

*Ottokar Luban (Berlin, Germany)*

## "Novel Perspectives on the German Revolution of 1918/19"

### Abstract

The German Revolution of 1918/19 is mostly considered in historiography as a kind of automatic result of the mutiny of the sailors of the German Imperial War Fleet. The workers should have no crucial share in this revolutionary development only following and supporting the mutinying seamen who swept victoriously like a revolutionary wave from the coast cities of the Northern and Baltic Sea to the northwest interior part of the German Empire.

But the old imperial government made strong efforts to keep away the revolutionary movement from the capital city of Berlin hoping that the revolutionary energy will fade away soon. With arrests of left socialists, military presence in the Berlin streets, isolation of the capital from northern and western Germany (cut off train and telephone connections) and an intensive antirevolutionary propaganda the authorities tried to intimidate the workers. These antirevolutionary measures were strongly supported by the Majority Social Democracy.

In spite of this powerful antirevolutionary resistance the Revolutionary Shop Stewards together with USPD and Spartacus leaders succeeded on 9 November 1918 in activating the Berlin workers for the well prepared armed uprising in the capital and the seize of power by the revolutionaries. It was this uprising in Berlin on 9 November 1918 which secured the fall of the monarchy in Germany and created the possibility for a socialist republic.