

# **Economic performances and policies: the breakdown of consensus**

**What contribution do national policies make to world economic security? What are the concrete conditions of economic security for the various countries of the West and East? Obviously, the perpetuation of the current dismal levels of growth and unemployment represents a fundamental threat to the well being of these countries and—for some of them—their security. The extent of the divergences between Western countries underlines a more profound crisis affecting the very process of economic regulation. This crisis can be seen at the national level, where the certainties of monetarist philosophy have given way to serious soul-searching, but it is also fostered by the breakdown in the machinery of international cooperation.**

**The case of Germany deserves special attention. Excellent results in certain fields such as foreign trade do not hide the deeper industrial, social, and geopolitical challenges to the German “model.”**

**The situation of the other group of industrial countries is by no means brighter: The Soviet Union’s Eleventh Five-Year Plan provides few answers to the basic problems that country faces, while the Polish crisis highlights the breakdown of the underlying model of development, as well as the heavy burden incurred by these economies in the name of ideological and military security.**