

# English Abstracts of Articles in the Present Volume of "Fortid og Nutid"

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## **Alienating Politics**

### **Henrik Hertz and the Critique of the Politicization of the 1830s**

Contemporary people have been brought up with a modern conception of politics as a fixed, separate sphere of participation in public life, characterized by politicians, political parties and particular, separate fora for debate and decision-making. For the participants in the public Danish debate in the period 1830-48, however, this modern conception of politics was something radically new which called for critical reflexion and making up one's mind about. One of the principal critiques of the new understanding of politics and of the liberal movement of the period, which led the movement, was Henrik Hertz's novel "Stemninger og Tilstande" (Moods and Conditions), published in 1839. This book portrays the alienating character of the modern world and in particular of modern politics; and perhaps it even provides a key to the understanding of an existentialist basis for the rejection of the sphere of politics, something that is characteristic of our own age as well.

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## **The Enemy of Your Enemies**

### **Vermin, Agriculture and the Cycle in Nature in 19th Century Denmark**

The popular 19th Century manuals for the fight against moths, mice, larvae and beetles provide a motley picture of the sources of irritation and harmful effects which nature had in store for mankind. Household vermin, however, was nothing compared to the vermin – particularly insects like cockchafers – which at intervals could destroy the production of agriculture and forestry. Against such damage other means than household remedies were called for, and around 1860 several scientists and agriculturists spoke in favour of involving the natural enemies of the vermin in the fight and protecting them as friends of agriculture. The article analyses the conception of the time of harmful and useful animals within agriculture and hunting, and provides a perspective of the subject, seen in relation to the development of the biological idea of the cycle in nature and the earliest Danish endeavours at conserving nature.