

Werk

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Abstracts

Antonio Farina, Produktionsverhältnisse und sozialer Konflikt in den Bremer Werften zwischen dem Ersten Weltkrieg und der Räterepublik (1914 – 1919)

This article examines the protest movements of dock workers in Bremen, especially at the AG Weser shipyard, during the First World War and the revolution of 1918/19. It emphasises the dock workers' changing working and living conditions as one fundamental reason for their rebellion, but also hints at the political traditions involved. Wildcat strikes against the wage system had already occurred before the war, in 1910 and 1913. The protests during the period of war and revolution built on this experience. The political approach of the radical left and of the majority of dock workers was also embedded in the social movements of the time; witness the hunger protests of 1915/16 and, finally, the revolution, when the power relations at work were reversed – albeit only for a few weeks.

Michael Fahlbusch, Ein fragwürdiger Philanthrop. Die subversiven Aktivitäten des deutsch-völkischen Stiftungsgründers Toepfer in der Schweiz

In a time of increasingly deficitary public budgets, it becomes the responsibility of private patrons to promote the arts and sciences. Power and prestige play a key role in this development. The article

examines the case of the internationally active grain wholesaler Alfred C. Toepfer alias H.A. Hoffmann (1894–1993) and his network of foundations. Between the 1920s and the 1960s, Toepfer founded various foundations in New York, Amsterdam, Vaduz, Basel, Buenos Aires and German-occupied Eastern Europe. The article inquires into the influence these foundations exerted on Germany's neighbouring states, particularly Switzerland.

Dieter Boris, Nach-Denken über Eric Hobsbawm. Reflexionen über Aspekte seines Werkes

This article reflects on some aspects of E.J. Hobsbawm's work that seem to have been neglected in the numerous obituaries and assessments of his legacy. It also points out some peculiarities of Hobsbawm's texts that contributed to the high esteem in which he was held the world over. Attention is focused neither on Hobsbawm's famous trilogy about the "long 19th century" nor on his equally well-known account of the "age of extremes." Instead, the article reflects on his lifelong interest in "primitive rebels" and his highly original discussion of "nation", "nation-building" and "nationalism," an ever challenging subject for class-oriented Marxist historians. The article then goes on to consider a number of methodological principles evident in Hobsbawm's approach to a materialist social history. Finally, consideration is given to the ways in which Hobsbawm anticipated today's enthusiastically welcomed "global history." Hobsbawm's probing of the interrelationship between past and present always went hand in hand with the impetus to actively participate in politics.