

## Summaries

### **Jürgen Schutte: Pergamon and the Angel of History. Reading the *Aesthetics of Resistance***

Peter Weiss' *Aesthetics of Resistance* is a difficult book, as literary critics have often noted disapprovingly. Many attempts to read the novel end after a few chapters. Taking this fact as a point of departure, Schutte presents the novel as a modern text demanding an observant, almost scientific way of reading. The unique quality of Weiss' prose is bringing together descriptive, self-reflectory techniques with high precision and musicality. The poetic qualities of the text enable a dialectical understanding of historical processes. With this, Peter Weiss is close to Walter Benjamin's *On the Concept of History* whose influence is obvious in the *Aesthetic of Resistance*.

### **Alexander Honold: A Dome Sunken into the Earth. On the Resistance of the Aesthetics in Peter Weiss' work**

The three volumes of Peter Weiss' last novel were published in the 1970s and 1980s as a tremendous manifesto of political and artistic resistance. The opening scene in which the protagonists are confronted with the Gigantomachia of Pergamon already evoke an astonishing new way of historical and bodily representation. »A gigantic wrestling, emerging from the gray wall, recalling a perfection, sinking back into formlessness.« In recalling the struggle against fascism and social oppression, narration passes through the century, much as did Dante in exploring the realms of inferno, purgatorio and paradiso in his *Divina Commedia*. While adapting and transforming that medieval masterpiece for contemporary challenges of resistance, Weiss kept on searching for a turning point in history.

### **Klaus Birnstiel: Iconic scripture. On Peter Weiss' Inter-Medial *Aesthetics of Resistance***

Peter Weiss' seminal trilogy, *The Aesthetics of Resistance* not only attempts to fill certain gaps in the history of the German workers' movement and the legacy of anti-fascist resistance in particular, but also takes on the larger problem of constructing and preserving a decidedly leftist memory. Working against the prohibition of images in leftist theory, Weiss uses ancient myths as an iconic foundation for his own counter-history: critically re-examining the myth of the Gigantomachy as depicted on the Pergamon frieze on display in Berlin, Weiss tells the story of anti-fascist struggle in both mythological and critical terms. It is argued here that this inter-medial arrangement between the iconic and the narrative offers new possibilities for establishing a leftist memory, of special interest in our present, digital and inter-media era.

**Manfred Haiduk: On the Difficulties in Portraying Ones Own History. On the Genesis of the Berlin Edition of the *Aesthetics of Resistance***

In 1983 the Berlin publisher, Henschel, put out the final and authorized edition of Weiss' *Aesthetics of Resistance*. This edition undid some of the stylistic changes carried out in the Suhrkamp edition of the novel. Weiss himself had complained that during public readings he could no longer recognize his own text, referring to this as a literary-historical deprivation of power. In the GDR, on the other hand, two fronts blocked the novel's publication there. First, there were Soviet politics claiming a different narration of historic processes, especially as regards the Moscow Trials. Second, individual people who appear in the novel did not want to be mentioned and certain biographical entanglements should not be revealed. Furthermore, it was the interest of Suhrkamp that their drastic interventions should not become public.

**Lisbet Schulz Contreras: Resistance – A Film on the Bravest People in Europe**

The young Anti-Nazis of the Schulze-Boysen and Harnack groups in Berlin during the Second World War and Peter Weiss novel about them, the *Aesthetics of Resistance*, create hope and courage amidst a darkening Europe. Schulz Contreras writes about the film she is making about these brave Berliners and Peter Weiss' great novel.

**Reading *Aesthetics of Resistance* today. Snapshots from a Reading Circle in Rostock**

The article deals with reports by three contemporary readers of the *Aesthetics of Resistance*. The reports emphasize the difficulties caused by the novel, especially in the first chapters. They also interrogate the current meaning of the book and make their own observations concerning the relationship between art and politics.

**Robert Cohen: A Dream of Dada and Lenin. Peter Weiss' *Trotsky in Exile***

*Trotsky in Exile* (1970), Peter Weiss' most controverted play, was rejected both by East Germany and by the West German left. Discussions centered narrowly on the content – did Trotsky or Lenin have the stronger arguments? how is Stalinist terror depicted? while ignoring all the formal strategies deployed by Weiss that destabilize any definitive meaning. Focusing on its Surrealist-inspired aesthetics and its obsession with illness and altered states, Cohens analysis emphasizes the play as therapeutic for the left's trauma of Stalinism and the eradication of Trotsky from its historiography.

**Werner Schmidt: Socialism as a Working Hypothesis. The Context of Weiss' Work on the *Aesthetics of Resistance***

The article comprises of several excerpts from Werner Schmidt's biography of Peter Weiss. The author focusses on the connection between Weiss' biographical experiences as a committed intellectual and the development of his literary work. The excerpts illuminate the context before and during the writing of *Aesthetics of*

*Resistance*. Schmidt describes reactions on an earlier play (*Trotsky in Exile*, 1970) in the Soviet Union and the GDR. Following these negative reactions to the play Weiss fell into a crisis that led to a physical breakdown which he worked through in his diary, *Rekonvaleszenz* (1970) in which Weiss looks for a reorientation. Schmidt shows how Weiss' critical self-reflection on his own political stance and his artistic development become central motifs in the *Aesthetics of Resistance*.

**Karl Heinz Götze: Forever Young. On Frank Witzel's Novel *The Invention of the Red Army Faction by a Manic Depressive Teenager in the Summer of 1969***

The article is a review of Frank Witzel's long and narratively complex novel, *The Invention of the Red Army Faction by a Manic Depressive Teenager in the Summer of 1969*, that won the German Book Prize in 2015. From the unreliable narrative perspective of a teenager who does not want to grow up, the novel attempts to reconstruct and renegotiate the decades of the 1950s and 1960s in the Federal Republic of Germany.

**Peter Jehle and Jan Loheit: Why the discontent with the term »culture«?**

The »Discontent with culture« that troubles the editors of the book reviewed in this article stems from an inflationary use of the term »culture« that makes »society« increasingly disappear. Cultural thinking based on the categories of identity and difference substitutes critical categories such as politics, solidarity, and emancipation. Most of the articles in this book conclude that the majority of the world's population does not benefit from turning political-economic contradictions into cultural-religious ones.

**Ingar Solty and Alban Werner: The Indiscreet Charme of Left-Wing Populism**

The article is a rebuttal of Albrecht von Lucke's recent critique of left-wing populism. Engaging with left-wing critiques of the strategic notion of populism, Solty and Werner argue that Germany and the Eurozone have entered a populist moment. Drawing on the historic experience with the real-existing European Union during the »battle of Greece«, they make the case for an enlightened European populism from the left. The latter is a means to overcome the dual political and strategic impasses of both the European left-wing technocracy purported by Lucke and others, as well as a fallback on the nation-state in defense of the welfare state as articulated by Wolfgang Streeck and other remaining social democrats.

## Buchhandlungen, die das Argument-Verlagsprogramm führen

Augsburg	Probuch, Gögginger Straße 34 (0821/579173)
Berlin	Argument-Buchladen, Reichenberger Straße 150 (030/611 39 83) Motzbuch, Motzstraße 32 (030/2115958) Schleichers Buchladen, Königin-Luise-Straße 40/41 (030/841902-0) Schwarze Risse, Mehringhof - Gneisenaustraße 2a (030/6928779)
Bielefeld	Eulenspiegel Buchladen, Hagenbruchstraße 7 (0521/175049)
Bremen	Buchladen im Osterort, Fehrfeld 60 (0421/785 28)
Düsseldorf	BiBaBuZe, Aachener Straße 1 (0211/34 00 60)
Erfurt	Buchhandlung Contineo, Magdeburger Allee 90 (0361/7314536)
Essen	Heinrich-Heine-Buchhandlung, Viehofer Platz 8 (0201/820700)
Frankfurt/M	Unibuch, Jügelstraße 1 (069/775082) Karl Marx Buchhandlung, Jordanstraße 11 (069/778807) Herbert Bärsch Nachf. GmbH, Hostatostr./Albanusstr. 29 (069/314032-0)
Freiburg	Jos Fritz, Wilhelmstraße 15 (0761/26877)
Göttingen	Buchladen Rote Straße, Nikolaikirchhof 7 (0551/42128)
Hamburg	Buchhandlung im Schanzenviertel, Schulterblatt 55 (040/4300808) Buchladen in der Osterstraße, Osterstraße 171 (040/4919560) Heinrich Heine Buchhandlung, Grindelallee 26 (040/441133-0)
Hannover	Annabee, Stephanusstraße 12-14 (0511/1318139)
Heidelberg	Buchhandlung Schöbel & Kube, Plöck 65 (06221/26036)
Hildesheim	Amei's Buhecke, Goschenstraße 31 (05121/34441)
Kassel	ABC Buchladen GmbH, Goethestraße 77 (0561/777704)
Kiel	Zapata Buchladen GmbH, Wilhelmplatz 6 (0431/93639)
Köln	Der Andere Buchladen, Weyertal 32 (0221/416325)
Konstanz	Buchladen zur Schwarzen Geiß, Am Obermarkt 12 (07531/15433)
Mainz	Cardabela, Frauenlobstraße 40 (06131/614174)
Marburg	Roter Stern GmbH, Am Grün 28 (0542/24787)
München	Basis-Buchhandlung, Adalbertstraße 41b-43 (089/2723828)
Münster	Buchhandlung Rosta, Aegidiistraße 12 (0251/449026)
Nürnberg	Buchhandlung Libresso, Bauerngasse 14 (0911/225036)
Reutlingen	Jakob Fetzer Buchladen GmbH, Georgenstraße 26 (07121/239080)
Schweiz	Bern Münsterergass Buchhandlung, Münsterergasse 33 (031/3102323)
Österreich	Wien Lhotzkys Literaturbuffet, Taborstraße 28 (0043/1 276 47 36)
Niederlande	Utrecht De Rooie Rat, Oudegracht 65 (031-30-2317189)

## Frauenbuchläden, die das Argument-Frauenprogramm führen

Augsburg	Frauenbuchhandlung Elisara, Schmiedgasse 11 (0821/154303)
Düsseldorf	Buch am Dreieck, Blücherstraße 3 (0211/4644050)
Göttingen	Laura GmbH, Burgstraße 21 (0551/47317)
Idstein	Hexenbuchladen, Obergasse 11 (06126/6437)
Leipzig	Frauenbuchladen Tian, Könnerritzstraße 92 (0341/4797475)
Mannheim	Frauenbuchladen Xanthippe, T3, 4 (0621/21663)
München	Lillemor's Frauenbuchladen, Barerstraße 70 (089/2721205)
Tübingen	Frauenbuchladen Thalestris, Bursagasse 2 (07071/26590)