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This article examines the history of the professional law journal Rote Robe during the first phase of its publication, 1970–1976. The journal functioned as an intermediary between the movements arising from ‘1968’ and the legal profession. It continued to play this role when the Communist League of West Germany (KBW) increasingly brought its ideological positions to bear on the contents of the journal. Transcending the divides in the political spectrum of the left, it served as a professional forum covering developments in the politics of criminal justice, the prosecution of political activists, and repression against defence lawyers in politically charged criminal proceedings, including the so-called Berufsverbote under the 1972 Anti-Radical Decree. The journal thus made a major contribution to the analysis of legal developments in 1970s West Germany.

Detlef Siegfried, Westeuropäische Reaktionen auf das Apartheid-System in Südafrika. Eine Skizze

This article highlights the questions of how western European societies perceived the South African apartheid system and how these perceptions influenced changes within these societies between the 1950s and the 1990s. It proposes to investigate themes of contemporary importance – such as consumer ethics, the rise of the global media and the development of ‘global justice movements’ – by focusing on the perception of apartheid. What was the global impact of apartheid in the fields of politics, economics, media and travel,
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and how did apartheid come to be viewed and discussed in an increasingly coherent manner throughout these fields?

Silvia Federici / Max Henninger, “We are witnessing the end of an era.” A conversation about pauperization and the Occupy movement in the USA

This interview features discussion of the ongoing processes of pauperization in the USA, the emergence and development of “Occupy Wall Street” in New York City, the spread of the Occupy movement throughout the USA and the relationship between Occupy and contemporary protest movements in other parts of the world.

The Free Association, Let England Shake

This article discusses the resurgence of militant anti-capitalist protest in the UK in 2010 and 2011. The November 2010 ‘Millbank riots’ in London are analysed as heralding a broader return of militant protest, reaching a first climax in the major urban riots of August 2011. The resurgence of militant protest is placed in the context of larger social and economic developments. The outbreak of the 2007/08 economic crisis is analysed as an important caesura, marking the end of a ‘neoliberal deal’ that was based both on the temporal displacement of antagonism through the mechanism of credit and on mechanisms of spatial or geographical displacement (‘globalisation’).

Kristin Carls, Krise und Bewegung in Italien – Die Stille vor dem Sturm?

Italy has been severely impacted by the world economic crisis, and the government of Mario Monti has begun to implement far-reaching austerity measures, including tax hikes, cuts to social spending and a range of legal reforms that significantly aggravate the precariousness of employment relations. But while there have been a number of local labour conflicts, a broad anti-austerity movement has
yet to emerge. The article discusses a number of recent and ongoing protest movements and the challenges they face.