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## Abstracts

### **Hartmut Rübner, Das Vollzugsorgan des nationalsozialistischen Polizeisystems. Zur Geschichte der Gestapo. Teil 1: Entstehung und Konsolidierung**

The “myth” of the Gestapo as an omniscient agency of terror has been largely refuted recently. The Gestapo was merely a bureaucratic institution equipped with far-reaching powers to take action. Its repressive effectiveness is often explained by the widespread willingness to denounce others in the *Volksgemeinschaft*. In fact, the apparatus functioned as a control, surveillance and persecution network, based on a division of tasks, in which many cooperating official bodies participated and which also made use of information from rival organisations such as the *Sicherheitsdienst* (SD). The article, which describes the process of the Gestapo’s emergence and the independence of the Political Police in the polycratic system of rule under National Socialism, is the first in a series of three parts. The second part will deal with the ideological radicalisation and persecution practice of the State Police as it continued under the auspices of the *Reichssicherheitshauptamt* with the beginning of the war in 1939.

### **Anja Röhl, Kindererholungsheime als Forschungsgegenstand. Erwachsene Zeitzeug\*innenschaft am Beispiel eines Beschwerdebriefes im Adolfinenheim auf Borkum**

From the 1950s to the 1980s, many healthy children were systematically sent away to children’s homes, where they lived apart from their parents for weeks at a time. Only recently, these sent-away children (*Verschickungskinder*), as they call themselves, have begun to publicly share their experiences. In more than 5,000 individual, publicly available reports,

former sent-away children report on the cruel and violent treatment many of them experienced, and on the feelings of helplessness and anxiety that accompanied their stay. This article focuses on one such home, the Adolfinenheim on the island of Borkum, Germany. The article is centered around a letter of complaint, written by three young interns who worked in the home for several weeks, and it describes the circumstances and events they witnessed. Through letters exchanged between stakeholders, the article documents how the reports of these courageous witnesses were initially recognized but then increasingly minimized and dismissed. These letters also show how monetary gain was for many individuals, but also for the entire island of Borkum, a driving force in keeping these children's homes running, even after knowledge of the abusive practices that children residing there were exposed to became widespread. The article closes with statements from former sent-away child witnesses confirming the allegations made by the three interns.

### **Holger Artus, Italienische Militärinternierte in Hamburg. Ein Forschungsbericht**

Following the overthrow of fascist rule in Italy by partisan forces in 1943, more than 650.000 Italian soldiers were categorized as military internees by Nazi Germany in order to circumvent international treaties prohibiting their use as forced labourers. Several thousands of these were forced to work in both private and public companies in Hamburg. Despite more recent Italian High Court sentences granting them a right to compensation, the German state denies them such rights, alleging that rather than being forced labourers they were treated as prisoners of war. The author describes the results of his research on various Hamburg-based companies that used Italian soldiers as forced labourers, civil society activities to commemorate the fate of these labourers and the political responsibilities of companies and politics with regard to the unmet demands made by prisoners and their families.

## **Torsten Bewernitz, Verlagerung der Streikposten. Anmerkungen zu Joshua Clovers *Strike.Riot.Strike*.**

Joshua Clover outlines a theory of riots in his book *Riot.Strike.Riot*. Within the framework of this theory, he declares an end to the era of strikes and the beginning of the era of “Riot Prime.” This article argues against this by arguing, first, that the temporal and spatial sequence is not as clear as Clover implies and, second, that the hypothesis seems plausible only because Clover severely narrows the concept of strike while expanding the concept of riot. Finally, and with reference to the current feminist movement, the article formulates as a counter-hypothesis the assumption of a “feralization” of both types of resistance, of struggles both in the workplace and in the streets.

## **Sergio Bologna, Die Besonderheit der heutigen Krise**

The author, a researcher on global supply chains and logistics, argues that the crisis in global logistics unfolding in 2020/21 can only be understood as one of the *physical internet* exposing a pre-existing, but hidden, fragility of supply chains. Contrary to fears of logistics managers who viewed cyber attacks as the most likely threat, the coronavirus crisis and the ensuing policies of “social distancing” proved that labour, both in production and in services, is the main force impinging on an unaltered flow of goods. While lorry drivers and seafarers were the groups of labourers most affected by the current crisis, the author argues that struggles over wages and working conditions that migrant labourers in logistics have maintained throughout the last decade offer glimpses of hope for a renewed cycle of social struggles.

## **Sergio Bologna, Wir dürfen der extremen Rechten nicht die Idee der Freiheit überlassen!**

The ongoing coronavirus crisis has seen an increasing number of people participating in movements opposed to state measures to curb coronavirus waves in various countries. While these movements are often based

on misinformation, the author holds that the reasons underlying them should be seen in an extremist interpretation of the term “freedom,” as epitomized in former US president Trump’s behaviour. This is an expression of new relations between labour and capital. It is incumbent on the left to wrest away the notion of “freedom” both from such politicians and from capital. Against voices demanding a prohibition of fascist groups following the latest fascist attack on Italian trade unions, the author holds that the left should seek to revalorize ideas such as solidarity and mutualism in order to counter radicalized neoliberal ideas. Referring back to the cycle of factory struggles in the 1970s, the author highlights the critical contribution exponents of that movement made to a critical understanding and implementation of public health policies.

### **Karl Heinz Roth, Die Unterklassen und die Corona-Krise – eine orientierende Skizze der globalen Entwicklung**

The paper presents a short overview of the internal dynamics of the global working class during the coronavirus pandemic. Its four main strata – mass poverty, the working poor, blue-collar workers and white-collar workers – underwent a sharp process of differentiation. Moreover, they developed disproportionately: the strata of mass poverty and the working poor expanded, and the number of blue-collar workers shrank while white-collar workers experienced a new upswing. The social protection programs of the governments turned out to be a flash in the pan.