

*Auch ein Beitrag zur Geschichtsdiskussion über die dreißiger Jahre im Newsletter:*

## **Die unbekannte Geschichte der „Versöhner“ in der Kommunistischen Internationale und der KP Deutschlands: Kein Randproblem der historischen Kommunismusforschung**

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**The Unknown History of the „Conciliators“ in the Communist International and in the Communist Party of Germany: Not a minor Problem for the historical Research on Communism. In: The crisis of social Ideas. Essays in Honour to Professor Marjan Britovsek, Ljubljana 1995 (See below in this issue)**

### **Abstract.**

*The history of the so-called „Conciliators“ within international communism in the time between the two World Wars has not been researched systematically. Surprisingly, a closer look at this current may reveal a radically modified image of the development of German Communism, if not at least a different one. Like many Trotskyists or partisans of the "Left Opposition" and adherents of the „Right Opposition" the „Conciliators" became privileged victims of Stalinist annihilation campaigns against communists. A great part of them shared oppositional and sometimes antistalinist viewpoints. Moreover, the „Conciliators" might have played a more important role in German resistance against Nazism than had been believed until now. New light is shed on general problems of communist politics, first of all*

*on the disastrous defeat without resistance of Comintern and German CP faced to Hitler in 1933, on the emigration policy, as well as on some typical political topics of Stalinism. Of central importance, however, is the evaluation of the "Berlin Opposition" rather unknown up to now, a branch of the Ex-"Conciliators" according to which Moscow's people's Front-Policy" was rejected by the active kernel of the membership even within the stalinised Communist Party.*

*German communists, in order to fight against Nazism, fought at the same time against Moscow's Comintern-Politics represented by their own Central committee. This would utterly shake the traditional image of German communism in the traditional east-german historiography faithful to the official party line but at the same time a traditional view of Western research: Could not the clearly oppositional attitude against Moscow have been reason that so many German communists, among them a high percentage of so called (Ex-)„Conciliators" became victims of Stalinist terror which finally appears to be more „rational" in a sense than has been believed up to now. However, these are still hypotheses, first of all. In order to continue or reject them this is just a first framework, a number of various new studies will be necessary.*