

Silke van Dyk: Crisis of Facts? On Truth and Falsehood in Politics and the Challenges for Social Criticism. Trump's electoral victory, Brexit, the emergence of the AfD or the strength of right-wing politics in France and Austria indicate a new era of the political in which neo-liberal hegemony is being increasingly challenged from the right. The current shift to the far right goes hand in hand with a new quantity and quality of lies and falsehoods. Consequently, many commentators have diagnosed the emergence of a 'post truth society'. Beginning with an overview of this debate, this article assesses the 'post truth' diagnosis and challenges not only the new dimension of lies but also the truth claims of critics. The article argues that we will not be able to understand the characteristics and perils of the post truth society if we do not address the anti-pluralist and elitist neoliberal technocracy of the recent past. The critique of the liberal critique of Trump & Co. raises the question of what an emancipatory social criticism of far-right falsehoods might look like that does not reaffirm liberal dominance on one side and the resurgence of powerful positivist truth claims on the other.

Tilman Reitz: Critique as Ideology. On the Self-Reflection and Institutional Role of the Academic Left. This contribution discusses recent debates on the adequate form of 'critique' with a meta-critical intention. Since the partisans of academic critique typically fail to account for the effects of their own institutional embeddedness, their methodological reflections neutralize oppositional demands and turn political struggle into a scholastic exercise. In an extension of this analysis, the article aims to show how the academic class over-estimates its potential for bringing about liberating political change, how it falsely generalizes its own conditions of existence, and how it really contributes to the justification of capitalist power structures. The suspicion that recent populist attacks on the 'elite' have a fundament in progressive-liberal coalitions thus finds support in the practice of progressive discourse.

Alex Demirović: Social criticism and Justice. Political parties and social movements activists refer to the notion of justice as founding principle of criticism. Demirović argues that the norm of justice is not able to motivate criticism and action. The norm of justice plays an important role in professional moral philosophy as is the case in the approaches of Martha Nussbaum or John Rawls. The offer arguments for their claims to give people and states a moral perspective. But the claim of universality that is inherent in moral discourses, always fail. The implication is that people who expect moral philosophy to be an advising knowledge become disappointed and perplexed. This is confirmed by the outcome of empirical research on justice among workers. To explain the dilemma of justice – claiming for universality and being particularistic and part of historical state form – the article takes up arguments developed by Marx and Horkheimer on justice as an ideological form.

Emma Dowling, Silke van Dyk & Stefanie Graefe: On Class Politics, the New Right and the Failures of Identity Politics - a Critical Commentary. How to explain the relative success of the AfD in Germany, the presidential election of Donald Trump in the USA, the Brexit vote or the popularity of the Right in France and elsewhere in Europe? Moreover, why did the Left not see this authoritarian turn coming? One prominent suggestion has been that the Left abandoned the white working class, thereby becoming the inadvertent midwife of a right-wing resurgence. Significant blame for this is in turn apportioned to the emergence of 'identity politics'. In this essay, the authors take issue with this line of argumentation and criticise some of the implicit assumptions they consider problematic in current debates on the Left regarding the relationship between gender, race, class and emancipatory politics. They argue

that struggles against both neoliberalism and the New Right require intersectional analyses of contemporary global class relations that do not abandon the important achievements and insights of new and newest social movements.

Michael Heinrich: 150 years of „Capital“ - and No End. Some Remarks on an Infinite Story. This article discusses the conditions of a paradoxical reception of Marx's 'Capital', which rests on a distorted classification of Marx's critique of classical political economy as a last representative of this school. This article reveals some examples of an implicit critique in Marx's arguments and discusses the question of what was really new in Marx's theory of value and capital. Furthermore, the article presents some stereotypical examples of contemporary critiques of Marx and in conclusion sketches the unfinished state of 'Capital' and what we can expect from forthcoming publications in MEGA.

Lukas Egger: That "terrible first section". On Louis Althusser's Critique of the Marxian Theory of Value. This paper reconstructs Louis Althusser's criticism of the first section of Capital and the notion of fetishism. It argues that Marx's theory of value is not properly conceivable on the basis of Althusser's theory of science. Therefore, his rejection of value form analysis and the concept of economic mystification is a logical consequence of his epistemological positions.

Hans-Peter Büttner: Critique of Political Economy in the 21st Century. A Comment on the Recent Debates Regarding the Marxian "Transformation Problem". While the majority of the scientific community holds Marxian Value and Price Theory to be internally inconsistent because of the so-called "transformation problem", these claims can be sufficiently refuted. The key to the solution of the "transformation problem" is quite simple, so this contribution, because it requires the rejection of simultaneism and physicalism, which represent the genuine method of neoclassical economics, a method that is completely incompatible with Marxian Critique of Political Economy. Outside of the iron cage of neoclassical equilibrium economics, Marxian 'Capital' can be reconstructed without neoclassical "pathologies" and offers us a whole new world of analytical tools for a critical theory of capitalist societies and its dynamics.

Andrea Kretschmann/Aldo Legnaro: States of Exception: Towards a Sociology of a Societal Condition. A state of exception seems to be ubiquitous in our days. However, a distinction should be made between the legal form (state of exception in the first order) and the exceptionality of everyday control techniques (state of exception in the second order). An awareness of these varieties of states of exception allows for an analysis of mutual influences and their respective political functionality as a hinge between modern crises and the management of these crises.

Daniel Mullis: The End of Post-democracy, Overcoming Pessimism. In recent years, political and social conditions have changed dramatically. Many analyses help to capture these dynamics. However, they produce political pessimism: on the one hand there is the image of regression and on the other, a direct link is made between socio-economic decline and the rise of the far-right. To counter these aspects, this article argues that current political events are to be understood less as 'regression' but rather as a moment of movement and the return of deep political struggles. Referring to Jacques Rancière's political thought, the current conditions can be captured as the 'end of post-democracy'. This approach changes the perspective on current social dynamics in a productive way. It allows for an emphasis on movement and the recognition of the windows of opportunity for emancipatory struggles.

Felix Syrovatka: The End of the French Political System. How We knew It. The presidential and parliamentary elections were a political earthquake for the French political system. While the two big parties experienced massive losses of political support, the rise of new political formations took place. Emmanuel Macron is not only the youngest president of the V. Republic so far, he is also the first president not to be supported by either one of the two biggest parties. This article argues that the election results are an expression of a deep crisis of representation in France that is rooted in the economic transformations of the 1970s. The article analyses the political situation after the elections and tries to give an outlook on further political developments in France.

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