

Current Concerns

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Only a militia army is a guarantor of freedom, security and democracy

thk. With a press conference in the media centre of the confederacy in Berne the non-party committee “No to the initiative of insecurity – no to the abolition of the mandatory military service” opened its campaign on 9 August.

On 22 September the Swiss are going to vote on the initiative for the abolition of the mandatory military service which has been launched by the “Group for a Switzerland Without an Army” (GsoA). Parliament and Federal Council reject this initiative. It is a cog in the politics of the abolishers of the army, who in a well known salami technique try to disarm Switzerland and to deliver it at the mercy of the Great Powers, which would finally culminate in the dissolution of Switzerland.

The words of the former federal councillor Ruth Dreyfuss, who declared as early as in the nineties, that she did not care about Switzerland existing any longer or not in the near future, are still awkward in our minds. Her political attitude was very close to that of the Group for a Switzerland Without an Army. Making no secret of her political attitude as a member of the Socialist Party is much more honest than the GSoA's behavior. They do not get tired of pointing out that they do not want to abolish the army but only to reduce it. This is mere propaganda; otherwise they would have to change their name immediately.

The non-party committee, whose chairman during the press conference was the security expert and former president of the Security Policy Commission (SIK-N), National Councillor Jakob Büchler, pointed out in different statements the significance of an efficient militia army. They also said that another model for a neutral and small state as Switzerland was out of question. Those who think they could defend the country and protect the population with an army of volunteers ignore all historical experiences and makes himself a henchman for those who want to abolish the army. This would lead to a loss of sovereignty. Therefore this initiative can only be rejected. In the following we are going to publish abstracts of individual statements, which are quoted in full on the homepage www.unsicherheits-initiative-nein.ch.

National Councillor Jakob Büchler, CVP (SG)



(pictures thk)

this initiative is of significance for the security policy and national policy of Switzerland.

2. The initiators pursue salami tactics: After in recent years the direct attack on abolishing Switzerland's army failed – which has been and still is the goal of the GsoA (Group for a Switzerland without an Army) – they are now trying to reach this goal by small steps: The first step is to abolish general conscription. Later on, after the army will no longer function because not enough young people volunteer or the army has become too expensive due to enforced financial incentives. Then the next step is going to take place: The ultimate abolishment of our army.

3. The poster indicates that an “amputated” Switzerland is no longer functioning properly and therefore not able to guarantee the security of the people and the country – one of our greatest goods. The militia principle and the general conscription essentially make up Switzerland's success. The initiative is an attack on Switzerland's success story.

National Councillor Corinne Eichenberger, FDP/AG



Living together in our peaceful and safe country is based on the rights and duties of the citizens. The military service is an expression of this duty to commit oneself personally, for you cannot have civil rights without civil duties. A fundamental pillar of our social system are the militia system and the mandatory military service which

have been well-proved in difficult times but also in times of volatile threats that are hard to understand, as is the case at present. Thus in our Swiss militia army the best and most able “heads” – from all social classes and professional groups – do their service. Next to their training, their professional capacities and their experience it is also their moral fundamental values and the necessary understanding of the civil population's situation that they contribute to this service. [...]

The citizen soldier corresponds to our idea of the state. In an army of volunteers you would need an intern training for most functions because the soldier to be would not take along any special knowledge. Every army risks to attract people who have a radical political attitude or an exaggerated love of adventure. In the present system the military service provides that such risk groups are recognized and excluded thanks to the security examination by the service. There is a kind of self-control done by the citizen soldiers who are themselves a part of society and of the democratic system. [...]

The actual model of an army that is being deployed in a size measured on the situation suits our country and is an important support of our security policies. The supporters of the initiative quite simply want to continue on their way to achieve their declared goal, i.e. to abolish the army.

That is why I reject this initiative of the state

National Councillor Jean-Francois Rime, SVP/FR



In Switzerland, economy and army, and thus safety are closely connected in two respects. On the one hand, the business location Switzerland benefits from the security and stability guaranteed by the army as the main instrument of the state's security policy. On the other hand, the economy and the army benefit from the compe-

"Only a militia army ..."

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tent and enthusiastic fellow citizens, who are both working and serving in the army. It is encouraging that Switzerland at present does not need its army for a serious commitment, and it is to be hoped, that it will not need it for the foreseeable future. Nevertheless, the army, such as the fire department, must exist "for the worst case scenario". The army finally is still the ultimate guarantor for the stability of a state and the current forms of conflict show that more than ever. Since the fall of the Berlin Wall conflict scenarios have not been reduced, but became more confused, more complicated and with far-reaching consequences for the economy and for the population. As a small neutral country, Switzerland, can not count on the support of a military alliance and therefore must be able to mobilize a large part of its population. Conscription allows sufficient additional personnel, in the event that the security situation has deteriorated.

In Switzerland economy and population can rely on the fact that in an emergency both motivated and competent as well as integrated army personnel are going to be deployed; for these men and women who perform their duties, are from all walks of life, from all professions and from different age groups. They serve in the army for the country and the people, not for money. They know the value of our system and appreciate the importance of conscription. Not as young men in Germany, Sweden and the UK, who become soldiers for financial reasons, or like South Americans, who are recruited for the Spanish army. [...]

The army must always be prepared for new dangers as well. Here too, the general conscription guarantees that exactly the proper people are serving in the army. In the area of threats from cyberspace, specialists can be recruited who, due to their professional life, really have the necessary expertise. We have computer scientists in the army as well; the best people doing exactly the same in civil life. Conscription allows the integration of these people into the army. If the service is voluntary, we therefore also miss tackling the challenges with regard to new dangers, because we do not have the right people.



National Councillor Roberta Pantani, Lega / TI

With the abolition of general conscription, the army would be too small to meet

their constitutional responsibilities. The civil partners would have to take on additional tasks, the additional costs would have to be borne primarily by the cantons and communes. The impact would be clearly noticeable and fatal for the cantons and communes. The deployment of the army and their civil protection services for environmental disasters, wherever they occur, would no longer be possible. Moreover, such civilian operations must be practiced so that the army is able to accomplish these targeted, short-term and vital operations. It is about human lives, protection of infrastructure and that sort of thing.

Conscription also contributes significantly to the national cohesion between the different parts of the country, the different languages, cultures and social classes. Not only professional groups and social classes are mixed in the army. Also, the linguistic and cultural regions of Switzerland come into contact with each other in the army. It is thus an expression of "Switzerland as a nation established by its own will". This is a value that should not be underestimated in a society increasingly submitting to individualization. Thanks to the military service, a large part of the population comes into contact with the army and thus gain insight into this institution. To be rooted in the population and in families is important for the army. The danger of alienation between society and army is lowest with conscription and militia army. Even a democratic control of the army is thus secured, the army can not be placed at the service of individuals, controversial missions at home and abroad against the will of the people are impossible.

No prosperity and no freedom without security. The proverbial "safe Switzerland" is not self-evident. Safety is a national responsibility. The army is the only concrete means usable throughout Switzerland, during crises, disasters and conflicts.

Mike Schmid, member of the army as a contracted military personnel and top athlete



Since June 2010, the army has supported 18 top athletes that serve in the army as contracted military personnel with a 50% employment. As a "newcomer",

I also belong to this small but fine group since March 2011. After the Olympic victory in Vancouver in 2010 I was accepted. In 2005, I completed the Genius RS. The concept of the promotion of top-class sport combines the training on top-class sport level best with the official duty. I

benefit from some special space for my specific training, without which I could not be a top performer in races. It gives me intense workouts, but also the necessary recovery phases. This is an important component for my career planning. The army offers many young talents of different sports the opportunity to train very professionally and in a focused manner in the Army Sports Centre Magglingen. For many of them it is the first time ever in their lives that they get that opportunity in the top-class sports RS [...].

Brigadier Denis Froidevaux, President of the Swiss Officers's Association



The militia system is not only a success, but it also represents one of the essential pillars of the Swiss model. Switzerland as a small country whose neutrality

represents a basic condition, knows the deep-rooted tradition to assume public responsibilities outside the professional activity. At the same time, in addition to Article 58, the Federal Constitution contains another provision, also referring to the importance and the principle of the militia system. It is about Article 6, which reads as follows: "Every person takes responsibility for itself and contributes to its forces to meet the challenges in the state and the society." (Article 6 of the Federal Constitution). The conscription and the militia principle are suitable from a political point of view and are consistent with each other. With regard to the army and the civil defense this means that by the conscription and the militia principle the protection of the country and its people is made a common task of all citizens. As Swiss citizens, we have not only rights but also duties, and military service is one of them. Mandatory military service, as well as the civil service and civil defense, is an act of solidarity with the society. In any case, it's about getting involved in a militia position and to assume its share of responsibility for the society. The militia system has significantly contributed to the success of the Swiss model and ensures a balance between rights and obligations. [...]

Volunteers means nothing but professionals, because it is completely unrealistic to consider a voluntary militia to be possible. The map, which has been presented to the National Council, together with the initiators' arguments, indicates in the colour green those countries where cit-

A militia army is the only reasonable army for our country

Interview with National Councillor Jakob Büchler



National Councillor Jakob Büchler (picture thk)

thk. The defensive capability of Switzerland, as we know from history, forms the basis of the sovereignty of our small state, which is surrounded by great powers, but has been able to assert itself for centuries.

Even in view of a very severe threat, as it existed during the time of National Socialism in Germany, the primary objective was to maintain the sovereignty and independence of the country and if necessary to defend it by force of arms. Federal Councillor Obrecht expressed this with the following words: "We Swiss will not go on pilgrimage abroad", and this was what the people in the country also felt and what had been the strong will of the vast majority of the Swiss people: No adjustment and crawling before the superpower, then the "Greater German Reich". And today? Today again, we are facing the question: Do we want to lose our sovereignty and independence, do we want to adapt to those in power and submit to them, or do we want to defend our freedom and independence, that is our sovereignty, against the attempts to influence and take over from outside, defend it with all our available resources, in ex-

treme emergency situations also by force of arms? To make this possible, we need an effective and dissuasive army, and that is a militia army. National Councillor Jakob Büchler, president of the association "For a safe Switzerland" with almost 400,000 members explains in the following interview how important the existence of a capable defence force is:

Current Concerns: What is the basic task of our army?

Jakob Büchler: Basically the Swiss army has the task of ensuring the defence of our country and the protection of the population living in it. This obligation is enshrined in the Constitution and clearly defined in the law. And this task is to be perceived and continued as well in the future. The initiative for the abolition of general conscription, therefore called "Insecurity Initiative", wants to change exactly these key principles, which cannot be accepted. The security of the country and the population would no longer be ensured, this way.

What are the current threats to our country?

The threats to our country are actually much bigger than the people commonly assume. For example, the "Arab Spring" in Egypt and in Syria has shown how quickly relatively stable countries went off the rails, and there is always the risk that such a process

spills over to other countries, even in Europe. In case of defence our Swiss Army has no allies. So we need to organize and provide security by ourselves. The Swiss people know that basically we live in a safe country. But this may, as we know from history, change very rapidly. If security is endangered, we must be able to react fast in order to restore it. This can only be ensured by means of our biggest security reserve, namely our army. That is why we must take care of our army in times of peace so that we are prepared for all eventualities in bad times.

There is the theory of the so-called ramp-up phase, claiming one would realize in due time when things are getting tough, and could then upgrade the army accordingly.

That is absolutely unrealistic. We must not delude ourselves to think that in civilian and military emergencies we would be able to upgrade the army within weeks or even months, neither in one or two years. By comparison, an avalanche control must be installed in summer, to make it effective in winter. We must constantly ensure basic military equipment and supplies. We also need to practice the emergency case. You cannot do that, if the emergency has already occurred. Therefore, it is of fundamental importance to be well-equipped also in good times. Any insurance is contracted in good times for worse times, so that you have the protection in case

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izens are no longer subject to compulsory military service.

- In the UK prisoners are promised mitigation of punishment in order to find volunteers.
- In Germany, the nominal strength is not achieved, and 30% of the volunteers stay less than one year.
- In France, the candidate quota for soldiers and NCOs is 1.5 to 2.5%, which is clearly insufficient. In addition, 40% of the contracts are not renewed by the parties concerned!
- Spain recruits in the former colonies, even though the unemployment rate is very high and many people would be available.
- The Austrian pilot project for only a few companies was a failure because half of the staff was missing.

- The Swedes share the same experiences and despite a significant reduction in the number of troops they do not succeed in reaching their target strength.
- Not to mention Norway, which has not only retained the compulsory military service, but which has extended it to the women [...]

National Councillor Lorenz Hess, BDP/BE



Conscription contributes significantly to the success of Switzerland and also means: less governmental tasks, fewer laws and prohibitions, lower taxes, greater prosperity, secure jobs and finally more freedom.

Conscription ensures the democratic control of the army. By the citizens

forming the army, the army can not be placed in the service of individuals. Controversial missions at home and abroad against the will of the population are excluded.

Without conscription, the army, civil defense and civil service do no longer work. Only very few or the wrong ones will come voluntarily. There is no country in the world that has organized its military forces exclusively in the form of a volunteer army. Other countries either suspended compulsory military service or established a professional army. The former is not provided by the initiative and besides, the latter is not desirable. Switzerland must not be used as a guinea pig, finally it is about the national security. Just in case of emergency a voluntary militia does not work. Due to their importance for the society army operations should therefore not be made dependent on voluntary participation.

(Translation Current Concerns)

"A militia army ..."

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of an emergency. Exactly the same applies to the security and to the army.

Additionally, freedom and security always tightly belong together. If we want to maintain our freedom, we need a well-functioning security system, especially in good times.

In addition to safety, the army has a wider significance for our country.

The militia army in Switzerland is our success model. Every Swiss citizen is a citizen and a soldier. If he joins the army, he takes along his knowledge and skills as a citizen. From this the army can benefit tremendously. The reverse is also true for the economy. If the soldier or the officer goes back into civilian life, he takes along a lot of knowledge from the military training into his professional life. These are synergies that support each other and strengthen our economy. This is what we need to preserve.

We are a neutral country. The people want this neutrality. It is enshrined in the Federal Constitution. We cannot afford to appeal to any allies in the defence case. We are neither EU nor NATO member. We do not want to be. The nation wants to maintain neutrality. We have made good experiences with it. This means that we want to and have to organize our own security.

What would happen if we had no longer a militia army?

If we no longer have the militia, we have a ghettoization of the army. In that case we would have only professional soldiers who occupy themselves only with the military and they would have ever less ideas about work and civilian life. This is a huge disadvantage for both the army and the economy. Furthermore, the current army is a reflection of the Swiss population with the four national languages, with our cantons and the regional character of our country. This is very important for our country. It helps when difficult tasks have to be solved. That must be protected and preserved, so that you can continue in this way in the future. The cohesion of the army has very much to do with the militia system. We don't want a professional army. The army would lose the basis it shares with the nation and with the economy. The Swiss population does not want that.

The various language regions would hardly be represented in a professional army.

Yes, it is important that the diversity of Switzerland is reflected in the army. This grants the strong cohesion and understanding for both the Romandie, the French-speaking Switzerland, the Ticino, the Italian-speaking part of Switzerland, as well as for the German-speaking Switzerland

and the Rhaeto-Romanic-speaking Switzerland. Here you can meet and work together. Anyone who has done military service once, has benefited from it. One has met people from all parts of the country, we have learned to solve problems together. This is particularly important for our young people. The army is a school of life that helps promote everyone both in the workplace and in society. The advantages are huge, and we want to preserve them. The Swiss people expressed that on several occasions. A professional army is not the will of the majority.

Until now, the militia system has proved to be excellent. Is there any reason to change things?

History has shown that we have done well with our system in recent years and decades. Sure, we have made changes in the army, that were not only positive. Changes of direction are important and necessary, but they must be based on reality and not on a whatsoever wishful thinking. We will continue to organize the security of our country ourselves, and within the country, in the cantons, the police forces, which will soon reach their maximum capability in an extraordinary situation. When it comes to grant security over a longer period nationwide, the army and the civil defence, which I judge to be just as important, must be quickly operational to grant support.

Again and again in history politics misjudged the threat Switzerland was exposed to. Are there similar parallels today?

Yes, I see some similarities, especially in the point that politics is no longer willing to provide the necessary financial resources. It is expected that Switzerland be safe and our safety be guaranteed, and you will ask yourself whether more weapons programs are necessary. Of course they are. It is wrong to believe, that if safety is guaranteed in good times, it takes less resources for the army. I have always combated for the provision that one percent of the GDP (Gross Domestic Product) is spent on defence. Unfortunately, compared to other countries we are far away from this figure, namely at 0.8% and thus behind Austria. Switzerland would do well to provide clarity with respect to this issue. Even our Federal Government, our government in Berne, believes that the army can be had for a tip. This is not my opinion. We need at least 100,000 men, also in the future. We need the financial resources necessary to ensure this security, and the equipment of the soldiers.

So what do we need to ensure our security?

A well-equipped and trained militia army. A professional army is much too large for normal times and much too small in case

of emergency. What do we do with 30, 50 or even 80 thousand men in times of peace? They are on site every day and need something to do. Today, approximately 4,000 to 5,000 soldiers are on duty at the same time, without the recruits and professional officers. After three weeks, the soldiers go back and are again available for their companies, that is for the professional world and thus for our economy. But when you have tens of thousands of soldiers that need to be maintained and which you have to supply with tasks, things will become very difficult and will negatively affect the morale and motivation of the people. It costs too much, the staff costs alone would outrun us and endanger the operation and equipment because it cannot be funded. No, a volunteer militia will not work. Such a thing exists nowhere on our planet. Either you have a professional army or a militia army. Everything else does not work. As long as it is about exercises, a volunteer army might be possible, but in an emergency, no one will come. In that case we would have a big problem. I am fighting for ensuring our security in troubled times by a well-equipped and well-trained militia army. Everything else must be ruled out as an option for our country, so the "Insecurity Initiative" has to be clearly rejected.

National Councillor Büchler, thank you very much for the interview. •

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“The Efta court of law – the small brother of the European Court of Justice (ECJ)”

Name confusion: “Efta court of law” has nothing to do with the Efta

by Dr iur Marianne Wüthrich

According to plans of the Federal Council the highest EU court, the European Court of Justice (ECJ), should in future decide on the interpretation of new and already existing bilateral agreements between Switzerland and the EU (see “Current Concerns” No. 23/24 of the 7/16/2013). Now Carl Baudenbacher, president of the so-called “Efta court of law” raises his hand – with big echo in the Swiss media. The Federal Council wants to accept foreign judges, he is indignant. Not even at an amateur football tournament one of the teams may bring along their own referee. – He is right, quite a lot of contemporary EU-scepticals might think, neither am I in favour of foreign judges.

Baudenbacher’s “alternative”: At last, Switzerland should understand that the bilateral way has worn-out and join the European economic area EEA. Then she would have not to take shelter from “foreign judges”, but only the “Efta-supervisory authority” and the “Efta court of law”. (“Handelszeitung” of the 7/17/2013 and from the 5/15/2012) – It does not sound bad, the contemporary sceptical of EU thinks, because the Efta would be really a sensible alternative, also for member states willing to quit the EU.

It is obvious that we need some disentanglement from a sophisticated confusion, so that we citizens can see clearly again. So much beforehand: Neither the ECJ nor the “Efta court of law” is an option for us if we want to preserve the sovereignty of Switzerland and the independence from foreign judges.

“The highest Efta judge attacks the Federal Council”, according to the title in the “Handelszeitung” from the 17th of July 2013. “The highest Efta judge” – moreover, presiding judge Carl Baudenbacher is Swiss – this sounds like inspiring confidence – or, possibly not?

«The Efta court of law – the small brother of the ECJ»

We put the upper title of this article here for the second time, on purpose. Since he comes from Carl Baudenbacher personally¹

Why the EU headquarters have chosen the name Efta-Court for the “small brother”, remains obscure. It sounds more harmless than ECJ No. 2 – doesn’t it? Or is it because in Brussels they firmly reckoned on the fact that one can put all four Efta member states in EEA (European Economy Area)? However, the Swiss elec-

torate thwarted their plans on the 6th of December 1992 and decided to go the independent Swiss way.

But even if Switzerland had joined the EEA at that time, the name would still be wrong, nevertheless: Since the Efta-Court has nothing to do with the fact that three of the EEA states (Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein) are at the same time members of the Efta. So the name choice must be called a sophisticated confusion and was invented by clever spin-doctors.

What is the “Efta court of law”?

On the homepage of the Efta-Court the German-speaking reader finds some information in extremely erroneous translation of the English original – however, no reference to the history of the origin, not even the date of foundation! In a time in which the chairs of the historians are abolished in universities and democracy forums we do not need to be surprised at that, but we can express our outrage.

So let us consult the elaborations of presiding judge Carl Baudenbacher, in order to get acquainted with the “Efta court of law”.²

Purpose of the court of law: Supervision of application of EU law in the three new EEA states

The “Efta-Court” was established after the accession of Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein to EEA to protect the uniform application of EU law in these three states. Baudenbacher: “That Efta court of law existing since the 1st of January 1994 in Luxembourg is responsible for the decision of legal cases which have their origin in the Efta pillar of the European Economic Area (EEA).” Baudenbacher refers to two pillars of EEA: to the “Efta pillar” (the three above-mentioned EEA state) and the pillar of the EU-member states.³

Simultaneously with the “Efta court of law” the EU has established a so-called Efta-supervision authority (Efta Surveillance Authority, “ESA”).

This court as well supervises not the Efta, but the EEA states or their application and conversion of EU law. The Efta-Court is a superordinate authority over the ESA: “It [the Efta court of law; the author] judges in particular about complaints of the Efta-supervision authority (Efta Surveillance Authority, ‘ESA’) against one of the three Efta pillar states (Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein) in case of a claimed infringement of the EEA agreement, on advance decision request of

national courts from the three mentioned countries and on actions of nullity against decisions in the field of competition and aid of the ESA.”⁴

It is not an Efta court of law, but an EU court of law, which the EU has established and implemented in her legal structure for the three EEA, states which are not at the same time EU members.

Presiding judge Baudenbacher writes it here in plain English:

“The ESA and the Efta court of law are parallel institutions to the EU commission and to the ECJ [...].

The EEA law applying in the Efta pillar originates from EU right. Therefore, [...] the EEA law is identical in content to EU law. The uniform interpretation in both pillars of EEA is guaranteed by special homogeneity rules. Then the Efta court of law should follow basically the jurisdiction of the ECJ.”⁵

This statement is so outrageous that it should be made clear once again:

ESA and “Efta court of law” were installed only for the purpose to force EU law on the three EEA states Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein. The “Efta court of law” task is to make its jurisdiction “identical to content” with the jurisdiction of the ECJ. A “small brother” who has to execute what Big Brother dictates.

Organisation of the “Efta court of law”: No foreign judges?

The Efta-Court consists of three judges, one per member state. Their governments appoint them in accordance for six years. Currently these judges are Carl Baudenbacher (he represents Liechtenstein), Páll Hreinsson (Iceland) and Per Christiansen (Norway). The three judges appoint their president for three years.⁶

Complementary remarks: First, the judges are chosen in undemocratic EU manner not by the respective national parliament, but are appointed by the government. Secondly, the Swiss Carl Baudenbacher sits in the court of law as a foreign judge, because Switzerland does not belong at all to EEA!

Thirdly and especially pivotally: A court whose mission consists in following basically the jurisdiction of the ECJ is a EU court, so a “foreign judge”.

Massive sovereignty loss of the EEA countries owing to jurisdiction of the “Efta court of law”

Sovereignty loss taking the example of Norway

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“More Norwegian freedom of action and less control by the EU: About the last 20 years EEA has been expanded increasingly and now touches the politics fields which the parliamentary majority of proponents then declared as affairs outside EEA. Examples are the Norwegian regional policy, the oil policy, the administration of natural resources as well as the alcohol policy. For some years now the supervisory authorities of EEA, the ESA and the Efta court of law have questioned laws and measures to prevent social dumping.”⁷

Efta court of law undermines the sovereignty of three subordinated countries more than he would have to according to EEA contract

Carl Baudenbacher admits the current enlargement of the content of EEA by the administration of justice of the “Efta court of law”: Actually, he would have to obey solely the old jurisdiction of the ECJ, while he merely has to take into consideration the new jurisdiction [the jurisdiction after accession of 3 states to EEA]. “The differentiation between old jurisdiction and new jurisdiction is sovereignty-politically justified. However, the Efta court of law has never appealed to them to refuse the observance of the new jurisdiction by the ECJ. Respective applications of the EEA /Efta states were rejected. [...] Above all in Norway, the loss of sovereignty linked with these mechanisms is being deplored.”⁸

To those who find this formulation too juridical: To appease the justified fear of a sovereignty loss by the Efta states, it was promised to them before the EEA accession, they would not have to take over the future EU law just like that.

In reality the court of law presided by Baudenbacher forces all regulations of the EU law upon the three states according to his own statement, which were created only after 1992, although he would not have to do this. In case Norway or the two other states would litigate at the “Efta court of law” against this situation, it would not turn out as the guard of the rights of the subordinated countries, but as His Masters Voice.

Mock rights of participation as a pretext

Rights of participation in the creation of EU law are actually non-existent

According to Baudenbacher EEA/Efta states admittedly have “no right of co-determination” with the enactment of new law, however, they have “more advanced rights to participation with the development of new EU law than Switzerland.”⁹ [emphasis by the author]

Baudenbacher does not specify the supposed rights to participation. Let us make clear, however how little even the member states of the EU have to say concerning the establishment of new EU law (as in the matter of euro-rescue packages like ESM). Let us remember, how governments and parliaments of single EU states which do not march in step are put under pressure by Brussels by means of unspeakable campaigns: so, for example, Austria and Luxembourg in the question of automatic exchange of information, or Hungary because it wanted to protect its citizens against the expropriation by conversion of their mortgagee’s debts into national currency. And premier David Cameron who wants to ask the citizens of Great Britain whether they want to remain in the EU or rather leave is labelled by the headquarters as everlasting brake block and outsider.

In a club, which thinks poorly of sovereignty and equal rights of its own member countries the rights to participation of the non-members Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, will be very small ones.

The fact that three states should have “more advanced rights to participation with the development of new EU right than Switzerland”, is a particularly good joke: So more than none!

“Rights to participation” of three non-EU states shrink to a dialogue between two courts of law

According to Baudenbacher the sovereignty loss is “qualified” by constant justice dialogue between the “Efta court of law” and the ECJ: “Besides, of course the ECJ sets the tone. However, the Efta court of law has delivered important input for its jurisdiction in numerous cases.”¹⁰

Unsurprisingly Norway deplores the sovereignty loss, which it has suffered since the accession to EEA 20 years ago. If the rights to participation of the member states are restricted to the fact that Mr. Baudenbacher and his two colleagues may call up or mail to the judges of the ECJ and the latter accept graciously an “input” every now and then, this is certainly not the sort of participation dreamed of by the Norwegians and, still less, by the democracy-accustomed Swiss.

Step by step: after the EEA accession EU-full membership

Carl Baudenbacher advises us Swiss to at last join the EEA and then to subordinate to the “Efta-supervision authority” ESA as well as the “Efta court of law” instead of the ECJ.¹¹ Since currently the political conditions for an EU accession in Switzerland are absent, “one should go forward step by step.” – “Switzerland should venture a second EEA approach. [...] If the Federal Council would launch an EEA II project, the mistake of

1992 – when one had submitted a request for EU membership at the same time with the conclusion of the EEA negotiations – should not be made again. This does not alter the fact that an EU membership will be unavoidable in the long term.”¹² [emphasis by the author].

Result: No to the salami tactics of Burkhalter, Baudenbacher & Co.

After having read the preceding lines the doubts of that majority of Swiss who have voted NO on the EEA accession on the 6th of December 1992 do not seem so wrong to me – or what is your opinion, dear readers? President of “Efta court of law” Carl Baudenbacher reveals the salami tactics of a Classe Politique which represents all possible interests, except those of the Swiss people.

1. Salami slice: The Federal Council means that the EU only want bilateral contracts in combination with an “institutional basic agreement”;
2. Salami slice: The Federal Council suggests three variations;
3. Salami slice: The EU refuses an own Swiss control authority;
4. Salami slice: The Federal Council put their heads together with an EU delegation and as a result explains the supervision of Switzerland by the ECJ with regard to conversion of EU law as the “best solution”;
5. Salami slice: Appearance of Carl Baudenbacher who campaigns for the EEA accession and the subordination of Switzerland to the court presided by him, but nevertheless a foreign court;
6. Salami slice: Will the EU and the Federal Council agree joyfully on this “compromise”, with the hidden agenda, pronounced openly by Baudenbacher in his last sentence: After the EEA accession the EU accession?

Concluding remark: Sovereign Switzerland in free cooperation with the other nations of the world

Let us rather stay on our independent path and demand from our politicians that they stop nodding and caving in towards the EU, instead represent vigorously and more often the interests of Switzerland. We know from our history that a small state can only take it up with a great power if it enters the confrontation with upright gait and on eye level. The conclusion of state contracts is possible only if the contracting partners respect our sovereignty of legislation and jurisdiction. The way of Switzerland was always to negotiate our cooperation as a sovereign and equal state with the other nations of this world in freedom. If we take this path

Only the federalist public health system guarantees a rapid and effective containment of epidemics

Therefore a clear No on 22 September 2013

by Dr med A. Bau

On 22 September this year the Swiss people will vote on the complete revision of the Epidemics Act. With this act the well-functioning federalist public health system of Switzerland shall be replaced by a centralized system controlled by the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health FOPH.

The following example will show how especially in case of dangerous infectious diseases only the federalist structure allows to act immediately and effectively to prevent a spread of the disease. Our general practitioners hold a key position in all that, which no central health center in Berne can take over.

Dealing with a notifiable disease

A sick person consults his general practitioner with whom he is familiar for years. The doctor knows the patient, his case history and his personal circumstances. In this case, the very sick-looking patient enters the family doctor's surgery with high fever and diarrhea. The doctor examines the patient thoroughly and collects data about the current history. If necessary he initiates some laboratory tests. After having discovered a small spotted, discreet skin rash during the investigation in the navel area of the patient, the doctor expresses the suspicion of a typhus abdominalis, a notifiable severe infectious disease which requires a rapid further clarification, isolation, and treatment in hospital. On questions of the physician, the patient indicates that he had just returned from a long trekking tour in an Asian country. The doctor informs the patient about the necessary measures and arranges for immediate hospitalization by an ambulance to a hospital suited for such diseases. Furthermore, the doctor informs the doctor on duty in the hospital and the doctor in the cantonal health authority about his suspicion. The doctor cares for a phone conversation of the patient with his wife from a mobile. The ambulance drivers are also informed about his suspicion. Finally, hygienic measures for epidemics protection are carried out in the surgery.

The procedure applied by the family doctor in the above example has been a long proven method which complies with the requirements of the current Epidemics Act. What would have been the help that the seriously sick, highly infectious patient got with the planned regime of the FOPH?

The family doctors provide true prevention. Since the doctor as the medical decision maker is no longer mentioned in the revised Epidemics Act (nEpG), there is suspicion, that a managing member of the FOPH, if necessary a member of the WHO, must travel to control the patient and his further whereabouts and his treatment. The autonomous activity of the family doctor is significantly cut, and he becomes a vicarious agent to apply measures imposed on him from above.

Just imagine: according to the nEpG the family doctor should report the case to the FOPH, which should first consult

the WHO and ask them what to do; then WHO might conclude a "specific threat", give an instruction to Switzerland, the FOPH will pass it on to the cantonal physician and he will finally tell the family doctor, what he has to do. In the meantime, many people have already been infected.

The planned Epidemics Act represents a paradigm shift. The tried and tested federalist structures of Swiss health care are undermined and responsibility shifts from the cantons to state level and the FOPH. Thus, the doctors are deprived of their competence; the relation of trust between the patient and his doctor is undermined. The relation of trust, however, is an essential basis for recovery.

The current and repeatedly amended Epidemics Act has proven to be good. So, the Swiss voters are well-advised to vote a clear No on the completely revised Epidemics Act in September. •

"Competition of the suppliers" shall replace the relationship of trust between doctor and patient

The revised Epidemics Act (nEpG) misses to mention the doctor as the central decision maker in medicine. This is a deliberate act. Ilona Kickbusch, one of the main activists in drafting the nEpG, does not hesitate to talk about the abolition of the relationship of trust between doctor and patient in something she calls "new medicine".

"Future-capability requires a fundamental change in the therapeutic relationship. The individual physician or therapist relationship is normalized in such a way that – like the rendering of other services in the health care sector – it basically follows the rules of our consumer world. This represents a transition from the 'old medicine' to the 'new medicine'. In the established self-image of academic medicine – ('see one, treat one' as per the Flexner Report, 1910) – there is a (paternalistic) single relation-

ship based on confidence that does not demand further confidence building.

However, the 'new medicine' is a cost-intensive mass market with high demand as well as rising specialization and division of labor. Within the perception of consumers, the comparison of services is important, and there should be competition between service providers. Particularly, for the protection of the patient, transparency is an indispensable pre-condition.

In this highly standardized field we are not talking about handicraft or art, but transparent performance. Therefore, a therapeutic relationship is obsolete if it is based on an individualistic conception and clinical purism."

Source: "Careum working paper No. 2" (2009), p. 7

Ilona Kickbusch has a leading position in the "Careum" Foundation

"The Efta court of law..."

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again with decisiveness, other states will join us with pleasure.

¹ Der Efta-Gerichtshof – der kleine Bruder des EuGH » by Carl Baudenbacher, in: prism 341 – Weg from the 10/15/2012

² ibid.

³ ibid.

⁴ ibid.

⁵ ibid.

⁶ www.eftacourt.int

⁷ «EWR-Diskussionen in Norwegen» in: Europa-Magazin of the 2/25/2013, <http://edit.europa-magazin.ch/zone/3bb68aba>

⁸ P. 259

⁹ ibid., p. 271 and 259

¹⁰ ibid., p. 259

¹¹ «Efta-Gerichtshofpräsident: EWR-Beitritt sinnvoll», in: Handelszeitung of the 5/15/2012

¹² Carl Baudenbacher, «Rechtsprechung: Rechtssicherheit als Standortfaktor», in: «Souveränität im Härte-test», ed. by Avenir Suisse and Verlag Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Zürich 2010, p. 272 following

Strengthening our army and our civic responsibility

No to the abolition of the militia

by Urs Knoblauch, former Mountain Mitrailleur*, Fruthwilen

Very basic principles of our successful and proven Swiss State model are attacked in the upcoming referendum on the abolition of the militia army. The initiators intend the abolition of the army or at best a professional mercenary army. Thus, also the solidarity in our country is to be weakened! Our "Model Switzerland" with direct democracy, the "citizen in uniform" and a credible militia army proved to be very successful and is a treasure.

Economic prosperity and the necessary military preparedness for the defense and protection of our country and our people result from the positive identification with our country and the willingness to work hard. A thorough education – including the history of Switzerland and world history – is important for the strengthening of solidarity. We may not allow history to be abolished in the planned "Curriculum 21" (centralized for all 21 German-speaking cantons) and isolation being promoted through "individualization". Our challenging political system requires more than arbitrariness and pseudo skills.

Our young people want real education; they are amenable for their contribution to the civic responsibility, performance and team spirit. Polls among recruits repeatedly show this and I can confirm it from my own former experiences as a Mountain Mitrailleur and a teacher. Our ancestors, parents and great parents did not in vain make admirable sacrifices for a credible and also a moral and spiritual national defense and for the protection of our country. They knew why they made these sacrifices.

So General *Guisan* in his impressive final report to the Federal Council em-

phasized farsightedly the importance of historical thinking: "The imagination is a pretty rare gift. The majority of our people will not want to think in the coming years whether and how the country could now be threatened, not no more than 1920, 1930 or even later. What we have done above all since 1933 is to stir it up, to appeal to its conscience and vigilance, will be a task to do over and over again."

The fact is also today that we are surrounded not by friends, but by countries with all their interests. The EU, OECD, and the United States want to dictate their demands to us.

We are witnesses of brutal blackmail, power politics, economic and financial wars. They cause more and more misery and "no democracy and human rights", but increased social tensions, youth unemployment, greater numbers of refugees and asylum seekers. Everyone who seriously includes the current world situation, the series of illegal post-colonial wars in Africa and the Middle East in his considerations, cannot oversee the meaning and the necessity of military readiness and national defense.

In an irresponsible manner, the efficiency and credibility of our militia has already been destabilized from inside and outside by far-reaching "reforms". The "Group Giardino" clearly documented this in their recently published and very readable book "Mut zur Kursänder-

ung – Schweizerische Sicherheitspolitik am Wendepunkt" [Courage to change course – Swiss security policy at a turning point].

Switzerland has no army of attack, but as a protective and defensive army, it is also at our peace model's service. As depositary state of the Geneva Conventions we have international humanitarian and diplomatic commitments, and thus a big responsibility that requires a credible military protection of our country. We are not in vain a nation of will with armed neutrality!

Let us hence protect our proven Swiss State model. •

* Mountain Mitrailleur is an infantry soldier in the mountain regions trained at the mitrail-leuse (French: machine gun) in the Swiss army.

(Translation *Current Concerns*)



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Corrigendum: In *Current Concerns* No 23/24 of 24 July 2013 in the news article "Strengthening the Values of Peace" on page 25 a wrong e-mail address was provided. The correct address is: asgbweimar@t-online.de

Sovereignty, law and democracy versus power politics

by Prof Dr iur and Dr phil Alfred de Zayas *



Alfred de Zayas (picture thk)

Sovereignty is enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. We have a new world order since 1945. And the UN Charter is the World Constitution – however, not the constitution of a world government. Nobody wants that. But it is a constitution that all states have accepted by contract. A constitution that guarantees the sovereignty of all states, namely in Article 1 and Article 2 (see box). Article 2 is particularly important not only because here the equality of all states is emphasized, but also because not only the use but also the threat of violence is clearly prohibited. This does not mean that states adhere to it, but legally speaking, the view of international law standards are clear. Sovereignty also means self-determination of the peoples. Self-determination of the peoples is what is known as “jus cogens” or binding international law in legal register. The African countries gained their independence due to this principle of self-determination in the late 50s and early 60s. India had already freed itself from the United Kingdom in 1947.

There are also many peoples who have got no self-determination. One of the topics that I cover in my new report for the United Nations are the autochthonous, i.e. people having been living in an area for generations and generations, e.g. the Native Americans, erroneously called “Indians”, the Aborigines of Australia, the Tamils in Sri Lanka, the Ibos in Biafra, the

* Professor Alfred de Zayas is an American international lawyer, historian, author and UN official. He currently teaches international law at the Geneva School of Diplomacy. He is an expert on Civil and Political Rights and has published numerous books on legal and historical topics. The present article is a presentation at an event the newspaper *Current Concerns*. Professor de Zayas gave this presentation as the professor of international law and not in his capacity as UN Special Rapporteur.

“I must appeal to the Swiss Citizens: You must fight for the preservation of the Swiss direct democracy. Not only for yourself, it is a model for the whole world.”

Alfred de Zayas

Kurds in Turkey, Syria, Iraq and Iran, the Kashmiri in India, the Moluccas in Indonesia, the German South Tyrolians in Italy, etc. Whether we talk about the autochthonous in Alaska or Hawaii or in West Papua – they all do have a right to self-determination. That does not always mean independence. Self-determination can also be achieved in the context of an autonomy regulation, as long as this is the will of the people. This must of course be determined.

In international law, the standards are clear. Article 1 of the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* and Article 1 of the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* guarantee this right (see box next page).

What do we mean by right? When we say right, we speak of the rule of law. We speak of legal certainty. We speak of *checks and balances*, as we say in America. This means that there is an executive, a legislative and a juridical state power. These are separate forces that balance each other. However, it must be noted that the judges are the supreme power in all legal states. So, not the executive, not the legislature, but the judge, can decide on the actions of presidents and parliaments. This is a feature of a constitutional state. [In the case of direct democracy in Switzerland the supreme power is with the people – Ed.]

However, constitutionality in most modern states is damaged. And from my experience as a UN official and an expert of various committees, I can tell you that the so-called independent judges are often not independent. The consequence is that the rule of law is undermined. However, it is better if you have something that is correctable, than having a situation without rules, without laws, without judges. So we have a structure that is correctable, but only if there is a citizenry that demands this correction; if citizens are awake and if they have not been intimidated.

Intimidation by the so-called political correctness is one of the biggest threats to the rule of law, it is one of the biggest threats to democracy. Because many people may think something definite, but they say something else. Many people

do not dare to express themselves. They prefer remaining silent to expressing themselves in public because they are afraid of the consequences in case they speak out.

For example, I as a professor of international law, as a UN official, suffered because of my publications. My publications

“Intimidation by the so-called political correctness is one of the biggest threats to the rule of law, it is one of the biggest threats to democracy.”

have not helped me in my career. Quite the contrary. I did at least miss three promotions in the United Nations because of my book on the expulsion of the Germans at the end and after the Second World War, “The Nemesis at Potsdam” (Herbig, 14th edition 2005). Expressly for this book, because I know the arguments that were discussed in the decisive bodies. And I was reproached because of this politically undesired book. Of course they do not want to have somebody who tackles a hot iron. They prefer someone who does not create a stir, to someone who speaks out.

Constitutionality is not only legal positivism. It is not only about what is written in the law, but also what is above the law. There is the famous book of *Montesquieu*, “De l’esprit des lois” (On the spirit of the law). The spirit of law is the origin of law. And that’s more important than what is written on paper. Because the laws written on paper are sometimes very unjust. One must always remember that the law is there to create justice, and not to create and cement injustices. This is a discussion among the philosophers of law, and basically there is no solution, and there remains a certain tension between the concept of law and the concept of justice. I myself am a Roman Catholic and a follower of the philosophy of natural law,

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“Constitutionality is not only legal positivism. It is not only about what is written in the law, but also what is above the law.”

and I am an advocate of creating more space for the natural law.

My problem as a professor of international law is this: I must explain my students how it comes about that international law is so often used at discretion. In one place it is recognized, whereas in another it is not. Assuming that the people of Kosovo should be entitled to have their independence: If the concept of self-determination has general validity, why not in Biafra, as well? You will remember the genocide in Biafra 1967/70. And Nigeria, has cruelly suppressed the very legitimate aspiration of the people of Biafra to separate from Nigeria. The same applies to Sri Lanka, you all know the problems of the Tamils. They have got no self-determination and no independence. They were massacred, while the world looked on.

I am American, and I would like to think we are “the good guys”. I would love to believe it. When I was a student in Chicago, I had to say every morning: “I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all”. Every morning when the flag was raised, I had to say that, and of course trumpets were blown at the same time. We want to believe in something, we need to believe in ourselves. It is good and important to have values, but it is a big disappointment for me to realise that my government does not comply with international law, either. You just have to think of Guantánamo, of Abu Ghraib, the NSA revelations. Then you ask yourself: Where do we stand? What ever remains of ethics? And honestly, there’s not much left. Well, I said international law at discretion, I call it “international law à la carte”. This is used this way today and tomorrow differently.

And what about the ideal of democracy? The only democracy that I know of, is the Swiss one. It is not perfect. But it is the only one in which there is a certain correlation between the will of the people and the actual policy. Here in America, there is a total “disconnect” between senators, congressmen and the people.

A democracy is more than the pro-forma ballot, in which you vote for candidate A or candidate B. I also have an opportu-

nity to influence the decisions of this candidate. I do not wish to have candidates who are all of them committed to the military-industrial complex. Then I really do not have a real choice. One is faced with a fait accompli. In case you know “Through the Looking-Glass” by *Lewis Carroll*, you will think of the very similar characters *Tweedledee* and *Tweedledum*, and that’s more or less what we have in many democracies, a choice between *Tweedledee* and *Tweedledum*. Is this democracy?

I did not vote last year in November. Of course *Obama* is still better than *Romney*, but because I’m so disappointed by this man and because I believe that it was not a real choice, I said, “Why vote?” For, one way or the other the military-industrial complex or the oil industry or *Exxon* and so on are the ones who govern. But the people does not have any influence, whatsoever.

If I have a Republican congressman or senator or congressman or a Democratic congress woman: They’re all for the mil-

itary-industrial complex, for the use of force, for Big Brother. A real choice does not exist. It’s just a pseudo-election, and all the people go out and vote. But I think it’s more of a sporting event. You go to the Olympics, and one looks at the two teams fighting each other, and you can wonder whether you want to be on this team or the other. But I can not influence anything. I can rejoice virtually, just say that my party has won. But is it my party at all? No, it is the party of the military-industrial complex. And how does it work in Germany? What choice do you have between *Angela Merkel* and *Peer Steinbrueck*? And in France between *Sarkozy* and *Hollande*? I beg you pardon! Again just between plague and cholera.

What is really important, what is decisive in a democracy, and I say this in all my reports, are the instruments of direct democracy, namely the initiative, the referendum and the possibility of impeach-

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Charter of the United Nations (extract)

Article 1

The Purposes of the United Nations are:

1. To maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace;
2. To develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace;
3. To achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion; and
4. To be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends.

Article 2

The Organization and its Members, in pursuit of the Purposes stated in Article 1, shall act in accordance with the following Principles.

1. The Organization is based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all its Members.

2. All Members, in order to ensure to all of them the rights and benefits resulting from membership, shall fulfill in good faith the obligations assumed by them in accordance with the present Charter.
3. All Members shall settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered.
4. All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations.
5. All Members shall give the United Nations every assistance in any action it takes in accordance with the present Charter, and shall refrain from giving assistance to any state against which the United Nations is taking preventive or enforcement action.
6. The Organization shall ensure that states which are not Members of the United Nations act in accordance with these Principles so far as may be necessary for the maintenance of international peace and security.
7. Nothing contained in the present Charter shall authorize the United Nations to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any state or shall require the Members to submit such matters to settlement under the present Charter; but this principle shall not prejudice the application of enforcement measures under Chapter VII.

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ment, in the United States, we say *impeachment*. When a member of parliament or a president behaves totally in opposition to his promises or against a particular program for the performance of which he was chosen, and if he does not carry out this program, but a very different agenda and pursues completely different interests, then the people should have the possibility to remove that person from office. This is the essence of a true democracy. Otherwise, it is merely a dummy democracy or, as I write it in my review, a lobby democracy. Lobby democracy, which means that the MPs are obliged to a particular lobby,

"What is really important, what is decisive in a democracy, and I say this in all my reports, are the instruments of direct democracy, namely the initiative, the referendum and the possibility of impeachment, in the United States, we say *impeachment*."

and they will say and do what the lobby tells them to do, because this lobby has paid for their campaign. Just remember that a presidential election will cost billions. I am not exaggerating: billions! This is really a sporting event, and we are the audience. We look at what's going on, but we cannot exert any influence. And our American election campaign in 2012 cost \$ 3.5 billion dollar!

I demand from a parliamentary democracy that the proposal of candidates comes from the people and not from a party machine and that any candidate who is actually elected, is really my representative, that he really represents me. This is the idea of democracy that I have somebody who represents me. But today someone is elected only to do as he pleases afterwards. And they say: "Oh yes, in four years we will give him the boot". But the next thing is that there come two equally big evils to replace him. So, there is no solution: the system of so-called representative democracy does not work.

We have a representative democracy only for routine affairs. But when it comes to making important decisions, for example, how the money should be spent on the budget of the country, we have no control.

50%, 60% of the budget is spent on the war, on producing more drones or submarines or aircraft or *cruise missiles*, and God knows what. That is where the money goes. And you have to add the money that is not directly included in the Pentagon's budget, it is in the State Department's budget, for example. Also this whole surveillance apparatus, the expenditure on the *National Security Agency*, where are they accounted? If you add up all the money spent on the so-called national security, it is no wonder that there is nothing left for health or education and training. There is no money left for that. However, there are people who have become billionaires since there is still a lot of money that can be made in the arms industry.

If we compare sovereignty, law and democracy to power, we also realise that the power is no longer in the hands of the state. The power is with the economy, it is the economy that has the power. The National Security Agency (NSA) has the power, the intelligence services, they have the power. In addition, of course, the financial institutions. Some people claim that Goldman Sachs rules the world. Since no one is responsible, these people cannot be held accountable. They were not democratically elected. They exert tremendous power over you and me, and I can do nothing. Unfortunately, this is a situation that can only be counteracted by a very alert citizenship.

These organisations like the big financial giants at the Wall Street, such as the World Bank and the IMF have to be brought under a certain control, such as under the General Assembly of the United Nations, and they should also have to report to the Council of Human Rights. It cannot be that we are ruled by a group of financiers. We did not elect them. They exert a power, they do not deserve. They did not invent the markets, they did not create the markets. The markets have been created by the society. They are a product of hundreds of years of the civil society which has built them up.

These people are the exploiters, the parasites that have organized themselves well and have usurped all that and now, so to speak, they are working merely for their own benefit, but not for the population's welfare.

Another problem that is associated with the concept of power is how these icons of power do manipulate us. We are being manipulated by fear. It is a fabulous business with fear. And you know that our media are unfree. Our media publish what they want. What they do not like, is not going to be published. I do not know how many of you know that on 12 July the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights issued a

very clear press release in which she said, among other things, that *Edward Snowden* has the right to asylum, that states are encouraged to guarantee this right, to respect this right, to implement this right that she said that he must not be prosecuted; because a man, a whistleblower who exposes the violations of human rights, must not be persecuted – quite the contrary, this man is not a traitor, on the contrary, he has done democracy a tremendous, a great service. What our government did and what the activities of the NSA actually mean, is a clear violation of the US Constitution, it is unconstitutional, what we are doing.

What civil society can do now is to demonstrate, to protest, to demand that elements of direct democracy be introduced in our societies that the parliaments adopt the necessary laws in those states that do not know direct democracy, giving the possibility to decide on important legislation by referendum in order to avoid that a few MPs do this on their own. Do you think that the French people would accept same-sex marriage in a referendum? I do not believe it. The idea of adoption by same-sex parents would have been rejected with certainty even by 80% if it had come to the people. But because the proponents know that it is rejected, it is enforced by the parliamentarians against the will of the people – and this is called democracy. This really is a classic example of corruption of democracy. Of course there is criticism, but nothing happens.

I'm not the first to tackle this problem. This has been done by *Noam Chomsky*, *John Pilger*, *Jeffrey Sachs*, *Arundhati Roy*, *David Cromwell*, *Marc Curtis* and many others before me. They made the correct diagnosis. They prescribed the proper medicine. But those who have the power do not want the medicine and a change of the status quo, because they earn too much money.

The world is as it is, and it is up to us to improve the world. So do not bury your head in the sand. Insist on your ethics, on your values. Hold the politicians and the financial people accountable – be it in Germany, be it in France, be it in Switzerland, – when they do something undemocratic and when they do something unjust.

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"It cannot be that we are ruled by a group of financiers. We did not elect them. They exert a power, they do not deserve."

View of man and natural law

by Dr phil René Roca

In my opinion, the view of man is decisive in describing the “Project of Popular Sovereignty”. If you do not choose a personal view of the human being and if you do not believe in the condition of his social nature in the sense of a dignified and democratic human living together, you will soon get lost in nebulous metaphysics and end up with wrong theories or “political mythologies”.

Jean Bodin, not the state theorist merely reduced to absolutism, but the undiscovered early Enlightenment philosopher, defined state sovereignty in a clear and indisputable way. Analogously to Bodin who represented a Christian view of man, the Spanish “School

of Salamanca” developed modern natural law on the basis of Christian natural law which allowed a first glance at “people’s sovereignty”. The Western Swiss School of Natural Law (“Ecole romande du droit naturel”) and *Jean-Jacques Rousseau* invested the Swiss Enlightenment philosophers with the first foundations of a democratic theory. On the other part the special way of Christianization (early Christian martyrs, Irish mission) as well as the liberal cooperative tradition provided access to modernity for Catholic conservative circles and even to the demand of more direct democracy during the Regeneration and the early stage of the Federal State. Thanks to this person-

al view of man they had developed – beyond all doctrine of divine right – it was as well possible that human rights were integrated into the first constitutions.

The “Project of Popular Sovereignty” in Switzerland was nurtured, as we showed, by diverse roots and brought about direct democracy, referendum and initiative. This “Project” has not yet been subject to much research; however it would deliver a lot of illustrative material for every canton showing how the people fought for democracy against the prevailing power politics and how they were constantly improving democracy. •

(Translation *Current Concerns*)

“Sovereignty, law and democracy...”

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What are the biggest crimes? You can think of many crimes. But I want to mention just one thing: the crime of silence. Why are we in the situation where we are? Because people keep silent, because people adjust to the situation, because people bend down, because there is the pressure

of political correctness, the pressure of the zeitgeist. Then people duck out, they do not want to speak clearly. Well, I can tell you, you can dare to and you have to dare to. I like to close with a thought of *Lucius Annaeus Seneca*:

“It is not because things are difficult that we do not dare; it is because we do not dare that they are difficult.” (Non quia difficilia sunt non audemus, sed quia non audemus, difficilia sunt. Nicht

weil es schwer ist, wagen wir es nicht, sondern weil wir es nicht wagen, ist es schwer.) •

(Translation *Current Concerns*)

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Article 1*

1. All peoples have the right of self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.
2. All peoples may, for their own ends, freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources without prejudice to any obligations arising out of international economic co-operation, based upon the principle of mutual benefit, and international law. In no

case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence.

3. The States Parties to the present Covenant, including those having responsibility for the administration of Non-Self-Governing and Trust Territories, shall promote the realization of the right of self-determination, and shall respect that right, in conformity with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.

* Identical to Article 1 of the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*

The world is as it is, and it is up to us to improve the world. So do not bury your head in the sand. Insist on your ethics, on your values. Hold the politicians and the financial people accountable – be it in Germany, be it in France, be it in Switzerland, – when they do something undemocratic and when they do something unjust.

The Germans begin to discuss their sovereignty

by Karl Mueller

A few weeks prior to the parliamentary elections and initiated by new reports on German authorities' entanglements in the monitoring and data collection activities of the secret services of the former Western victorious allies, a public debate began on the question how sovereign Germany is. It is still unclear what course this debate will take. It would suit the country and its citizens best if a reflection on the citizens' sovereignty, the sovereignty of the people – and on what is lawful: a reflection as well within the country and also towards other countries and peoples of the world.

The former editor of the SPD (German Social Democratic Party) newspaper "Vorwärts", Wolfgang Michal, judged the involvement of the German secret services in the "Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung" of 5 August to be a result of "Germany's unclear sovereignty". He wrote: "Is the Grundgesetz (Basic Law) despite the 1991 Two plus Four Treaty* – nothing but a nice facade behind which an ugly control law is hiding? [...] Wolfgang Lieb, in the nineties government spokesman in the cabinet of Prime Minister of North Rhine-Westphalia, Johannes Rau, asked 'the crucial question' a few days ago: Has the Basic Law become but a mass at disposal of some kind of occupation law? Does the state of emergency prevail without our knowledge? And can it be right that the BND (Federal Intelligence Service) helps a foreign intelligence service to violate our basic rights? Such questions are dismissed by defensive politicians as hysteria, paranoid mania or alarmism. However, they reach an audience outside the small filter bubble, and they lead to the core of the problem."

Such voices are not the only ones. In the past weeks, others have asked similar questions in the German mainstream media, including – quite interestingly – a number of SPD politicians. It is elec-

* The Two plus Four Treaty of 12 September 1990 regulates among others Germany's relationships to the four Victorious Allies of the Second World War (after the GDR joining the scope of Basic Law). Article 7 of the treaty says, "(1) The French Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America hereby terminate their rights and responsibilities relating to Berlin and to Germany as a whole. As a result, the corresponding, related quadripartite agreements, decisions and practices are terminated and all related Four Power institutions are dissolved. (2) The United Germany shall have accordingly full sovereignty over its internal and external affairs."

Natural law has shaped the entire law development of Europe

by Professor Dr Wolfgang Waldstein

After everything that was said on the issue of natural law, the result can only be: Without any doubt, there is a Natural Law. It has been recognized and practically applied by the people since the earliest times. It has shaped the entire law development of Europe since the second century BC. Out of the findings, the "Natural Law Books" emerged, the Prussian General Land Law of 1794, the French Civil Code of 1804 and the Austrian General Act of 1811 (Civil Code). It is on this basis that today the ABGB (Austrian General Civil Law) can state in paragraph 16: "Everyone has innate rights, obvious already by reason." Therefore, knowledge of Natural Law is not a question of more or less reliable philosophical theories, but a reality throughout the development of Europe-

an law culture. Only the fundamentum of Natural Law made the formulation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 possible, which states in its preamble, paragraph 1 that "The recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world". The German nation has committed itself to these rights in Article 1 paragraph 2 Basic Law, in 1949.

Source: Wolfgang Waldstein: "Ins Herz geschrieben. Das Naturrecht als Fundament einer menschlichen Gemeinschaft", (written upon My Heart. The Natural Law as basis for the human community) 2010, p. 157f., ISBN 978-3-86744-137-7

(Translation Current Concerns)

tion time, and we are reminded of the early postwar years, when the former SPD leader Kurt Schumacher accused the then Chancellor of the CDU, Konrad Adenauer, of being the Chancellor of the Allies.

Violations of law for decades ordered by victorious allies

The scientific research community has also raised the issue of Germany's sovereignty. In recent weeks, the theses of the Freiburg historian Josef Foschepoth have frequently been quoted, who as early as in 2012 in his book entitled "Überwachtes Deutschland" (Supervised Germany. ISBN 978-3-525-30041-1) had reviewed the shared documents and came to the conclusion that West German authorities during the Cold War, first on behalf of the Western powers, then formally independent but willing to follow the policies of the occupying powers, had violated civil rights and not just sifted through but also destroyed tens of millions of mails from the GDR – in order "to protect" West Germans from "Communist propaganda".

By means of this book and in the wake of the ensuing discussions we learned that even in 2013 there still existed special rights resulting from confidential agreements with the secret services of the Western powers. And we were quite amazed when a report last week said that only now the German government had terminated such agreements which had existed since the late sixties with the UK and the US and then also with France.

In order to take the wind out of critics' sails?

Swiss and German sovereignty debate

In Switzerland, a debate on sovereignty rights has been fuelled which strikingly differs from the previous German debate. The "Neue Zürcher Zeitung" has devoted a series of more or less ambivalent articles to the issue but the latest scientific research presented a fundamental work on the subject with the work of the Swiss historian René Roca, "Wenn die Volkssouveränität wirklich eine Wahrheit werden soll Die Schweizerische direkte Demokratie in Theorie und Praxis – Das Beispiel des Kantons Luzern" (If the sovereignty of the people should actually become a reality ... Swiss direct democracy in theory and practice – the case of the Canton of Lucerne. ISBN 978-3-7255-6694-5), the reading of which we would like to recommend.

While the debate in Switzerland is about remembering the origins and best traditions of direct democracy, about strengthening the sovereignty of the people and making their intellectual and historical foundations available, one gets a different impression in Germany. For some the sovereignty debate merely serves to drive it home to the public once again that Germany is simply not sovereign and citizens are not to come up with the idea of living their sovereignty as citizens and actually realizing the sovereignty of the people.

Certainly this is true for politicians like the German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble, who on 18 November 2011 told

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the assembled bankers of the European Banking Congress that Germany has "at no time been fully sovereign since May 8, 1945" – and he did not mean it as criticism. He meant to use it as a justification for the fact that Germans should accept even more than before that they have no say. Especially not when it comes to the governmental access to their income and their assets. The Germans are not only to renounce their sovereignty, but also pay to a lot of money for the major European structure, which is planned.

**Karl Albrecht Schachtschneider:
Sovereign is he who is free**

Karl Albrecht Schachtschneider, from whose 2012 book "Die Souveränität Deutschlands. Souverän ist, wer frei ist" (The sovereignty of Germany. Sovereign is he who is free) (ISBN 978-3-86445-043-3) the quote of Wolfgang Schäuble is taken, objects already in the preface: "The defense of the national states' sovereignty against the post-national world domination is the current occupation of those do not want to give up the freedom of citizens as human beings. Sovereignty is freedom. It can only find its realization in constitutional states, democracies and welfare states, i.e. in republics. The sovereignty of the peoples of Europe is attempted to be abolished by the European and the global integration."

With his book, Professor Schachtschneider makes a Copernican Revolution possible in the German sovereignty debate that may include Swiss features –

by the way Switzerland is the country that Schachtschneider among others calls "the most democratic country in the world if not the only truly democratic country" – this way standing the current sovereignty debate from its head on its feet.

Human dignity demands sovereign citizens and direct democracy

The German Federal Constitutional Court offers assistance in no longer conducting a debate based on what the former victorious allies have granted and still grant, but one which is based on the citizens' rights. Its ruling of 7 September 2011 expressly states, "The right to free and equal participation in public authority is rooted in the dignity of man." By demanding direct democracy, i.e. people's initiatives and referenda Schachtschneider leads the way: "The Federal Constitutional Court does not only include elections in the elementary constituents of the principle of democracy, but also votes. These are withheld from the citizens at the federal level, contrary to Article 20 paragraph 2 sentence 2 of the Basic Law. This way, the freedom of citizens, human dignity and the sovereignty of the people are being violated."

Schachtschneider characterizes the underlying current political situation in Germany as follows: "The citizens' state has been taken over by a 'band of thieves'. Parliament's and its members' task is to recognize the right policy for the good life of the people on the basis of truth, i.e. they are to recognize what is right in each situation instead of dominating and suppressing the people, increasingly even by means of all instruments of modern reign, especially by

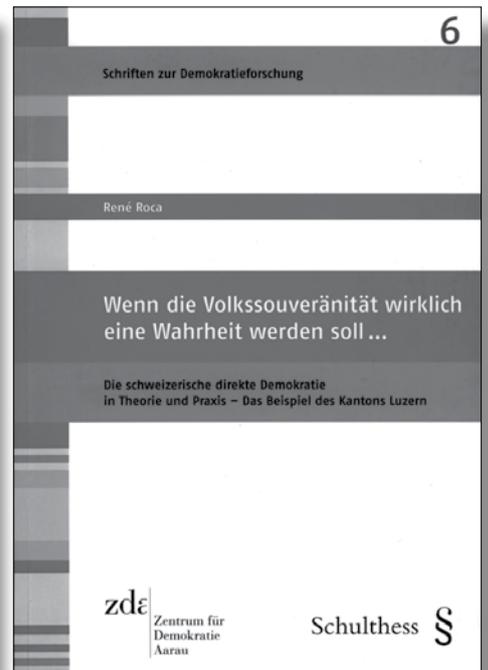
means of the media and the federal intelligence agency. They mainly do so to reach one goal, which is the dissolution of Germany as a sovereign state of free citizens and the integration of the Germans into some United States of Europe without citizenship, into a big state in which the political class can easily dominate the population, because they have been degraded to mere workers and consumers who can no longer realize the bourgeois ethos or even forget about it entirely, even more than at present in the national states."

Becoming aware of one's sovereignty and acting as sovereign citizen

However, the sovereignty of the citizen is one of the natural rights of man and it corresponds with the civic ethos. If it is true that the "citizens' state has been taken over by a 'band of thieves'", natural law recognizes a right to resistance against this as a civil right. René Roca has the given evidence of this truth in the field of humanities and constitutional history.

The right to resist does not mean to take up arms and use violence. Past and present are full of such bloody and senseless episodes. Rather the sovereign citizen's right to resist includes that we become aware of our sovereignty and act as sovereign citizens. Not to violate the law and not to rest until what is right has become law and reality. Karl Albrecht Schachtschneider writes, "Whatever therefore is not the people's will, violates the people in their sovereign-

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The euro crisis is far from being resolved

by Professor Dr Eberhard Hamer

The euro crisis is far from being resolved. It has not even reached its peak. With appreciative words about alleged progress – which in reality does not exist – the individual debtor countries are praised and then again they are provided with financial means, as for example Greece with another 6.5 billion euro. Every effort is being made to gain time until after the German parliamentary elections.

Greece is bankrupt and once again, it became insolvent, although it had been committed 237 billion euro and already paid 210 billion euro – 50 billion euro from this from Germany. Avowedly, the Greeks didn't benefit from these payments, but they were passed to French and American banks for outstanding interests receivable in order that unsettled interest do not document the Greek insolvency and force a debt cut. Thus, it was the Greeks that have been helped so far, but the banks that have driven Greece into debt.

Once again, given the fact that Greece was insolvent and actually should have declared a debt cut – or bankruptcy – Schäuble flew twice to Athens in order to beseech the Greeks not to make a debt cut. And he bribed them with 900 million euro extra credit for an alleged growth fund paid from German funds. It was Schäuble's concern to prevent the extent of the international debt crisis to be made public in any case before the federal elections. Since, before the meeting on the 6 billion euro loans the Greek finance minister boasted: "They cannot do otherwise than to pay or else they will lose a multiple of their loans." So, it is not the debtor but the creditor who is under duress, because only if he throws good money after bad one, the bad money can still be maintained at least as a claim until 23.09.2013.

As a reporter correctly remarked: "The government is doing everything and is paying all that is needed to keep the outbreak of the second wave of the

crisis under wraps until the federal elections, because otherwise it would become obvious that the AfD (alternative for Germany) is right." It would then no longer be possible, to hush up the AfD as before, because it has rightly and repeatedly pointed out that until now, the Euro Group, the ECB, the IMF, the Bundesbank and the international creditor banks have "fought" against the debt crisis just by creating further debts, as if you would put out a fire with gasoline. And, the debt burden continued to rise dramatically, due to joint liability not only in the over-indebted countries, but also in all European countries – especially Germany. Instead of allowing individual countries to handle the problem themselves, the euro-elite decided the common ruin of the euro-system by unscrupulous debt, unrestrained money printing and uninhibited crediting. •

(Translation *Current Concerns*)

"The Germans begin to discuss..."

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ty, in their freedom. [...] Any policy that does not satisfy the democratic principle of the development of political objectives violates the sovereignty of the people."

How do the Germans want to position themselves in today's world?

A sovereignty debate on this basis is much to be desired for Germany. All the more so, as it is not only about the internal, but also about the external sovereignty. How do the Germans want to position themselves in today's world? As a country that takes its constitution, the Basic Law, seriously, will no longer be involved in aggressive acts of war but respect international law and the Charter of the United Nations instead. Or continue as a dutiful and war-ready vassal of US superpower? Or even with own aggressive superpower ambitions? Should old alliances be strengthened or probably new alliances be achieved? Or do the Germans want to keep away from all the power alliances with imperial goals and tread a more neutral way?

Is it possible that German history tragically repeats itself? Some people claim that an incorrectly performed and power-politically oriented sovereignty debate and the associated will of Anglo-Saxon circles could lead Germany to the rails of a constella-

Popular initiative "For a withdrawal from the ESM" practices sovereignty of citizens laid down in natural law

km. For half a year German citizens have been collecting signatures for the popular initiative "Für den ESM Austritt" (For a withdrawal from the ESM – www.volksinitiative-esm-austritt.de) throughout the country. After having obtained the necessary 400,000 signatures, this law is to be submitted to the German Bundestag.

The popular initiative is an example of how citizens in Germany begin to recognize and realize their right to sovereignty laid down in natural law. The initiative refers to Article 20, paragraph 2 of the "Grundgesetz" (Basic Law), which claims that all state authority is derived from the people and shall be exercised "through elections and other votes". Direct democracy –

i.e. direct democracy immediately referring to a relevant issue – is constitutionally guaranteed and the most direct expression of people's sovereignty. Attempts to deprive the people of these rights are wrong.

Since September 2012 the "Treaty Establishing the European Stability Mechanism" (ESM) has been in existence and the popular initiative does not only assess it as a completely wrong manner to solve the still virulent euro crisis and the state debt problems in the euro-zone countries, but also as a fundamental attack on the sovereignty of citizens and the sovereignty of the people. The reply of the German people's initiative to these attacks is therefore: *Sapere aude! Dare to make use of your sovereignty!*

tion as existed prior to the First World War. For the third time in a century Germany could come to a stand on the "wrong" side of the planned front. The assertions of these Anglo-Saxon circles read as follows: Germany is unreliable, ambiguous, still trying to find a balance, for example with Russia..., again a competitor that is too strong in economic terms. Germany is still a Central European continental power with too strong links to the east. The "integration" in the "West" is not really suc-

cessful. In fact, in Germany the governing foreign minister wrote years ago about a "pivotal role" of Germany between East and West.

Powers with imperial goals have no "friends" in the world; they do not even have a fatherland. They pursue interests and look for "coalitions of the willing". Are such ideas being pursued already here in Germany? Sovereign citizens have to face this problem, as well. •

(Translation *Current Concerns*)

Sapere aude! Dare to think!

by Prof Dr H. Wohlmeyer

Whoever currently conceives of the Financial War – Civil War – World War a triad of risks, is immediately dismissed and denounced as a conspiracy theorist and/or a prophet of doom – or at least as an annoying troublemaker. The media controlled by the global plutocrats transport this trivialization into the minds of citizens and abuse their understandable desire to pursue their previous way of lives without being troubled.

However, those following the appeal of the Enlightenment “Sapere aude!” (Dare to think!), formulated by *Immanuel Kant*, must almost explode in self-defense.

There are enough warning signs on the wall: when Switzerland, which usually operates prudently within the international concert, performed a military exercise in September last year that was meant to prepare for a new threat scenario, namely civil wars around Switzerland, and when the Russian Chief of General Staff at the beginning of this year announced that the attempt to bomb Syria like Libya would trigger a third world war, we should at least wake up.

What do history and the facts say?

On financial wars

When England saw its global hegemony, especially at sea and in the industrial area, in danger because the Germans were trying to circumvent the Suez Canal by using the Baghdad Railway and to control the ship's fuel of the future due to their oil exploration rights in Iraq, the First World War was provoked. Since the cost and the resistance of the Axis powers were underestimated, the United Kingdom ran into debts with the plutocrats across the Atlantic and had to give up large portions of their supremacy. De facto, US bankers dictated the conditions of the peace treaties in the suburbs of Paris. The City of London became “junior partner” within the area of international finance; in the Middle East the English had to grant a petroleum-partnership, although the designed “Iraq” with its then largest known oil sources was formally English protectorate.

After the Second World War the US had become the absolute world power and were able to establish the dollar as the gold-backed world reserve currency.

The military colonialism of the Europeans was undermined by powerful people of the US finance under the slogan of “democratic liberation” and a mone-

tary colonialism was established (financial dependence of developing countries). The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group (IMF-WB system) became the institutional superstructure with (seemingly) democratic legitimacy.

The looting of Europe did not take place, in contrast to the First World War. Rather, it became the window of the West during the Cold War.

This situation has completely changed

- a) The collapse of the USSR has resulted in the fact that Russia is no longer seen as a threat. Rather, the Anglo-American financial power has taken root directly and indirectly in the successor states via the Russian oligarchs whom they financed in the heartland of Russia.
- b) The United States has become a country with a chronic trade as well as a balance of payments deficit due to the outsourcing greed of their military-industrial-financial oligarchy. 49 percent of every state's spending is currently covered by new debts. How the amounts of “printed” money were sold to the public (the world), I explained in my latest book “Empörung in Europa- Wege aus der Krise” (Outrage in Europe – ways out of the crisis). This is only possible as long as the US dollar can maintain its position as world reserve currency. However, this is severely at risk. On the one hand, any thinking person realizes that a public debt of nearly \$ 16.9 trillion (16.9 million times a million!) is not repayable without help from outside, and on the other hand there are already a group of states separating themselves from the USD as the trading currency. Even the IMF-WB-system gains competition by newly established regional banking systems. The US is therefore in an almost desperate situation. To make ends meet, at least in the short term, the looting of Europe as the still most affluent region in the world offers itself as an opportunity. We are therefore already in a veritable “financial war”.

How Europe is looted

In contrast to the highly indebted Japan, European countries owe their money mostly to the international financial oligarchs. The description of the formation of the debt trap is beyond the scope of this text. But it can be summarized

in one sentence: Politicians guarantee free playground (that means mainly that plutocrats do not financially contribute to the community) and the plutocrats provide the means (with interest) for the fulfillment of the politicians' election promises.

The steps of looting are shortly described in keywords:

- Supra-continental consulting of European bankers, governments, states and insurance companies into making “lucrative” financial investments in the derivatives market, especially in betting interest, whose negative output was programmed.
- Destruction of \$ 20 trillion (worldwide) of forced upon “securities” (consciously letting Lehman Brothers go bankrupt).
- Pushing hard currency countries into the euro currency as well as tapping into the euro via Greece (with loans clutter, bringing Greece fraudulently in the euro-zone, turning over the debt to the states / European citizens).
- Installation of financial dummies in the ECB, Greece and Italy, who carry out the policy of global plutocrats.
- Decreasing the credit ratings of states via rating agencies and thereby cashing of higher interest rates.
- Enforcement of “renovation / (pillaging) programs” at the expense of the citizens and at the same time money printing in the US for the financial sector (expropriation of citizens at all levels up to the “privatization” of public goods and expropriation by creeping inflation).
- Tacit debt transfer by way of the TARGET system controlled by ECB to the (still) financially stronger countries.
- Attack on Switzerland and Austria as “tax havens” and disclosure of the European offshore places (excluding the associated English core sites) using CIA data to cause the relief flight to the dollar area (in the unpublished US tax havens).

On civil wars

The financial war causes the impoverishment of European societies.

With youth unemployment rates of over 50% and general unemployment of over 25% – and with no prospects for the better – the powder keg does not

"Sapere aude!"

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need any fuse; it ignites itself at small occasions. Most affluent citizens, however, are not aware of the latent violence of the "Youth without future", or they do not want to admit it (suppression).

On war

Civil wars are the breeding ground of wars (those in power try to deflect outwards, debt is the enemy). But currently, the global plutocrats operating in the

background endanger world peace directly. Especially in Syria a horrible proxy war is being provoked with high contamination potential.

Concluding imperative

Courage to question (thinking), recognition, not suppression, bold clarifying, getting up and acting are vital. Possibilities that lend themselves as ways out I have described in my above mentioned "survival book".

(Translation *Current Concerns*)

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