

Summary

The 158th *NZ* issue opens with a block of materials dedicated to the American literary and cultural theorist Fredric Jameson (1934–2024).

The selection was conceived as a quick response to the publication of his book *"The Years of Theory: Postwar French Thought to the Present"*, but while it was being prepared for *NZ*, Jameson died (on September 22nd), following which the nature of the texts included here changed, the selection inevitably acquiring a necrological air.

The block opens with a translation of a chapter from *"The Years of Theory"* dedicated to Gilles Deleuze. We are presenting this fragment as a preprint of the upcoming edition of Jameson's book, which is being prepared for release by the "Ad Marginem" publishing house. Konstantin Mitroshenkov (*"How It Was Done in Paris: Fredric Jameson and His View of Postwar French Theory"*) offers the readers of *NZ* an extensive account of the contents of *"The Years of Theory"*, placing it into the context of Fredric Jameson's entire body of work, with a particular emphasis on the book's genre and the circumstances of its creation. Andrei Gelianov (*"Recoding the Horizon: On Fredric Jameson's Final Work"*) provides a synchronic overview of both the main provisions of the American theorist's political and cultural views, and of the period in "the history of theory" (namely 1950s–1960s, with a brief foray into the early 1970s) which Jameson's new book is about. Gelianov stresses the fact that Jameson has not

been "read" and understood in Russia, and suggests that this may be due to the rather idiosyncratic path that Russian thought and society followed after the collapse of the Soviet Union. In 2025, *NZ* plans to continue discussing Fredric Jameson's legacy in a wide variety of historical and cultural contexts.

The newest instalment of the POLITICS OF CULTURE section looks at the interplay of philosophy, "theory" (as defined by Jameson) and socio-political processes of the late 19th – early 20th century. It features Igor Smirnov's article *"On the Other Side of Philosophy: Friedrich Nietzsche's Concept of the Will to Power and the Problem of Reality"*.

The second thematic block of this *NZ* issue is devoted to the centenary of the first Constitution of the Soviet Union. Vadim Korolkov, one of the contributors, notes that this document, crucial for the development of a new state, has not received the level of attention it certainly deserves; in a sense, in the eyes of historians and legal scholars it has been "overshadowed" by the Treaty on the Formation of the USSR (1922) and the Stalin Constitution (1936). Meanwhile, this Constitution is extremely interesting and important – both because it documented the end of the Civil War and the process of the creation of the USSR, and because it was one of the driving forces of the subsequent transformations of the Soviet Union and its federal system, right up until the collapse of 1991 (not to mention the problems in Russia today).

The thematic selection opens with two republications containing assessments

of the new Constitution given from both sides of the ideological front line of the period. The first text is by Georgy Gurvich (1886–1964), a Soviet jurist and one of the developers of the Constitution of the RSFSR (1918). The second article was written by Nikolai Alekseyev (1879–1964). Unlike Gurvich, Alekseyev was against the Bolsheviks, helped prepare the convocation of the Constituent Assembly of 1917, fought in the White Army, and emigrated first to Czechoslovakia and then to France. Despite the difference in Gurvich and Alekseyev's political stance, in their analyses both of them highlight the same key problems of the 1924 Constitution.

A look at the same document from today's perspective can be found in Vadim Korolkov and Marina Okuneva's articles. Korolkov (*"The USSR Constitution of 1924 and Critique of Modernity"*) proposes a rather unexpected approach, declaring Marxism (and its offshoot Marxism-Leninism, implicit in the USSR, which was created after 1917) to be the successor of the "critical" trajectory in 19th-century liberalism. Okuneva devoted her article to the institutional history of Soviet science – in the context of the state structure laid down in the Constitution of 1924.

This thematic block is further supplemented by a number of materials that also have to do with Soviet history and the anti-Bolshevik movement. NZ ARCHIVE features Ekaterina Nikolaeva-Tendil's article *"The Hussar Secrets: Andrei Balashov's Archive and the «Brotherhood of Russian Truth»"*, where an attempt is

made to recreate the history of perhaps the most mysterious anti-Soviet emigrant underground organisation.

In the CASE STUDY section, Boris Sokolov continues the project started in NZ issues 145 and 149, where he reconstructs "the White Guard pages" of the biographies of representatives of the Soviet cultural, military and power elites (*"Former White Guards in the Soviet Elite"*). This time Sokolov offers a broad overview of the life stories of several Soviet military leaders, writers and scientists – from the marshals Rodion Malinovsky, Leonid Govorov and Ivan Bagryamyan to physicist Anatoly Alexandrov, president of the Academy of Sciences of the Soviet Union.

Another archival publication is a 1967 letter from the Soviet publicist and regular contributor to the *"Novyi Mir"* magazine Vladimir Kantorovich, addressed to First Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Petr Demichev and criticising the existing censorship practices (published by Pavel Glushakov). The final history-related addition to the issue is an essay by Georgy Mamvriysky focusing on how history textbooks were used to help shape and implement the state-approved approach to "memory politics" in Stalin's USSR, and how they are still used that way in today's Russia. The comparison of today's textbooks to those from the 1930s–1940s is of particular interest in Mamvriysky's piece.

As usual, this NZ issue contains the latest instalments of the regular columns SOCIOLOGICAL LYRICS by Alexei Levinson and THE REVERSE OF THE METHOD by Tatiana Vorozheykina.