
Abstracts

Wang Kan: Collective Awakening and Action of Chinese Workers: The 2010 Auto Workers' Strike and its Effects

The article discusses the 2010 strike wave in the Chinese auto industry as a product of the development of labor relations and workers' consciousness following the Chinese market reforms. Through common experiences in the production process and collective actions, Chinese *nongmingong* (peasant workers) have begun to develop a new collective consciousness. It has driven efforts to establish independent worker organizations and reform the official unions and the state labor system. In the short and medium term, the power of the collective actions of Chinese workers can be expected to increase further. A group of labor organizers is in the making.

Peter Birke: Diese merkwürdige, zerklüftete Landschaft: Anmerkungen zur „Stadt in der Revolte“

This article investigates the reception of urban revolts and urban social movements since the 1960s. It discusses the relationship between the longer history of uprisings, their contemporary media coverage and their historiography. It analyses the origins of conflicting interpretations of the meaning and logic of revolts and / or movements established by historians and social scientists in the aftermath of 1968. By proposing that the notion of “non-normative conflict” (Cloward / Piven) could be useful in an analysis of current urban protests, the article examines the ambivalence of slogans used by the “Right to the City”-movement. In particular, it examines the centrality and the limitations of the concept of “gentrification” as used both within the critical scientific community and the mainstream of urban social movements.

Emiliana Armano: Notes on Some Features of Knowledge Work: A Social Inquiry Into Knowledge Workers in Turin

The article summarises the findings of an empirical investigation into the connection between precariousness and innovation, based on interviews with “knowledge workers” in Turin. It offers an interpretation of the city’s transition from a place oriented to the production of durable goods to a factory for creative and cultural industries and services. The interviewees’ narratives revolve around the informal nature of their work relations, which prove crucial for an understanding of their individual life-stories. The informality of these relations is ambivalent. On the one hand, it can be seen as a new way of building a career, associated with a wealth of social relations and possibilities. On the other hand, informality also means individualisation, risk, constant change, and the threat of losing the positions one has attained. Thus the interviews illustrate a compulsive coercive sociality, within which the norm is to remain within the network. Being in the network, an informal area of temporary roles with temporary rights and duties, seems to be the only way to not be excluded from everything: access to contracts / projects, income, identity.

Tobias Mullet: Coyotismus: Die konstituierende Kraft der Flucht. Anmerkungen zu *Escape Routes*

The author reviews and discusses the book *Escape Routes* by Dimitris Papadopoulos, Niamh Stephenson and Vassilis Tsianos, indicating its innovative and original interpretation of the genesis and dynamics of social transformation: rebellions start from the “autonomy” of migrants’ movements, taking their cue from everyday experiences that can be described in terms of an “imperceptible politics”.

Gregor Kritidis: Die Demokratie in Griechenland zwischen Ende und Wiedergeburt

The Greek revolt of December 2008 marks the end of the political system established after the fall of the dictatorship in 1974. But the collapse of Greece's economic base only began in the spring of 2010, when the government was forced to admit that the public debt was higher than previously claimed. The credit provided by the states of the Eurozone and the IMF was coupled with strict austerity measures that led Greece into a general economic, social and political crisis. On 25 May 2011, following a range of local strikes and revolts in 2010, people squatted central squares in cities all over Greece, following the example of Tunisia, Egypt and Spain. After six weeks of mass protest, the Greek prime minister was on the point of resigning, but remained in office due to the intervention of the French and German governments. Since then, the government's political power has remained precarious, and a new mass mobilisation is to be expected.

Karl Heinz Roth: Griechenland und die Euro-Krise

The prehistory of the Greek euro crisis goes back to the 1980s, when Greece became a member of what was then the European Community. What proved decisive, however, was Greece's 2001 entry into the eurozone, for it eliminated the option of compensating for Greece's developmental lag vis-à-vis the European core states by devaluing the drachma. The subsequent boom in infrastructural investment coincided with the development of an increasingly unfavourable balance of payments and the deterioration of foreign trade. This unbalanced development was rendered openly visible by the world economic crisis of 2008/2009. Greece entered a recession that has continued to worsen to this day, and which has been accompanied by the accumulation of a massive public debt. Since May of 2010, Greece has been forcibly administrated by the so-called troika (the EU Commission, the European Central Bank

and the International Monetary Fund). In this way, Greece's bankruptcy has been – and continues to be – postponed until its effects on the eurozone and the world economy can be softened by the introduction of new containment instruments.

Kristin Carls / Dario Iamele: *Stop that train* – Entwicklung und Aktualität der No-TAV-Bewegung gegen die Hochgeschwindigkeitstrasse Turin–Lyon

For almost 20 years, the inhabitants of Italy's Susa Valley have resisted the construction of the TAV, a high-speed railway line meant to connect Turin and Lyon, Italy and France. Ecological and health concerns lay at the origin of the protest movement, as the projected construction activities would heavily impact an Alpine valley already marred by several expressways and industrial sites; moreover, the valley already disposes of an (underused) long-distance railway line. The movement has however gone beyond ecological and health concerns, critically addressing the management of large infrastructural projects and the economic interests behind them. The central issue has become that of reappropriating the territory as a public good, i.e. disposing of and deciding over territorial development and people's future. The article discusses the recent evolution of the No-TAV movement with reference to the summer of 2011, analyses the movement's specific features and future prospects and discusses its general relevance to other social movements in contemporary Italy.

Manal Tibe: Notes on the Situation in Egypt Since Mubarak's Resignation

The article discusses the situation in Egypt since the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF) assumed power following the resignation of former president Mubarak. SCAF rule has proven disappointing to the protest movement that ousted Mubarak. The SCAF has been slow in holding former officials accountable

for their crimes, it has imposed a number of restrictions on civil liberties and there are fears that it is working to establish itself as the country's long-term government or at least institute a president with a military background. The article also discusses the situation of human rights organizations in Egypt and possible future scenarios.

Gisela Notz: Soziale und politische Gleichberechtigung für alle Frauen. Zur hundertjährigen Geschichte des Internationalen Frauentags in Deutschland

Since its introduction in the years before the First World War, the International Women's Day became a day to fight for women's rights, against war, exploitation and disenfranchisement. During the years that followed, the "Women's Day Movement" experienced progress and setbacks, success and defeat. Sometimes the festivities and demonstrations were declared illegal, sometimes they were placidly accepted and sometimes they were organised by the government. This article sketches the history of the Women's Day in 20th century Germany and offers an analysis of its shifting political implications, both on the local and on the transnational level.

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