
Abstracts

Jörg Nowak, Massenstreiks im Bausektor Brasiliens zwischen 2011 und 2014

The pattern of the current strikes in the Brazilian construction industry and the poor working conditions there are familiar to observers: during the early 1980s, the main features of strikes in the construction sector were violent destruction of property by workers (for example, setting fire to infrastructure and security installations) and the quick and brutal response of military police and other state security forces. Another common characteristic was that most large construction sites were (and continue to be) public works, financed by the government. The novelty of the strike wave that began in 2011 is that strikes occurred simultaneously all over the country, starting with 180.000 workers on strike in February and March 2011. The most significant strikes occurred on construction sites associated with the PAC government program. The National Guard, founded by Lula in 2004, and part of the ministry of justice, was used to suppress workers in half a dozen instances, most notably in the strikes at Jirau and Suape, and a 500-strong unit is permanently deployed at the Belo Monte construction site. The strikes are organized by rank-and-file workers and have seen widespread dispersion across the country due to the trans-Brazilian social networks of construction workers. These workers are to a large extent migrant workers, and they use mobile phones and the internet to exchange information. The infrastructure associated with large construction sites (housing, food, transportation, medical facilities, ATMs, etc.) has been improved following the major strike waves in 2011 and 2012 (580.000 and 500.000 construction

workers on strike), but many of the collective contracts are breached by employers, leading to new conflicts. Another source of conflict lies in the management methods used by Asian employers such as the South Korean multinational Posco in Pecém; these employers tend to use excessive physical violence at the workplace and try to undermine strikes by employing Korean construction workers as an (illegal) informal workforce.

Lisa Vollmer, Die Berliner Mieter_innenbewegung zwischen lokalen Konflikten und globalen Widersprüchen

This article takes a closer look at the tenant movement in Berlin. After depicting its development since 2006, the privatization of housing, the financialization of housing, governing through community as a neoliberal mode of governance, and the valorization of urban space through authentication are being discussed as causes of tenants' protest. Thus highly specific local struggles and their global roots are examined. In conclusion, some challenges faced by the movement – challenges relating to forms of organization and action – will be discussed.

Max Henninger, Neues vom kranken Planeten. Zu einem Text aus dem Nachlass Guy Debords

In 1971, one year before the dissolution of the *Situationist International*, Guy Debord wrote a piece for the projected but unrealized thirteenth issue of the group's journal. This piece, *La planète malade* ("The Sick Planet"), published posthumously in 2004, responds critically to the incipient discussion of industrial capitalism's deleterious effects on the ecosystem and insists on the revolutionary overthrow of the commodity economy as the only adequate solution to the environmental crisis. Following a careful

presentation of the arguments formulated in *La planète malade*, Debord's positions are critically compared to what we presently know about anthropogenic climate change, its effects on human societies and the political responses formulated from within today's dominant political institutions. It is argued that in spite of its somewhat dated rhetoric, Debord's analysis has proven remarkably accurate and far-sighted.

Sven Gringmuth, Die Mühlen der Ebene. Walter Mossmanns *Flugblattlieder*

The article focuses on Walter Mossmann's life and work, mainly during the period from the early to the late 1970s. Mossmann was a German left-wing singer-songwriter, film maker, and author. As a former member of the SDS Freiburg (1968), he was strongly influenced by the anti-authoritarian student movement in West Germany. The songwriter- and folk-music culture was closely related to left wing political groups in West Germany in the 1970s. The article explores the songs of Walter Mossmann and their social context. How were they able to have an impact on social movements and political groups during those years, and how strong was that impact? Mossmann died in May 2015.

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