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## Abstracts

### **Detlef Siegfried: „1968“ – eine Kulturrevolution?**

Focusing mainly on West Germany, this article proposes analyzing “1968” as a “cultural revolution”. “1968” is considered as the culmination and radicalization of developments characteristic of the “long 1960s”. While the long term consequences of “1968” – material prosperity, mass consumption and individualization – were ambivalent, the positive effects – improved living conditions, greater spare time and superior education, as well as politicization – prevailed and contributed to West German society overcoming many of its more problematic traditions. Activities from below, particularly those of students and youth subcultures, played an important role in this. “1968” should therefore be defended. Attempts to transform the economic and political system failed, but the cultural revolution realized many of the ideas associated with “1968”.

### **Stephan Moebius: Intellektuellensoziologie – Skizze zu einer Methodologie**

The article presents a systematic sociological methodology for the analysis of intellectuals and / or intellectual groups, discussing the main issues in classic and contemporary scientific research into intellectuals. The methodology is grounded on the distinction between social and cognitive dimensions and focuses on the analysis of discourse, as well as on the historical analysis of social, political and cultural legacies.

## **Laurent Mucchielli: Urbane Aufstände im heutigen Frankreich**

The phenomenon of urban rioting reappeared in France during the late 1970s. It became a recurring phenomenon during the 1990s and proliferated in an unprecedented manner in the fall of 2005. Urban riots have consistently been triggered by the death of one or more young men in the course of a police operation. The article proposes a synthesis of recent French research into the phenomenon and attempts to formulate an overarching interpretation that integrates economic, social and political aspects. The article emphasizes the processes of ghettoization evident in France, the failures of state regulation and the absence of any organization or other political body that adequately represents France's urban poor. The French riots are interpreted as an "elementary form of political contestation".

## **Robert Foltin: Die Proteste der Studierenden in Österreich**

In October 2009 Austria experienced the rather surprising appearance of a movement of university students. The movement had a number of predecessors, ranging from an expansive squatters' movement to earlier forms of unrest throughout the educational sector, from nurseries to universities. Student occupations of university rooms and buildings spread rapidly following the occupation of the Academy of Fine Arts; within only a few days, the University of Vienna and several other Austrian universities had also been occupied. The movement is characterized by an anti-institutional impetus and the rejection of the politics of representation, as well as by its criticism of sexist tendencies (both within the movement itself and throughout society). In November of 2009, the movement triggered university occupations in Germany and other countries.

## **Karl Heinz Roth: Die globale Krise: Bisheriger Verlauf – Entwicklungstendenzen – Wahrnehmungen und Handlungsmöglichkeiten von unten**

This article is the written version of a series of public statements by the author concerning the recent global economic crisis. Following a short summary of crucial events during the first period of this crisis, the author examines its likely further development, focusing in particular on the possibility that the crisis may lead into a protracted economic depression. The third section of the article considers the crisis “from below” and reflects on how the global working class might respond to the challenge. Local and global self-determination is discussed as a strategic option for the transformation of the capitalist world system.

## **Peter Birke / Max Henninger: Continuum of Struggle – Continuum of Defeat? Six Questions Concerning the Methodology of Peter Linebaugh’s and Marcus Rediker’s Study *The Many-Headed Hydra***

This paper proposes using the next issue of *Social History Online* as a platform for discussing certain aspects of Peter Linebaugh’s and Marcus Rediker’s book *The Many-Headed Hydra: Sailors, Slaves, Commoners, and the Hidden History of the Revolutionary Atlantic* (2000). Linebaugh’s and Rediker’s study, which builds on a quarter century of research into the origins of global capitalism and the history of insurrection in the north Atlantic region, has received an overwhelmingly positive response. Debate on the methodological issues raised by the study has, however, been slow to develop. Questions concerning the identification of historical subjects, the relationship between collective and individual action and the nature of historical continuity and / or rupture merit further discussion.