



Before and After the German Revolution 1918 the Construction Union Pioneering in Germany

By Jörn Janssen



After ten years of disputes with the respective employers' federation culminating in 1910 with eight weeks national lockout, the employers had been defeated and in 1912 the construction workers became united in the first national industrial union.

After the Revolution at the end of the First World War the Social Democratic government, instead of socialising its industries, restored capitalism. Under these conditions the construction union, in an attempt to socialise its industry, set up a national Federation of Social Construction Companies (Verband sozialer Baubetriebe) including social housing owned by the union and its workers. Despite the final dissolution of this construction conglomerate by the Nazi Regime this experiment of socialisation had been most successful under capitalist conditions. Many of its sites are now on the list of the UNESCO World Heritage.

ALL WELCOME!

Jörn Janssen, born in Düsseldorf in Germany, studied architecture in the 1950s and worked as an architect from 1960 to 1970. He was awarded his PhD in political sciences (rer. pol.) in 1973 and became a Professor in construction economics at the Fachhochschule Dortmund from 1972 to 1997. He was a Visiting Professor at the University of Westminster 1997-2001, and since 1997 has been researching the history of labour-property relations.

SEMINAR SERIES

No 32

Friday, 31 January 2020

6:30pm - 8:30pm

VENUE:

**Meeting Room 3,
Finsbury Park Trust FinSpace
225-229 Seven Sisters Rd,
Finsbury Park, London,
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