

Abstracts

Ole Nørgaard

The Post-Stalinism and Democracy

Two legacies after the Stalinist dictatorships today work against the establishment of pluralist democracies: firstly, political values and groups based in the authoritarian political system; secondly, an economic system and social values which will reproduce the authoritarian system if they are not transformed. The structural and political factors behind the collapse of the stalinist systems define the point of departure for the new democracies. Presently the majority of the post-Stalinist systems are building the institutional framework of democracy. The long term consolidation of the new democracies depends primarily upon the development of a political and social base of the economic reforms.

Claus Kastberg

From Plan to Market: Economic Reform viewed from Polish Experiences, 1989-1990

Central themes in the debate on economic reform in Eastern Europe has been the existence of »a third road« and the choice between shock and gradualist reform strategies. It is argued empirically, that the »third road« does not exist, and that there is no way to avoid the decision between a market and a planned economy. The debate on the reform strategy has been muddled. An analysis of the Polish reform program 1989-91 shows that only certain elements deserve to be labeled »shock«. On the other hand there are strong arguments for including shock-elements in a reform package to deal with economic and especially political expectations. However the design of »shock«-reform packages is by no way simple, as evidenced by the results of the Polish reform 1989-1990. It is shown that neither proponents nor critics of the reform package managed to foresee the results. The reasons for the behaviour of the Polish economy are still not well understood.

Mette Skak

The New Foreign Policy of Central Europe

Taking »Europeanization« as the point of departure Poland's, Czechoslovakia's, and Hungary's foreign policy since 1989 is analyzed. »Europeanization« aims at integration into West European cooperation implying a dissociation from the USSR. New problems have emerged in the three countries' relation to the Soviet Union, and there are frictions in the Polish – German relationship. The Slovak »neben-Aussenpolitik« creates difficulties for Czechoslovakia. Hungary's foreign policy has its problems too, but is also characterized by continuity. The Visegrad summit may signal a turning point in the three countries' mutual relations. Reforming the foreign policy apparatus entails a dilemma, and there is a lack of public participation in the foreign policy process. However, democratization will not work without a basic educational effort.