

## Abstracts

### **Bert Altena, Anarchism as a Social Movement, 1870–1914**

The history of anarchism displays an alternation of activity and disappearance. This article argues that actually there are two different patterns, one short-lived and the other having a much slower pace. Both patterns differ as to causes of disappearance and reasons for revival. According to modern social movement theory, anarchism with its weak organizational structure should have disappeared long ago. Therefore, this article tries to explain the staying power of anarchism. It highlights the importance of the individual anarchists, their networks and the flexibility of the anarchist groups. Anarchist culture plays a key role by nurturing an anarchist lifestyle and keeping the movement attractive to new adherents. Social movement theory is of limited value when analyzing anarchism. Identity theories fail to capture it as a social movement and other social movement theories stay too much within existing political structures and / or focus on single-issue movements.

### **Ralf Ruckus, „Der amerikanische Traum für zwei Euro pro Stunde“ – Zum Arbeiterkampf bei Amazon in Polen**

In the past few years, the global online trader Amazon has expanded its logistics network to Eastern Europe. The article describes the work organization and working conditions in the Amazon warehouse in Poznan, Poland, as well as the dual labor force system of directly employed and temporary agency workers and

the workers' organizing efforts and struggles. Since the warehouse in Poznan is serving the German market, workers established contacts to Amazon workers in Germany who have been involved in strikes since 2013. During one of those strikes in German Amazon warehouses in June 2015, workers in the Poznan warehouse organized a slowdown to avoid being used as strike breakers—a rare case of direct solidarity “across the border.” The article ends with a list of challenges for the organized workers: continuing attacks by the Amazon management, different interests of directly employed and temporary agency workers, exhaustion among the shift workers, and the question whether wildcat actions are more effective than those along the lines of the official collective bargaining process.

## **Helmut Dietrich, Das Jahr V der arabischen Revolution – Beispiel Tunesien**

It is time to take stock: how far-reaching are the changes prompted by the Arabellion? What historiographical and socio-geographical changes of perspective are needed to grasp the ongoing societal transformation in the Mediterranean region? Can flight and immigration to Europe be understood as part of a larger rebellious de-campment? What role does violence play within the contradictory self-activity of society? On the basis of these questions, one can outline a contemporary history that is no longer characterized by “revolt as a form of negotiation,” but rather by a widening rift between society and the state. The Tunisian example is used to show how the architecture of the state and the austerity policies of the IMF, while displaying a certain continuity, have lost their social foundation. The collapse of the coast guard, the breakdown of the informer network, and the participation of the lower middle classes in the poverty-driven 2011 revolt are indicative of this. With the “war on terror,” a new structure of domination is emerging. The middle-class adolescents flocking to the “Islamic State” seek to

gain control over the fluctuating groups of social rebels, jihadists, and militias. The instruments employed by the “Islamic State” derive from the Iraqi intelligence agency and the young high-tech community.

### **Ralf Ruckus, Chinese Capitalism in Crisis. Part 1: Zhang Lu on exploitation and workers’ struggle in China’s auto industry**

China’s automobile industry is the biggest world-wide. It has seen a wave of workers’ struggles, and above all, a strike wave in 2010. In her book *Inside China’s Automobile Factories. The Politics of Labor and Worker Resistance* (2015), author Zhang Lu gives a detailed account of the development of the industry, the work organization and working conditions, the dual labor force system, and the grievances and struggles of formal as well as temporary workers—struggles that are organized without unions. Ralf Ruckus’ discussion of the book is followed by an interview with the author conducted in Cologne in December 2015.

### **Wolfgang Hien, Wege aus der neoliberalen Logik: Zwei Texte zur Debatte gesellschaftlicher Alternativen**

In this paper, two books published in 2014 in the ambit of the Vienna journal *grundrisse* are discussed: *Von der 68er Bewegung zum Pyrrhussieg des Neoliberalismus* by Karl Reitter and *Lob des Kommunismus 2.0* by Martin Birkner. Both books share a concern with finding ways to overcome capitalist society. Although the books differ on some specific issues, they also complement one another in their sketches of solidarity-economic perspectives such as an unconditional basic income, a radical reduction of working time, and forms of production of the commons.

## **Autorinnen und Autoren / Contributors**

*Bert Altena*, Erasmus University Rotterdam (retired in 2014). Research focus on the history of social movements with special attention to the history of anarchism.

*Helmut Dietrich*, perennial work stays in Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco; research on the situation of refugees and youth in North Africa and the Mediterranean.

*Wolfgang Hien*, Dr., Research Office on Work, Health, and Biography, Bremen; University of Bremen.

*Ralf Ruckus* writes and publishes texts on social struggles.