

## Roundtable

### **Lukács 50.** *Heritage, debates and interpretations*

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the death of György Lukács, the *Eszmélet* editorial team has sent a questionnaire to a group of left-wing intellectuals on the world-famous philosopher's turn to Communism. His turn is usually associated – symbolically – with his view expressed in *Tactics and Ethics*, linked to the well-known Hebbel quote: “And if God had placed sin between me and the action assigned to me - who am I to exempt myself from it?”

*Ricardo Antunes, Viktor Arszlanov, Gábor Budai, Antal Kalous, András Kardos, Tamás Krausz, András Lengyel, Michael Löwy, Bence Marosán, Miklós Mesterházi, Rastko Močnik, László Ropolyi, Savvas Michael-Matsas, Péter Szigeti, Ferenc Tallár, Károly Tóth, László Tütő, Raquel Varela – Roberto della Santa, György Wiener.....* 5

## Socialism

John Bellamy Foster: **Lukács and the Tragedy of Revolution.** *Reflections on Tactics and Ethics*

Once it became clear to Lukács in the wake of the October Revolution that revolutionary action was possible, he still had to struggle with the question of whether revolutionary action involving the use of violence was permissible. In the end, he decided that once history had set the agenda for the self-liberation of humanity, man could not exclude himself from the struggle to achieve it, even if that struggle had a violent aspect. For Lukács, taking a stand for a revolutionary worldview was an ethical choice, and the problem of the ethical choice of the social individual is a theme that runs through his later work ..... 55

Alix Bouffard – Alexandre Feron: **Orthodox Marxism or Western Marxism?** *Reception of Lukács in France in the 1940s and 1950s*

Why is the reception of Lukács in France in the 1940s and 1950s still interesting today? It is because his evaluation influenced intellectual-political life with a duality (orthodoxy and/or heresy) which had an impact later on and here too. Some have treated History and Class Consciousness as the secret “Bible” of Western Communism, while others have treated our philosopher who dissented from this work as a partisan Stalinist. Little bothered by the latter, the Communist Lukács, as

a “party-loyal dissident” who did not condemn the Soviet Union, also found a way to communicate his critical views in the form of ideological partisan warfare. The mature Lukács provided a philosophical opportunity to criticise the „Western” Marxist and young Lukács, while the „Western” Marxist helped to expose the existing official orthodoxy..... 72

## Interview

Péter Ádám: **The apostle of self-government.** *Foreword to Yvon Bourdet’s interview with György Lukács*..... 94

Yvon Bourdet: **Last interview with György Lukács**..... 99

„**I am a communist. More than ever.**” *Talk between Erika Lajta and István Szerdahelyi. (Extracts)* ..... 122

**The planetary rift.** *Haris Golemis in conversation with John Bellamy Foster* ..... 137

## Associations

Tamás Bartus: **Big Data as a tool for psychopolitics?**

Our author presents a brief review of the works of philosopher Byung-Chul Han to illustrate one of the possible dangers of digitalisation, which is now being used as a „weapon” by the power and it can be called psychopolitics. In addition to the constant self-optimization and self-exploitation, we now voluntarily expose ourselves to power, thus perfecting the Benthamian panopticon, no longer dominating our bodies but allowing us to see into the most hidden corners of our psyche, and power will be able to calculate our actions before our reflections. Moreover, Big Data will make the Big Deal a reality, where the individual is reduced to a number and becomes a commodity ..... 157

Gyula Bujdosó: **National population policy in the grip of nationalism and pronatalist ideology**

The author points out that the modern national community and the conservative family model have not always been self-evident categories, and that science has no use for the concept of „race”. Yet these ideologies are the basis of our pronatalist population policy. Under the pressure of nationalist hegemony, we are abandoning a rational solution to the Hungarian population problem. However, increasing the birth rates and the nationalist ethos and ideology will not be able to overcome sociological and social value changes..... 163

Yevgeny Krutykov: **Hatred of Russia is used to justify the mass killing of Jews**

The article examines the pogrom in Jedwabne in the summer of 1941. The author places the events in the ethnic and political context of the region, analyses the causes and motivations of the participants, and discusses the aftermath and memory of the events..... 172

## Bookmark

Áron Márk Éber: **The imaginary citizen and the real capitalist.** *The discreet charm of the bourgeoisie in post-regime change Hungary*..... 180

Lajos Csoma: **A bad book about the good guys.** *Problems with Pál Hatos's The World Revolution of the Bad Boys* ..... 199

Richárd Zima: **Deadly threats: 2021, the year of climate and COVID-19 disaster.** *Walter Baier – Eric Canepa – Haris Golemis (szerk.): Capitalism's Deadly Threat. transform! Yearbook 2021. Merlin Press Ltd.* ..... 205

Cover: Pályi Jenő's caricature, published in *Ludas Matyi*, 1947. no. 26. 5. p.

131. szám (2021. ősz)

ISSN 0865-2139

Szerkesztőbizottság: Antal Attila (főszerkesztő), György László, Hortobágyi Anna, Krausz Tamás (elnök), Lugosi Győző, Matheika Zoltán, Melegh Attila, Mezei Bálint, Szalai László, Szigeti Péter.

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Könyvtárelállító Nonprofit Kft., 1134 Budapest, Váci út 19., tel.: +36 (1) 311-2819

Előfizetés külföldről (postaköltséggel):

1. Normál ár: 35 €; 2. Támogatói ár: 70 €

IBAN: HU75 1020 0830 3231 9448 0000 0000

Swift: OKHB HUHB

K&H HUNGARY, 1051, Budapest, Vigadó tér 1.

Előfizetési díj (postaköltséggel):

1. Normál ár: 4500,- Ft; 2. Támogatói ár: 9000,- Ft; 3. Csökkentett ár: 2250,- Ft

Előfizetési csekket küldünk postafordultával, ha igényét bejelenti Szalai László fenti e-mail címén vagy telefonszámán.

Csekkszámamlaszám: K&H 10200830-32319448-00000000