

Current Concerns

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Pandora's Box Has Been Opened

The European Union announced a 750 Billion Euro "line of credit".

by William A. M. Buckler, Australia

It is interesting how religious beliefs about the origin of things remain so similar no matter how disparate the cultures which hold them.

In what is now called Greek "mythology" but was once the religion of the Ancient Greeks, Pandora was the first woman. She was moulded by all the Gods of Olympus, each endowing her with unique gifts. In fact, in ancient Greek, "pandora" means "giver of all" or "all endowed".

In the "myth", or at least in its most prevalent modern interpretation, Pandora quite innocently opened a jar (the Greek word was later translated by Erasmus as "box") and released all the evils of the world upon mankind. She closed it just in time to preserve "hope".

More modern writers have taken the Pandora myth to what seemed to them its conclusion. The eighteenth-century English poet Alexander Pope was a Greek scholar and translator of Homer. Epistle I of his Essay on Man begins with this line: "Hope springs eternal in the human breast."

As stated, Pope was a Greek scholar, very familiar with the Pandora story.

We don't know how familiar our economic and monetary policy makers are with Pandora. We certainly know that they are counting on Alexander Pope being right. They keep releasing "hope" from its box, counting on his claim that it can never wear out.

Another sigh of relief

"We have to believe the governments can, through their balance sheets and staking their balance sheets, rescue the world."

That is a quote from a "risk analyst" in reaction to the news of the huge bailout package announced in Europe on 10 May. In the face of a global market meltdown on 6/7 May and after an all-weekend crisis meeting involving European finance ministers, the European Union announced a Euro 750 Billion (nearly \$US 1 trillion) "line of credit" guaranteeing European debt both government and corporate. The announcement came four days after a European Central Bank (ECB) meeting at which (it was claimed) the prospect of "buying the debt" of the "Club Med" Euro nations was not discussed at all. It came three days after the UK general elections ended up with no party gaining a majority and one day after German Chancellor *Merkel* lost her majority in the Bundesrat, the upper house of the German parliament. In the words of the UK *Financial Times*: "In the end, there was no choice."

That's what the global financial establishment wants us all to "hope". But is it in fact true?

The essence of the problem

On 7 May, US President *Obama* was quoted as emphasising "the importance of the members of the European Union taking resolute steps to build confidence in the markets." He did not add (because he did not need to) the obvious follow-up line "[...] just like the ones we have been taking since mid 2007."

Of course, the European Union now has taken the steps which the US (and the UK and most of the rest of the world) has been taking since mid 2007. In both cases, the same imperative has been the catalyst. That imperative is the need to maintain the facade that the "assets" (read debt paper) which underpin the global financial system are still viable. There is a difference, however. Over the course of



Money should have a real value for the benefit of our real life. But: "Today, every form of money is totally subject to government edict. It can be printed at will by central banks and borrowed into existence at the stroke of a pen on a piece of 'legislation'." (photo caro)

the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) up to now, the "assets" being explicitly guaranteed have been mainly those created by the financial system itself in the course of lending new money into existence. The European bailout – or more specifically the European guarantee – relates to sovereign debt issued by government. Sovereign debt is the *underpinning* of that new money. Without "confidence" (to use Mr Obama's term) being maintained in these "assets", money itself is under threat. What is at stake here is the "full faith and credit" of government debt, the last bastion of the paper system.

Cutting off an arm to save the body

Confidence in the markets (to again use Mr Obama's term) got a royal pasting in events leading up to the weekend EU crisis meetings. Corporate bank lending in the US had slowed to a trickle and had dried up completely in Europe. The yield spread on Greek debt paper compared to its German equiva-

lent had blown out to totally unsustainable levels. More ominously, this financial disease was spreading to the debt paper issued by Portugal, Spain, Italy et al. Over the first week of May, global stock markets plummeted. This was capped off by an almost 1000 intraday swoon on the Dow which was quickly written off as a "computer malfunction". The US Dollar and the Japanese Yen soared as the ever ongoing "carry trade" was violently reversed – just as it had been in late 2008/early 2009. Gold climbed against a rampant US Dollar and absolutely *soared* against most other major currencies.

What had been "green shoots" a year ago in the US had turned into a gardener's nightmare in Europe as the entire facade of economic recovery threatened to implode into a field of withered and dead things. The risk of taking the pressure off the US and its Dollar by placing the focus squarely on Europe and its Euro was on the verge of backfiring on the whole world. Again, the world stared into the

Konrad Hummler: «Banks and the Political Establishment Probably Form the Biggest Cartel There Is.»

"Even the name 'rescue package' is a fraud. It is not about the rescue of Greece. This is a rescue package for the creditors of Greece. Once again, it is the banks. Actually, we are dealing with a second financial crisis. Whether the banks bought sub-prime mortgage bonds or government bonds of indebted countries does not matter in the end. [...]

Solidarity costs are the business of the community. That is where peer pressure works. However, without disclosing names: Banks and the political establishment probably form the biggest cartel, there is. The state protects the banks, in each country. The people are never asked. The

EU's elevatedness from their citizens is frightening. [...]

But now the centralists are sensing their chance. The EU wants integration at all cost. One fears a total collapse if one member would opt out. The program for tax harmonization and for a coherent spending policy was already launched a year ago, by President Barroso. The desolate development of the EU leads to the alternative: coercion or decay. The decision will be coercion."

Source: Interview with Konrad Hummler on Sunday from 16/05/2010.

Konrad Hummler is the president of the Swiss Private Bankers Association

abyss. Again, the "solution" was to pile new debt on top of old.

The opposite proposition

"The claim is that the obvious message of the situation is that sovereign government must have full control over *all* aspects of monetary and fiscal policy if it is to prevent the type of sovereign debt debacle now engulfing Europe. As yet, no argument has been put forward for the opposite proposition." ("The Global Report" in *Privateer* Number 652, published on 2 May 2010)

That statement is even more pressing after the European bailout announcement. There was opposition inside Europe to the scope of the bailout. Mr Trichet of the ECB revealed that agreement among all 22 of the governing council members was not unanimous. Bundesbank head Axel Weber is still publicly opposed to central bank buying of government bonds, saying after the plan had been announced that it carried "significant risks". Many analysts have warned about the ECB putting its credibility at risk.

The European politicians demanded the bailout and the "independent" ECB went along. As presented, the problem is that Europe has one currency but many governments each deciding how much to borrow and spend. The professed "solution" is that there must be one government deciding *both*.

All – or nothing at all?

Here are the three questions:

- 1) Should a government have total control over the lives of its citizens?
- 2) Should it have "some" control?
- 2a) Where does one draw the line?
- 3) Should it have no control whatsoever?

We use the word "control" in this context on purpose. We are not talking here about the legitimate government function of defending one citizen against force or fraud committed by another. We are talking about government controlling the individual – through force, the threat of force or fraud.

No government in history has freely admitted that their goal was *total* control over the lives of "their" citizens. That hasn't stopped them from attempting it, though, with results all too obvious to any student of the history of the century just ended. No government in history has ever achieved a total "hands off" either. The two closest approaches have been the government set up in the immediate aftermath of the American Revolution and the government set up in West Germany on the ashes of the Nazi regime.

Almost all governments (present and past about as far back as you want to look in history) are versions of the "middle ground". Total control is dismissed as despotism or totalitarianism. No control is sneered at as "anarchy". But anarchy is the absence of government, *not* of government control over the lives of its citizens. And *total* control is impossible. Even *Louis XIV*, *Hitler* or *Stalin* did not achieve that.

The result – especially after the disintegration of the attempt at totalitarian control represented by the USSR and its eastern European satraps – has been the universal acceptance of a "halfway house" approach to government. There is, however, one thing which governments *do* totally control – *money*.

"Pandora's Box ..."

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The problem of "partial" control

The problem is that it never remains "partial". Once begun, "intervention" always spreads to envelop more and more of the economy. And in lock step, political control spreads to a matching degree. It must, in order to enforce the control over the economy. Burgeoning political power is a very expensive proposition. It cannot be undertaken, let alone maintained, unless more and more of the wealth of the nation is diverted from those who produce it to those who consume it.

Central to this power is government intervention with and ultimately complete control of the medium of exchange. It is a sad fact of reality that a medium of exchange – which enables *indirect* exchange through the use of money – is a double-edged sword. It is true that without the discovery of indirect exchange through money, the world as we know it would be a sheer impossibility because savings and investment would never have reached the level necessary to bring it about. It is equally true that the all pervasive government power and its use which plagues us today would have been impossible without the universal acceptance of indirect exchange.

This is what makes money so central to both the political and the economic debate. Without money, there cannot be complete control over an economy since there is no single item involved in all exchanges. With money, the political path to ever increasing control is simple. Gain total control of the single item which is involved in (almost) all exchanges. Gain monopoly control of money – the rest follows.

Today, every form of money is totally subject to government edict. It can be printed at will by central banks and borrowed into existence at the stroke of a pen on a piece of "legislation". The European bailout package is merely the latest illustration of this universal fact. The only complaint being raised in mainstream economic circles is that the Europeans waited too long to do the deed. The only political complaint comes from those who are faced with "austerity" in order to "earn" the bailout money. Few are complaining about the nature of a money which makes such things possible in the first place.

Time line to cave-in

On 2 May, European leaders agreed to a 110 Billion Euro rescue package for Greece. The European Union (EU) would "lend" 80 Billion Euro at a very concessionary rate of 5.0 percent and the IMF would "lend" the rest. It was also announced that EU leaders would meet on Friday, 7 May. Most reports in

the mainstream financial press claimed that this would "end" the debate over how to "rescue" the Euro.

It didn't. On 3 May, the European Central Bank (ECB) announced that it would indefinitely accept Greek debt regardless of the credit rating that the US ratings agencies chose to apply to that debt. This was a major "about-face" for ECB governor *Jean-Claude Trichet* who had been adamant that the ECB would not change its collateral policy for the sake of any particular country. The ECB claimed that it had not discussed changing its collateral policy for any other European nation outside Greece.

On 6 May, the ECB held one of their regular meetings. As universally expected, they held their controlling rate at 1.00 percent. When asked about the prospect of "quantitative easing" (directly buying Greek debt) by the ECB, Mr Trichet said that it had not been discussed. This was followed up by Bundesbank President Axel Weber who stated that the crisis doesn't merit "using every means". Meanwhile, on 6 and 7 May, global stock markets were imploding and global lending was drying up.

Then came the weekend of 8-9 May with almost round the clock emergency meetings designed to defuse the situation before the markets opened in Asia on Monday, 10 May. Early on 9 May, the EU/IMF rescue package which had been "priced" at 110 Billion Euro a week earlier was rumoured to have blown out to 500 Billion Euro. European finance ministers met for 14 solid hours in EU headquarters in Brussels on 9 May before finally nailing down the final 750 Billion Euro package. The deal was done at 2:15 AM.

Think big!

According to no less an authority than the "New York Times", the European package took a "nudge from Washington" to come to fruition. We would hazard a guess that it was more than a nudge. According to US reports, President Obama and US Treasury officials were on the phone to Europe on and off over the entire weekend. Since February, US officials have been telling their European counterparts that they had to get rid of the "risk of default" altogether. According to one unnamed US official: "It's all about psychology. You have to convince people that the government will get its act together."

President Obama spent a lot of time on the phone on 9 May telling European officials, particularly the German and French heads of state, to do as he did and "get out ahead (of events) as far as possible." He also made clear his concern about the possibility that European "unity" could crumble, conveniently not mentioning the fact that the US ratings agencies had brought on the crisis in the first place.

The Fed's "Contribution"

On 9 May, the Fed entered the fray, declaring that it was re-opening international "swap lines" – "in response to the re-emergence of strains in US Dollar short-term funding markets in Europe." The "swap lines" the Fed refers to here were originally opened at the height of the first GFC crisis in September 2008 as the *Bush* administration prepared to go to Congress with their own bailout plan. In 2008, the amount was 247 Billion US Dollar. They were closed down in February this year, but that didn't last long. This time, no figure was announced besides a 30 Billion US Dollar line with the Bank of Canada (three times the 2008 amount). These "swap lines" are authorised by the Fed until the end of January 2011.

As *The Privateer* reported in 2008 (in issue #613), the Fed had and has very small reserves of foreign reserves since it is the producer of the world's reserve currency. Now, as then, the Fed is increasing its supply of foreign reserves by means of these "swaps" – just in case they are needed to buy US Dollars.

A cost-benefit analysis

Almost exactly five months after the global sovereign debt crisis was ushered in with the Greek ratings downgrade by Fitch on 8 December 2009, the deed has been done. The European Central Bank has bowed to political pressure – both foreign and domestic – and introduced its own version of "quantitative easing". As the plan is described, the 750 Billion Euro will come in the form of "guarantees" – 440 Billion Euro from EU governments, 250 Billion Euro from the EU itself and 60 Billion Euro from the IMF.

These entities will sell debt paper and make the proceeds available to buy the bonds of Eurozone nations deemed to be "in need". The plan is not yet cast in stone. The IMF has not irrevocably assented and stiff legal challenges are likely, in particular from Germany. And the Eurozone nations "in need" are supposed to hold up their part of the bargain by slashing government spending and deficits.

It is said that the ECB has been dealt a blow to its credibility from which it will not recover. In reality, the ECB has just now done what many other central banks (notably the Fed and the Bank of England) have long since done. The Euro's days are said to be numbered after caving in to market "pressure". This pressure was selective and focussed on Europe by the US ratings agencies. The budget hijinks indulged in by Greece are nothing that every major nation, especially many outside the Euro region or Europe itself, has not been indulging in for many years.

Europe has borne a heavy cost and has gained, at best, a short amount of time. The

global financial system now has the spectre of "sovereign debt risk" hanging over it. This is the most dangerous situation imaginable for a global fiat money system based on nothing except public acceptance of the viability of the debt paper issued by governments. The costs outweigh the benefits – *massively*.

How much time has been gained?

Judging by the markets, not much. On global stock markets, the initial reaction was knee jerk as all markets soared, the Dow ending up 403 points on 10 May. The US Dollar fell back marginally on the day as did the \$US Gold price. By the end of the week, global stock markets were once more in retreat.

But there has been a *big* cost borne by the global credit money system. On 11 May, the \$US Gold price hit a new all time high. It took the GFC for \$US Gold to exceed the \$US 850 spot future closing high it set in January 1980. Gold finally managed that in January 2008. It went on to breach the \$US 1000 level in March 2008. Gold hit the \$US 1000 level again in February 2009 but didn't exceed it until late September 2009. From there, Gold peaked just below \$US 1220 (spot future close) on 3 December, 2009. Then came the sovereign debt crisis with the Fitch down-grade of Greece.

Gold has taken only five months to exceed the high it set back in December 2009. And this time, it has set its new \$US high in the face of a *rising* US Dollar. The Gold "price" in terms of US Dollars and every other major currency is telling us that this European "rescue act" won't do the job for long.

What will do the job?

According to a UK economist – "the game plan is clearly to use the ECB [...] to force peripheral bond yields down and rebuild market confidence". This is the antithesis of the solution. We quoted a "risk analyst" at the start of this analysis. The belief that governments can "rescue the world" is being pushed closer and closer to its breaking point by ever more desperate government attempts to do just that.

What is now happening is a dawning realisation that governments *cannot* solve a problem they created by accelerating the methods by which they created it. The longer they persist with these "solutions", the worse the problem will get. For the global financial system, the only thing that will do the job is to keep "hope" where it belongs – inside Pandora's Box – and start radically reducing the size of government.

Source: *The Privateer*, Mid May Issue, Number 653, 2010, www.the-privateer.com
Mail: capt@the-privateer.com
(reproduced with permission)

Kiev Deepens Its Relations with Russia

by Clifford J. Levy

Swiftly carrying out his pledge to improve strained ties with neighboring *Russia*, the new Ukrainian President agreed to a landmark deal on Wednesday to extend the lease on a Russian naval base on Ukrainian territory.

The decision by the Ukrainian President, *Viktor F. Yanukovich*, represented a sharp reversal in policy and a victory for the Kremlin, which had feared that its military readiness would be undermined if the base were closed.

"We have opened a new page in relations," Mr Yanukovich said at a *news conference* in Kharkiv, in Russian-speaking eastern Ukraine, where the agreement was signed.

But the lease extension drew criticism from Ukrainian opposition leaders, who view the base as a symbol of Russian interference in Ukrainian affairs and want their country to have a closer alliance with the West.

The base is located on the Crimean Peninsula on the Black Sea, a place of historic resonance for Russia, which has headquartered its fleet there since czarist times. Mr Yanukovich's predecessor, *Viktor A. Yushchenko*, who left office in February, was hostile to the Kremlin and had vowed that the lease

would not be renewed after it expired in 2017.

The accord reached Wednesday, which Mr Yanukovich negotiated with Russia's President, *Dmitri A. Medvedev*, will add 25 years to the lease on the base, which is in the city of Sevastopol. In return, Russia said it would cut the price of natural gas that it sold to Ukraine by roughly 30 percent, helping to bolster Ukraine's shaky finances.

Ukraine has been under pressure from the *International Monetary Fund* to reduce subsidies to domestic gas consumers to pare its budget and qualify for a bailout package. To raise money, Mr Yanukovich had considered selling part of Ukraine's gas pipeline network to Russia, but he appears to have shelved that idea.

Russia has been paying roughly \$100 million a year in rent on the base for its Black Sea Fleet, but it was not immediately clear from the announcement on Wednesday whether that price would change.

Mr Yanukovich has long had a strong rapport with the Kremlin, and during the presidential campaign he declared that Mr Yushchenko had recklessly alienated Moscow by seeking NATO membership for Ukraine and

putting pressure on the Russian military over the fate of the Crimea naval base.

Mr Yanukovich has said Ukraine should not join any military pacts and should instead act as a bridge between Russia and the West.

The meeting on Wednesday reflected how the formerly icy relations between Kiev and Moscow have changed under Mr Yanukovich. Mr Medvedev flew to Ukraine for the talks, having all but boycotted Mr Yushchenko toward the end of his tenure.

"People in Ukraine and in Russia want us to build warm, neighborly, traditional relations, which have always led our nations to success," Mr Yanukovich said.

The agreement on the naval base and gas supplies is expected to calm tensions that flared in recent years and had ramifications across Europe. Disputes over gas pricing grew so acrimonious that supplies of Russian gas that were supposed to be transported through Ukraine to Europe were halted in winter, leaving homes without heat.

Residents of Crimea hailed the base agreement as well, pleased that it promised to solidify the Russian presence there. The peninsula was once part of Russia, but was transferred to Ukraine in 1954 when both

were part of the Soviet Union. The local population is more loyal to Moscow than Kiev. Under Mr Yushchenko, Crimea was seen as a potential flash point for a military conflict between the countries.

By contrast, opposition parties in Kiev and the Western parts of the country said the lease extension was a betrayal of Ukrainian sovereignty.

Arseniy Yatsenyuk, a former Ukrainian foreign minister, said Mr Yanukovich had no right under Ukraine's Constitution to extend the lease. "For now, it's just paper," Mr Yatsenyuk said of the deal. "The fact of its signing has no legal significance."

The Russian side, though, seemed relieved to have a friend in the Ukrainian president. After the meeting, Mr Medvedev and Mr Yanukovich strolled together through the civic center in Kharkiv and greeted passers-by.

"I haven't been a guest here for a long time," Mr Medvedev told them. "It's nice that it has taken place at last. We have just signed documents that are very important for both Ukraine and Russia. They will strengthen our friendship and our brotherhood for a long time to come."

Armament after the Nuclear Summit in Washington, D.C.

“First of all, Iran is no nuclear power. Second, until now Iran wants to merely enrich uranium. Everything else is mere supposition today.”

An interview with Professor Dr Albert Stahel of the Institute for Strategic Studies at Zurich University



Vasilije Mustur:
Mr. Stahel, is the world going to be safer after the nuclear summit in Washington?
Professor Albert Stahel: No. Much has been talked about, but little has been decided on. Just like the

nuclear disarmament agreement between the United States and Russia.

What does that mean?

With the new agreement mutually signed by US president Barack Obama and Russian president Medvedev, only a small quantity of nuclear weapons has been removed from the arsenals of both super powers. For 20 years, the disarmament goals mentioned in this treaty are being put into action step by step. The most important difference, compared to all former disarmament treaties, is the fact that the reduction of nuclear weapons is going to be supervised.

Hence, the disarmament treaty is a good-weather paper?

The on-going disarmament is simply put into contract. With regard to the amount of

nuclear weapons, little changes are to be expected. For the time being, Russia does not want to further pursue its disarmament either.

Why?

Russia is in a position to guarantee its own safety only with the help of nuclear arms. The conventional armed forces of Russia had been neglected during the era of president Boris Jelzin.

How does this show?

Today, the conventional armed forces have to get by with material from the 80ies, mostly. This way, Russia is in a position to ward off a serious enemy only under certain conditions. This is why Russia vehemently defends itself against the US rocket shield and has announced that it is not going to stay on course with the disarmament treaty, should the US install its rocket defence system. A well-functioning defence system could outmanoeuvre the Russian nuclear arsenal.

Back to the atomic summit: Barack Obama is worried about the nuclear material which in his view is not sufficiently protected.

Referring to nuclear terrorism, Obama wants to distract from the fact that the US are prepared to reduce their own nuclear arsenal only under certain conditions.

Nonetheless, the threat is real. There is not a single day going by in Pakistan – a thriving nuclear power – without a terrorist attack. Also, there are civil war-like conditions . . .

As long as Pakistan's army is safeguarding its nuclear weapons, there is no danger. And also, Pakistan's rockets are not equipped with warheads – contrary to US rockets.

Meaning that you consider the terrorist organisation Al-Kaida unlikely to get hold of a nuclear weapon?

It could be possible that Al-Kaida could procure fissile material enabling them to build a “dirty bomb”. Terrorists could procure such material in civil establishments and institutions. Depending on the conventional explosive force of the bomb, a larger town could be exposed to its radiation.

Apparently, North Korea and Iran are also of great concern to the United States. Neither of them is prepared to accept anything from anybody. Iran's president Ahmadinejad it putting pressure on Israel whenever he can.

With regard to North Korea's nuclear arms, the small number of nuclear warheads serve as deterrent against American troops in South Korea. With regard to Iran: First of all, Iran is no nuclear power. Second, up to now, Iran

only wants to enrich uranium. Everything else is mere assumption today.

But this enables the country to build nuclear weapons . . .

Not necessarily. Iran has to procure and enrich uranium first and it is far from that. The world assumes that Iran is developing nuclear arms. But there is no evidence of that so far.

Would not the Iranian nuclear weapons constitute a threat to the region?

Iranian nuclear arms would be a threat to US troops in Iraq and Afghanistan as well . . .

But for Israel as well. Ahmadinejad denies the Holocaust and Tel Aviv is permanently threatened by war.

Israel is likely to own between 200 and 300 nuclear warheads. And it also is the nuclear power in the region as per se. Above that, Israel would erase Iran, should Iran intend to attack Israel.

Apparently for quite some time, Israel is trying to bombard Iranian atomic plants. What would happen, if this came true?

In this case the Shiites in Iraq would declare war on the USA.

Source: www.a-u.ch of 14-4-2010

The Iran Campaign and International Law

by Karl Müller

Being members of the United Nations, 192 states of the world are bound

- to maintain international peace and security, 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 settle-

ment of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace;

- 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.”

Furthermore, the following duties of the UN member states are stated in the Charter of the United Nations:

- All Members shall settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered.
- 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.”

The fact that member states of the United Nations have repeatedly infringed these regulations, does not dispense today's world from these obligations. On the contrary: all wars after the Second World War have confirmed in a horrible manner how true it was and still is what the founding members of the United Nations stipulated in 1945 as the first and highest aim at the beginning of the preamble of the Charter that they were “determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind”.

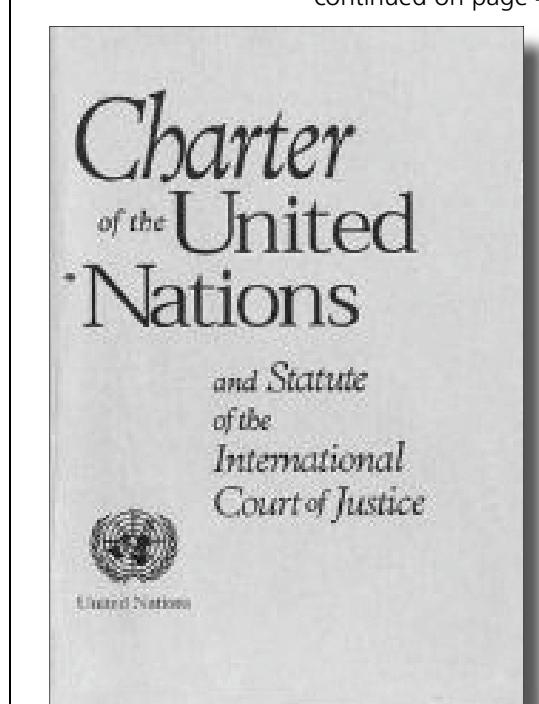
Is it compatible with these principles when representatives of governments and the media massively stir up a phobia against a country and even do not exclude war against this country?

That is exactly what has been happening against Iran for years. And again even more vehemently during the past weeks and months.

In doing so the proponents of the campaign do not consider

- that not only has the Iranian Government maintained for years that it doesn't want to possess nuclear weapons, but that also the inspectors of the International Atomic Energy Agency IAEA and all secret serv-

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Joint declaration between Iran, Turkey and Brazil

cc. Turkey, Brazil and Iran have agreed on a joint formula about a nuclear swap deal between Iran and the Western powers. After nearly 18 hours of negotiations, Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu and his Brazilian and Iranian counterparts, Celso Amorim and Manouchehr Mottaki, over the weekend reached an agreement on how to revive the previously failed UN-backed nuclear swap deal between Iran and the West.

„Having met in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, the undersigned have agreed on the following Declaration:

1. We reaffirm our commitment to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and in accordance with the related articles of the NPT, recall the right of all State Parties, including the Islamic Republic of Iran, to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy (as well as nuclear fuel cycle including enrichment activities) for peaceful purposes without discrimination.
2. We express our strong conviction that we have the opportunity now to begin a forward looking process that will create a positive, constructive, non-confrontational atmosphere leading to an era of interaction and cooperation.
3. We believe that the nuclear fuel exchange is instrumental in initiating cooperation in different areas, especially with regard to peaceful nuclear cooperation including nuclear power plant and research reactors construction.
4. Based on this point the nuclear fuel exchange is a starting point to begin cooperation and a positive constructive move forward among nations. Such a move should lead to positive interaction and cooperation in the field of peaceful nuclear activities replacing and avoiding all kinds of confrontation through refraining from measures, actions and rhetorical statements that would jeopardize Iran's rights and obligations under the NPT.
5. Based on the above, in order to facilitate the nuclear cooperation mentioned above, the Islamic Republic of Iran agrees to deposit 1200 kg LEU in Turkey. While in Turkey this LEU will con-

tinue to be the property of Iran. Iran and the IAEA may station observers to monitor the safekeeping of the LEU in Turkey.

6. Iran will notify the IAEA in writing through official channels of its agreement with the above within seven days following the date of this declaration. Upon the positive response of the Vienna Group (US, Russia, France and the IAEA) further details of the exchange will be elaborated through a written agreement and proper arrangement between Iran and the Vienna Group that specifically committed themselves to deliver 120 kg of fuel needed for the Tehran Research Reactor (TRR).
7. When the Vienna Group declares its commitment to this provision, then both parties would commit themselves to the implementation of the agreement mentioned in item 6. Islamic Republic of Iran expressed its readiness -in accordance with the agreement- to deposit its LEU (1200 kg) within one month and on the basis of the same agreement the Vienna Group should deliver 120 kg fuel required for TRR in no later than one year.
8. In case the provisions of this Declaration are not respected Turkey, upon the request of Iran, will return swiftly and unconditionally Iran's LEU to Iran.
9. Turkey and Brazil welcomed the continuous readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to pursue its talks with the 5+1 countries in any place including Turkey and Brazil, on the common concerns based on collective commitments according to the common points of their proposals.
10. Turkey and Brazil appreciated Iran's commitment to the NPT and its constructive role in pursuing the realization of nuclear rights of its member states. The Islamic Republic of Iran likewise appreciated the constructive efforts of the friendly countries Turkey and Brazil in creating the conducive environment for realization of Iran's nuclear rights.”

Source: 17 May 2010,
http://www.mfa.gov.tr/17_05_2010-joint-declaration-of-the-ministers-of-foreign-affairs-of-turkey-iran-and-brazil_en.mfa

Against the Fraudulent Use of the Debate about Sexual Exploitation of Children

by Moritz Nestor

Sexual exploitation of children and child trafficking are – like wars, arms and drug trafficking, starvation, exploitation and torture – part of the most grievous excesses of today's world, a profoundly disgraceful and huge problem. Rightists or leftists are involved – especially powerful people of the establishment: well organised and highly connected within the command centres of economy, politics¹, as well as creative artists or media representatives. However, the current campaign against the Catholic Church will not help solve the problem. On the contrary: considering the problem within a broader context, one is forced to the conclusion that this campaign pursues other goals than the victims' protection, as it widely avoids the true reasons.

Typical tactics: he ensures the parent's trust and makes the child dependent, playfully looking for physical contact, systemizes the touching – sexual abuse, a child abuser in action. A typical statement:

"I had long discussions with the parents. I told them that their children's needs had always been neglected. The parents accepted me as a caregiver. I worked in that kindergarten for two years. The children were between two and five years old. I played with them an awful lot, romped with the children, I completely identified with them. *I wanted the children to like me, and I did everything that they became dependent.* (author's italics) With the children, I became aware that this need of making others dependent actually existed in all my relationships. My constant flirts with all children began to assume erotic features. I could feel how little five-year old girls had learnt to turn me on. Several times there were children that opened my fly and started to caress me. Depending on the situation, I reacted differently, but their wish faced me with problems. I asked them: 'Why don't you play with each other, why have you chosen me and not the other children?' But when they insisted, I allowed them to caress me."

The author of this extract is *Daniel Cohn-Bendit*, European representative of the Green Party, from chapter 9 (with the salaciously suggestive title "little big man") of his book "Der grosse Basar"² (the great bazaar), published in 1975. You can be a child abuser even if you are a leftist, sit in parliament and prevail over the "repressive pre-68-sexual morals" (Cohn-Bendit).

In the current agitated campaign something significant has gone by the board: the Catholic Church openly acknowledges the injustice committed by people within their ranks. In their pastoral letters they discuss it

with deep concern. They acknowledge their guilt and are ready to act in order to elucidate and make amends as well as to prevent further injustice.

And the green and the leftists? When Cohn-Bendit was confronted with the exploitation of the children entrusted to him, who he had used as objects for his sexually deformed drive for power, he remained indifferent and cold towards this injustice. Whoever asked him about the committed injustice and wanted to know what attitude he had today, he met with a snub. Remorse? – A "bourgeois prejudice". "Have the men in this part of the world problems to cope with equal partners, or is the type of the broken man on the way up?" asks detective chief superintendent *Manfred Paulus* after having investigated into paedophilia for 10 years.³

In general, the green and leftists seem to deal with this problem in accordance with the red Daniel style. From his "academic pedestal" *Adolf Muschg* lectures us that sexual abuse committed by the former director of the Odenwaldschule, *Gerold Becker*, was a pedagogical tool of the progressive educational movement; however, he reproaches the church with hypocritical double standards.⁴ Becker's life partner, *Hartmut von Hentig*, denies sexual abuse, minimizes it and turns the victim into the offender: if anything, then a pupil had made Becker to look like a fool.⁵ Remorse, as resentfully demanded from the Catholic Church – not a nanogram.

Urs Allemann, highly praised by the prestigious *Peter von Matt* – professor of German at Zurich University, received the Ingeborg-Bachmann-Prize for his child-pornographic text "Babyficker". Who takes stock of himself for this cultural disgrace nowadays – what a ridiculous request. Only the catholic world seems to be acquainted with moral nowadays – and is the only one put into the pillory – a coincidence?

Who is still aware of the child-sex debate in Germany? No, no catholic priests. In 1975 a proposal was put forward from the ranks of the German Green, "to decriminalise non-violent, tender sexual relationships - so to say - between adults and children".⁶ Details can be found in *Siegfried Uhl's* "Die Pädagogik der Grünen". Where is the remorse of the Green? The one demanded so vehemently from the Catholic Church.

And who remembers *Marc Dutroux*? No, not a catholic priest. A child abuser, a child trafficker and child murderer involved in the huge network of an international child-pornography, child-abuser, child-trafficking ring. The string pullers are at home at the governmental- and administrative floors of the Euro-

pian Union and European governments, who have until today suppressed any solutions of the sexual abuse of thousands of children. Just read *Dirk Schümer's* "Die Kinderfänger" (the child-catchers). Where is remorse within those circles? The one demanded so vehemently from the Catholic Church. When celebrities such as *Michel Friedmann* are too deeply involved in drug and women trafficking, they are withdrawn for a while until the turmoil is over. Omertà law works smoothly in the entire European Union.

But we are supposed to have the impression that this was a problem of the Catholic Church. Whoever, without thinking about it, when accusing catholic priests of these sexual abuses, also talks about approximately 2 million child prostitutes in South America and East Asia? "Fresh Flesh", "Green Stuff", with an annual turnover of about 5 billion dollar⁷. Who are the customers of these unfortunate "sex objects"? People from our countries. "According to a study on HIV, sex, and tourism of the Free University in Berlin about promiscuity during holidays, German child sex tourists 'use' an average of 8 young girls during an average holiday of 22 days – in comparison to other sex tourists, who 'only' manage 5 women."⁸

Do you understand what I am getting at: where is the real problem, about which one should deliberate instead of being fooled into anti-clerical feelings of bygone times. This fraudulent campaign has to be stopped. It has no heart for the victims and insults them again. It even worsens the problem. It conceals that the victims are exploited for other purposes: the manifold victims of poverty, sexism, and racism are instrumentalised for the ideological struggle against the Catholic Church. The entire Catholic Church is to be abolished, not their sexual morals. Because she is a thorn in the flesh of military and financial blocs striving for global power. Because she takes a stand against the Anglo-American-European War Alliance's imperial wars, against global exploitation, against torture, against man-made starvation, and against many other global injustices, and because she upholds Natural Law and the ban for killing, which the war alliance wants to abolish with all its power. Whoever was fooled into believing that this was a mere catholic problem should start to think: whose purpose serves the clubbing of an institution, which acknowledges the problem? Of what use is the indiscriminate clubbing? Fact is: the Catholic Church has handed herself in. The majority of offenders, however, who enjoy attacking the church with smug media power, have not. All these consid-

erations do not improve nor worsen any of those addressed problems. But they show the fraudulence of this campaign, which has to be stopped at once in favour of an honest and genuine reappraisal that takes everything into account. All known cases have to be cleared and – if necessary – pursued, and the victims have to be protected. Injustice must be atoned for and society must be protected. Most of all: the "demand" of our countries for the international business with children in this world must be eliminated. And then there is the crucial question: cui bono - to whose benefit is this fraudulent campaign? To whose benefit is this clubbing of the Catholic Church, who without any doubt already stands on the side of those striving for a real solution?

¹ Schümer, Dirk: *Die Kinderfänger. Ein belgisches Drama von europäischer Dimension.* (The child catcher. A Belgian drama of European dimensions) Berlin 1997.

² Cohn-Bendit, Daniel. *Der grosse Basar.* (The great bazaar) Munich 1975, p. 139 ff. (Some sentences of this extract have been skipped without changing the whole context.)

³ Gallwitz A & Paulus M.: *Die Kinder-Sex-Mafia in Deutschland.* (the child-sex-mafia in Germany) Berlin 1999, P.52

⁴ Keller, Peter: Von der Zärtlichkeit zum Missbrauch (from tenderness to abuse). In: *Die Weltwoche* No12/10 from 24 March 2010.

⁵ Keller, Peter: Von der Zärtlichkeit zum Missbrauch (from tenderness to abuse). In: *Die Weltwoche* No12/10 from 24 March 2010.

⁶ Lübbe, Hermann: Politischer Moralismus (political moralization). Berlin 1987, p.55. Quoted in: Uhl, Siegfried: *Die Pädagogik der Grünen* (the green's pedagogy). München, Basel 1990, p.59.

⁷ Schümer, Dirk: *Die Kinderfänger. Ein belgisches Drama von europäischer Dimension.* (The child catcher. A Belgian drama of European dimensions) Berlin 1997, p.199.

⁸ Gallwitz A & Paulus M.: *Die Kinder-Sex-Mafia in Deutschland.* (the child-sex-mafia in Germany) Berlin 1999, p.49.



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"The Iran Campaign and"

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ices as well have never presented a substantial prove for an Iranian nuclear weapons program. Up to this day, the reports of the US secret services have in fact confirmed that Iran does not operate a program for nuclear weapons. Some of Iran's opponents claim on these grounds that there is no point in proving the existence of an Iranian program for nuclear weapons but that Iran should give a gapless prove that it does not strive for atomic weapons – but how can that be possible if at the same time anything that Iran presents is principally called in question,

- that the statements of the Iranian president (of state) concerning Israel have been falsified by the western media and that Iranian plans of waging war against Israel are not known,
- but that, on the other hand, most probably there are Israeli (and also even US American) plans for a war of aggression against Iran, although wars of aggression are forbidden by the UN Charter;
- that Iran is threatened with war by other countries, also by superior German officers: Meanwhile, a manuscript of the speech

held by German NATO general *Karl-Heinz Lather* at the Gemeinschaft Katholischer Soldaten (Association of Catholic Soldiers) in Bonn on 25 March 2010, is available. Grotesquely enough, he said at the occasion of the World Peace Day 2010: "By the way, soon the World Community [meaning the NATO states] could be forced to intervene again if Iran does not give up its ambitions for nuclear weapons. Political action, diplomacy and economic sanctions seem to be of little avail" and he adds – in opposition to the duties emanating from the UN Charta – that "states and governments [meaning the NATO states] usually [hence not always] adopt and aspire for a mandate of the United Nations as a prerequisite for a military intervention [but which is obviously not necessary, according to the conception of the German general]";

- that the earlier "offers for negotiation" to Iran disregard the equal rights declared by the United Nations for all member states of the state's community and that they demand from Iran something which has no legal basis concerning the nuclear treaties – a fact about which nobody can be deceived, not even by the decisions of the World Security Council concerning the Iranian nuclear program;

- that at the same time states which refuse to adhere to the non-proliferation treaty – namely Israel, Pakistan and India – and which store a big arsenal of nuclear weapons, are almost never asked to finish this condition (not to mention the 5 "official" nuclear powers who, they as well, have signed the Treaty and have committed themselves to nuclear disarmament and even zero armament; they are very, very far away from this aim) – meaning that also here double standards are applied;
- that Iran is, not at all, put under pressure by the "World Community", but that it is above all Israel, the USA and the EU who have joined up to put other countries under pressure to submit to their plans. The majority of the states and governments, for example the 118 states of the Non Aligned Movement, judge the policy of Iran and the possibilities to have relations and solve conflicts with this country very differently from that political bloc, which is nothing else but a small minority in the world.

At this point, nothing is to be said about the real background of the war plans against Iran. It must however be added that the current campaign represents an alarming beating of war drums for everybody who is im-

partially dealing with this matter. This does not mean that everybody who is now threatening Iran wants to wage war. But everybody who threatens Iran – everybody who is ignoring the Charta of the United Nations – is a forerunner of all those who want the war. It is not less worrying that there are no longer any voices of dissent coming from the governments and media of that bloc. There is no discussion, but everybody seems to be brought in line to add to the agitation. And we can call it agitation because this kind of enforced conformity solely springs from political plans which have little concern for the truth.

This ignorance of the bloc against the Charta of the United Nations is no peccadillo. This ignorance undermines the bases of a just and peaceful coexistence of the peoples and states. It is a threat to mankind. There are quite a lot of the World Community who are not ready to take part in this.

During the past years a series of wars have been waged without the consent of the world community. The victims and costs of these wars are immeasurable already today. So there is all reason to think about the question how a new war can be prevented and how it might be achieved that international law regains respect – that is by *all* nations.

Angela Merkel's Role in the "New World Order"

We need to counter the German chancellor's fatal reason of state with a life-protecting orientation

by Karl Müller

The hypothesis has been consolidated: the German government and particularly the chancellor *Angela Merkel* play a sinister role within the "New World Order".

This "New World Order" amounts to a radical breach with the achievements of civilization. Beyond all rhetoric, at the core of this breach is an assault on human dignity and human rights which are to be replaced by a hierarchically structured world, constructed by a small elite according to their considerations of utility. In this "New World Order", the majority of the people are seen as disposable objects which can be made use of or pushed aside, according to demand. Of course, nobody will openly say so, but this policy is predictable when we look at what the new "World Marshals" are presently doing.

With respect to the Merkel government, this includes:

- A continuation and escalation of the Red-Green war politics and the violations of the constitution: these are particularly the insignia of the new Minister of Defense *von und zu Guttenberg*, who acquired his know-how in the US and, backed up by his chancellor, not only adheres to the German war policy, against the will of 80% of the Germans, but also, since taking office, has ever more frequently tried to prepare the public for more wars.
- This picture is enhanced by some observations: How is it to be understood that the four-star general *Karl-Heinz Lather*, in a speech to the "Association of Catholic Soldiers", speaking about the necessity of German war missions, not only mentioned Yugoslavia and Afghanistan but also said that German soldiers might soon be deployed in Iran? This war policy implies the massive use of manipulation strategies. Sometimes documents regarding these strategic considerations leak to the public. So we learn from a CIA paper that there are recommendations how the rejection of the Afghanistan war by the German and French population may be turned into approval. These recommendations include a stronger focus on US president *Obama* who is popular in Europe and a stronger focus on "women issues". ("Afghanistan: Sustaining West European Support for the Nato-led Mission – Why Counting on Apathy Might Not Be Enough", March 11, 2010, <http://file.wikileaks.org/file/cia-afghanistan.pdf>)
- The ideological and practical enforcement of an Anglo-American style of economy: Ideologically, with associations like the "*Initiative für eine neue soziale Marktwirtschaft*" (initiative for a new social market economy) which in fact has nothing to do with the ideas of social market economy, instead with plans for a trans-Atlantic common market or the welcome to the US-dominated IMF to "fix" European budget issues. This of course means that Wall Street and the City of London will have an even greater say in European economic and financial politics.
- The bossy manner of pushing about other peoples and states: The German attacks on Switzerland – brought forth without the approval of the German population – are just one example. German politics are creating more and more skepticism in other EU states, let alone in African or Middle East countries (except Israel).
- An increasing focus on a Conservative-Green and trans-Atlantic "Green New Deal". It has little to do with the protection of nature and environment and even less with the protection of people. But it is well connected with ideologies pushing for money and power using the protection of nature and environment as a pretext for taking action against people. It started with unnerving restrictions to freedom, many of which have been of little use for nature and environment. And what can contain ideologies which see humans only as "disruptive elements"?
- Campaign-style attacks against persons or institutions who keep up values and civil-



(photo mb)

"To Inhibit thinking is a feat no earthly politics has ever accomplished"

"Because, tell me, what prevents us, the Germans, to consider us as contributors to the building of humanity, to honor and to support each other as such? Don't we all have one language, one common interest, one reason, the one and same human heart? They have never been able to block the path for philosophy and criticism; they will always find their way; will work in all good heads. Their rules are the same everywhere; their purpose is the same everywhere. Even the competition between the provinces cannot but foster this purpose.

Thus, glory and praise to him who fosters the community of German provinces by papers, businesses and institutions; he facilitates the cooperation and recognition of several and very different forces; he binds the German states by spiritual ties – which are the strongest.

That we are lacking a capital is certainly not harming our cause. This defect may inhibit the formation of taste; but a capital might just as well corrupt and shackle

taste like it has polished and inspired it in the outset. Insights, however, serene considerations, active attempts, feelings and expressions of what serves our peace locally and everywhere – they all reject the walls of a capital and prefer the open land; their workshop is the whole of Germany. The more messengers go hither and thither and the lighter their charge, the more this will foster the communication of thoughts and no prince, no king, who realizes the infinite benefits of the industry of mind, the culture of mind, the mutual communication of inventions, thoughts, proposals, even of mistakes committed or weaknesses, will try to impede them. All of this will benefit human nature and, hence, society; mistakes will be uncovered, errors will be improved, thoughts will arouse thoughts, sensations and decisions inspire and drive. Because this is the great and good facility of human nature that, if I may say so, it contains everything as a seed only awaiting its development. If the bud does not

make up its mind today, it will open tomorrow. Even all possible antipathies are present in human nature; not only is there an antidote for each venom, but the eternal tendency of the prevailing living force will be to prepare the strongest drug from the most noxious venom. Ah, the extremes are so close together in our tightly limited nature that it sometimes only takes a finger's tiny touch to turn the angle of incidence into an angle of reflection – they are of equal size according to unchanging laws. Inhibiting thoughts is a feat no earthly politics has ever accomplished; this would even harm it strongly. But to collect thoughts, to organize, to lead or use them will advance it immeasurably."

From: Johann Gottfried Herder: Briefe zur Beförderung der Humanität. First of two Volumes, Berlin and Weimar 1971 (Letters for the promotion of humanity, the original appeared between 1793 and 1797).

zation: campaigns that nobody shall identify as what they are. Who for instance knows that Chancellor *Helmut Kohl*, who was pushed out of office in 1998, was opposing the war against Yugoslavia and was urging for a political solution of the conflict? Or that he was planning for a visit in Belgrade after the war, a visit that was made impossible when Kohl was isolated with eager support by Angela Merkel during the affair about party donations? Who is aware that Angela Merkel is deeply involved in the current campaign against the Catholic Church and the pope? Former State Secretary and long-time CDU member of the German Bundestag, *Willy Wimmer*, was cited by the Catholic News Agency (KNA), 29 January 2010, that "it is now common practice that the political Berlin [the CDU] is raiding the Catholic sphere with malice and glee." KNA also states: "Wimmer affirmed his criticism of the statements of the party leader, Chancellor Angela Merkel (CDU) regarding Pope Benedict XVI, one year ago. Her 'infamous insinuation' that the pope's position regarding anti-Semitism was not unambiguous had promoted the inner division in the party. With her criticism of the pope Merkel had "deliberately let loose divisive forces." Wimmer demanded: "After the swings of the past years, the CDU has to become more integrative for the whole of Ger-

many, more Christian and more Western European", implying that the CDU needs to become a "party for the people" again which draws an orientation from Christian values, the law and, for an economy, with the concept of social market economy, derived from the Christian social doctrine. The economic doctrine should draw its reasoning from continental European achievements and not, like under Merkel, from Anglo-American Utilitarianism or law-despising Machiavellianism or predatory Capitalism. Could it be that the current campaign against the Catholic church is meant to silence a globally important voice for peace and justice in order to be able to wage new wars unimpededly – e.g. against Iran – and to be able to install the "New World Order" without disturbances?

• Distraction from the essential national and international questions: What are the real issues, politically, economically and socially? How can they be resolved democratically and on a legal basis? What is the ethics that should be the guideline for our ideas?

A quotation may express the natural feeling of people for the unalienability of human life: [official translation of the Vatican-Homepage] "Even in the midst of difficulties and uncertainties, every person sincerely open to truth and goodness can come to recognize the sacred value of human life from its very begin-

ning until its end in natural law, written in the heart, and can affirm the right of every human being to have this primary good respected to the highest degree. Upon the recognition of this right, every human community and the political community itself are founded." (Encyclical "Evangelium Vitae")

An ethic based on the well-being of humans will give life-affirming answers to the central questions of life: to the question of marriage and family; to the question of the education of our children; to the question of the dignity of man and the importance of human rights; to the question of the relations between peoples and peace on earth; to the question of an appropriate economic order; to the question of the constitution of our political community; to the question of science and technology; to the question of the connection of man and nature.

The "New World Order", however, is a life-despising order. Its ideology spreads like a vicious ulcer. The feuilletons of the mass media are full of it.

Since mankind has existed, the forces of brotherly love, charity and humanism are the opposing forces to this ideology. They alone are in accordance with human nature. This is why we can very well stand up against the ideology of the contempt for life and oppose it with the ethics of humanity. We do this for our children, for the older generation and for ourselves. It is the foundation block for the dignified life of coming generations. •

Civil Courage Begins in Every day Situations

Professor Dr Veronika Brandstätter-Morawietz *



The term "civil courage" is often associated with dauntless heroic deeds. Being from Munich, I think, as an example, of people like *Hans* and *Sophie Scholl* – members of the resistance group "Weisse Rose", who risked their lives with their leaflet campaigns in the struggle against the Nazi dictatorship in Germany. On their leaflets the "Weisse Rose" denounced "the horrid and excessive crimes that exceeded any limits" of the Nazi regime, and appealed – in emphatic terms – to the population to live up to their responsibility and to resist. And the first leaflet of the resistance group goes on:

"If everyone waits until the other one takes action, the messengers of the avenging Nemesis move steadily closer, until even the last victim will be inanely thrown into the maw of the insatiable demon. Therefore, each individual – in her or his responsibility as a member of the Christian and Western civilization – has to consciously fight off, as much as he is able to in this last hour, and work against the scourge of mankind, against fascism and any similar system of the absolute state ..."

In February 1943, Sophie Scholl was caught, after she had been active for nine months in the resistance group, distributing leaflets in the atrium of the University of Munich, reported to the Gestapo and a few days later executed together with her brother Hans and their fellow students *Christoph Probst*. Another example of civil courage, is *Leon Luca Orlando*, the former Mayor of Palermo, who fearlessly defied organized crime – always under mortal threat.

These people – with their protest against the violation of fundamental civil rights, against violence and against contempt for humanity – are considered as models of civil courage. The outstanding courage of individuals must not obscure the fact, however, that acts of civil courage have to happen in every day situations, "that they are necessary in many areas of life when people are insulted, ridiculed, humiliated, threatened

You need not be a hero".

"You need not be a hero but certain personality traits like self-confidence, emotional stability, low anxiety and the ability to bear stress, facilitate behaviour of civil courage."

Source: Brandstätter-Morawietz, in "Berliner-Zeitung" of 30 August 2007

or attacked. Civil courage is not only important in inhuman political systems or in environments of organized crime, but also in our everyday life. In many areas of daily life discrimination and a climate of hostility can be observed – for example, Anti-Semitism and xenophobia, exclusion and harassment at work, in cases of violence against children in the family. All forms of violence must be stopped, we want a respectful and peaceable living together – and therefore, civil courage becomes a task for each individual.

Often appeals are made to the population to show more civil courage. In a speech on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the Kristallnacht pogrom of 9 November

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1938, for example, German Chancellor *Angela Merkel* warned about indifference, racism, xenophobia, and anti-Semitism: "indifference is the first step on the way to lose essential values." She added that Germany needed a climate that promotes civil courage. ("NZZ Online", 9 November 2008) What does it mean, however, to show civil courage, if not the heroic advocacy for others while facing extreme violence? To be courageous means – as the sociologist *Gertrude Nunner-Winkler* (2002) puts it – to orient one's action towards the core values of a democratic civil society and to bravely defend the preservation of this normative basis. The focus therefore is the protection of human dignity.

For violations of the psychological or physical integrity of a person there are everyday examples: A man is bad-mouthing his colleague: "R. achieves nothing, typical woman"; in the flat next door the hints to a violent family dispute are increasing. Youths are assaulting a homeless man. An application of a candidate from the former Yugoslavia is sorted out, unread. A friend expresses anti-semitic phrases. A supervisor makes offensive remarks about an employee. A woman accosted a colored person in the supermarket: "Parasite that you are, go back to where you came from." Youths are molesting an elderly lady and are jostling her.

Courage means to act if someone is treated in a humiliating way, as manifested in insulting remarks, bar room slogans, bullying or at worst, in physical attacks. To stay silent as a witness of such incidents, to stand by idly, has fatal consequences: not only that the victim in such a situation does not get any help, silence can be misinterpreted as consent and ultimately promote further hostility. The racism research shows that xenophobic violent persons justify their actions, by stating they are only acting out what the silent majority is thinking as well (e.g. *Wagner & van Dick*, 2001). And that means: the silent majority, who tolerates discrimination, renders discrimination possible. This

What is Civil Courage?

Civil courage is often associated with bravery and heroism. The protest against the violation of civil rights in dictatorships or uncovering criminal activities are examples of civil courage of individuals, such as the fight of the former mayor of Palermo, *Leoluca Orlando*, against the Mafia. The outstanding courage of individuals should not hide the fact that behaviour of civil courage is possible and necessary even "on a small scale" in many areas of life (family, school, public space, work), when people are humiliated, threatened or attacked (e.g. violence in public space, bullying in schools and mobbing in workplaces, racist and anti-Semitic bullying and domestic violence).

By civil courage we mean a courageous action by which someone vents their displeasure about something regardless of possible disadvantages for themselves. Courage means not to look away, but to interfere. The sociologist *Gertrude Nunner-Winkler* (2002) identifies two essential features of civil courage: the action is based on democratic values and civil society, and requires personal courage, because it might contain certain risks for the acting person.

Source: www.psychologie.unizh.ch/motivation/zivilcourageportal

is exactly the content of the statement expressed by the former UN Secretary General *Kofi Annan*, "The evil needs the silence of the majority".

What happens to people when they see such an incident?

Although many people share the basic values of social responsibility, helpfulness and soli-

darity with weaker fellow humans, these beliefs are not always reflected in their actions. How often we hear: "I already know, I should intervene, but ...", "I want to show civil courage, but ..."

And how do people react in such situations? They feign deafness, they look the other way, they go away, they are silently watching the event, to name only some of possible actions.

A survey of 2700 individuals in the context of a 10-year project about group-related enmity (GMF-Survey 2002-2012) under the direction of the famous German sociologist *Wilhelm Heitmeyer* takes a look on these facts. 60% of respondents reported that they heard negative comments about foreigners in their environment, 20% reported negative comments against Jews and 15% reported attacks on foreigners. As to whether they did anything in those problematic situations, was answered by one third to one half of respondents positively. We are therefore faced with two questions:

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If not me, then who?"

"If not me, then who? Acting according to this motto stirs movement in a crowd of people. One can ask bystanders for help for example – like this: 'You with the blue jacket, please call an ambulance.' You can scream loudly for help, or urge the perpetrators with shouts to stop. Once a person takes the initiative, others join in, and very importantly, the perpetrators realize that they face resistance. This irritates them, because they have reckoned with victims, not opponents."

Source: Brandstätter-Morawietz, in "Berliner-Zeitung" of 30 August 2007

“Maestrani” and “Munz” – a Swiss Marriage with Sweet Consequences

A Visit to “SchoggiLand”

by Lisette Bors and Hedwig Schär, Switzerland

Swiss chocolate is known far and wide all over the world. For years it has been an export hit and belongs to the best chocolates world-wide. Like all traditional Swiss brands, the good reputation of Swiss chocolate has been founded on its high quality since more than a hundred years. In 1819, the first mechanical production was started by *François-Louis Cailler* in Romandy. Today, there are 18 chocolate factories spread over the country. One of it, maestrani, is located in Flawil, Canton St. Gall. It is the only one in German-speaking Switzerland offering public guided visits.

Certainly you as well, have already been served a small Munz or Minor chocolate bar for coffee. Or may be you remember the Munz bananas of your childhood? These popular chocolate products are produced by Maestrani in an ultra-modern factory in Flawil.

In Europe, the history of chocolate started in 1528, when the first cocoa beans reached Spain from overseas. In the course of time the chocolate as we know it today was developed from the quite bitter tasting cocoa raw material. In the 19th century, quite a few production centres came into existence in Switzerland, also *Maestrani* and *Munz*. *Aquilino Maestrani* originally came from Ticino. He opened his first chocolate business in Lucerne in 1852. Only seven years later, he moved to St. Gall. Because of the many weaving mills and embroideries, St. Gall had become an affluent city which meant that many a person could afford the luxury product chocolate. Here, the *Maestrani* establishment could prosper successfully. The family business *Munz* in turn has been domiciled in Flawil since 1874. *Munz* was specialized in jelly, sticks and the famous chocolate banana.

By the way, the first clubs were produced by a converted sausage machine! The bananas filled with an airy banana-sugar mass and coated with dark chocolate have existed for 70 years. They were created as a stopgap when there was a delivery shortage of cocoa beans. Something sweet could be produced which did not require a big amount of chocolate.



Moulding chocolate. (photo maestrani)

Both companies had already cooperated in former times and helped each-other, a typical way of cooperation between SMEs (small and medium-sized enterprises) in Switzerland.

In 1988, when there was no succession for *Munz*, it had to be organised in some other way. This was the opportunity for *Maestrani* to take over the company. As the space in St. Gall was too small for a bigger production, an ultra-modern new production site was erected on the compound of the former *Munz* factory. It included the latest equipment for production. An 80 m long visitor's gallery atop the production hall was realised. This way, visitors guided by a professional staff-member, can follow the process of production and packaging. Several machines originate from *Bühler*, a company located close to the plant in Uzwil.

Since 2003, the production has taken the place in Flawil. The staff consists of 180 colleagues. The company often trains a number of apprentices. The employees have to observe high hygiene standards. Shoes and clothes must be changed in the mornings and the evenings. The working clothes are washed in the company. Everybody has to wear a

cap. Jewellery and long nails are forbidden. The hands are washed and disinfected every hour. Moreover, the chocolate is controlled by a metal detector applied on a certain spot. All these measures guarantee highest standards of the chocolate quality. By the way, the workers may eat of the fine chocolate as much as they wish.

The production of chocolate

The most important raw material is the cocoa bean growing in tropical regions. The fruit is about 20 cm long, it grows directly on the stem of the tree and contains more or less 20 to 30 beans. The harvest takes place twice a year. As the fruit does not fall from the tree, it has to be picked from the tree. Then the beans are excoriated from the fruit, cooked under banana leaves and at last dried. This is the state in which the beans are shipped and transported to the countries where they are processed.

The beans used for bio chocolate come from Peru. Further important raw materials are milk powder of Swiss milk, sugar of Swiss sugar beets, hazel nuts from Turkey and Italy and almonds from California and Spain.

The different cocoa beans are mixed following a strictly kept secret and are processed to cocoa powder by cylinders of different sizes. The additional ingredients are then added. Then the mass is refinded using a process developed by *Rudolf Lindt* in 1879. This process is called conching. The cocoa mass is heated up to a temperature of 60°C solely by friction and stirring for hours on end, the exact duration of this process being also kept a strict secret. No heat is added. This is the process which produces the tenderly melting mass of chocolate. And it is the parting basis for very different chocolates. One bar of chocolate needs, for that matter, about 50 cocoa beans!

Maestrani produces 4000 tons of chocolate products a year, i.e. 200 train wagons! The best-liked product are the milk chocolate sticks coated with white chocolate as well as the Minor sticks. Altogether, about 40% of the chocolates are exported to 62 countries.

Courses and visits

A visitor's and course centre has been installed in the invitingly renovated part of the former *Munz* chocolate factory. Visitors from all around the world are received here. From Monday to Saturday afternoon companies, school classes, clubs, tourists etc. are offered guided tours across the factory and different courses for chocolate founding (registration is necessary).

Every Wednesday afternoon at 2 p.m. there is a public guided tour (except on company holidays). The visitors are received by a competent and eloquent employee who guides the visitors through the *SchoggiLand* with enthusiasm. The tour starts by five informative short films, then leads through the small and lovingly equipped museum and atop the visitor's gallery to the factory shop. During these one and a half hours the visitors are allowed to taste the chocolate over and over again, a real delight!

Moreover, one can enrol to several interesting courses: Chocolate moulding courses for families, moulding of Easter or Santa Claus bunnies, moulding of hearts for Mother's day or for the creation of the own chocolate bar. Being professionally guided during two hours, one can learn to produce selected chocolate products (information and registration under www.schoggi-land.ch or telephone number (0041)071 228 38 88).

The visit to *SchoggiLand* is a special event and recalls in an impressive way which high-quality product, looking for his peer, is produced in our country. Switzerland produces 185.000 tons of chocolate per year. About 60% of these products are exported. This high export rate shows the enormous popularity of our chocolate! Though a lot is exported, we Swiss are the champions in eating chocolate. Every year, each inhabitant eats about 12 kg. According to new scientific findings, especially the dark chocolate with a high amount of cocoa is quite healthy.

It is remarkable that a small country like Switzerland has been producing a product of world class for a long time. This is a great performance.

Dear Reader of Current Concerns

Again and again, with every new edition of *Current Concerns*, we face new challenges. In addition to the editorial team, translators, layouters, proof-readers, printers, and a mail order team apply their energies to the task of supplying you with carefully researched background information and reports on current events of national as well as international interest. As you will certainly have noticed, *Current Concerns* is an ideologically, politically, and financially independent newspaper. We highlight backgrounds, correlations and connections that we judge important to reach a better understanding of current political, economic, social and cultural events. We advocate values that are in accordance with the peaceful coexistence of man.

Current Concerns is meant as a supplement and not as a competition to other newspapers and journals. We offer a platform where current events as well as long-term developments may be seized, their ethical aspects be illuminated and put forward for discussion. We are particularly committed to the desire for peace, to peace education, to the formation, promotion, and development of direct democracy and to recommendations for federal solutions. We are happy to promote all positive approaches to this effect. We also take a stand for humane and caring forms of economy as an alternative to neo-liberal globalization.

Over the years, the wish for foreign-language editions of *Current Concerns* was increasingly expressed by our readers, so that

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