



Jour Fixe – Gewerkschaftslinken Hamburg
Unterstützung eigenständiger, selbstbewusster, gewerkschaftlicher Kämpfe



Mutiny is worthwhile - Fight for bread, peace and dignity!

**Discussion event with Peter Mertens,
General Secretary of the Belgian Labour Party (PvdA/PTB)**

on 28 May 2025, 6 pm, HWP lecture theatre, Von-Melle-Park 9

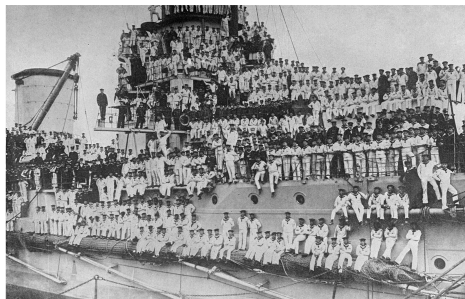
„The crisis consists precisely in the fact that the old is dying and the new cannot be born; in this interregnum a great variety of morbid symptoms appear.“
Antonio Gramsci, "Prison Notebooks", H3, §34, 1932-35

The world is undergoing a fundamental transformation. The political, socio-economic, and culturally hegemonic dominance of the Western-style neoliberal societal model is eroding.

The much-praised free market economy has long proven incapable of solving even a single one of the urgent global issues facing humanity – be it war/peace, social inequality, democratic participation and

fair wealth distribution, sustainable development, or the end of climate and environmental destruction, hunger, poverty, and epidemics.

The new self-confidence of the Global South and the growing cooperation among BRICS countries are challenging the old global disorder, just as the intensifying struggles for a socially just and dignified societal development are doing within the industrialised nations themselves.



Mutiny 1918 in Wilhelmshaven - Revolt of the sailors and stokers

The beneficiaries and ideological advocates of the existing order, faced with their fundamental crisis, see no other option than to defend the status quo by escalating militarized compe-



tition – internally and externally—constantly in alliance with extreme right-wing, demagogic forces.

Against this stands the urgent global necessity for a comprehensive, humane, civil, and cooperative approach to crisis resolution. Realizing such a vision requires an assertive, well-organized, and solidaristic collective subject.

Peter Mertens, General Secretary of the Workers' Party of Belgium (PvdA/PTB) since 2008, addresses these very challenges in his recent book titled "Mutiny!" He examines both the current and historical conditions for successful social uprisings and transformation processes, exploring how the many people who keep society running every day through their labor and engagement can come to take over the steering wheel.

In doing so, he draws on a rich cultural repertoire of historical experiences from these struggles. Let us recall: the mutiny of the sailors in Kiel and Hamburg in 1918 marked the beginning of the end of

the First World War and launched the November Revolution in Germany, bringing significant social, civil, and democratic advances.

Therefore, we wish to discuss the following questions with Peter Mertens:

How can we understand and interpret the current, deep crisis of neoliberal capitalism?

On what can we base our confidence in ushering in a social and civil turning point?

What insights and ambitions are crucial for building an internationally solidaristic workers' movement?

How can a socially transformative change of direction in Europe be successfully implemented?

What role do progressive forces in Belgium and Germany play in this context?

Those who recognize their situation – how can they be stopped?

Bertolt Brecht, "In Praise of Dialectics", 1934

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bus station Staatsbibliothek, bus 4 or 5