both Nazi “Rassenhygiene” and the expansion of governmental activities in providing medical care. An outlook on denazification shows the significant impact personnel changes had on the “Ortskrankenkassen” during the first half of the 20th century.

■ *Konrad J. Kuhn: „Entwicklung heisst Befreiung“: Strategien und Protestformen der schweizerischen Dritte-Welt-Bewegung am Symposium der Solidarität 1981*

The study’s aim is to illustrate and analyse in depth the different ways development aid policy was debated and protested against in Switzerland at the beginning of the 1980s, taking the 1981 Symposium of Solidarity as its example. On this occasion 3.000 people and eighty different organisations belonging to the Swiss Third World Movement gathered in the Swiss capital of Berne under the heading “Development Means Liberation”, the motto of an event that defined itself as a “Swiss symposium of solidarity”. The participants ultimately issued a manifesto that harshly criticised Switzerland’s development aid policy of the time and the business activities of major Swiss banks and companies, formulating a number of specific demands aimed at the country’s political leaders. The purpose of the symposium was to define a unique set of new political goals for a dawning decade, as much a critique of old approaches as an expression of hope for a new beginning. For the Swiss Third World Movement the event represented the peak of its impact, mobilising more people than ever before and launching many of the topics that were to define the debates to come. It was the raising of these issues – consciously formulated in a way as to ensure impact on the greatest number of people as well as on adherents of other movements – that ultimately transformed the Third World Movement into an important counterforce within Switzerland’s political landscape.

- *Janosch Steuwer: Eine neue Partei ‚links von der SPD‘. Überlegungen zur Bedeutung nicht-etablierter Kleinparteien im politischen System Nordrhein-Westfalens am Beispiel der WASG und Linkspartei.PDS*

Up to the present day there has been only limited academic interest in small political parties without representation in parliament. The article draws attention to this aspect discussing the role of small political parties in the political system of North Rhine-Westphalia. The institutionalisation of the new party “Die Linke” is considered as a chance to survey small parties, their general function in political systems and their evolution. The article pursues in particular the question if altered political frameworks offer new options for a more effective representation of small parties. Against this background, the paper investigates in detail the changes of PDS and WASG in North Rhine-Westphalia seeking in particular reasons responsible for success and failure. In addition, this analysis assesses the chances for a permanent parliamentary representation of the new party »Die Linke«. The paper concludes with general observations and the deduction that there is no fundamental increase in the importance of small parties.