



SHOULDER TO SHOULDER AGAINST FASCISM!

FANFARE

June, 2021 - published by the central council



**WE HAVE A WORLD
TO WIN!**

Karl Marx

**ABOUT THE STRUGGLES OF THE FDJ
1936 TO 2021**

**85 YEARS
OF FIGHTING FOR REVOLUTION & SOCIALISM!**

price : 3€

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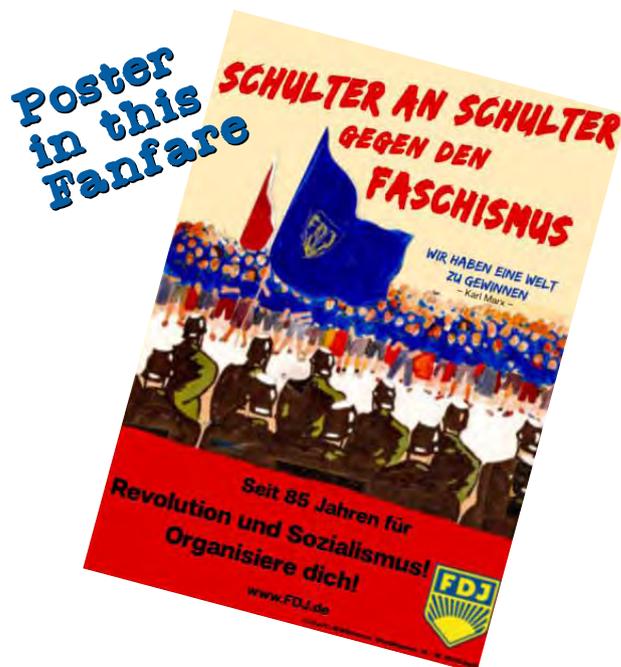
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cover photo: 1. Mai 1925

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Editorial

What this magazine about - a history book. Stories from the past. Black and white pictures, pulled out of dusty bookshelves. Wallowing in times long gone.

No way! Anyone who thinks they are holding only the past in their hands is wrong.

We rightly speak about fascism. The threat of its revival. Today. The ruling class is no longer capable. They arm up for war. Against the working people. There is no week in which the next clamor of the loudest screamers for German strength isn't audible. The old reservoir of fascist movements, the CSU, scratches and bites, wanting to take back the grip on the entire Great German Republic. The state apparatus: permeated with fascists, murderers, warmongers. Judges, state attorneys, policemen, and soldiers - they sit in parliaments and carry the party book of the AfD or memberships of the most conservative groups of the right-wing corners of the CDU. Few important personal details that are not preceded by disputes. The last twigs of bourgeois democracy are breaking. The green party, with their calls for war), is chiefly responsible. The headlines are filled with scandals and embarrassments. The ruling class, once proudly called bourgeoisie, dances on the volcano that, for now, remains dormant. Their mass firings, their complete crisis, their failure to offer any more work - and yet the workers remain still. What will be left for the next generation? Workers' children who "learn" to push buttons because Capital doesn't need knowledge? We write of a time when schools must be occupied, teaching workshops must be taken over, and universities must be turned inside out.

Knowledge is power - and that is what this magazine is all about.

Not in Greater-Germany alone. The decline of the ruling class is as international as the fight against the existing social and economic system; neither stops at the border. And so, in the first half of 2021, a part of the French generality openly threatens a military putsch, the Spanish conservatives form a pact with the fascists, and the Danish social democrats call for the worst asylum regulations the "European spirit" has seen in a long time.

The decision will not be decided on each own doorstep. Neither as any serious struggle. The FDJ was founded in Paris in 1936. They knew no struggle of the Germans against the German oppressors.

They stood against Hitler and the threatening war of the German monopolists. They declared the unity of the working youth as their goal. Soon, they were found in Spain, in the lines of the Republic against the fascists. In France, on the side of the great popular front. In London, using all the resources at their disposal in the fight against Hitler. In Prague, to learn the lessons of their own defeat. Socialism or barbarism - that's what they began to act on. This shaped the 85-year history of the FDJ - which confronted the same contradictions after 1945, as well. Again, they took part in the battle against the old order in West and East. Later part of philistinism, part of a temporary defeat. And later still an organization of two countries in the fight against German imperialism since the annexation of the GDR in 1989/90. Banned for over 30 years and all the same allowed. Unkillable.

This wasn't just happenstance - after all, the FDJ is the oldest still existing organization of the workers' youth in the country, which considered and still considers the fight against fascism as the basis of its existence, never fails to mention with pride its credo that the main enemy is at home, and is a socialist youth organization that has made a programmatic declaration based on the lessons of its own history.

"The FDJ is a section of the world revolution. It stands with the fighting workers and peoples to finally end the long-counted days of the bourgeoisie."¹ Read this Fanfare because it documents part of the history of the youth workers' movement. Because it wants to show that uniting the revolutionary youth in one organization is still the quickest way to beat our enemy, to take the lead in the struggle on the side of the working class, to make the revolution.

Fanfare editors, early June 2021

¹ From: Programmatic declaration of the FDJ

Paris 1936

"We vow to continue to work and fight for the liberation of all political prisoners, against the swastika murder-justice, for a better, for a real socialist Germany." It is mid-January 1936, Paris. Over 150 young anti-fascists from Germany come together. A "*Heimabend* of the Free German Youth." Many are members of the Socialist Workers Youth (Sozialistische Arbeiterjugend; SAJ), the Social Democratic Youth Association (Sozialdemokratischer Jugendverband; SJV) and the Communist Youth Association (Kommunistischer Jugendverband; KJV). Fascism has been raging in Germany for three years. War is being prepared for with all available means. The German capitalists have no choice BUT war, since they have fallen short in the global competition for world domination. The brains of the next generation were being drilled in the Hitler Youth and the League of German Girls. The workers' movement is too late, it is divided. Its mass strikes and demonstrations against fascism are no longer enough. The united front of the working class fails on their poor tactics, on the failure to deal with social democracy, which had been unsteady. The militant working class could have prevented Hitler's henchmen and fascism altogether. The communists draw their lessons, criticize themselves and each other sharply - also with regard to the failure of unity in the youth. After 1933, the Nazis codify into law what they had shown before: open terror against the workers and their organizations; against socialism, progress, thought. The best end up in Dachau, are murdered, have to flee, go into illegality. The revolutionary youth had to defend themselves against the brownshirted gangs, the furious state apparatus, the millions of mere hangers-on, against "nation and race", without having created their own unity. "All of us agree in being unwilling to end our youth in the barbed wire of a new world war. Therefore, we rise above all that divides us that still stands between us, to fight together for peace against the warmongers."¹ The fighting youth from Nazi Germany is finally making history again - in Paris! Even in Hitler's Reich itself, from the first day to the last, there is resistance from the working-class youth, young students, young Christians - the FDJ takes up the cause of uniting them. In Paris, later in Prague and in Great Britain. "The unified proletarian youth organization becomes the most relevant demand of the time," states the

Communist Youth League of Germany as early as 1935 at the illegal party congress of the KPD in Brussels. They are the first to take the initiative for unification, which will often have a spontaneous character of the fighting youth against Hitler. As early as January 1934, young people in Saarland, which had not yet been occupied by the Nazis, joined forces and called themselves "Free Youth"! - among them even disillusioned members of the Hitler Youth! Together, they realized that the *Volksgemeinschaft* leads to war - they began to organize. After the annexation of the Saarland, some of them fled to Paris and became part of the FDJ struggle.



The "Freie Jugend", Oct. 1934, distributed in the Saar region, in France, Luxemburg and Suisse

The FDJ is initially an umbrella organization for the youth groups that continue to exist independently. Members of the SAJ meet KJV as well as SVJ members and vice versa in the "Club of the German Youth, Paris".²

1 From the declaration of the *Heimabend* of the FDJ mid January 1936 in Paris

2 Parisian daily

A club of the resistance, which already succeeded in organizing a May Day celebration in Paris on May 1, 1936, at which "hundreds of young people"³ took part. Willy Brandt spoke for the SAP, August Hartmann for the KPD and Max Braun for the SPD. 55,000 German emigrants were living in France at that time. A home for the future in Rue Richer behind the building with a sign: "Foyer de la Jeunesses libre allemande" (Club of the Free German Youth). "Inside first a foyer. A primitive clothes rack, a pool table, a booth with newspapers illegally circulated in Germany as wall decorations."⁴ A home that receives an honorary presidency. World-famous writers such as Heinrich Mann, Ludwig Renn, Anna Seghers and Oskar Maria Graf take part.⁵

Hitler has not defeated the whole German youth-what is seen in Paris with 150 young people can no longer be concealed from the world. Joint evenings of the youth organizations become a regular occurrence; in June 1936, the FDJ already proposed in a vague declaration of intent to forge the "necessary unity of the German opposition abroad."⁶ It intends to be a "real help for those who (...) fight for a free and happy socialist Germany."⁷ They school themselves and begin to take action. The conditions become more favourable: in June 1936 France's working class succeeded to bring a people's government into power through political mass strikes and their unity. The French Popular Front will be able to push back the French fascists for two years.



Factory Occupation in France, Renault plant on May 29th, 1936 - few days before the victory of the peoples' front

3 Pariser Tagblatt; May 18th, 1936
4 Pariser Tageszeitung; April 29th, 1936
5 see Pariser Tagblatt; Dec. 3rd 1936

6 Pariser Tageszeitung; July 16th 1936
7 Pariser Tageszeitung; July 16th 1936

During the July days of 1936, when the news of the fascist coup attempt in Spain and the armed resistance of the Spanish Popular Front, the frente popular, which already came to power in January 1936, became known, "there was a great deal of activity in our home of the Free German Youth, Paris"⁸.

fascists. Many will give their lives.

"Spain's anti-fascist youth is a model for us, for their unity and their struggle for a happy future. Their dedication, their indescribable courage excites our admiration."¹⁰



Marina Ginestá, member of the United Socialist Youth Association of Catalonia, the 17 year old fighter for Spain on the roofs of the Hotel Colón in Barcelona.

Every day the members went out with French anti-fascists, collecting money, food and medicine for the Spanish militia and demanded "cannons and airplanes for Spain" in large mass demonstrations and rallies.⁹ United, the FDJ will take part in the French Popular Front's march on July 14th, 1937.

Until 1939, 2/3 of the Paris FDJ members will fight in the ranks of the Republicans in Spain against the

As early as in spring of 1936, Spanish socialist and communist youth united in the Juventudes Socialistas Unificadas (United Socialist Youth) in the struggle against the reactionaries at a time when revolution and counterrevolution were pushing people worldwide to choose a side.

⁸ see Willi Höhn; Als FDJler zu den Interbrigaden

⁹ ibid.

¹⁰ Freie Jugend; Sept. 1936



→ From the covert paper "German Gymnastics", published with the Olympic Games in Germany in summer 1936: Letter from SAJ, KJV and SJV to Santiago Carillo, General Secretary of the United Socialist Youth Association of Spain.

Die Antwort der deutschen antifaschistischen Jugend

Auch die deutsche antifaschistische Jugend hat den Appell des Führers der spanischen Jugend gehört. Sie betrachtet es als eine Sache der Ehre, noch mehr als bisher zu helfen. Nachfolgender Brief wurde von der Sozialistischen Arbeiterjugend, vom Kommunistischen Jugendverband und vom Sozialistischen Jugendverband nach Spanien geschickt:

An den Genossen Santiago Carrillo,
Generalsekretär des Vereinigten Sozialistischen Jugendverbandes Spaniens.

Lieber Genosse!

Dein leidenschaftlicher und von Siegeszuversicht erfüllter Appell strafft die Behauptungen der Faschisten Lüge, die der faschistische Landweismacher Franco kurz vor dem Endsiege des verräter Franco kurz vor dem Endsiege stehe. Diese Lügenmeldungen sind für das Volk bestimmt, während in den führenden Kreisen der deutschen Generalität offen zugegeben wird, daß die Sache Francos garnicht so gut steht. Im «Deutschen Adelsblatt» vom 9. April 1938 schreibt Generalleutnant Metzsch:

«Die Tageserfolge, von denen die Presse berichtet, pflegen in ihrer Wirkung fast immer überschätzt zu werden. Es wird noch viel Wasser den Ebro hinuntertrinnen, bis Franco unbestrittener Herr von ganz Spanien ist...»

Niemand kann bestreiten, daß der Krieg in che wäre, wenn nicht Deutschland und Italien mit Wissen und unter Duldung der demokratischen Regierungen ganze Armeen, tausende Flugzeuge und Tanks an Franco liefern würden. Während Deutschland und Italien auf spanischem Boden einen regelrechten Krieg führen, kann die gesetzmäßige spanische Regierung infolge der unseligen «Nichteinmischung» selbst bei den demokratischen Staaten nicht die Waffen kaufen, die sie dringend benötigt.

Genosse Carrillo, immer massenmäßiger schickt Hitler in der letzten Zeit junge deutsche Soldaten nach Spanien, und Du hast tausendmal recht, wenn Du in Deinem Manifest erklärst daß auch die vom Faschismus unterdrückte Jugend den Frieden will. In hunderten Fällen haben es junge deutsche Soldaten verschickten, um sich als Soldner nach Spanien verschicken zu lassen. Eine allgemeine Beklemmung, ein Angstgefühl erfaßt sie heute, wenn sie die Worte «Sonderauftrag», oder «Größere Manöver» hören. Sie wissen, daß das in der Regel Abkommandierung nach Spanien bedeutet. Die Propaganda hat es unter das Volk getragen, daß nur wenige deutsche Soldaten sehr gut zurückkehren, daß die Regierungstruppen sehr gut schießen und daß sie so tapfer kämpfen, weil sie ihre Freiheit und ihre Scholle verteidigen.

Genosse Carrillo, wir jungen deutschen Sozialisten und Kommunisten wollen dafür sorgen, daß Deine Worte an die deutschen Soldaten «Desertiert, kommt zu uns, zu den republikanischen Truppen. Hier werdet Ihr Euch unter Erüdern und nicht unter Feinden befinden» gehört werden. Wir werden alles tun, um die Wahrheit über Euren Freiheitskampf unter der deutschen Jugend zu verbreiten, denn jeder

17

junge Deutsche, der die tragische Wahrheit über Spanien kennt, wird zum Feind Francos und zum Freund des republikanischen Spaniens werden.

Wir haben alle unsere Kräfte mobilisiert um aktiv mitzuhelfen an der Versorgung der zwei Freiwilligendivisionen der Jugend.

Übermittle der heldenmütig kämpfenden spanischen Jugend unsere revolutionären Grüße. Sie kann unserer Hilfe und unserer Unterstützung gewiß sein. Hunderte deutsche Jungkommunisten und Jungsozialisten kämpfen in den Reihen der tapferen republikanischen Armee. Viele unserer Besten haben bereits ihr Leben hingegeben für den Freiheitskampf in Spanien, der aufs engste mit unserem Freiheitskampfe in Deutschland verbunden ist. Wir deutschen Antifaschisten sehen es am besten, wie jeder Schlag, den Ihr den faschistischen Eindringlingen versetzt, ein Schlag auch gegen Hitler ist und unseren Kampf gegen das verruchte faschistische Regime erleichtert.

Mit revolutionären Grüßen und Handschlag

Sozialistische Arbeiterjugend
Erwin Sander,
Kommunistischer Jugendverband
Karl Kunert,
Sozialistischer Jugendverband
Willi Brandt.

FREIE DEUTSCHE JUGEND

DISKUSSIONSBLÄTTER FÜR EINE FREIE DEUTSCHE JUGENDBEWEGUNG

Herausgeber: Arbeitergemeinschaft freier Jugendorganisationen.
Zuschriften an: Frau S. Leichnik, 8 rue Camille Perrot, Paris 16e.
Erscheint zweimonatlich.
Nr. 1.
Juni-Juli 1937.

Inhaltsverzeichnis

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The FDJ distributes at least two newspapers, fights for the unorganized German youth living in exile in Paris, addresses the German youth "in the Reich" more and more directly.

"Hitler promised you German socialism! But today, after five years of Hitler's government, the rule of the capitalist clique (...) is firmer than ever! German socialism turns out to be the facade behind which the reactionary capitalist class does its dark business."

And directly addressed the "boys in the Hitler Youth ("Hitlerjugend"; HJ) [and] girls in the "League of German Girls ("Bund Deutscher Mädel"; BDM)": "Do not let yourselves be incited against the sincere peace fighters, against the defenders of free opinion (...). Recognize your true enemies! They talk about socialism and protect its opponents; they talk about freedom and trample on it!"¹¹

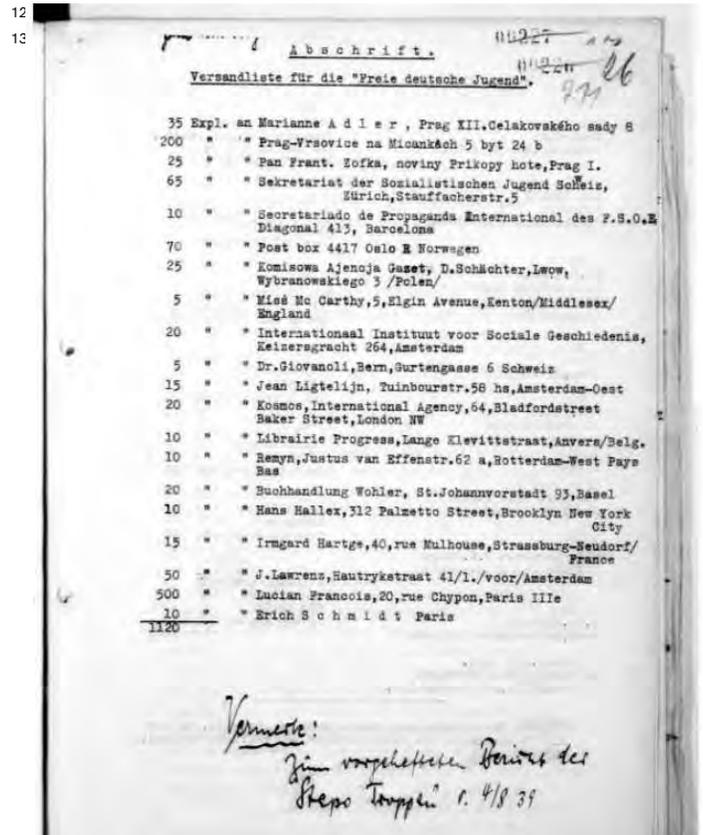
11 see Gemeinsamer Appell; "Die Auslandsgruppen der Freien Deutschen Jugend"

The Nazis became afraid. The Reich Security Main Office closely follows the newspaper "Freie Deutsche Jugend". The office had to notice that the distributed copies of said newspaper grew from 800 pieces in July of 1937 to 1400 copies in February of 1938. Finally, the office noted that "shipping also took place in small quantities all over the world."¹²

1940: the *Wehrmacht* and the whole of German barbarism invaded France, which never gave up, resisted from the very beginning until the end. France took part in its own liberation with the armed struggle of the Resistance.

"In occupied Paris, some German anti-fascists, mostly members of the Free German Youth, which had existed in France since 1937 [error in the original], immediately began to produce and distribute leaflets and flyers with anti-fascist content for the members of the occupying forces."¹³

The FDJ in Paris, although it may have shrunk, is represented by some heroic Resistance fighters. Peter Gingold, for example, joins the Resistance, in whose ranks he will fight until victory.



Jan; based on the research of Christiane, Support Organization for the FDJ

"Our task is great and difficult. But we will grow with the tasks we accomplish."¹⁴



Act of sabotage by the Resistance against a German army transport in Saône-et-Loire in 1944.

12 Bundesarchiv R58/3292

13 From "Resistance Erinnerungen deutscher Antifaschisten"

14 see Gemeinsamer Appell "Die Auslandsgruppen der Freien Deutschen Jugend"

From Paris... ...via Prague...

Surely there is much more to find out. But what we do know: Quite a few anti-fascist youths fled into exile to Prague. They were not inactive there, of course. On the contrary: They got together, the young people from the KJVD, from the SAJ, from the SJVD and others. And: A youth conference took place, at which the unification of the youth groups and the creation of a unified anti-fascist youth organization could be discussed with a chance of success. This took place in Prague on May 8, 1938 .¹⁵

In an appeal to the youth, they rightfully say:

"Separately, we are nothing - united, we are a force!"

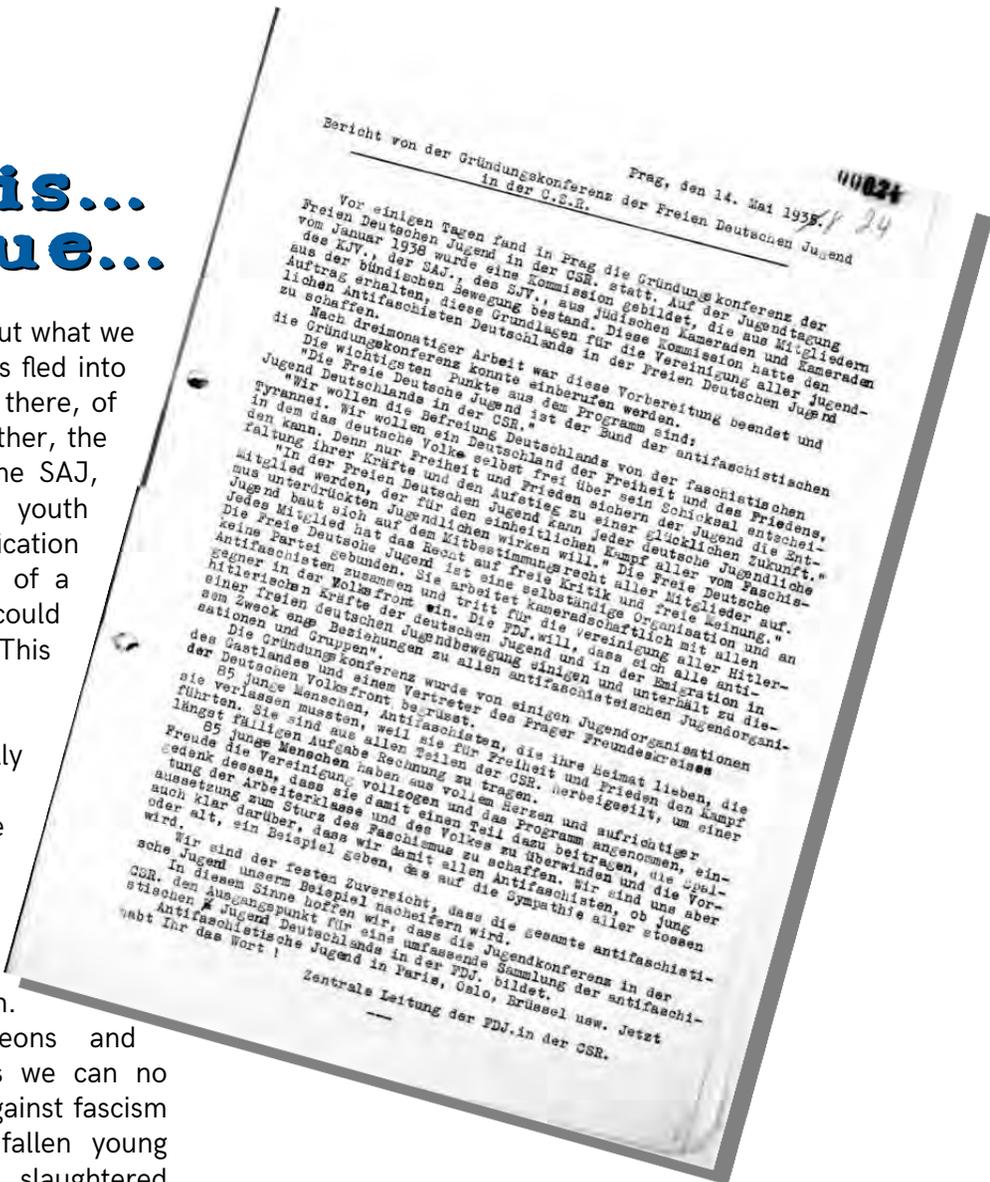
And not only this:

"Comrades, many of us have given our lives in the struggle against fascism. Even more live in Hitler's dungeons and concentration camps. To these heroes we can no longer justify obstructing the struggle against fascism by disunity and group politics. Our fallen young fighters in Spain, our executed and slaughtered comrades call out to us, "Be united!"

What an achievement of overcoming the split in revolutionary youth - and what a lesson for today when the SAJ and SJVD declare to the founding of the FDJ:

"We are ready to cooperate actively and loyally in the FDJ and to work in it in the sense of our and the FDJ's views. We expect that the FDJ will not make any decisions that contradict socialist views in principle, i.e., that the FDJ will take into account all minorities, in the interest of its unity, and will only make decisions that are shared by all. We work in our organizations in the interest of the FDJ but are free there to make decisions which are necessitated by the special tasks of socialist youth work!"

And the Central Leadership of the FDJ in the CSR declares:



"We turn especially to the central leaderships of the SAJ, the KJVD and the SJVD to immediately take steps to unite the German youth."

But the resistances time is short. On September 29, 1939, Czechoslovakia is handed over to Hitler's Germany to be swallowed up by the Munich Dictate. And the FDJers, the brave fighters against fascism and war, did what saved lives: they helped evacuate anti-fascist fighters and Nazi opponents from Czechoslovakia. Nevertheless, four FDJ members were captured by the Gestapo and deported to concentration camps.

...to Great Britain

There are only forty FDJers coming to Britain - but forty young people who not only know what barbarism Hitler's fascism already means, who know how close war is, and who know and act on this:

¹⁵ Studies on the history of the German labor movement, 1st volume 1959, IML at the Central Committee of the SED

Wherever we are, we must organize the youth together so that they have a future. In June 1939, the FDJ is founded in Great Britain.

The Free German Youth is the union of freedom- and peace-loving youth in Great Britain. ... The FDJ wants German youth to be educated in the spirit of freedom, peace, and cultural progress, and uses all its resources for the realization of these ideals. ... All German boys and girls must be against fascism, which has plunged Germany into the disaster of a new war. ... The FDJ feels particularly deep sympathy for the youth of Austria and Czechoslovakia, whom it wants to help with all its strength in regaining their freedom and national independence. The FDJ in Great Britain has a special interest in British youth. They want to learn about their traditions and ways of life in order to pave the way for a deeper mutual understanding. ¹⁶

... with the rising sun!

And there it appears for the first time - as far as we know. The symbol that is such a thorn in the eye of the German state. The symbol that has been confiscated from us dozens of times since January 2021 alone. The rising sun on a blue background. So flew our symbol in August 1939, a month before the NAZIS invaded Poland at the international youth camp of the British Youth Peace Assembly in Hoddesdon.

Yes, the new-old warmongers know what they are after: The symbol of a united youth fighting without compromise against fascism and war. Yes, this is the true face of today's Greater Germany: decorated with crocodile tears, those in power talk about never wanting to forget the atrocities of the NAZIS - and at the same time never miss an opportunity to meticulously persecute the symbol of the FDJ, which was first raised by young people in August 1939.

The youth back then knew what they were doing: they fought side by side with the youth of the world against the most anti-youth of all systems: Hitler's fascism. And we will be damned if we are going to let this history be taken away from us!

A story that means in Great Britain:

The FDJ lives and fights for peace, for freedom from fascism and war: with culture, with educational evenings, with youth homes.



Free German Youth Stand Firm Against Hitlerism

By the middle of November 1939 there are FDJ groups in Manchester, Glasgow and Liverpool, by May 1940 in Bournemouth, Bristol, Newcastle, Sheffield and others.

...as far as Canada and Australia

But even in Great Britain they are not always welcome, the young anti-fascist fighters. In the midst of the Second World War, the internment of all so-called "hostile foreigners" begins there - and not a few FDJers find themselves in the camps. 6500 are shipped to Canada, 2500 to Australia - and so there are FDJ groups even there.

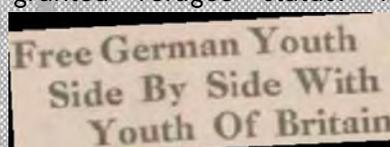
Because: May one also be interned: The struggle for an anti-fascist, united youth does not stop at the camp gates. Unorganized, helpless and desperate young people of German origin find themselves again alongside German communists who had spent years in illegality, already knew arrests and concentration camps, some of whom fought in Spain. These communists organize not only self-government, but also cultural activities and entire educational programs with sometimes top-class lecturers (in Huyton, for example, a proper youth university with courses in mathematics, physics, economics). Training courses are held on the subject of "How could it happen that fascism came to power?" etc.

Many a future FDJ member will later say that it was this experience that prompted them to organize themselves into the FDJ. Later, the FDJ will organize an exhibition about the resistance in NAZI Germany, which will be viewed by 100,000 visitors.

... and never are we "Germans"

No! The young people are anti-fascists. And when they are to be locked in a camp with other "Germans", fascists and Nazis, this is not tolerated. In a Canadian camp they hang a banner "Anti-Nazi Refugee Camp" facing the main street and demand the transfer of the German prisoners of war.

After a three-day hunger strike, the camp was granted refugee status. The members of the



Free German Youth Side By Side With Youth Of Britain

Wehrmacht were transferred to a prisoner of war camp.

¹⁶ Program of the FDJ of Great Britain, July 1939

Freie Tribüne

1/4

Freie Tribüne Anti-nazi montney

Oktober 1944

No. 9/10 (Vol. VI.)

FREIE DEUTSCHE JUGEND

Tod den Nazi-Mördern!

Die Hölle auf Erden, die wir bisher an deutschen Sprachorten und in Mauthausen, viele Millionen geopfert hat, ist es eine schwache Bescheinigung deutscher Schuldhaft. Die sichersten Dokumente der offiziellen sowjetisch-polnischen Kommission



ERNST THÄLMANN



RUDOLF BREITSCHIED

zur Untersuchung der Vorgänge in Mauthausen bei Lublin, die Berichte der sowjetisch-polnischen Kommission über das Tötenlager Koryga bei Tallinn — sind nur die letzten in einer langen Kette von menschenverachtenden Verbrechen — ohne Herz, ohne Menschensatz — ohne Hirn, ohne Gefühl, ohne Hinn, tapfer, tapfer, tapfer! — ohne Mannes, Frauen und Kinder vergewaltigen, verheiraten, Altmütter, Mütter, Mütter, Mütter von Millionen Menschen, die Mütter von Millionen Juden, auf die schrecklichste Weise umgebracht.

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JUGEND

Oktober 1944

Inhalt

Dr. Karl Herz:

Zum 55. Geburtstage!



So sieht ihn der Hass aller freien Menschen

Erst Thälmann, mit dem Rudolf Breitscheid und vielen tausend andre Kämpfer starben, wird über einen Mann und besseren Deutschland nachdenken, weil er in elendigen Kerkerhaft sein heiliges deutsches Heiligtum wurde, die sein Denken für diesen Menschen, das es selbst für diesen

Heraus aus der Untergangsstimmung

SEPTEMBER 1943. Fallende Blätter troben im kalten Wind, senken zu Boden weiden zerrissenen Herbst über Deutschland. Diese letzte Menschheitsstunde mit jungen Menschen gehen ab in die dunkelste Nacht der Weltmacht. Der Sturmwind der deutschen Offensivtruppen verläßt die weichen zusammengekauerten Verblenden vor sich hin. Der merke Trüf der sturmbewussten Armeen, die die Vaterland betreten, geht über die Leichen und Geißer junger deutscher Männer, die nichts zu verteidigen haben als einen launen Traum, der nicht einmal der ihre war, den Traum der Eroberung und Unterwerfung fremder Länder und Völker. Die letzten des Tageslichts von Wolfgang Heinz, stehenden selbsterhellenden Bannern auf einem Erbe indostanisch, geben Kunde von diesem Welken und Vergahen. Es stockt Deutschland geht hin vor unseren

eigenen Augen zugrunde. Nicht weiter den Schlägen des Gegners, sie stürzen, nur, was sich als innerer Verfall vollzieht. Wolf Hertz zerbricht an der Lüge, die der Nationalsozialismus zum Inhalt seines Lebens gemacht hat, an dem Widerspruch zwischen Gaukelelei und Wirklichkeit, an der Spaltung zwischen dem Tod, dem er gewohnt ist und dem Leben, von dem er sich so ungerne trennt. Für "hohe Ziele" und "Lohn" hat er sich weihen lassen. Das er Offizier, Führer im Kampf für diese Ideale werden konnte, hat man ihm verweigert. Aber schon im

zur Untersuchung der Vorgänge in Mauthausen bei Lublin, die Berichte der sowjetisch-polnischen Kommission über das Tötenlager Koryga bei Tallinn — sind nur die letzten in einer langen Kette von menschenverachtenden Verbrechen — ohne Herz, ohne Menschensatz — ohne Hirn, tapfer, tapfer, tapfer! — ohne Mannes, Frauen und Kinder vergewaltigen, verheiraten, Altmütter, Mütter, Mütter, Mütter von Millionen Menschen, die Mütter von Millionen Juden, auf die schrecklichste Weise umgebracht.

Freie Tribüne (free platform) - newspaper of the FDJ in Great Britain

... in the fight against the Nazis with the Allies

There are quite a few FDJers who eventually volunteer: To serve in the British Army and the unarmed pioneer units against Hitler's fascism. FDJers work in the armament industry and in factories important to the war effort, and spend their free time volunteering in agriculture.

FDJers take on relief work in hospitals or at the blood donation, make camouflage nets. They volunteer in the backup of the fire department (National Fire Service) and civil defense. Some male FDJers manage to get admitted to the units of the British armed forces (Pioneer Corps), while some of the female FDJers join the Auxiliary Territorial Service (air defense, radars, later military police).

And eventually under arms, when this becomes possible from 1943 onwards.

... for the construction of a democratic, anti-fascist Germany

As liberation approaches, as the Hitlerists are forced to fall back by the Red Army, as the end of the beast comes within sight for the peoples of the world - the FDJ in Britain also begins to do what is needed to build a democratic, anti-fascist Germany:

anti-fascist education and training for children and young people, through courses for kindergarten teachers and teachers, through job training, through public debate evenings, and so on.

One third of the 700-800 members eventually returned to Germany. About a third remained in Britain. 'Only' a third went back? Young people persecuted as 'Jewish' had become adults - who after 12 years of fascism had nothing and no one left in Germany.

"In the army, in industry, in the field, in defense services, and through our educational work among British youth, everywhere we could, we as Free German Youth fought and helped to shape this new life.

We can be proud of our achievements, as this struggle yesterday gives us the right and strength to shape our future, today and tomorrow."

Declaration of the FDJ in Great Britain, June 9, 1945.

A denouncement of Nazism by the "Free German Youth"

London, September 12, 1939

The British Youthpeace Assembly received following message from the Free German Youth:

"The Nazis have invaded Poland and driven Great Britain and France into a World War. Only Hitler and the Nazis have wanted this war, it is against the interests and desires of the German people, which will stand up against it.

To meet their military objectives, Hitler and Baldur von Schirach have prevented the German youth from attending international assemblies. They have liquidated all free political and religious organisations, including the German scouts. They have persecuted and tortured everyone in Germany who kept working for peace and international cooperation. Thousands of young Germans are locked into concentration camps and prisons. The bravest of them have been executed. These young men and women are the true representatives of our great country. They embody the youth of Germany, which loves its fatherland and sacrifices its life for it. They will work and die for the survival of the true Germany.

With joy we received your declaration that you "fight against Hitler and the Nazism and not against the German people".

We, the free youth of Germany, driven out of our country by Hitler, we stand on the side of the youth of Great Britain, for the cause of freedom of all peoples subjugated by Hitler's Nazism and for peace in Europe.

No peace will be possible so long as Nazism has not been destroyed. We, the members of the Free German Youth, are ready to help Britain in all areas of national defense. We want that with all our heart. We call upon all young Germans in England to join us in this task. We are convinced that our joint struggle against Hitler will strengthen the already strong bonds between us. We await the hour when the German people will express the deepest gratitude towards the British people. We stand on your side to secure the victory of freedom. We salute you like we will salute the tomorrow arising free Germany." (Havas.)

RheinRuhr Group, based on the paper by
Christiane/Supporters' Circle

Not freedom, liberation ruled!

May 8, 1945: a new chapter begins. German fascism is defeated! The Allies, in particular the Red Army of the socialist Soviet Union, liberated the world meter by meter from Nazi barbarism. Until Berlin was taken and the last fanatic had his German rifle snatched out of his hand. Never again! The lesson of the young generation from its own past was clear: Only unity against German imperialism can prevent and defeat the next war. But the contradictions, the old and the new, war and peace, capitalism and socialism, had not simply been replaced once and for all. Liberation reigned, the Allies dictated. Rightfully.

reopened without touching the property relations? Can IG-Farben, which was given an entire camp at Auschwitz and is now called Bayer, Hoechst and BASF in the West after 1945, continue to produce, with the workers being exploited and the profits ending up in the pockets of the millionaires? Or do the ones who built the factories take the factories into their own hands? This decision was made - and re-made - on a near-daily basis, and not only in the Soviet-occupied zone (SBZ). The workers who rebuilt the Siemens factories in Munich first had to be chased away to let the capitalists move back in.



But where yesterday unity against German fascism ruled among the liberators, now, on the ruins of defeated Germany, the question stood as ever: Will the ruins be cleared, the factories rebuilt, the schools

Those who gave their lives at the front for nothing, now are rebuilding the country, which is not yet divided - the majority of them don't want war anymore, they don't want the old bosses anymore, they are

ready to get to the root of fascism. But the knowledge about how to do it - that is what the Nazis pushed out of the heads of the majority. Not everything that said anti-fascism was anti-fascism.

The organizations of the workers' movement were weak, had to organize and fight the battle within their own ranks as hard as the signs of the times made the choice: Reform and capitalism or expropriation and workers' power. In all occupation zones, the side of reform rose again in the ranks of the SPD, and in the West quickly also in the leaderships of the trade unions, as far as they existed again. The formation of their Social Democratic youth organizations could not be prevented in the western occupation zones.

The Potsdam Agreement of the Allies made this offer, forbade a German army, all Nazi organizations, made it clear that no more centralized state power would be allowed against the people. But it could not determine anything about the actual property relations. The liberators were separated by a world. Socialism and imperialism were sitting at the same table. Capital upheld property rights in the West. The entire state apparatus of the later FRG was built with the help of the old Nazis, with the profiteers and pioneers of the persecution of the Jews, with the organizers and commanders of the invasions of the countries of Europe. This was not the case in the East of Germany.

the editors

Young tractorists, members of the FDJ, plowing with Soviet tractors, 1949



With Kurt Schumacher at the head of the Western Social Democracy, a line enters the working class, so weary of war after all, of wanting to prevent any cooperation with the Communists. The KPD does everything in its power to fight the division of the working class. It also defended the unification of the fighting youth in the FDJ to the last. In the SBZ, unity is achieved. SPD and KPD unite. After the German barbarism, there could be no other way for the workers' movement. To separate again later in the fight for socialism, however, must never be ruled out. Which way would this Germany go?

For the workers' movement and its youth, it was initially completely clear: a unified Germany, without any possibility of allowing even a single soldier to ever cross the border again.

The FDJ in the better Germany

We have to take care of ourselves and out against us who dares!

Ruins, at the beginning of this better Germany. Millions of young people who, in their whole life, knew only the war and raids against the working peoples. Their whole upbringing, their growing up, their school and their education was that of the Nazis, racial mania and most barbaric oppression. They themselves, or at least the older siblings, marched to Paris, to Warsaw, to Moscow. Their fathers fell. They raised their hands in the Hitler salute in the HJ, in the BDM.

They closed their eyes to the gas in the concentration camps, to the torture and terror. On the ruins sit those who did not or could not prevent this war, but who also did not gain anything from this war and who never wanted it.

The fighters against fascism, the tortured come from the penitentiaries and Gestapo cellars, from the concentration camps and from illegality. They come from exile, from the armies of the liberators, from London, New York and Moscow. They come to build up, to build up a country whose cities and businesses lie in ruins, just like the minds of its people.

For this they built no longer just to clear away the ruins, but to build an economy that works for the workers and the people, that does not feed the capitalists. The FDJ is involved in large-scale operations, thousands of FDJ volunteers build the Sosa dam or the cooling water pipeline to the Maxhütte steelworks. With the simplest manual labor, in dirt and cold. And yet they studied every day for the knowledge of the new world. The power plants, the farmland, the industrial factories, the educational and cultural institutions - the brigades and activists of the FDJ are found everywhere.

Dresden, early 1950s: "Your Yes on May 15, 16 is your Yes for unity and a just peace!"



The Red Army guarantees them their revolution, which they did not make and did not experience themselves. For which they did not make any sacrifices. But the liberation was not over, it went on. The workers, peasants and other working people in the Soviet Occupation Zone took their cause into their own hands. The FDJ grew into an association of millions. An association of millions in the front line.

Away with the old Nazis and war criminals, into the jails with those who could be caught. The monopoly bourgeoisie, which demanded, led and earned from this war, is expropriated.

The land of the lords and squires will be expropriated. The FDJ fights for every head, for the working youth in the factories, for the pupils, the working youth in town and country. For a better Germany, a democratic, anti-fascist state. For a state it is worth fighting for, in youth brigades and youth activist movements. Because what they work more, benefits the reconstruction, the people, the future. It is worth fighting to make this state a socialist state.

The People's Police, the first safeguard of this self-won new state, is built up largely from the ranks of the FDJ. The FDJ turns a youth coming out of the Nazi era into a mass movement, led by the workers' youth in socialist institution for which socialism is its cause, its present, and its future.

When Hennecke, with his 387% shift, got the activist movement of the GDR rolling, the FDJ had already organized several youth activist congresses and, with

1,300 youth activists under the leadership of the Central Council, was at the forefront of the activist movement in the factories that made the first Two-Year Plan and its slogan: "Produce more, plan better, distribute more fairly!" become reality.

With the rise of the new bourgeoisie in the Soviet Union, in the GDR the mood arose to stop the class struggle and to rest on what had been achieved. This played into the hands of the reactionary and bourgeois strata, which were still very strong in the GDR.



Instead of relying, for example, on the self-confident brigade movement together with the workers militia groups in the factories, the foremen were strengthened. And the SED itself trimmed the brigades back to economism. Nor did the FDJ lead the youth brigades into the struggle for political power. Building socialism creates the economic basis to change people's consciousness. When this basis is there, the struggle for consciousness is still the hardest struggle against the old bourgeois thinking, the hardest class struggle in socialism. That is why, in addition to the revolutionary upheaval of economic conditions under socialism, the other side of the struggle for the people themselves, the cultural revolution, is also needed.

Hanns Eisler presented such a piece of cultural revolution with his play "Johannes Faustus", Heiner Müller with his play "The resettled woman". They put their finger on the wound, worked out the contradiction, the dispute, the reality. That building socialism is full of difficulties, that the class struggle is also uncomfortable, that the party can also make mistakes (Müller).

That the policy - e.g. that of national culture as part of the struggle for German unity must not be exaggerated, if it does not want to end in nationalism and in whitewashing the "Deutsche Misere"

(Eisler - *Deutsche Misere* refers to the underdeveloped Germany, which lags behind France and England by decades. By the betrayal of the peasants, the small state, the not made bourgeois revolution, up to the second world war. Summarized, the tragedies of the German people - Note by the translator).

Eisler's play was stowed away; the SED did not want a "formalistic deformation" (Ulbricht) of the national hero Faust. After the performance of Heiner Müller's play in the student theater at the Karlshorst College,

the FDJ demanded his arrest! This went too far even for the SED. But it shows how afraid the FDJ leadership was of open argument and criticism. And so was the SED, which branded the piece "counter-revolutionary" and "hostile to the party." And yet, despite the interrupted class struggle in the GDR, it was the better Germany. Despite being in the camp of modern revisionism, it played a role in keeping imperialism in check.

Just as the new bourgeoisie in the Soviet Union saw the GDR as nothing more than a pawn of the superpowers, they either brought the peoples in the war of liberation into a new dependency or put obstacles in their way.

Nevertheless, the FDJ sent brigade after brigade into the world: Engineers, scientists, technicians. FDJ youth who supported the liberation struggles in the world with word and deed.

While German imperialism supplied the apartheid regime with weapons, the GDR supplied weapons to the uMkhonto we Sizwe.

While German imperialism gave loans and equipment to Pinochet, the GDR supported the Chilean Popular Front.

Even in its decline, socialism in the GDR still had its foundations, which stood, which ensured that imperialism could not rage as it wished, which ensured that the peoples who liberated themselves had a perspective, a support and allies - this was also ensured by the FDJ, until the annexation.

Manel, Regensburg

The FDJ in West Germany

For the revolutionary overthrow of the Adenauer regime!

After World War II and the liberation from Hitlerite fascism, the returned FDJ exiles, the KPD, as well as many intellectuals and democrats campaigned for the FDJ to be permitted in the respective occupation zones. The unification of youth who wanted to break with fascism was their goal. However, the conditions in east and west were very different.

In the Soviet zone, anti-fascist work could continue in the form of youth committees. In the Western zones, anti-fascist work was made more difficult: permission was only granted selectively or was refused altogether. Individual groups were permitted. Thus it happened that in Hamburg in November 1945 the first FDJ group in Germany was admitted.

In 1947, the first FDJ regional associations were legitimized in the American zone. After more and more FDJ groups could be founded, the number of members also increased: The FDJ in the West numbered in the 10,000s, in the SBZ (Soviet Occupation Zone) the FDJ was already an association of millions. The FDJ always wanted to be admitted as an all-German FDJ, but this was rejected by the Western Allies. Efforts to establish an all-German youth ring of all progressive youth associations also failed, since Social Democratic youth associations in particular opposed it. Just after the end of the war the old monopolists, Thyssen, Siemens, Deutsche Bank and Co, gathered again in the West to plan the next "revenge". They did not dare to express their urge towards the east openly. But, as is well known, the capitalists do not want war. They must want it! The old Wehrmacht leadership was waiting, hoping for their rehabilitation and revival of German military traditions. And Adenauer, later chancellor of the Federal Republic, had a clear goal: the "reoccupation" of the Soviet zone, where Siemens and Co could no longer produce. The question of the army was the essential step stone to regain power for German Imperialism. After 1945 Germany was dependent on help from other imperialists to re-emerge in the world market. West Germany was to become the spearhead against socialism.

US Imperialism did everything it could for that endeavour. The war never quite fell off the agenda, the division of Germany was now obvious to the old warmongers. The people saw this, and readied themselves - the youth above all - to go on the streets against the division, against plans to store atomic bombs, against a next war.

From the very beginning, the FDJ was at the forefront of the struggle for the interests of working-class youth. In Lower Saxony it fought for one of the first youth labor protection laws, in Bavaria it was one of the co-founders of the Bavarian Youth Ring, and in the large industrial cities it quickly set up dozens of factory groups among the working-class youth, distributed newspapers, and never ceased to focus on the unity of the youth against the slowly reawakening German Imperialism in the West.

The government could not yet openly declare itself in favor of remilitarization. Again and again it was "hidden" and denied, but behind the scenes it was pursued purposefully and openly. The SPD (social democratic party) and the DGB (umbrella organization of unions) also had to position them-selves against remilitarization in accordance with the attitude in the working class, but they did not follow up their words with deeds. On the contrary, they deliberately tried to split the peace movement. Without the help of old reactionary circles and old Nazi generals, the Adenauer government could not carry out their plans for remilitarization. They founded militarist and fascist associations which demanded war against the later GDR and Poland. The first official reservoir for this was the BGS (Federal Border Guard), which was founded in 1951 and consisted largely of former Wehrmacht officers and generals.



"Blast hole actions"

The blast holes for nuclear explosive devices placed on bridges and strategic points were bricked up or buried.

In the spring of 1950, General Hasso von Manteuffel, the former commander of the Wehrmacht division "Großdeutschland," wanted to speak to the "front generation" invited by the FDJ in Düsseldorf. Anti-militarist youths of the FDJ, the Protestant Youth, the Socialist Youth of Germany - Die Falken, the Nature Friends and the Trade Union Youth were in the hall early and simply stormed the stage when Manteuffel arrived. The latter fled through the back entrance. In his place Jupp Angenfort, the later FDJ chairman of West Germany, gave a speech. Of course, the police came with squad cars and cleared the hall, but the newspapers all reported it.



From a newspaper report:
 "Manteuffel out! Fascists out!"
 shouted FDJ members in unison from the stage of the Altstadtssaal in Düsseldorf as they unfurled their blue flag at a meeting arranged by the youth organization of the liberal FDP. Earlier they had stormed the stage, thrown communist propaganda material into the hall and injured a policeman. The former tank general, Hasso von Manteuffel, was to speak at the rally. The rally did not proceed due to the agitation by the FDJ.

The AP-photo shows FDJ members with their flag on the stage of the Düsseldorf Altstadtssaal. The overturned chairs on the left in the foreground are a sign of the previous storming of the stage.

The vast majority of the West German population was against re-militarization. They were war-weary and the vestiges of World War II were far from gone.

In 1950 Federal President Theodor Heuss was supposed to speak at a youth event of the IG Bergbau (miners union) in Bochum. The FDJ's response to this was to chant "Theodor, you go alone! We don't want to be soldiers!" and a banner reading "Butter instead of guns! More wages instead of troops!"

In 1950, the "Deutschlandtreffen" took place over the Whitsun holiday in Berlin, to which 27,000 West German youth traveled to the SBZ (soviet occupation zone / East Germany). The content of the meeting was, among other things, the struggle for the preservation of peace. The congress of young peace fighters stood in stark contrast to the re-militarization of the FRG, which had already begun. That the preservation of peace cannot take place in the imperialist system was probably one of the greatest lessons for the participants from West Germany. The "Deutschlandtreffen" was a manifestation of the struggle for German unity. On their return, the youth from the West were attacked and detained by the Western police. They were to have their personal details taken, which the youths refused to do, and were then encircled. The youths held out for several days and were finally able to assert themselves. This situation took place in Herrnburg, on the border, and is known as the "*Herrnburg Kessel*".



Arrival and welcome to the Pentecost Youth Meeting



Kiel, July 8, 1950

The FDJ will organizes in 1949 and 1950 with other youth organizations in many cities, manifestations against the war on the Korean people, against remilitarization and for the unity of Germany.

Another example of successful anti-militarist actions by the youth is also the struggle for Helgoland. This island was used in 1948 by the British and American air forces as a training area for bombing. The population was evacuated, villages and harbor facilities were destroyed, the marking of the island for navigation (e.g. by lighthouses) was stopped.

When 15 young Swedish sailors were shipwrecked in the night just off Helgoland and only died because there was no beacon to guide them ashore, it was a signal for the youth to do something. A total of five youth delegations landed on the island one after the other and occupied it.

The main organizer was the FDJ, but many young people were also from other organizations, the Socialist Youth of Germany - Die Falken, the trade unions or the Order of the Good Templars.

Their demand was: "We want Helgoland to be at the disposal of fishermen and sailors (...)."

First there were seven youths, then 15, then 36, etc. They were each arrested and sentenced to three months in prison. Until, on 31 May 1951, 100 Helgoland fisherman joined in the occupation of the island; the island was then released for civilian use in March 1952.



Seven young patriots, members of the trade union youth, the FDJ and sportsmen, landed on the German island as a protest against the English invasion and put the bombed cemetery in order. While the youths were preparing makeshift shelters for emergency landing fishermen, a bomb-throwing British plane fired at them with on-board weapons.

In January 1951, 1,700 delegates from all social strata gathered for a conference in Essen. The conference organized the struggle against re-militarization and called for a referendum. The most organized core of them were FDJ and KPD.

They collected signatures in front of companies, in the neighbourhoods and at meetings.



In view of the assignment of old Nazi generals to rebuild a new Wehrmacht in West Germany, a Committee for the People's Consultation is formed on April 14, 1951, to hold a referendum on remilitarization. Committees are formed at all levels throughout West Germany. Already in the first days its success is apparent.

On April 24, 1951, the referendum was finally banned because it was against the constitutional order, according to the federal government. The fact that the survey was carried out despite the ban frightened the federal government so much that it also banned the FDJ.

Their reasoning: "The Federal Government had declared by resolution of April 24, 1951, concerning the *"Referendum against Re-militarization and for the Conclusion of a Peace Treaty with Germany in 1951"* (Federal Gazette 1951 No. 82), among other things, that the associations which carried out this referendum, in particular also the Free German Youth (FDJ), were directed against the constitutional order and were therefore prohibited by law by Article 9 (2) of the Basic Law (Grundgesetz - GG)." And further: "The reasons for this decision are summarized in the statement that the so-called referendum was a link in

a planned action, which had as its true aim the active resistance against the constitutional order of the Federation and its elimination."

But the FDJ did not let bans stop them. When the FRG joined the European Defense Community EDC, which was another big step towards re-militarization, the FDJ, the Falcons, Boy Scouts and DGB youth and other youth organizations of West Germany formed an alliance. They called for a peace caravan in Essen on May 11, 1952, which was banned on the day of the caravan itself but nevertheless took place, and in which 30,000 young people, including many FDJers, took part.

The state apparatus responded to this demonstration for peace with truncheons and pistols and shot dead the only 21-year-old FDJ member Philipp Müller.



Philipp Müller lies in the gutter, fatally shot. The policemen push the other youth on.

May 11, about 2pm, at the Rüttenscheider Brücke, the policeman ahead has already pulled out his pistol. A few seconds later, the shot that kills Philipp Müller is fired.



On June 16, 1954, the Federal Administrative Court upheld the Federal Government's ban on the FDJ. The court's reasoning was identical to that of the federal government. In August 1951, the Central Council decided to continue the struggle of the West FDJ illegally. In the period 1950-56, 6429 were arrested because of this. 425 trials against 6,429 members of the FDJ, led to 1012 years in prison. Preliminary proceedings were conducted against 35,189 youths.

Despite the ban, the FDJ did not let itself be defeated and continued to work, even with a smaller membership, until at least 1956.

The performance of Brecht's *Herrnburg Report* in Essen at the beginning of the 1980s and the fight for it, was an action in the tradition of the FDJ and was part of the fight against the FDJ ban. The founding of the "Initiatives for the Unification of Revolutionary Youth", the soldier's appeal: "If ordered to march to war with alarm, we march to Bonn!" and the occupation of the CSU headquarters against the invasion of Leipzig in January 1990, were also actions that tied in with the struggles of the FDJ.

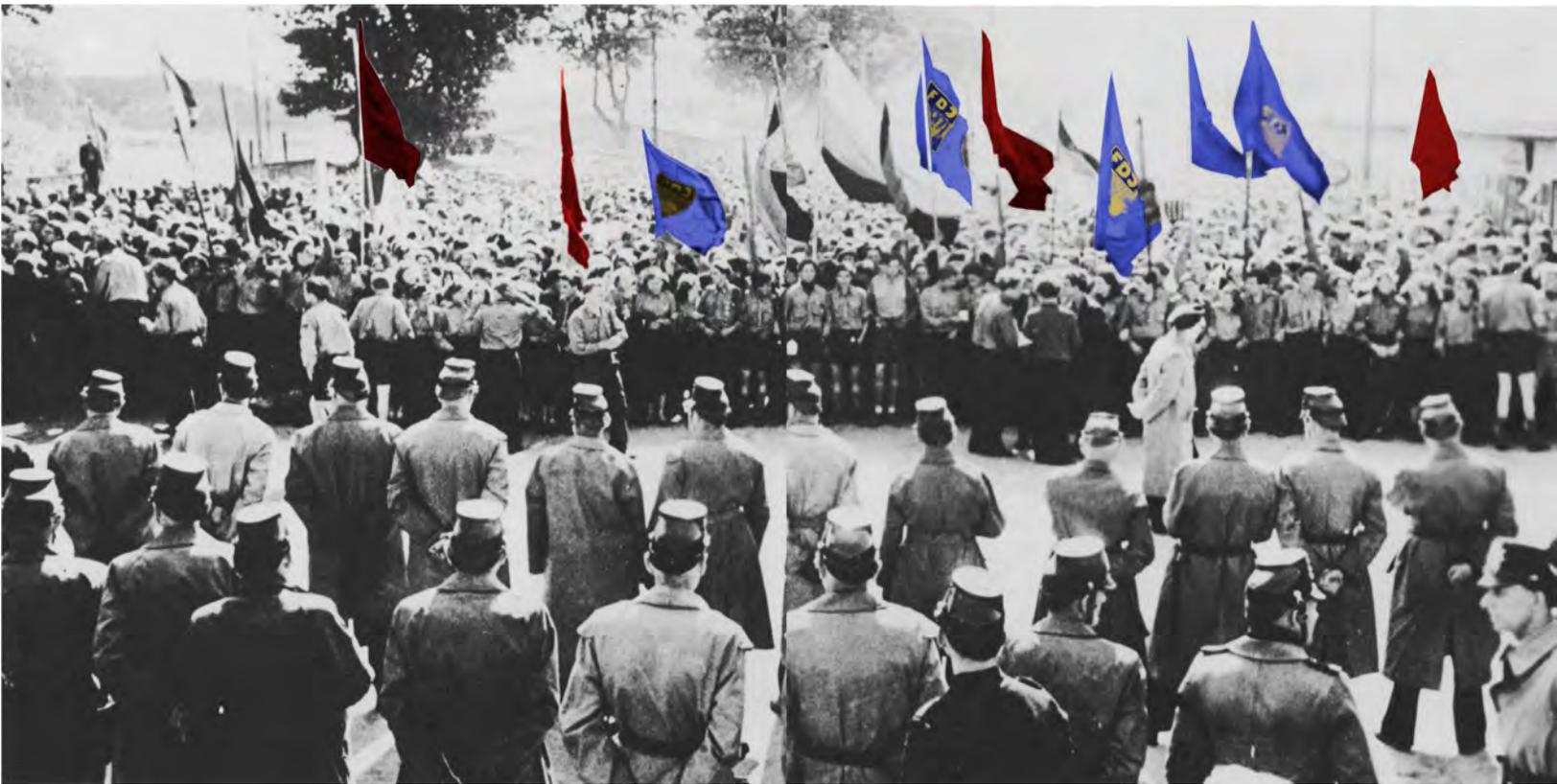
As a lesson from this time and the history as an organization in two countries we write the following in our programmatic declaration: *"After German imperialism had come up again, the FDJ in East and West knew - a unity of the divided Germany can only be possible as a socialist Germany. As an uncompromising class struggle against the ruling class."*

Lilith, Lena, Regensburg



Schwenningen, 1951

We will be back - you can't get rid of us!



The Herrnburg encirclement, 1950

In its history, the FDJ has often clashed with this state. The examples of the murder of Philipp Müller, the blockade at Herrnburg, the stopping of the performance of the Herrnburg Report and the recent attacks on us as an organization show that. But the FDJ has never given up its fight against this rotten system - it has never lost hope in the struggle against this state.

The reason given for the ban on the Essen Peace Caravan in 1952 by the Minister of the Interior, Lehr, was that there were too few policemen to protect the demonstration.

Despite the ban on the demonstration, many young people, like Philipp Müller, came. Suddenly there were enough policemen to attack the demonstration. During the demo, Philipp Müller was murdered by Lehr and his truncheon-swingers. 30 years later, in 1982, Bertolt Brecht's "Herrnburger Bericht" was to be premiered on the streets of Essen. Despite being banned by that state, the play, which brought together the criminal goings-on of West German violence in Herrnburg in 1950 and Essen in 1952, could be performed a year later. A long struggle was necessary to express the commemoration for a murder-victim. The reason given by the city: "The views of the actors".

1982: The young people in blue shirts go to the city hall in Essen to ask the so called chief municipal director why the hall is not made available for the performance.

Chief municipal director Friedrich: Well, I want to repeat it again: I have read all this in the newspaper. It is not about the art and it is not about the views. It is about the fact that an ultra-left group from Bavaria, so from abroad, here in Essen on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the murder, in exclamation marks, of a violent demonstrator...

(Unrest, indignation, interruption: Now he's letting it all hang out, now we finally have it!)

... wants to give a performance. They can do that, or you who are here can do it in Bavaria with Strauß, he could well...

(Restlessness)

Renate: Strauß has the same methods!

Ulli: Can you tell us, which acts of violence Philipp Müller is supposed to have done?

Friedrich: No... [...]

Chief municipal director Friedrich: First of all, I am not responsible for the answer here, but the court...

(Interruption: Then don't say stuff like that!)

... and that has been investigated by the courts at that time, namely this mentioned Philipp Müller has participated in a violent demonstration, which was forbidden.

(Interruption: Why was this demonstration violent?)

... because it became violent against police officers [...] he was shot in self-defense...

(Unrest)

... you were probably all there?... don't talk such nonsense!

Christine Schanderl: This lie has been disproved!

In the brochure "The Herrenburgers in Essen" you can also find eyewitness accounts of the events on May 11, 1952:

The mass of demonstrators had already stormed past me, suddenly about 5 meters away from me a youth stopped running, I saw that he was out of breath, that he could not run any further. Suddenly he threw both arms to the side and cried out. Then he grabbed his chest. I saw very clearly that the police had shot at him from about 50 to 60 meters away. The boy was hit in the back.

Miss Martha Hadinsky

On the way back of our command there were very excited discussions among the officers. One officer said loudly, "We can't go along with this anymore, this is what we went to police school for, to do such dirty work against our own youth. I'd rather eat dry bread before I let myself be used for this, or I'll look for another job."

A policeman from Cologne

**GOOD DAY !
We would like to see the chief municipal director !**





Munich, 1953

Between the actual performance in 1983 and the scheduled performance there was 1 year, and in that year the performers stood in schoolyards in blue shirts and handed out flyers:

"This is forbidden, remove yourselves as quickly as possible, otherwise I'll call the police and you'll be charged with trespassing!" "Oh, Mr. School Director, if you're so keen to get rid of us, then get the police, meanwhile we'll continue to make an effort with the students - do you perhaps want a flyer from us?" "You'll be able to discuss it with the students much better." "The students don't mind us handing out here." "Oh, they don't even know what it's about!" "That's why we're here." "Get off the schoolyard! I'm warning you for the last time!" "Yes, we're leaving now. By now, all the students have the flyers. Have fun!"

The next school! It was just break, we distributed hundreds of flyers within a very short time. During a short visit to the student council, we handed out advertising material for the Herrsburg report, then we went on to the sports field. There the teachers saw us distributing - and again didn't see us. "So, hurry up, I'm supposed to report this, but I think you're right, and of course Bertolt Brecht, too."

The next school! Here the janitor felt obliged to inform us about the unlawfulness of our behavior. To 3 or 4 men he spoke - while Christian went from class to class. As he entered the first class he was met with thunderous applause. "Look there - someone in an FDJ shirt! He's handing something out!" The teacher, a small, startled woman: "You, young man, you, we are writing a math test here! Get out immediately! Peals of laughter."

Her authority was obviously limited. Pause. All the teachers of this school united against us, one of them ran resolutely to the telephone - for him the police was the last resort from these blue-shirts controlled from the GDR.

In the meantime, the others were trying hard to separate us from the apprentices. The math teacher from before was particularly keen on our leaflets. They put up huge posters all over the city this year.

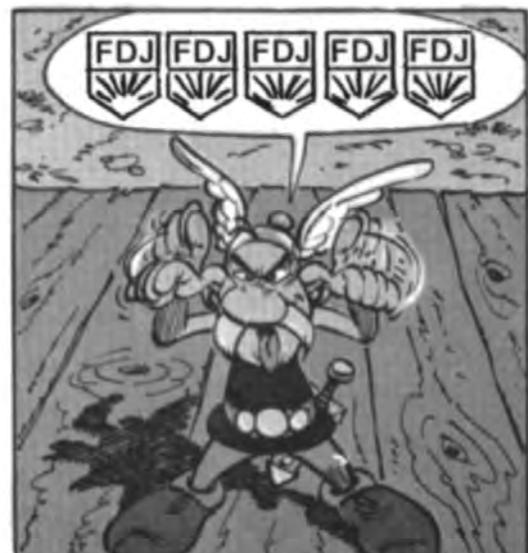


Essen, 1983

For 85 years our organization has been gaining experience in the struggle against this state. The FRG clearly demonstrates its desire not to let us perform or show communist, antifascist propaganda with every attack on us.

True then and today: Us or Them!

Lucy, Elli, Nürnberg



Never again a German Reich!

Anyone who thinks that the Monday demonstrations were all there was at the time of so-called "peaceful reunification" is completely mistaken.

It is true that the West German working class failed to prevent the annexation of the GDR by German imperialism, the West German bank and factory capitalists, who were already trampling on the sovereignty of the GDR well before the official "reunification". But the revolutionary youth in West Germany did not stop fighting!

It was the initiatives for the unification of revolutionary youth, founded in 1984 and guided by the realisation that the division of the workers' movement into hundreds of groups and circles cannot be overcome by each of these groups and circles creating its own youth organisation in its own image. What is needed is a federation that is independent of the party and thus able to unite the different currents of the workers' youth movement in a common front of struggle.

In the imprint of their newspaper "Kämpfende Jugend" ("Fighting Youth") they wrote: "The 'Fighting Youth' works for the unification of revolutionary youth. It is open to everyone who wants to help in this, who wants to write for it, no matter what organisation he belongs to. It is published by all those who do so up to the present time and is published as often as possible.



Demonstration gegen Wiedervereinigung
 Gegen „nationale Besoffenheit“ und „alle Bestrebungen zur Bildung eines Deutschen Reichs“ demonstrierten gestern Abend überwiegend junge Bremer auf dem Domshof. Sie führten Transparente mit sich, auf denen die Souveränität der DDR gefordert und vor einem „4. Reich“ gewarnt wurde. Zu lesen war auch die Sorge: „Die BRD gefährdet den Frieden in Europa.“ Initiator der Kundgebung, an der nach Angaben der Polizei rund 200 Demonstranten teilnahmen, war der Arbeiterbund für den Wiederaufbau der KPD, unterstützt wurde sie unter anderem vom ASTA der Universität Bremen, vom Studiengangsausschuß Geschichte und vom Jugendausschuß der Deutschen Postgewerkschaft. Vom Domshof aus zogen die Teilnehmer durch die Innenstadt. (eb)
 Weserkurier und Bremer Nachrichten, 20.12.1989 Foto: Rosemarie Rospek

AUFRUF: Ab auf die Straße!

Am 19. Dezember 1989 soll in Berlin (DDR) gegen die Wiedervereinigung, gegen eine Einvernahme der DDR durch die BRD demonstriert werden. Ebenfalls am 19. Dezember will der Kanzler der BRD, Kohl, nach Dresden fahren, und er wird seinen 10-Punkte-Plan zur Wiedervereinigung sicher nicht zu Hause in Bonn lassen.

Dies sollte für uns Anlaß genug sein, an diesem 19. Dezember auch in der BRD gegen die Wiedervereinigungspolitik der Kohl-Regierung und alle Bestrebungen zur Bildung eines "deutschen Reichs" zu demonstrieren.

Für die Menschen in der DDR und in der BRD gibt es keinen vernünftigen Grund für eine wie immer verbräute oder unverbräute Wiederherstellung eines deutschen Reichs. Im Gegenteil. Die Bestrebungen der Bundesregierung rufen schon jetzt mehr noch als bei den Regierungen der anderen Staaten bei deren Völkern große Besorgnis hervor. Wer kann es ihnen verdenken, daß sie an die bisherige Geschichte dieses Jahrhunderts denken, in der die "Stärkung Deutschlands" und jedes Nachgeben gegenüber deutschen "Anschluß"-Bestrebungen in die Katastrophe führten.

Wir in der BRD müssen froh sein, wenn Menschen in der DDR gegen einen "Anschluß" an die BRD auftreten. Auch um sie zu ermutigen, aber ebenso um unerserwilligen sollten wir am 19. Dezember auf die Straße gehen unter Losungen wie:

"Nie wieder Deutsches Reich"
 "Kein 4. Reich"
 "Für die Souveränität der DDR"
 "Die BRD gefährdet den Frieden in Europa"

**Kommt am Dienstag, 19.12.89 um 17³⁰
 auf den Domshof**

Appeal from Bremen

On 19 December 1989, the day Kohl gave his speech in Leipzig, opponents of an annexation of the GDR demonstrated in Bremen, Hamburg, Frankfurt and Cologne, for the sovereignty of the GDR and against a fourth German Reich.

The CSU in particular was one of the angry drivers here, both supplying tons of agitation material to the East and expanding its sphere of influence from the Bavarian mountains to the Oder and the Neisse in the form of the DSU and a specially established CSU/DSU coordination office.

In January 1990, the CSU held its annual internal conference in Kreuth, but it did not stay there.

As planned, the second half continued in Leipzig.
 Not only did it trample on the sovereignty of the GDR, but it also expressed its ambition to turn the CSU into a "german empire wide" party.

Munich:
In the East and West - All at once:
We are fighting against a fourth german Reich!

Not once, not twice, but six times the CSU headquarters in Munich were besieged. The first occasion was the internal conference on 11 January 1990. It was the main initiative to unite the revolutionary youth. This internal conference was also the occasion for the Workers' League for the Reconstruction of the KPD to counter the provocation.

On 1st January 1990, at 3 p.m., the Bavarian law enforcement officers start sweating for the first time: a group of young people meet in front of the CSU headquarters and sit down in front of the entry. The position is clear: „CSU in Leipzig - No!“ and "Stop the midwives of the 4th Reich!" When asked by the police what this means, they sing: „In the East and the West - All at the same time: We're fighting against a Greater German Reich!“

3rd January: In Berlin, the capital of the GDR: 250,000 people demonstrate against Nazi graffiti at the Soviet Memorial in Treptow.

But the Nazi agitators are also in Munich and so one stood again in front of the CSU headquarter. After the protest, the police's identification procedure does not take that long anymore - the Bavarian police thinks they know who they are dealing with.

5th January: In the meantime, the Junge Union of the CSU has the nerve to hold district meetings in Leipzig. So, back to the familiar place: in front of the entry of the CSU headquarters!



3. Januar 1990, Berlin Treptow. 250 000 demonstrieren gegen die Besudelung des Rote-Armee-Denkmal in Berlin-Treptow, gegen Nazis und Wiedervereinigung!

Die Belagerer der CSU-Zentrale
 Januar 1990

Vor genau einem Jahr:

Proteste gegen „deutsches Reich“

Die Polizei entfernte etwa 60 Demonstranten von der CSU-Zentrale. Weil er sich mit etwa fünfzig bis sechzig Personen vor der CSU-Zentrale an der Nymphenburger Straße niedergelassen hatte, um gegen die Absicht der CSU zu protestieren, die Kreuzer Klausurtagung vom 12. bis 14. Januar in Leipzig vorzusagen (siehe unten), wurde der 41-jährige Thomas Schmitz-Bender vorübergehend festgenommen. Der Münchner Chef des Sozialistischen Deutschen Studentenbundes war am Neujahrstag von Polizisten weggeführt, in ein Auto verfrachtet und in die Stammkneipe des Polizeipräsidiums gebracht worden. Um 21 Uhr durfte der 41-jährige wieder den Bierweg antreten. Was dem 41-jährigen vorgeworfen wird, war von der Polizei gestern nicht zu erfahren, sie sah sich außerdem, eine Stellungnahme zu diesem Vorfall abzugeben. Thomas Schmitz-Bender, -nin-

der sich gestern nachmittag wieder vor dem CSU-Haus niedergelassen hatte, sieht sich als erklärten Gegner der Wiedervereinigung eines „deutschen Reichs“. „Ich behaupte niemanden“, sagt er, „wenn ich mich auf den Bürgersteig vor der CSU-Zentrale setze, und es nicht mir auch nicht darum, nicht schlechter als ein Möbelstück angepackt zu werden. Ich sage nur: CSU in Leipzig - nein.“

MM, 9. 1. 90

Kommt zum Prozeß!

Termine: 15. 1., 14⁰⁰Uhr Zimmer A 422
24. 1., 14⁰⁰Uhr Zimmer A 123

zusätzlich im Justizgebäude Nymphenburger Straße

Herausgeber: Münchner Initiative zur Vereinigung der revolutionären Jugend
 V.i.S.d.P.: Klaus Hubig, Havelstraße 4 8 Mi 30

This will be followed by 07 January, 09 January and 11 January: again and again the young people are taken away and again and again they return. Because it stays that way: „In the East and the West - All at the same time: We are fighting against a Greater German Reich!“

And so the following lawsuits show how politics are made:

At a demonstration under the slogan "Never again German Reich", on 27.01.1990 in Munich, members of the FDJ Leipzig distribute an open letter. The letter says: "Let's fight together against the grand old ambitions of the Federal German CSU. A Greater German Reich, as imagined by the gentlemen in the CSU headquarters and brown beer halls of the Republicans (far right wing party in the FRG), must not come to pass. We, as people of Leipzig, are affected, that the CSU, in violation of international law standards and customs, takes ownership of our territory as a matter of course".

These are the first steps in the creation of a fighting unit in East and West, against the annexation of the GDR and the German imperialism. The result is the founding of the "Forum for the Unification of Revolutionary Youth". An organ for debates, so that the different political currents in the working-class youth discuss with each other instead of about each other. There could be found discussion contributions, explanations and statements from the Rebel; the Initiatives for the Unification of Revolutionary Youth; from the SDAJ; the Socialist Youth of Germany; from „the Falken“; from the Kommunistische Arbeiterzeitung (the Communist Workers' Newspaper) - Central organ of the Workers' League for the Reconstruction of the KPD... Without establishing this most minimal form of unity, there will be no unity against the capitalists on the most important questions - this is shown by the struggle against the annexation of the GDR. Many more actions against the annexation of the GDR follow and also against the prohibition of the FDJ in West Germany.

In February 1994, the Initiatives for the Unification of Revolutionary Youth submit a declaration to the Federal Executive Committee of the Free German Youth. In which they express their will to join and build up the FDJ as an organisation in both German states. On 27.02.1994 the Federal Executive Committee of the Free German Youth confirms the founding of base groups in Bremen, Frankfurt (Main), Mainz, Munich and Nuremberg. The annexation of the GDR ended the post-war order and gave German imperialism back its place on the world stage - a position that German imperialism should never have had again!" It got the FDJ (Free German Youth) back again ("Home into the Reich"). This is correctly characterised in the statement of the Initiatives for the Unification of Revolutionary Youth:



Demonstration against the party conference of the Schönhuber-fascist in Rosenheim 1990

„The capitalists fear the FDJ as a voice against militarism and for peoples' friendship... Since they can no longer order us to their guns, into their tanks and fighter planes, us who would be the first to perish in the coming great war, to plunder other countries, because we are not individualised.“

Group Bremen

Excerpt from the programmatic declaration of the Free German Youth (FDJ):

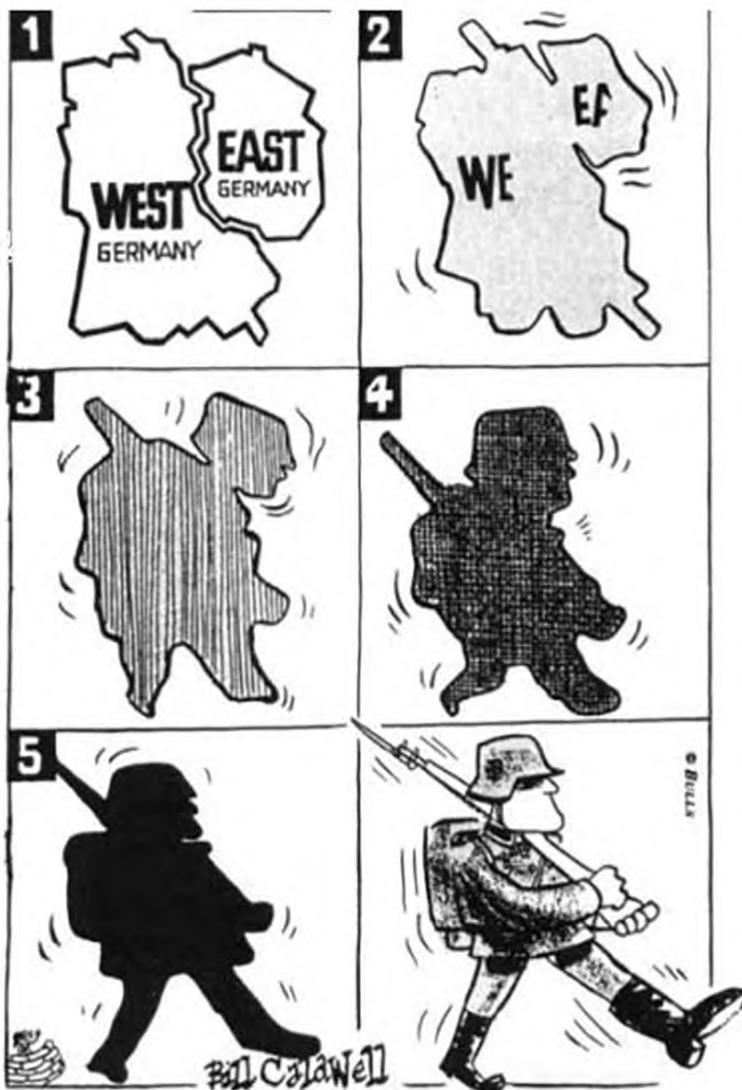
In the FRG, the FDJ fought against the old Nazis and war criminals in public positions. It mobilized thousands of young workers and other working people to Germany-wide gatherings, of youth from East and West, to the World Festival of Youth and Students of the World Federation of Democratic Youth in Berlin, to demonstrations and actions against revanchism, rearmament, the open war and annexation plans of West German imperialism. The FDJ paid for its struggle with hundreds of years in prison - and was eventually forbidden. After German imperialism had come up again, the FDJ in East and West knew - a unity of the divided Germany can only be possible as a socialist Germany. As an uncompromising class struggle against the ruling class.

[...] The Free German Youth sets itself the task of uniting the revolutionary youth in one association even though - in fact, exactly because today it is one of many organizations of the youth in the FRG and the annexed GDR. Unification of the revolutionary youth is the struggle to end the division among the revolutionary youth, to push back bourgeois and reformist views and to overcome the disorganization of the masses. It is a struggle against indifference, against self-absorption, against theorizing or merciless pragmatism. Against throwing overboard of any principle in favor of a nice consensus and the peace of the left family, which is the opposite of unification.

[...] The unification of the revolutionary youth is the best way to approach the socialist revolution in order to triumph over fascism and imperialist war. So the question arises for every revolutionary youth group and organization and for all revolutionary youth who more than only desire a better world:

What organization is necessary for the approach and the actual realization of the proletarian revolution?

The peace that leads to war again



MARCH OF THE FOURTH REICH

Bill Caldwell
(Großbritannien),
Daily Star, 20.2.1990
Der Marsch des
Vierten Reiches

There was great ecstasy in this country when the Berlin Wall fell. Peace had returned to the world as a result, they said. In December 1989, the then Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany had proclaimed in front of the ruins of the Dresdner Frauenkirche that war would never again be started from German territory. At that time, he was standing on the territory of that country from which war had never actually be fought. That was soon to change.

No sooner the GDR had been annexed, a government declaration was published on Jan. 30, 1991:

"Germany is finished with its history; in the future it can openly acknowledge its role as a world power and expand it."

Showing wisdom borne of experience, the Daily Star had published the accompanying cartoon in February 1990. The FDJ didn't want to trust peace either, as they are in the tradition of Karl Liebknecht, who already in 1907 said the following in his brochure

"Anti-militarism - Militarism":

"The one who has the youth, has the army."

The war against Yugoslavia (1999) then represented a caesura. For the third time in this century, German troops fought for the interests of German imperialism in the Balkans. Some people woke up from their delirium. The FDJ participated in countless manifestations, protests, vigils, leaflet distributions and other elements of visible urban beautification against the war in Yugoslavia. Outstanding was a protest action at the Brandenburg Gate when the Bonn government moved to Berlin in May 1999:

"Was this border abolished so that we go to war against other peoples together?"

Photographer Gabi Senft had documented it and thus preserved it for later generations - a message that was also to be found on many a remnant of the Berlin Wall at that time.

What would you do if you grew up in the GDR and were raised to love peace, and now you are to be drafted into the FRG army to invade Yugoslavia? You go to the FDJ and declare:

"No to the FRG and its army!"

Ringo did exactly that; he didn't do his service, went into hiding and was only picked up months later by the MPs and taken to the barracks. He declared at that time that he would not serve in the Bundeswehr, as it was not his country's army. He wasn't generally refusing to serve in an army, but specifically refusing to serve a nation that had robbed him of his country and ended the postwar order. He won't serve in an occupying army, educated in fascist spirit, which invades foreign countries.

66 days in military prison were given for it and court trials, which dragged on for years and ended of course with a money punishment.

The FDJ backed him in packed halls to capacity with his supporters, many of whom we fight with to this day. The broad solidarity movement was cross-age and cross-organizational.



The then honorary chairman of the VVN-BdA and member of parliament Heinrich Fink visited him in the Bundeswehr prison and spoke at our protests. Young people also spoke out, as well as personalities from politics and culture (e.g. Peter Hacks, Dietrich Kittner, Heinz Kessler, Thomas Kuczynski, Kurt Gossweiler).

If you want to read about this in detail, please see the brochure "Ringo Ehlert kontra Bundeswehr", which was written afterwards. And the press reactions also went far beyond the new greater German borders.

After this solidarity campaign, the FDJ continued its anti-militarist fight. The 60th anniversary of the liberation from Hitler's fascism was approaching and the FDJ participated in the international anti-war campaign:

"The Burial or The Heavenly Four",

which was supported by a broad alliance. Veterans of the four victorious powers were involved in this campaign with an artistic character. They traveled to Germany to take into safe custody the German soldier



from Brecht's "Legend of the Dead Soldier (Legende vom toten Soldaten)", which had been buried in Bonn in 1989 and had already been mobilized again by the FRG government in 1990.

This campaign offered the possibility to try out ourselves as FDJ in this union in many ways. To use artistic means to bring political issues to the streets, as well as to use the freedom of art, which is anchored in the provisional German constitution, to fight and win again the ban of the campaign.



Eine internationale Aktion zu Lande und in der Luft zum 60. Jahrestag der Befreiung vom Hitlerfaschismus
 Aktionsbüro „Das Begräbnis oder DIE HIMMLISCHEN VIER“ · 10178 Berlin · Karl-Liebknecht-Haus · Weydingerstr. 14-16 · Tel.: 030-2409505 · email: aktionsbuero@himmlischevier.de
 www.himmlischevier.de · Spendenkonto: C. Wälderberger · Frankfurter Volksbank · Konto-Nr. 200 40 68 00 · BLZ 501 900 00 · Stichwort: Himmlische Vier

It was a new idea for many political activists on the territory of the annexed GDR, although this form of action was already partly known through the "Anachronistic Procession (Anachronistischer Zug)" of 1990. This included, for example, the operation of the free radio station "Heavenly Four," which broadcast from Potsdam.

For more on this campaign, see www.himmlischevier.de. Here, too, reference should be made to a publication, especially the edition with DVD, namely "Das Begräbnis oder die Himmlischen Vier - ein Volksmärchen" (The Burial or the Heavenly Four - a Folk Tale) - available from the publishing house "Das Freie Buch", Munich (<https://verlagdasfreiebuch.kommerge.de/>).

But not only the governing ones quite recognized the current parallels and the political explosiveness. It was clear the government took the program seriously - it was banned in 2005 by Berlin city officials,

and because of this, we continued the action into 2006. The actions of the "Heavenly Four" were not limited to these two years though.

They were the starting point for centrally mobilized activities "Every year remember May 8th", mainly in Berlin-Treptow or Berlin-Tiergarten, but also in other cities in the FRG.

And a large part of the young people, who were won in this action came together again in 2007: to a youth congress in the Berlin cinema "Kosmos". After an analysis of the overall societal situation, a declaration was adopted there, which declared the "state of emergency of the republic" and announced actions against it. Here, too, the annexation of the GDR was recognized as the starting point. Characteristic of this state of emergency was: accelerating decay of democratic (basic) rights, militarization of all levels of society, anti-constitutional centralization of police forces and secret services, deprivation of rights through the so-called Hartz-laws. Furthermore, the **Youth Action Committee-Emergency of the Republic**

was formed, known as the JAA for short. The activities of this committee - in changing composition - were manifold. In addition to the exchange of information and the planning of new actions, the leadership was also responsible for the publication of a series of so-called "Infobriefe" (information letters), which continuously substantiated the situation analysis made in 2007 with further facts, concretized them and thus made them accessible for the vast public. The main task, was above all the organizational and content-related preparation of numerous activities that organized the resistance against this state of emergency.



By the way: Both, the declaration mentioned at the beginning in its full version, and the info letters in digital form, as well as further flyers etc. can be found at www.jugendkongress-notstand-der-republik.org.

Marina, Markus, Saxony

We have nothing to lose but our chains and a world to win!

Long live international solidarity! - this is not an empty phrase. It is the elixir of life of every working-class youth organization - everywhere in the world!

They were insulted as traitors to the fatherland, the young people in World War 1, who did not want to go to war with weapons in their hands against the young people from Belgium, from France... because they knew that the war benefits the rich, the arm manufacturers, the capitalists. Whether you come from Belgium or France, whether you come from Germany or the United States, war kills us.

Long live the youth of treason!

This united the youth who united against fascism and war in the FDJ, first as internationalists in exile. This united the youth who fought against the fascists in Spain, who joined the Résistance side by side with the youth of France.

ascism and war are our enemy - not the youth of other countries. Nothing separates us from the youth, no matter where we come from. We have nothing to lose but our chains and a world to win. Everything separates us from the owners of the banks and factories, for whose profit and whose gain we are to die on the battlefield!

This was the attitude of the revolutionary youth after this country was liberated from fascism - at the cost of millions of deaths, especially from the Soviet Union. Never again must war come from this country! This was the guiding principle of the young FDJ members who were fighting for a united, peaceful Germany. As fighters against the war which the monopolists were again preparing in the West; as builders of a better Germany without capitalists; as brigadists in internationalist action; as advocates of international understanding and progress in the East.

This is how the FDJ operated after the annexation of the GDR, despite - and especially because of - the temporary defeat of socialism: Since 1990, imperialism can once again rule the world - and German imperialism can once again gain economic and political strength, which enabled it to exploit the peoples of Europe.

And today, we are again facing the danger of a third world war!

WE or THEY: This is how we must think and act, who wants to fight for a future in which wellbeing is not decided by origin, or passport, or nationality, but instead for a future where the prevailing question is: What is the fastest way to build a world that benefits us - and not the millionaires?

The fastest way to achieve this is not to complain about the of this or that country, to complain about their intrigues and crimes somewhere in the world. The fastest way and our greatest contribution to make life easier for the peoples is to fight, where we live and work, against our main enemy, German imperialism, which exploits, destroys and oppresses worldwide. Because every weakening of German imperialism in economy and politics diminishes its possibilities of exploiting other peoples and strengthens their struggle for liberation as well as ours.

For us, internationalism cannot be an empty phrase; it must be both a daily objective and a declaration of fight against capital. Against its militarism, against the nationalism and racism of the rulers, because we neither let ourselves become murderers of our own kind, nor let ourselves be divided, because the working youth objectively has the same goals, no matter where it lives or where it comes from.

Today, more than ever, the revolutionary youth needs its international unification, where capitalism is at the end of its days and seeks to postpone its fall with even more barbarism. Where, on the other hand, every uprising, every attack on the owners of capital in the national context is reflected worldwide.

And at the same time we have seldom faced international capital as disorganized as in these days. All the more, the construction of a new world forces us to seek and lead the debate, the collective action with those youth organizations that agree that our slogan can only be: Revolution and socialism!

International Department of the Central Council of the FDJ

The FDJ on the street: As long as German imperialism is not defeated, we will not remain silent: The main enemy is at home and is called: German imperialism!



Internationale Aktionseinheit
Zum 75. Jahrestag der Befreiung vom Faschismus
REVOLUTION
STATT KRIEG und FASCHISMUS

From the beginning, the FDJ is part of the international unity of action The Burial or the Heavenly Four - Revolution instead of War! We, the youth today, would not be alive without the liberation from fascism and war, by the peoples, especially by the Soviet Union! Today, in times in which German imperialism again threatens the peoples, in times in which it could march unhindered to the East again after the annexation - it is our duty: to do everything to educate about its intrigues, and to work together to form an international unity of action.



Siegesparade
Moskau
24. Juni 1945
Roten Platz



The FDJ is a member of the WFDY - World Federation of Democratic Youth - an achievement of the united youth against fascism and world war, founded in 1945. We need the international unity of the youth - but we cannot need compromises with the ruling class:

The World Festival of Youth and Students, the traditional festival of the WFDY should take place on the occasion of 100 years of the October Revolution in the country of the October Revolution. So far, so good. What was not good at all was that the festival was organized together with the Russian State, which more and more took over the control, determined the contents and pushed the WFDY out of its own event.

We were not the only ones who warned against this and looked for discussion at the international stage. This battle was lost and proved once again: no compromises with the class enemy, no agreement with the counterrevolution! Instead, every effort to preserve the anti-imperialist character of the WFDY and to defend this great achievement in the unity of the world youth.



Die FDJ auf den
XVIII. Weltfestspielen
der Jugend und Studenten

Revolution
or World War III
SMASH GERMAN
IMPERIALISM
Kampf dem deutschen
Imperialismus



One lesson from the temporary defeat of socialism is precisely this: the opportunist movements in our own lines, the reformist illusions of an improvement of exploitation through elections or appeals, the conciliation with the class enemy, disarm us and benefit only the capital.



The communist youth of Greece is displaying a banner from the Acropolis: People of Europe - rise up! - how right they are!

The EU is nothing more than a temporary alliance of capitalist countries, with conflicting interests, pushed by the FRG and its imperialists to enrich themselves at the expenses of the peoples, including Greece.



When the economic dictate is no longer enough, the military one will follow.





As part of the international unity of action, together with organizations from four countries, we were on the streets for several weeks between 2010 and 2015 in the FRG, the annexed GDR, Poland and the Czech Republic - against the main war-monger in Europe, German imperialism:

Class struggle instead of world war!

With the campaign " Revolution instead of war" we honored the 100th anniversary of the October Revolution and carried its achievements onto the streets. Actions on May 8/9, the anniversary of the liberation from fascism, against the annexation of the GDR by German imperialism, meetings with the youth of other countries - these are the seeds of the internationalist struggles that will come and that we need to shake off the chains.



About repression of a doomed system and the non-retreat

There is nothing special about the state, in the hands of the rich, sending out its informers and truncheon swingers, its bloodhounds and bootlickers, to beat the organized labor movement and smash its organizations - with fines, violence, bans and jail. So there is nothing special about the persecution of the FDJ by the Greater German apparatus of power since 1990, and yet, somehow, there is.

As is well known, banned in West Germany in 1951 and weakened in East Germany by its own mistakes, the FDJ continued to pursue its goal of uniting revolutionary youth in an association of working-class youth after the annexation. Numerically compact, this organization - because of its history, as a remnant from GDR times, perhaps because of its claim to unite the youth - was a thorn in the side of the propagandists of right and freedom of exploitation, and because somehow it could not be killed, a thorn in the flesh of German imperialism.



Since then, the prosecutors and uniformed or civil have not been happy with the fact that they not only annexed another country in 1990, but also "brought the FDJ home to the Reich". The FDJ is as legal today as the average member of the CSU is a racist. How so?

The destruction of the GDR did not come suddenly, it was prepared on both sides of the wall. Even in GDR times, laws were introduced to speed up the process of decomposition and incorporation. By law, West German parties were allowed to establish offshoots on GDR territory, and according to the German-German Unification Treaty, all officially registered associations and parties were to continue to exist legally in the whole of Germany in the future.

Unfortunately, the FDJ also had itself registered. Now this organization is legal in Germany according to Federal German and international law standards (it always was in East Germany anyway). And every reasonable person can recognize: Whoever shakes this, shakes the foundations of the so-called peaceful reunification. For what we have experienced since then is that two different laws are being applied with regard to the FDJ, a law of the old Federal Republic and one of the no longer existing GDR.

Every year, and with a humorous seeming illegality, the West German state wants to keep us down with the West German FDJ ban from 1951. At demonstrations and elsewhere, flags, blue shirts and leaflets are confiscated, personal details are taken, comrades are taken into custody, homes are searched - on the charge that displaying the FDJ emblem of the rising sun constitutes a crime under §86a of the German Criminal Code (use of symbols of unconstitutional organizations), because the "West-FDJ" is banned.

Not forbidden, however, would be the identical emblem of the "East-FDJ" (at least if it is shown on the territory of the GDR). Dozens of lawsuits have already been conducted about this, and yet the decisive questions have never been answered: If the FDJ was always one organization in two countries, how can one speak of a "West-FDJ" and an "East-FDJ" at all (after all, it was not we who divided the country in 1949) or, contrary to the fairy tale of German unity, do two German states continue to exist?

If the Unification Treaty is valid, how can different laws apply? Doesn't that just cancel the legal basis of the annexation?

Difficult questions, about which the courts in East and West have had to rack their brains, because the public prosecutors' offices and hundred-man teams in East and West are precisely part of a repressive apparatus that does not ask for democratic law before prosecuting, seizing and arresting.

In 1991, for example, they pulled the FDJ ban out of the ass of German history and put a female comrade on trial. She was acquitted, further trials followed. On May 11, 2011, the FDJ demonstrated in Essen in memory of Philipp Müller, who had been shot in the back by police during a peace demonstration exactly 60 years earlier.

The Essen police seemed to remember the "forbidden" FDJ well, so they took the opportunity to arrest everyone wearing the blue shirt and to record their personal details.

Two activists ended up in the police station because of this, some received mail from the public prosecutor's office, and one ended up in court. The prosecution did not refer directly to the display of the FDJ emblem, but used the police's brutal approach to the identification of the comrades to accuse them of bodily harm.

This went so far that one policeman claimed to have suffered from nosebleeds at home as a result of an attack during the identity check that evening. Although the court found that it was unclear whether displaying the FDJ emblem was prohibited, they maintained the defendant was justified in resisting the taking of his personal details, that the police witness statements contradicted each other, and that no violence or injury could be proven; the comrade was convicted of assault.



In August of the following year, two FDJ activists were charged with an action at the Wall Memorial Day in Berlin, in which they displayed the (allegedly) anti-constitutional rising sun. Ultimately, the activists were released and acquitted.

In another action against German militarism in Dresden in 2013 in front of a military museum, FDJ activists climbed a scaffold where they hung an 80 m² banner with the slogan "Our future is not crisis, war and barbarism - class struggle instead of world war - For international solidarity". Charged again for the "anti-constitutional" symbol and for trespassing.

In 2015, the authorities of the gathering black-brown movement in Munich were eager to get to the bottom of the matter. Within two months, there were 14 arrests, countless confiscations of leaflets and rally materials, and unlawfully conducted house searches.

For example, on the anniversary of the assassination of the "White Rose" members, anti-militarists were arrested for this reason, who opposed the appearance of the Bundeswehr at a leisure fair, and during protests against the "Bagida" racists, young refugees with FDJ flags were arrested...

Several handfuls of proceedings were pending, but only one was carried out: A member of the FDJ was acquitted before the district court - the current application of the FDJ ban was anachronistic and the display of the emblem was not punishable. However, the apparatus of power was not very interested in the judge's decision: as soon as the doors of the courtroom opened, more arrests followed - there were "instructions from above" to proceed against the FDJ regardless of any court decision.

When, at the end of a day of proceedings, visitors to the trial drank a coffee in the nearby café, officers of the criminal investigation department and the riot police unceremoniously declared the area around the café a danger zone and searched 20-30 people for violations of §86a of the German Penal Code. Arrests followed. It was not until the Higher Regional Court that the "model trial" ended with an acquittal.



We would have been pretty stupid to rely on the mercy of bourgeois courts. When the persecutions of the FDJ emblem began in Munich, it was clear: The FDJ emblem had to be seen all over Munich. Thus, on a tranquil Easter weekend, some 3,500 posters, bridge banners, and more appeared in the city.

Where class justice strikes, creativity is needed - so if a person is not allowed to show the emblem, then maybe like this? →



When we mobilized to attend the trial at the May Day rally of the DGB, a few meters away, at the stand of the reactionary "police union," a comrade was asked to ride on a police motorcycle.

At the rally commemorating the fascist bombing of the Oktoberfest, our flag flew over the heads of the

Munich police chief, the Bavarian interior minister, the mayor and the political police. No offense was taken (only the public prosecutor - pointed out in the courtroom to the despotism of the law enforcement agencies - wanted to confiscate the photo without further ado from the judge's table, which then went too far for the chairman).

Most recently, Berlin police made headlines around the world when they violently targeted FDJ youths in the course of the 2021 Luxemburg-Liebknicht demonstration - claiming they were uniformed and displaying an illegal insignia. A few weeks earlier, at an FDJ demonstration in Berlin, the police found no objection to the insignia.

Festnahmen auf LL-Demonstration

85 Jahre wird die FDJ im Jahr 2021. 85 Jahre im Kampf gegen Krieg und Faschismus, im Exil, illegal in Nazi-Deutschland, in der reaktionären BRD, in der DDR und heute im neuen Großdeutschland. Die Geschichte einer Arbeiterjugend-Organisation, die Bände spricht.

Auf der LL Demonstration in Berlin 2021 greift der großdeutsche Polizeiapparat die FDJ, und mit ihr alle linken, revolutionären und antifaschistischen Kräfte an. Eine brutale Gewalteskapade mit dem Ziel, diejenigen von der Straße zu fegen, die sich den Notstandsmaßnahmen nicht willenlos unterwerfen. Mit dem Ziel diejenigen mundtot zu machen und zu zerschlagen, die den Kampf gegen den deutschen Imperialismus weiter führen. Ihre Angst vor der Vereinigung der revolutionären Jugend, Ihre Angst vor einer kämpfenden Arbeiterklasse ist das einzige, was dieser Gewaltenapparat heute demonstriert hat.

Der Thron der Milliardäre ist auf Sand gebaut. Wir rufen alle revolutionären Jugendlichen, alle Gruppen und Organisationen zum gemeinsamen Kampf gegen diesen Staat des Krieges und des Faschismus auf.

Wir rufen dazu auf, diesen Angriff der Reaktion in einen Angriff gegen den deutschen Imperialismus umzudrehen.

Meldet euch, wenn auch ihr angegriffen wurdet! Meldet euch wenn ihr für praktische Solidarität bereit seid! Um die Kräfte zu sammeln und gemeinsame Gegenaktionen vorzubereiten.

Zentralrat der Freien Deutschen Jugend

10. Januar 2021



Freie Deutsche Jugend

FDJ-Zentralrat, Weydingerstr. 14-16, 10178 Berlin

mail@FDJ.de www.FDJ.de www.facebook.com/revolutiunundsozialismus



Thus, between persecution and disinterest, a picture of sheer despotism of state action emerges follow, and we will continue to show the rising sun until this system, together with its police thugs and class justice, has landed on the dung heap of history and we govern ourselves.

Marko, Julian, Munich

"Are 30 years really enough?"

... asks the local paper "Schweriner Volkszeitung" in February 2020. The resourceful journalist had got the hint that something unusual was about to happen. He wonders and asks, "Is the old class point of view still alive?"

The research begins - but only after the fascists of the AfD in the state parliament of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern are playing their games. But more on that later.

"Yes, it's still alive: the FDJ wants to protest in Rostock on April 3 and 4." A shock, one knows the FDJ in East Germany still all too well. And then even for the anniversary!

He continues: "Theme: '30 years are enough! Revolution and socialism!' The former youth organization of the GDR is planning an entire campaign to tour East Germany 30 years after the reunification - with stops in Zwickau, Halle, Jena, Eisenhüttenstadt and Berlin."

A year later, the FDJ will write of a "year-long struggle" that "has lasted 85 years and is far from being over."

The anniversary of the rulers can also be an attack on the ruling conditions. 30 years are truly enough!

Like it began, for example in Rostock-Lichtenhagen in 1992...

... it continued when the new-old Greater Germany went to war against Yugoslavia in 1999, in the anniversary year in Erfurt where West German democracy showed its class point of view, the entire campaign revealed the reality of the annexation of the GDR, the beast on the back of a country that had been defeated for the moment.

DER DAMMBRUCH PASSIERTE SCHON VOR 30 JAHREN!

WER DEN FASCHISMUS VERHINDERN WILL, MUSS DEN KAPITALISMUS STÜRZEN!

„Den größten Erfolg erzielten wir in Thüringen. Dort sind wir heute wirklich die ausschlaggebende Partei. [...] Die Parteien in Thüringen, die bisher die Regierung bildeten, vermögen ohne unsere Mitwirkung keine Majorität aufzubringen.“ (A. Hitler, 02.02.1930)

30 Jahre sind genug!

REVOLUTION & SOZIALISMUS

www.FDJ.de

The fascists with black-white-red flags (Imperial war flags of the German Reich) in Berlin Marzahn on October 2nd testified to this.

It cannot stay like this!



And we showed that - for example in June in Jena!



Back to the restless journalist of the Schweriner Volkszeitung and his revelations.

The language of the FDJ! You just have to be able to express yourself. Go with the times, as old-fashioned as before. No one understands that... The AfD does though. And actually, everyone else does, too.

We or they - that sounds harsh and that is how it is meant. But there must still be the neutral one:

"In the very best class-struggle manner it says (...) on the website of the Free German Youth (FDJ): Where 30 years ago hardly anyone saw the third world war in Greater German drunkenness, today it sits clearly and soberly in the front yard of the concerned citizen and tries with its German chauvinism to force workers and the learning youth into its lines."

Best quoted and immediately relived.
In Jena in July.

When the community of "democratic parties" mobilized against this campaign, which they had to see nevertheless.



out of the rubble...

it came crawling...





The robbery of the people's property and the German war. A chapter with which the journalist is more reluctant. "True, 'the invasion of the GDR' had not stopped, even the functionaries must then concede dejectedly. But the world revolution does not seem to be lost yet: the 'grab for the factories

of all the peoples' democracies and former socialist states' is only a 'temporary victory. Grand finale: The FDJ saw this and declared war on the German war with its forces." No sooner said than done. For example, in Zwickau in June.



"Such far-left extremist activities then also concern the AfD fraction in the provincial parliament - as an early warning system of democracy, so to speak." Greater German humor has always had as much standards as the Prussian boot has brains and common sense. Some pictures of our campaign speak volumes and fill the lines of many newspapers.

"And like that," yes, like that, "Member of Parliament Horst Förster then also brings up quite big guns and wants to know by parliamentary inquiry from the state government, among other things: 'Does the state government have knowledge of the campaign '30 years are enough - Revolution and Socialism?' Who approved the manifestation announced on the Internet in Rostock at the beginning of April?' And in general: How does the state government evaluate this campaign?"

Let's put it this way: the campaign also once judged such governments by climbing on their roofs or balconies.



However, this question seems to be most important to the AfD:

"Does the state government have knowledge of contacts between the FDJ, and parties represented in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern? If so, how does the state government assess these contacts?"

Enough of this endearment with the fascists! This government did not want us on the streets of Berlin on October 3, 2020. We took them!

The whole campaign in a booklet - "A documentation" - can be ordered at kontakt@fdj.de.

the editors

DEMONSTRATION
13:00 UHR
FRANKFURTER TOR

3. OKTOBER 2020
15:00 UHR
BRANDENBURGER
TOR



SEI WIE GRANIT!
SEI DER STACHEL!
EIN FÜR ALLE MAL:
NIEDER MIT DEM
DEUTSCHEN IMPERIALISMUS!

30 Jahre
sind
genug!

REVOLUTION &
SOZIALISMUS

