

The party needs a more efficient information system in which the creative intelligentsia plays an important role as reliable producers of information. Gorbachev needs the accumulated knowledge and the critical-analytical potential found in the creative intelligentsia. The party also needs correct information, partly to be able to pursue a policy corresponding to the complexity of modern society, partly to prevent the party from a legitimacy crisis.

### **Søren Clausen**

#### *China: The Intellectuals and the Policy of Reform*

Since 1978, China's intellectuals have experienced improved social status and standards of living, as well as greater safety from political persecution and improved opportunities for presenting their views to the political leadership. Today, the intellectuals appear to be the social group that most enthusiastically supports the economic and political post-Mao-reforms. However, a century-old conflict between opposing ideas on the role of intellectuals in China's transition to the modern world has reemerged in the 1980s. In a general sense, after a century of turmoil, China's intellectuals have won back their traditional role as the moral and political elite in society, but not in a stable and lasting form, and, paradoxically, without being able to secure for themselves privileges comparable to those of their Eastern European and Soviet colleagues.

### **Carl Lankowski**

#### *Comparative National Responses to International Economic Challenges: A Review of Some Recent American Literature.*

The five works under review have a dual commitment to policy relevance and comparison, and from this arises the defining object of analysis of the authors: the *strategies* actually deployed or available to national policymakers in advanced capitalist countries as they adjusted to the international economic turbulence of the 1970s. The authors share a commitment to offering a political explanation – as opposed to the one based on a transhistorical technical-rational logic of adjustment to impenetrable «economic realities».

Despite the many merits of the books, they are not completely free from a technocratic perspective, the concrete analyses have to a certain degree reified the national «cases», and the authors have yet to embrace a theory of societal dynamics which can offer an explanation of the kind of constraints policymakers must come to terms with.

### **Henrik S. Jensen**

#### *Structuralism and Humanism*

For many years, structuralism has had a considerable influence on Western European social theory, representing among other things an attempt to settle with the so-called humanism. The kind of structuralistic criticism levelled against humanism by Althusser (and aimed more or less at another French philosopher, Jean-Paul Sartre) has proved a failure measured by Althusser's own standards. Both the early Althusser's main argument against humanism: that it is based on the as-

sumption that man is endowed with an essence, and the later Althusser's main argument against humanism: that it cannot analyze history as a »process-without-Subject-or-Object« must be considered untenable compared to Sartre's theoretical position. Eventually, it is suggested that the differences between Althusser's and Sartre's positions constitute a Marxist counterpart to a well-known bipartition within bourgeois political theory and sociology between one tradition oriented towards structure and another oriented towards actors.