

Current Concerns

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“War against Iran has begun long since”

Israel only needs an effective pretext; then it will strike against Iran, also with nuclear weapons, drag the United States into the war, the latter also mobilising NATO

by Prof Dr Eberhard Hamer

The Israeli Prime Minister *Netanyahu* wants war against Iran. The US oil industry and the U.S. military want the same, too. The former because of Iran’s oil reserves and because without Iran, an oil monopoly in the world cannot be enforced, the military, because the overall strategy of conquest of the Middle East remains incomplete with the two countries Iraq and Afghanistan, as long Iran, the country in between, has not been attacked and conquered.

However, the form of warfare has changed, after the US’s bitter experiences in Iraq and Afghanistan. An attack on Iran with ground troops up to the occupation of parts of the country is no longer possible after the experience of Afghanistan. The occupation of the country is not the starting, but the final stage of the war. Today, combat operations are being started in a more subtle and insidious way.

- For years, the Israel-controlled world press has been spreading alleged Irani-

an plans for nuclear armament and attacks in order to cover up that Iran is the one to be attacked. In other words, the world public is lied to by the press that the planned attack victim is in fact the aggressor, and Iran’s President is presented as a hate-filled berserk, a second Hitler, capable of any crime or act of war. In the meantime, the songs of hatred against Iran have increased continuously, for about three to four years, to convince the world public that the Iranian leadership and their system – as before *Saddam Hussein* – are a threat to world peace.

- At the same time nuclear scientists and politicians in Iran have been targeted and killed by the Israeli Mossad, in order to destroy the defence capabilities of Iran. The killings are said to be personally ordered by Netanyahu.
- From American CIA circles we learn that for the last eight months Mossad and CIA have been leading a system-

atic cyber war against Iran, infiltrated thousands of science, military and business computer systems in Iran by viruses such as *Stuxnet* to bring about self-destruction or system destruction. It became known, for example, that the *Siemens* computer systems deployed in the Iranian nuclear industry, were programmed to self-destruction and that a nuclear disaster could be prevented by Iranians only with some difficulty.

- For half a year already, the US has been assembling the largest fleet concentration in its history around Iran and the Israeli have brought the nuclear submarines from Germany in position. Both preparations for war are certainly not without intention.
- Netanyahu had wanted to wage the war already in the spring of 2012, but was retained by *Obama* with difficulty until autumn as an election cam-

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The goal remains: Turning swords into plowshares

A call to violate international law prohibiting violence is a call for a breach of the constitution

cc. In the following letter to the editors and chief editors of the Berlin newspaper “Der Tagesspiegel”, Dr Dieter Deiseroth, judge at the Federal Administrative Court, has raised firm objections to the fact that in future Germans are called to accept war as a “continuation of politics by other means” and thus radically break with the reason of state of the German Basic Law claiming to respect international law and never again to take part in a war of aggression.

Dear Dr Rudolph, dear co-editors and editors

I do apologize that I take the liberty – outside my official activity – to approach you concerning a column entitled “Pazifistische Melodien” (pacifist melodies) by the historian Dr *Alexander Gauland*, published on 23 July 2012 in your newspaper. With all due respect for the personal freedom of opinion of every individual, I am

very surprised, indeed shocked that a respected liberal-conservative newspaper like the “Tagesspiegel” supports public dissemination of a text which in substance invokes disregard and violation of established constitutional and international law.

The historian Dr *Gauland*, former chief civil servant of the Hessian State Chancellery of Prime Minister *Walter Wallmann* (CDU), is known to be a very well-read theorist of conservatism with a number of esteemed publications. The scandalous fact of his “Tagesspiegel” guest contribution is in my opinion that he makes the case for merely utilitarian political considerations when deciding on the military enforcement of foreign and security policy interests.

Thus *Gauland* in particular negates the prohibition of any use of military force in interstate relations anchored in the UN Charter, a historical achievement of humanity resulting from the crimes of the

Second World War. The UN Charter allows only two narrowly defined exceptions of this prohibition: firstly, the use of force without prior explicit authorization from the UN Security Council (Article 42 UN Charter) and on the other hand – until the Security Council has taken necessary measures – the interim self-defense of a state and its allies against a present or imminent threat of military attack (Article 51 UN Charter).

The prohibition of the use of force under international law established by the UN Charter is part of the so-called peremptory norms of international law (“*jus cogens*”) and thus also of the “general rules of international law” within the meaning of Article 25 of the German Basic Law. These “general rules of international law” are “integral part of federal law” in Germany by virtue of explicit con-

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“War against Iran has begun long since”

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paign tactical move. Now, according to the American war minister *Panetta*, the onset of the hot phase of the war against Iran is to be expected in September when the US President will be incapacitated (“lame duck”) just before the elections and the opposition candidate is ready for war, even according to his own election campaign statements.

- Above all, however, according to *Panetta*, Secretary of War, the strike against Iran can only begin “after the problem Syria has been solved”. That is to say, CIA and Mossad have successfully destabilized Israel’s surrounding Arab nations in North Africa, in order not to have any disturbances from there in case of war. Syria which is allied with Iran (and Russia/China) is still not destabilized. As soon as Syria will be destabilized by the insurgents of the CIA and the Mossad as well and the government eliminated – if possible – Israel has a free northern flank and can strike to the East. These statements show that the alleged freedom movements in North Africa and Syria do not originate from their own people, but have been artificially created

by the CIA and Mossad to destabilize these countries as a preparation for war. This also explains that the world press and the American government (*Clinton*) and their satellites, and the Israel-controlled world press blame Syria’s president for the “bloodshed” instead of their own agents and insurgents, who are provided with weapons via Turkey by Mossad and the CIA and strategically led. Thus Syria is already a pre-war to the post-war against Iran. This is also the view of the Russians and Chinese. This is why they are blocking UN resolutions for direct combat by NATO against *Assad*.

Thus the war against Iran has long since begun – by the media, economically (boycott), militarily and as cyber-war. Only an effective pretext is needed, then Israel will strike against Iran also with nuclear weapons, drag the US into war, and the latter also mobilizing NATO. As with the first two world wars, a third world war is being built up here that cannot be avoided by Iran, while the only thing that still matters is to make Iran appear as an attacker for the world public. This is why Netanyahu – against his better judgment – immediately declared the bus attack in Romania as an Iranian act, after the sinking of an Iranian boat in the Gulf by the Americans

remained without the expected response from Iran. One or the other pretexts for war will be constructed or brought about until autumn. The war against Iran, subversively begun long ago by the masterminds mentioned above, is to change the balance of power in the Orient. The manipulators cannot be stopped anymore. A third world war seems inevitable.

We in Europe should not believe that this world war does not affect us, as well. The Americans will force us to participate with troops and money as they did in Afghanistan. In addition, also a dramatic rise in oil prices might have economic consequences for whole of Europe and Germany. And no one knows how Russia and China will react if their ally Iran is destroyed. However, Israel and the US could have miscalculated and even damage themselves if their war objectives – extension of power, possession of oil in Iran and the covering-up of the American and Israeli financial crises – are not achieved. Twice for the United States, a world war was a big leap from an economic crisis to the world’s leading economic power. A third time, this might fail and lead to fall if China steps in and mobilizes Islam, that is already opposed to the United States. •

(Translation *Current Concerns*)**“The goal remains: Turning ...”**

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stitutional normalization, and according to Article 25 (sentence 2) of the Basic Law they “take precedence over the laws and directly create rights and duties for the inhabitants of the federal territory”.

Columnist Dr Gauland cares little about these constitutional and international legal boundaries of military operations – assuming the self-chosen pose of a *Niccolo Machiavelli*, and *Carl von Clausewitz*. Indeed, he even speaks for noncompliance by explicitly invoking the Prussian “blood and iron-prime minister” *Otto von Bismarck*.

Piquant is the fact that Alexander Gauland, as a former state secretary, is subject to the obligations of civil service law, and of course also to the constitutional requirements, the breach of which he publicly advocates. This is also relevant with regard to disciplinary law. In accordance with civil service laws (cf. § 47-BeamStG) it holds for retired officials as well as former officials with pensions that they cannot operate “against the free democratic basic order within the meaning of the Basic Law”.

This includes – despite all the misinterpretations of the terminology – at least the full respect for the constitutional precept – essential of a democracy – of strict and

unexceptional binding of all public authorities to “law and justice” (Article 20, paragraph 3 Basic Law). “Law and justice” include the applicable international law. A retired civil servant, who argues in public for disregard of Article 20, paragraph 3 in case of the use of military force for reasons of political expediency under the express affirmative reference to the government statement of Otto von Bismarck as Prussian minister-president in 1862 and his proclaiming “blood and iron”-maxims, which took no notice of the law and “majority decisions”, calls in substance for a permanent breach of constitutional and international law.

To me it is, frankly speaking, incomprehensible that you as the chief editors print a contribution containing such evident serious journalistic weaknesses. How does Dr Gauland actually know that “the Germans”, in fact more than 80 million people, have “a disturbed relationship to military force” and that “the Germans” stand alone “the world” with their “absolute rejection of military force”? How does Dr Gauland define “the world”? Does he speak of all people/all citizens of this earth? Does he mean the governments? Or does he just mean the majority of Western governments, which do not represent “the world”? Such slogans are obvious simplifications beyond the level of a pub debate, which ignore the com-

plexity of real facts and intricate problems. For an academic historian this is, to put it mildly, approaching the limits of shame and embarrassment!

The scandal of such a plea of a high-ranking (retired) civil servant for a breach of constitutional and international law refers beyond the actual instance.

It is necessary to curb a development which attempts to bring back to normal the use of the military for political purposes unfettered by current law in Germany and to make the public agree to these outrageous attempts. In Dr Gauland’s column, this is also strategically connected with an underlying moral discrediting of those as politically incompetent and unrealistic dreamers who reject the use of military force in the face of the terrible experiences of war and the inextricably associated escalation of violence especially against non-combatants (“collateral damage”), or at least insist on strict compliance with international and constitutional boundaries.

I would be grateful if you gave me the opportunity to reply to Dr Gauland’s column in your paper in an appropriate manner.

*Dr Dieter Deiseroth,
Judge at the Federal
Administrative Court*

(Translation *Current Concerns*)

The media's power

The democratic mission for a serious press and public TV stations

by Rainer Rothe (lawyer)

The manipulation by diverse and sophisticated employment of the media is a means to gain power. There are no coincidences. In the meantime there exists even a strategic legal communication (cf. *Rademacher/Schmitt-Geiger* (ed.), "Litigation-PR: Alles was Recht ist", 2012). Nothing is left to chance.

The expert for constitutional law, Professor *Martin Kriele*, recalls this fundamental process when describing the actions against the former German Bundespräsident (Federal President) *Christian Wulff*. In his article in the *Zeitschrift für Rechtspolitik* (ZRP, 2012, 53f, "Zwischenruf: Die Macht der Medien", www.martinkriele.info) he points out that the journalists had not carefully investigated the charges against Wulff on the basis of the norms of the Criminal Code (§§ 331, 332 Criminal Code) – which they were obliged to do – although the debate dominated the media for two months; instead they created a scandal that did not exist.

In its latest issue (No 31 of 30/07/2012, p.17), the German weekly *Focus* reported that at present there was no sufficient suspicion in the preliminary proceedings against Wulff.

As early as 1990, a leading German professor for civil law who happened to have his office on the same university floor as I had my room, vividly reminded me that the problem of misusing the freedom of the press had started when the

president of the Reich *Ebert* was shown in a cartoon with a donkey's head; thus the respect for the office and for the person had been violated with severe consequences for the rule of law and for democracy.

And now Professor Kriele wrote what I had repeatedly thought of in connection with the resignation of the former federal presidents *Köhler* and *Wulff*:

"The decline of the Weimar Republic began with the mockery of president *Friedrich Ebert* and the spins of the *Hugenberg* group. The respect for the office of the President and for the people he represents actually forbids making president-bashing an entertainment show: Who may persevere longer, he or the media?"

Once again I am grateful that he sends a reminder of these principles to the trade press and offers a solution and hope in reminding of the principles of democracy and the rule of law and order and thus also of the task and role as well as the legal duty of the media. He points out that "it is a problem of the political culture of our democracy". The media had "little incentive to moral self-righteousness". He makes a difference between the expression of opinions and the dissemination of facts, as has once been provided for by Article 5, Paragraph 1 in the systematics of the Basic Law, and points out that it is primarily the radio and television stations' task to reconsider the "principles that guarantee a minimum of balance as to contents, objectiv-

ity and mutual respect" (BVerfGE 12, 205 [262 f.] = NJW 1961, 547).

The freedom of expression and dissemination of an opinion must identifiably be separated from the freedom of reporting (factual account), which is ensured by means of broadcasts and films (Article 5, paragraph 1, sentence 2 Basic Law: "Freedom of the press and freedom of reporting by means of broadcasts and films shall be guaranteed."). Unfortunately, the courts ignore the prohibition of disinformation under Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) all too often today.

The highest judge of the Federal Republic of Germany has once again made clear to me the importance of the citizen and his rights for democracy; especially in his attitude when he explained the unconstitutionality of the electoral law to the parliament last week. *Focus online* headlined on 12/07/2012: "Democracy is not a command economy" (see article in this issue). Public service broadcasting could not exist without the fees that everyone has to pay. The compulsion to levy fees is justified by the most important function of providing the appropriate information to citizens and its importance for the democratic process. The media have to meet this task and refrain from any manipulation and disinformation. Above all, this is mainly an issue of political culture. •

More than 270 professors of economics signed an open letter against banks' union

km. On 5 July the "Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung" (Frankfurt General Newspaper) published an open letter from more than 172 economics professors on its internet site (see also *Current Concerns* No. 29 of 15 July 2012). The economists warned against the implementation of resolutions from the European Union Summit of 29 June and criticized in particular that the German Chancellor *Angela Merkel*, on whose country enor-

mous new financial liabilities would be imposed, supported these resolutions. The heads of states and governments had decided they wanted to create an European union of banks, by which all euro-countries collectively should be responsible for the bank debts in all euro-countries – thus different than before, when each country was solely responsible for the bank debts in its own country. In the crisis countries of the euro-

zone the bank debts at present amount to more than 9 trillion euro, nearly three times as much as the combined national debt of these countries. The economists' letter has attracted world-wide attention and has been discussed broadly since its publication. Meanwhile, more than 270 professors of economics have signed the letter.

The media cartel

km. Based on his research about the behavior towards the former German federal president *Christian Wulff* the teacher of constitutional law *Martin Kriele* claims a serious press as well as public broadcasters, who feel committed to their democratic mandate. This demand is brilliantly illustrated in the latest book by journalist *Eva Herman*: "Das Medienkartell. Wie wir täglich getäuscht werden" (The media cartel. How we are daily deceived – ISBN 978-3-86445-030-3). Her fundamental statements on the misuse by a conglomeration of media, business and politics, which she designates as "media cartel", are illustrated by many concrete examples.

At the very beginning of her book *Eva Herman* writes that "public reporting [...] by its often biased and one-sided orientation has become a threat to our liberal values". "Political correctness, muzzles and thought control prevail in Germany and are imposed on us anew every day." (p. 8)

The media's great power results from their interaction with other powers: "Having considered the most blatant media cases it quickly becomes clear that it is not 'the media alone that are to blame'. Rather we are dealing with an alliance of the 'quality press', the so-called mainstream media and political decision-makers in Berlin, Brussels and Washington as well as global corporations, banks and lobbyists who give their instructions from the very top down. Let us call them all the media cartel." (p. 8)

The methods of the media are the following: "Rhetorically sophisticated PR slogans, carefully orchestrated propaganda reports and polemics strategies and even unscrupulous warmongering [...] influence daily reporting without any control and get the people into line: Those who oppose that bustle, who protest or try to intervene, are sidelined without much ado." (p. 11)

Later in the book, the author becomes even clearer: "Considering the state of increasing neglect of our 'quality press' reporting, unfortunately as well including suppressed truths, convenience, hoaxes and respective hunts on unpleasant contemporaries, one can sometimes feel sick. If we simultaneously consider the behavior of individual members of the press, who at times pretend they have basically any right to randomly judge people as they please, we might feel reminiscent of medieval times when unwanted contemporaries were burnt at the stake for telling the truth." (p. 161)

One of the victims was the former president *Wulff*. *Eva Herman* does not only describe the events in detail, she goes one step further: "There still remains the important question for the reasons of the smear campaign. What did *Wulff* do to make them all suddenly rush at him and break off all friendly

and politically correct connections? [...] Was the reason perhaps *Wulff's* recent plain talk about the ESM, euro-bonds and the machinations of the global financial elite?" (p. 156f.)

"Facing the euro crisis, *Christian Wulff* had massively attacked the activities of the ECB and top politicians. The former president had complained in a public speech that he considered individual states' massive purchases of bonds issued by the ECB 'legally dubious', because the article 123 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union prohibits the ECB's direct purchase of debt securities in order to secure the central bank's independence. 'This ban is only sensible if those responsible do not deviate it by making extensive purchases on the secondary market', *Wulff* had explained." (p. 159)

The president, of whom the German Chancellor initially had believed, he was easy to handle as it suited her, turned out to be too independent. "With this mix of a sudden exuberant self-confidence, the concern for the future and the simultaneous recognition of our broken system *Wulff* was no longer a puppet that Chancellor *Merkel* could make dance just as it pleased her. Those who know what Germany, Europe and the whole world will be facing in the near future realize the development that may have started with *Wulff's* plain language." (p. 160)

Herman elaborately explains, "Imagine that soon the events that observers have long feared will actually take place, those events which the European crisis forces such as the EU's private army Eurogendfor or the Frontex border troops have been preparing for for quite some time: Unrest in Europe, border closures due to the euro-crash, currency conversions, money and food shortages and emergency measures of any kind. Moreover, in case of a possible Middle East war, the last thing that Federal Chancellor *Merkel* needs in this not unlikely scenario is a stubborn president who refuses to sign the soon to be adopted emergency legislation, because he wants some time to check them thoroughly. Whether the new President *Joachim Gauck* will be a compliant head of state in office remains to be seen." (p. 160)

Eva Herman's conclusion on the behavior of the German media towards *Christian Wulff* is clear, "The *Wulff* affair has changed the German media scene. Much has become known, that was certainly not planned, and these are not just *Wulff's* infringements. Our media representatives, whether on the radio, on television or in print, have shown their true face. They have quite often been an annoyance, presented themselves as small-minded, with an almost autistic side in view of what they ex-

pected of the citizens to endure every day. They did all this in frightening unison and apparently without many scruples." (p. 167)

The author finds her basic statements confirmed: "The once most important cornerstones of our society, like traditional values, freedom and democracy, have in fact long been replaced by a sort of monitoring and control system, which is tantamount to an inglorious reflection of former East German propaganda. You do not have to look East reproachfully in order to become upset about the lack of freedom. We now have enough to do at home to get back to normal one day." (p. 11f.)

Eva Herman also investigates constitutional issues affiliated with the development of the media scene. "By the growing influence of the media, the separation of powers, i.e. the distribution of state power to several government bodies in our country, has apparently gained a new, quietly accepted division hierarchy. Officially, the original powers established for the purpose of limiting power and ensuring freedom and democracy are: legislative, executive and judicial. But there are already powerful publishers and their representatives having formed a close alliance with policy makers who now openly sit in judgment and direct people's destinies in our country: The media cartel has grown up to become the fourth power." (p. 41)

This means, however, that "What was once distributed on several institutions in an important legislative measure against any form of concentration of power and arbitrariness, is expressed here without any legal basis: self-created, invisible conformity laws [...] are also installed in this country, approved in Berlin, publicly disseminated and implemented. 'Justice' is arbitrarily administered on anyone who opposes, without any legal basis." (p. 41)

Her view of the recent reactions of German citizens makes her write that "Our values, the foundation of our freedom, the roots of the Christian West are abolished and banned from the public, by the often regimented and sometimes cruel media methods just as what is called democracy today. We are bereft of the most important pillars of society, and what do we do? We watch! We do not fight! We do not stop it! Germany is sleeping! Yet!" (p. 45)



USA in the Middle East: The resumption of the British strategy

by Prof Dr Albert A. Stahel, Institute for Strategic Studies, www.strategische-studien.com

Although a peaceful solution of the circumstances in Syria would be desirable, a civil war is going on in this beautiful country, where the USA are “only” interfering by delivering arms via Turkish territory to the “Free Syrian Army”. As a matter of fact, the Obama-Administration wants to actively weaken Iran’s geo-political position by bringing down the Assad Regime if not curb it. After the US retreat from Iraq in 2011, Iran was able to expand its influence of political power up to Lebanon and into western Afghanistan. But the weakest link within the Iranian power is the Syrian Regime which is backed against the rebels by weapons from Iran. In a first phase, the USA wants to break off this weak link of the power structure in Iran, in order to fight Iran directly in a second phase. In the first phase the two satellite states, Saudi Arabia and Turkey serve the geostrategically goals of the USA. With this approach, the USA avoid to mention that the *Erdogan-Turkey* by no means is a democracy and that the Saudis lead an inhuman regime which suppresses the religious minority of the Shiite and the women. Neither is there any word of the Saudis having brutally intervened in neighbouring Bahrain, in order to suppress the minority of the Shiite in favour of the Sunni regime, representing an absolute minority in this small kingdom. It should be added to this that Bahrain is the main base of the US Navy in the Persian Gulf. Minorities are suppressed in Turkey as well. Christians, the Alawi and Kurds are amongst them. The step-by-step islamisation of the initial secular country, under Erdogan is not even mentioned to some extent in the American and European press.

In the second phase, the Israeli military power is most likely to set off the air strike against Iran. This, however, will have to be finished by the US Air Force. With such an air strike Washington hopes to largely mortify the Ayatollah Regime, making an overthrow possible in a third phase. The long-term goal is, through Americanization – of the youth in particular – a submissive Iran that shall be open to all crude oil desires and geo-political demands by the USA. It is of no interest to Washington that this strategy sacrifices all minorities in the Orient and in particular the oriental Christians.

This kind of strategy, where all kinds of lies, intrigues and false reports but no troops are employed is not new. In the past centuries, the British have successfully employed this strategy in the Orient.

They were also capable of building up a condition which generated high financial profit and cost only few lives of British soldiers. At this, British policy and strategy are most likely jointly responsible for the different massacres against the Armenians

in the Ottoman Empire of 1895, 1908, 1909, and 1915, in as much as the British in the course of an entire century helped the sultans in Istanbul with their criminal

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“News” about Syria: Hollywood!

Stagings declared as videos taken “on site” were shot in Qatar

In the vicinity of the capital Doha, a Qatar set-creation enterprise is shooting the latest news stories about events that are supposed to happen in Syria, the Syrian news agency *SANA* is reporting, citing their own sources.

In the vicinity of the town *az-Zubara*, a suburb of Doha, there were buildings and streets resembling the Syrian cities *Damascus*, *Latakia* and *Aleppo*. Currently, vehicles, including military jeeps, with Syrian number plates and Syrian army uniforms are being brought to this place in order to simulate actions of the Syrian government troops.

With these artificial sets and real actors, Arab and Western news stations op-

posed to the *Assad* regime were trying to create a new wave in the information war, *SANA* claimed. The goal was to convince the world community of the necessity of a military intervention in Syria.

On Wednesday, in a bombing of the building of the National Security Service in *Damascus*, at least three senior members of the Syrian leadership were killed. Immediately after the bombing, the Syrian Ministry of Information communicated that Western and Arabic media were using the tragedy to produce panic among the population and to represent the occurrences in a wrong manner. •

Source: *RIA Novosti*, 19 July 2012

(Translation *Current Concerns*)

Iraq, Algeria and Lebanon opposing the appeal for Assad to step down

The Iraq declined to join the Arab League’s (LAS) appeal towards the Syrian President *Baschar al-Assad* to step down and to transfer power to a transition government.

This was reported by *Reuters* on Monday. The League convened to an extraordinary meeting.

The Iraqi delegation renounced the appeal. “It is not the custom for the Minister Committee of the League to appeal to someone to step down. The decision [to dismiss Assad] can only be taken by the Syrian people. Nobody is allowed to interfere [with Syrian matters],” *Reuters* cited the official Iraqi government representative *Ali al-Dabbagh*.

Algeria also opposed the League’s resolution. “Assad’s stepping down is a sovereign decision of our Syrian brother people and is outside the Arab League’s sphere,” a resolution of the League stated. On Monday, Lebanon also opposed the LAS’s interference with Syrian matters.

During the meeting, the League’s Minister Committee had come to the conclusion that Assad’s resignation would help to stop the bloodshed in the Arab country. In a declaration, the Arab League expressed the readiness to help Assad and to warrant for the security of his family. •

Source: *RIA Novosti*, 23 July 2012

(Translation *Current Concerns*)

Putin formulates an action plan for Syria

Russia’s President *Vladimir Putin* has formulated an action plan for Syria.

“We assume the following order: cessation of violence, negotiations, determination of a constitutional base for the future society and, only then, structural changes,” *Putin* said on Monday at the Black Sea spa *Sochi* after negotiations with Italy’s head of government

Mario Monti. “Only in this order, not vice versa. A reversed order would mean chaos.”

“If [President *Baschar al-*] *Assad* was disempowered with unconstitutional methods, the civil war would be endless,” the Russian head of state emphasized. •

Source: *RIA Novosti*, 23 July 2012

(Translation *Current Concerns*)

Rules for the export of arms from Germany: Are German submarines allowed to be delivered to Israel?

rr. The export of weapons, in particular weapons of war, is regulated by Article 26 (2) of the German Basic Law and specified in the War Weapons Control Act (WWCA) and in some implementation regulations.

Sec. 17 (2) No. 2 in conjunction with Sec. 16 WWCA prohibits Germany to deliver and develop parts, devices, assemblies or substances especially designed for nuclear weapons to non-NATO countries. (It is quite strongly criticized that delivery to NATO member countries has been allowed since the 1990 reform of the Act.)

Since according to the response on MP *Angelika Baer's* question in 1999 (BT Drs 14/1777 and BT Drs 14/1576) the submarines are apparently equipped with means for launching nuclear weapons and the recipient state is not a NATO member, Sec. 17 (2) in conjunction with Sec. 16 WWCA is probably applicable, with the result that Germany is prohibited to supply and develop them.

Moreover, the supply of submarines without launching devices for nuclear weapons to Israel is prohibited in accordance with Sec. 6 (3) WWCA. According to this provision, the German Federal Government is forbidden to permit the delivery of weapons of war if there is a danger of disturbing peace measures or a war of aggression. The assessment whether such a risk exists – in contrast to A-, B- and C-weapons – however, is reserved to the Federal Government and is not a priori prohibited on the grounds of the weapons type (Sec. 8 and Sec. 11 (4) WWCA).

Submarines – even without nuclear weapons – are, under Part B, Section III, second indent, of the War Weapons List (Annex in accordance with Sec. 1 (1) to WWCA) amongst the weapons of war that cannot be delivered without the approval of the Federal Government, which the Federal Government may not grant if there is a risk of disturbing the peace or a war of aggression.

Since the *Schröder* administration in 2000, the political principles of the Federal Government have also applied to the export of war weapons and other military equipment, and they are legally binding. According to these principles, no permits for the supply of military weapons to conflict areas are to be granted as a matter of principle.

By virtue of Article 26 (2) of the Basic Law, given concrete form by the WWCA, the delivery of the submarines to the "threatened" nuclear power, Israel is unlawful and unconstitutional.

The politicians' claim that submarines are weapons of defense/response is taking the population for idiots. In World War II, submarine fleets carried out attacks almost exclusively! Today, they can easily reach the Persian Gulf, can lie on the ocean bed and wait for commands.

The question why politicians increasingly lie to the people, is worth very careful analysis.

"USA in the Middle East..."

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acts against the Christians. Doubtlessly, the British are also responsible for the 1922 liquidation and displacement of the Anatolian Greeks by *Moustapha Kemal "Ataturk"*. The Greeks cherished a culture of three thousand years in Anatolia. With their war-ships in front of Smyrna (Izmir), the British had prevented any help to the Greeks at the time.¹

The USA will not repeat its mistakes of the 2003-Iraq war. It is already almost forgotten today, that the overthrow of

Saddam Hussein has brought about the expulsion of almost half a million Iraqi Christians who were resident in Mesopotamia for nearly 2000 years. This British geo-strategy in the Middle East is now resumed by the USA in the war in Syria.² The Obama-Administration is highly unlikely to be irritated by the fact that the overthrow of the Assad Regime will be followed by a reactionary Salafist regime. Without further thought, Christians and women's rights are being sacrificed on the altar of the Syrian regime change. Clearly, the USA are not

interested in truly peaceful solutions in the Middle East. In doing so, they shall geostrategically encounter their Anglo-Saxon cousins, the British, on eye level.

¹ Horton, G. (1926 reprint 2001). *The Blight of Asia. The Society for the Study of Greek History*, Athens.

² Friedman, G. (July 24, 2012). *Consequences of the Fall of the Syrian Regime*. 24 July 2012. STRATFOR.

(Translation *Current Concerns*)

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Gauck: Party membership instead of quality ... Does the German Federal President want to make unconstitutional politics?

km. The German Federal President *Joachim Gauck* is replacing managerial staff of his presidential office from the times of his predecessors *Köhler* and *Wulff*, and filling vacancies primarily with members of the *SPD* and *Bündnis 90/Die Grünen*.

Immediately after he assumed office, Gauck appointed *SPD*-member *David Gill* his undersecretary, the Green *Andreas Schulze* temporarily his speaker, and the *SPD*-member *Johannes Sturm* his consultant. The "Hamburger Morgenpost" (17 July) reported that there will be further similar staff decisions in the office of the Federal President. *Ferdos Forudastan*, the former young socialist activist, who is the green politician *Michael Vesper's* present wife, will succeed the temporary speaker *Schulze*. A confidant of *SPD*-politician *Gill*, *Wolfram Stierle*, will be head of the planning department.

To all appearances, these personnel decisions have been made by bypassing the staff council of the office. According to "Hamburger Morgenpost", the staff council has pointed out in a letter that personnel decisions "are in most cases subject to approval by the staff council," and in the news from *T-online* (20 July) you can read the statement of the staff council "that positions must principally be put out for tender." Furthermore the "Hamburger Morgenpost" quoted a *CDU*-politician - without mentioning his name - as follows: "The plentitude of personnel decisions in one political direction casts

a poor light upon the Office's non-partisanship."

The German Basic Law has set very narrow limits for the Federal President's administration. Strictly speaking, he does not have a political task. His main task is to represent Germany as a whole, thus all Germans, particularly abroad. This tight restriction of tasks is the result of Germany's worst experiences with a politically powerful head of state. The president of the Reich of the Weimar Republic, whose position had been established as that of a "substitute Emperor" after the end of the German Empire in 1918, had dictatorial rights (nomination and dismissal of the Reich chancellor, dissolution of the parliament, enactment of emergency decrees with legal force). Already from 1930 onward the Nazi dictatorship had been prepared with these powers, not just from 30 January 1933.

Obviously, *Joachim Gauck*, the new German Federal President, ignoring his constitutional task restriction - is also striving for political power beyond the constitutional organs intended for his office. Not in the name of the people, but in his own name and that of interested circles, Gauck has repeatedly advocated both globalistic neoliberalism and German participation in imperial wars all around the world. He even requested the Germans to "at last" give up resistance against German war casualties.

Now he keeps filling the office of the President with like-minded comrades.

In their book "Cohn-Bendit, l'imposture" (see *Current Concerns*, Nr. 28 from 2 July 2012) *Paul Ariès* and *Florance Leray* explain that the green whip *Daniel Cohn-Bendit* is the "best advocate of green capitalism," "somebody the system needs to enforce its false solutions to the crisis."

Cohn-Bendit is the "cantor of globalisation" and has been known as aggressive warmonger for almost 20 years. Does Gauck hence belong to the Cohn-Bendit-Kretschmann-axis? Just a reminder: *Joachim Gauck* - recommended by the new *Bilderberger Jürgen Trittin (Bündnis 90/Die Grünen)* - was originally the rival candidate to *CDU/CSU/FDP*-candidate *Christian Wulff*. Only after *Wulff's* resignation was he the recommended candidate of all parties - except for the *Linkspartei* - proposed by *CDU*, *CSU* and *FDP*.

If *Joachim Gauck* wants to make politics, he must resign from the office of the Federal President.

Decorating and disguising himself with the non-party aura of the Federal President and then intending to make tough policies with this office-bonus is a clear breach of the constitution. Who in Germany will still stand for that? And where is the outcry of the German media, which has been so loud with his predecessor? •

Democracy is no command economy

"Who dares contradicting me is an evil person. Who does not go along with me, Minister of Finance, ought to be ashamed - a remarkable process."

by *Dr Alexander Kissler*

The tone is getting rougher: Politicians such as *Norbert Lammert* or *Wolfgang Schäuble* have complained vociferously about criticism of the government. It is based on a severe misunderstanding.

Democracy is a great thing - if only there weren't the people who are defiant and rebellious, and refuse to keep quiet: This view is becoming more and more endemic these days. At increasingly short intervals, politicians are losing self control. They always seem to feel misunderstood, ill-advised, and mistakenly hauled over the coals. Currently *Norbert Lammert* and *Wolfgang Schäuble* are in the front row.

The Federal Minister of Finance has been awarded the "International Charlemagne Prize of the City of Aachen 2012" as "creative mind and important player in almost all integration issues in the past

three decades," he is thus the successor of the euro itself, which bizarrely enough, was also honored with the "International Charlemagne Prize" in 2002. This odd honor did however not prevent *Schäuble* from knocking out the citizen and financial expert *Thilo Sarrazin*. *Schäuble* pinpointed nothing but "blatant nonsense" and even "despicable calculation" in *Sarrazin's* criticism of the single currency theses. Quasi officially it was stated: Who dares contradicting me is an evil person. Who does not go along with me, Minister of Finance, ought to be ashamed - a remarkable process.

Deviating from government doctrine not allowed?

Hardly any friendlier, *Schäuble*, holder of a doctorate of law, has dealt with al-

most 200 German professors of economics. They had dared to warn very clearly against an European Union-wide liability for banks, stating that the banks' debts were three times higher than the national debts, and that it was in fact fundamentally wrong to abolish the insolvency risk for the banks, "banks must be allowed to fail." *Schäuble* retaliated that such scaremongering with "horror stories" was outrageous and irresponsible. The aim of the EU measures was not "to communitise responsibility, but to create a common supervision in Europe." Are we to believe this?

Should, in this case, declarations of intent, targets and protective measures be binding, whereas in the past they melt-

"Conclusion: Cohn-Bendit? No thanks!"

Adapting the planet to the needs of capitalism

"Everything is ready: the assets, the autonomy of economic power, the fantasies (the faith in omnipotence, the idea of a world without borders), the technology mania. Every effort is being made in order not to renounce the mania of growth. Everything is being tried in order to keep dominance of one over the other and of all over the world.

Everything has been written and quantified. Thousands of patents have been filed. And there are projects worthy of mad scientists, going hand in hand with trivial applications. Following the genetically modified organisms and the radioactive contamination of food, there is now already the promise of widespread use of artificial techniques to change the climate in the near future; the creation of a gigantic shield around the earth to protect it from sun rays; the installation of billions of small lenses of about 60 cm in diameter in the orbit in order to filter the sunlight, the covering of 3% of the world to compensate for the doubling of CO₂ emissions; the deployment of one million tons of aluminum and sulfur dust into the atmosphere in order to reduce the earth's temperature by one degree; the creation of a ring of small particles in the universe to shade the tropical zone and to moderate the extreme climate; the artificial production of clouds by means of floating 3000-ton installations designed to drive generators through wave motion; the protection from sunlight by using 50000 mirrors of 100 km² installed in space; the exhaust of soot into the stratosphere; the stimulation of the formation of clouds by burning sulfur and producing sulfate aerosol in order to reflect the sunlight; the capturing of CO₂ and its storing in carbon shafts, the stimulation of the oceanic biomass through the application of

iron; the dialysis of the CFCs in the atmosphere by means of laser beams; the stimulation of the formation of clouds by the artificial application of condensation nuclei; the cultivation of genetically modified CO₂ consuming trees, [...] not to forget the possibility to create genetically engineered cows which are resistant to BSE (mad cow's disease) or do not need to ruminate (the reason for substantial CO₂ emissions), and last but not least the artificial pollination to counter the dramatic bee mortality, and so on. As for the industrial sector, this green capitalism corresponds with the Sarkozysm on a political level: the unfettered right in the service of an unleashed capitalism. Green capitalism is thus rehabilitating business people and mad scientists precisely when people start pointing the finger at them and blame them for destroying the planet.

Adapting ecology to the needs of capitalism

After denying the ecological problems for a long time, the Right and the business circles invented their own answer by constructing the CO₂ currency (monnaie carbone), a real financial system with CO₂ stock exchanges, along with CO₂ credits, CO₂ dealers, derivatives, 'good' business, etc. – a real anthropological revolution." (p. 183ff.)

CO₂ swindle serves the commercialization of all aspects of life

"The CO₂ currency (monnaie carbone) equally allows the bourgeoisie to continue this fight against the sphere of non-profit and to promote commercialization of all aspects of life." (p. 185)

"The former [French] environment minister explains that the idea is to use capitalism in order to establish ecology, thus supporting the idea that the end

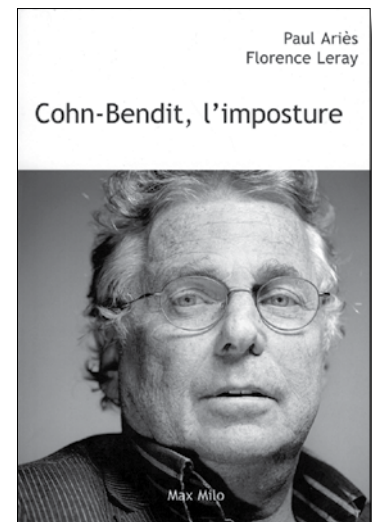
justifies the means. But why not turn the sentence round and say that the CO₂ exchange is the best way to make use of the ecology in order to enforce capitalism?" (p. 186)

Green capitalism and politics of eugenics ...

"The third wave of green capitalism is thus pursuing the adaptation of people to the demands of profit maximization.

Dany [Cohn-Bendit] should read the essayist *Philippe Godard*, who explains how genetically modified organisms (GMOs) provide a means to genetically modified humans. His conclusion is: GMO with therapeutic targets are a step on the way to a general acceptance of a policy of eugenics applied to humans." (p. 186)

* Excerpts from the concluding remarks of the book by Paul Ariès and Florence Leray: *Cohn Bendit, l'imposture*. Paris 2010. ISBN 978-2-35341-086-6 (Translated by *Current Concerns*. The last two subtitles are set by the editor.)



"Democracy is not a command economy"

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ed away as quickly as ice cream in the sun? When professors, who are otherwise alleged for their unworldliness in the academic ivory tower, leave their coverage and make use of their civil civic mandate, which is, like the water for the fish, essential for the people in a republic – they are insulted by a leading member of the government! Can someone who submits a position in public deviating from the government's doctrine, really be held responsible?

Interesting indeed! Bundestag President Norbert Lammert is not immune against such impulses either. The second man nominally in the state operates habit-

ually as if the fading term of the Better Westerner had been invented just for him. The man from Bochum likes to display his erudition, his rhetorical delicacy and his broad education. He just knows it all. He has even retranslated the Lord's Prayer, the old one was possibly suboptimal.

Not just a specialty of the CDU/CSU

Norbert Lammert, Ph.D. sociologist took the entire academic intelligence to task. "The experts" had proven "not to be helpful" in the past: "Of all the possible methods to resolve this crisis in recent months the least suitable was the implementation of recommendations of experts." Your Grace, Lord President of the Bundestag: The responsibility is still in the hands of the politicians who decide in the end. Pol-

iticians who follow wrong advice are completely responsible for it. A purely technical "implementation of recommendations of experts" has nothing to do with democracy. Some may give advice, the others must decide for the benefit and on behalf of the people. Like this, and only in this way, a republic is formed. Thus it would be more honest to say that all the wrong decisions in the past few months had been taken by politicians who did not know better.

Of course, the howling against the sovereign (which is understandable from a human point of view) is no specialty of the CDU. The following sentence of former Federal Interior Minister *Otto Schi-*

Switzerland's economic system as a Third Way? (Part 1)

by Dr rer. publ. Werner Wüthrich

zf. The current financial crisis has not only led to the situation that the monetary system but also the economic system were under scrutiny.

Advances are being made in various countries, which intend to place the economy on a new footing. In Switzerland, Willy Cretegnny and a group of wine producers have recently launched the popular initiative "For an economy to the benefit of all" (cf. *Current Concerns* of 25 June 2012). It calls on citizens to think through and discuss the issue of Swiss economy in the light of experiences with globalization. The following article will trace the lines of tradition, which the initiative is based on. The second part of the article will follow in one of the forthcoming issues of *Current Concerns*.

Some observers wonder why the liberal "model Switzerland" has so far proven relatively successful in the crisis. A few weeks ago, a doctoral thesis titled "Grundsatz der Wirtschaftsfreiheit" (The principle of economic freedom; St. Gallen/Zurich 2011) was published by Johannes Reich at the University of Basel. Reich is now an assistant professor of Constitutional and Administrative Law at the University of Zurich. The doctoral thesis examines the principle of economic freedom not only from the legal point of view, but also shows how this principle has emerged as an organizing framework for the establishment of the state in 1848 and how it has progressed until today. In his research Reich includes numerous political, economic and social factors in their historical development. This is what

"Democracy is not a command economy"

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ly (SPD), at the end of 2002, has become legendary; he labelled "exaggerated criticism" of the federal government as "anti-democratic."

In other words: Those who don't criticize the executive – which theoretically only ought to execute and not to decide – renounce their primordial democratic right. Each and every action of the government needs to pass the fire of public criticism. Those who cannot stake this might better look around for other forms of government. In Neuschwanstein Castle there are some vacancies.

• Source: "Kissler's Konter", 12/07/2012, in *Focus.de*, see also: www.alexander-Kissler.de, courtesy of the author.
www.focus.de/politik/deutschland/kisslers-konter/kritik-in-zeiten-der-krise-demokratie-ist-keine-kommandowirtschaft_aid_780984.html

makes these 500 pages paper so valuable. In the following its ideas are to be traced – in context with other writers – also for readers who are not familiar with specialized legal terms.

Guild rules and guild-like cooperatives

In 1848 21 autonomous cantons united to become a federal state. That way, economically very different regions were merged to form a political unit. At first, it was simply intended in economic terms to facilitate the transport and exchange of services across the borders of the cantons. Establishing a regulatory framework that would apply to the economy of the whole country was not possible at that time.

Prior to 1848, the economy of Switzerland in many urban areas was characterized by the guild system. Guilds are cooperative associations of artisans and merchants, who were first mentioned in 1226 in Basel. Their guideline was the need to have an adequate income – not a maximum profit. Regulated wages, prices and production volumes served this aim. The high quality standards and the careful formation of apprentices were also a trademark. However, guilds were not only economic alliances, but also mutually supportive communities in a limited area. Their statutes were not aimed at profit maximization, but they should ensure the cost of living in mutual self-help, which also included the support of family members. Typical guild cities were Zurich, Schaffhausen, Basel and St. Gallen. The so-called compulsory guild membership was part of the guild system, and was enforced by the municipal authorities. Only guild members were allowed to practice a trade or a craft.

In the mountain cantons the sumpters had already joined to establish guild-like associations for many generations; they transported people and goods across the Alps. These associations had their roots in the 13th century, when the Confederates carved out their rights and their freedoms from the Habsburgs.

Factors for a beneficial economic development in Switzerland

Manufacturing, industrial cottage industry and trade could already be observed in the Middle Ages – especially in the manufacture of clocks and textiles. The raw materials (then cotton, silk, metals) were imported and high quality products were re-exported to a large extent. (Even today, nearly half of the products and services are exported.) In the Middle Ages customs duties have often

been merely financial sources, imposed on all travelers for their imports and exports. The merchant paid his customs duties on his way through a country. It did not matter whether the customs offices were within a country or at its borders. That changed with the emergence of nation states. The French minister for economy Colbert developed the system of mercantilism in the 17th century. With an elaborate system of economic rule, he wanted to raise the people's welfare or finance the nobility's development of power. The local factories were state-supported and protected against foreign competitors with protectionist tariffs at the border. The conditions were not the same everywhere. Especially large centralized states like France and England were able to control their economy this way. So Professor Bosshard wrote in the book "Die Schweiz als Kleinstaat in der Weltwirtschaft" (Switzerland as a small country in the world economy – written by a group of professors from the University of St. Gallen in 1941): "The small European states were seized much less by mercantilism, least of all Switzerland. All historians agree that Switzerland was hardly touched by the mercantile spirit. The loose federal structure of the confederate political system, the lack of a central political authority and finally the schism at the beginning of the 16th century prevented any tight coordination of political and economic forces in our country for three centuries. [...] The only thing that the Swiss confederation could grant the entrepreneur was economic freedom. [...] The constant competition forced the manufacturers to continually train their highest commercial and technical qualities; it constantly forced them to seek new markets and create more and more new products."

There were other factors that affected the economic development of Switzerland at that time:

- The policy of neutrality proved to be an economic advantage, because the country remained free of war and could save the cost of an imperial policy. This had a direct impact on the taxes. In 1845 – just before the founding of the Confederation – the tax burden in Zurich was 14 times less than in London and 6 times less than in Paris.
- Since the 16th century, many Protestant refugees escaped the wars of religion into Switzerland, especially from France and Italy. So Professor Bosshard wrote, "A huge potential of com-

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mercial and industrial experience, technical intelligence, as well as moral force was thus driven into Switzerland from outside.»

Professor *Rappard*, another author from the University of St. Gallen's team of professors called Switzerland the most industrialized area in Europe in the period from 1500 to 1800 that fought against the mercantilist policies of the superpowers. This made it possible for example to conclude long-term free trade agreements with France in which Switzerland offered the "export" of mercenaries in return for open borders. When the customs barriers in Europe were too high, the overseas business became the Swiss industry's life-line. "The colorful textile prints and mouchoirs of the Toggenburg hand-weaving factories and the famous sarongs and batik of the Glarus cotton print found their way through Turkey into Persia and the East Indies, the Malay Islands, the Philippines and Japan as well as into the inner parts of Africa."

Struggle for an economic constitution

Back to Johannes Reich's doctoral thesis: The Federal Constitution of 1848 only provided first signs of an economic regulatory framework that encompassed the entire territory of Switzerland. The exchange of goods among the 21 cantons should be facilitated and all obstacles were to be removed. The first national tar-

iff under the Federal Constitution of 1848 was merely a fiscal duty. It provided the state, which then did not raise any taxes, with the necessary financial resources to

be able to function. Only occasionally voices in the cantons were raised, which called for protective tariffs for the domestic economy according to foreign models. In the following years a sort of "domestic market" (to use a common modern word) was established across all cantons in different parts of the country.

It soon became obvious that the closed guild system of the large cities had no room in a common economic area. Many features of the guild system could however be continued – such as the careful training – but not the guild coercion. The bourgeoisie had no difficulties in breaking new ground. They discovered, however, that industrialization in rural areas developed better without guild rules. So today we can still find many industrial monuments from that period – mainly textile factories – in rural areas. There was hardly any proletariat as it had for example emerged in England around big cities like Manchester. The factory workers in rural areas often ran a small farm beside their jobs in the factory and accepted long walks to get to their workplaces.

For the mountain cantons, it was not so easy to fit into a common economic area. Cooperatives resembling guilds organized the transport of people and goods across the Alpine passes. These transport compa-



And the two now on honeymoon in Switzerland? See article in *Current Concerns*, "Quiet deal – Rothschild gets into Rockefeller" No. 28 of 09 July 2012, "Alliance of money' wants to maintain common power – Switzerland is particularly in the sights" No 30 of 23 July 2012. (Graphic Rubin)

"RBC Daily": International offshore accounts amount to trillions

The amount of assets hoarded by tycoons world-wide on undeclared offshore accounts can amount to 32 trillion dollar, stated *James Henry*, former leading McKinsey economy expert. More than 800 billion had come from Russia since the beginning of the privatizations in 1990, the economic newspaper "RBC Daily" cited Henry's study on Monday. Only China had contributed more – 1.2 trillion dollar, but during a period of 40 years.

"As an analysis based on data from the IMF and national central banks has shown, the amount of shadow wealth on undeclared accounts is something between 21 and 32 trillion dollar, the newspaper reports. "But Henry is considering his estimate as conservative since it only takes financial assets into account – excluding real estate, yachts and pieces of art."

"The study examined 129 states with average and below average income comprising 85 percent of the global population, 51 percent of the global GNP, 75 percent of the gold and foreign asset reserves and 4.1 trillion in foreign

debts were. [...] According to *James Henry*, 798 billion dollar were transferred out of Russia. 'We tried hard to go back as far as possible but information from the international institutions only offered a period after 1990', *James Henry* stated in an interview with the newspaper. Globally, China is the frontrunner with 1.189 trillion, followed by Brazil with 520 billion, Kuwait with 496 billion, Mexico (417), Venezuela (406) and Argentine (399)."

"A substantial part of the money coming from Russia has been made during the privatizations of the state properties in the 1990s, *Henry* states. Some of the means have come back from the offshore accounts to Russia as investments, but they are recorded as 'foreign investments'."

"The global shadow capital is owned by less than ten million people", *Henry* adds. Private banks play an active role in tax evasion – in the report they are called "pirate banks".

Source: <http://de.rian.ru/business/20120723/264040483.html>

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nies had – as mentioned – their roots in the 13th century, when the Confederates began to fight for their rights and their freedom in wars. So after 1848, there were numerous complaints and objections to the policy of the newly formed federal state, which aimed at establishing a Swiss-wide domestic market. Federal Council and Parliament took the objections very seriously and took their time to resolve the conflicts in mutual agreements.

An example: Regulations of the Canton of Uri controls the transportation of goods and passengers across the Alpine passes. They settled the prices for vehicle and transportation and determined that a household should not have more than six horses. The transport business was open to any resident of the Urseren district with Swiss citizenship. The sumpters from Urseren thus had a monopoly on the Gotthard route.

A Council of States commission had to check these rules. Common rates were quite acceptable, the parliamentarians said; they did however not agree with the provision that only the inhabitants of the district Urseren were allowed to become members of the cooperative. The commission emphasized that the guild-like cooperatives had maintained the roads across the Alps for centuries in a very deserving manner. From now on, however, the canton was in charge and the monopoly was no longer justified. In this sense, the mountain cantons changed a variety of regulations, or they abolished them. In such debates the "principle of economic freedom" was gradually developed, which was then included in the Federal Constitution in 1874. Common tariffs and cooperative statutes were permissible, but they could not protect the industry from competitors, as the guilds in the towns and guild-like cooperatives in the mountain cantons had done before.

The principle of the "open door" is still valid for today's cooperative law. New members may join a cooperative at any time. The statutes may subject the candidate to certain conditions, but they must not excessively impede the entry of a new member (OR 839).

The export-oriented industries and their representatives argued for the maintenance of free trade as they had known it for centuries.

High level of direct democracy as early as in the 19th century

The political efforts in the years after 1848 were guided by the objective to provide the economy in the newly founded state with a common regulatory framework. For the first time in 1866, contro-

versial issues were voted upon all over Switzerland. The citizens voted for nine proposals, most of which were directly or indirectly related to economic issues – such as the regulation of intellectual property rights, residents' rights, taxation, weights and measures and the like. The voters rejected 8 proposals, prompting Parliament to check on them again. In 1872, the people voted on the new and totally revised Federal Constitution which included many new features and they rejected it (because they felt it was

too centralized). Again, the Parliament adopted corrections. In 1874 the people approved the new Federal Constitution with more than 60 percent of votes. It still contained many innovations – such as the right to popular initiative and referendum. The voters were hence given the right to vote on a law that had already been decided upon by Parliament if they were able to collect 30,000 signatures (article 89 – facultative referen-

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"This time is different"

hk. In every economic crisis people have been made to believe that there is nothing to worry about and that one should let the financial experts do their job. In this context, the authors of the book presented below have written down their thoughts about the economic and financial crises during several centuries under the headline: "This time is different." Nowadays this slogan can be heard as well and the parole is even complemented by: "There is no alternative". People – the sovereign in a democracy – are allowed to do everything except think.

The authors *Carmen M. Reinhart* and *Kenneth S. Rogoff* collected all accessible data in 66 countries for a period of 800 years which had led to government and bank crises and subsequently to a sustained and substantial drop of economic performance of a country.

On the basis of profound scientific data analysis they convince the reader of the possibility to foresee crises and to prevent them early enough. They support their hypothesis with examples leading up to the present day. However, as they say, governments and banks facing a crisis constantly repeat: This time is different. This is shown notably in detail by the example of the current (and second) world economic crisis.

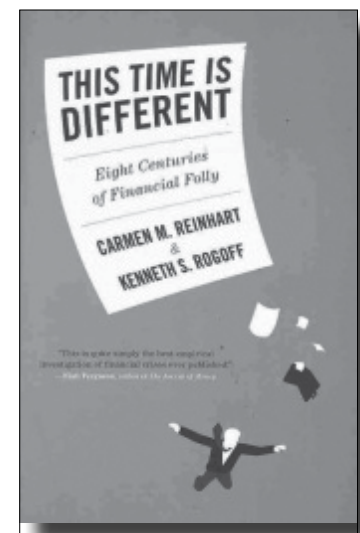
In order to prevent crises, they suggest establishing an international authority, which would demand and evaluate all relevant data about credit behaviour of all banks and governments in the world. This authority should stipulate measures that could choke off any foreseeable crisis. However, this authority, as we believe, will undermine the sovereignty of the states in the world quite in the same way as the ESM undermine the sovereignty of the states in Europe. As experience teaches, the banks will not release their classified files, anyway.

The authors' main advisor is *Vincent Reinhart* (a relative of Carmen M. Reinhart?). He worked for the FED for about 25 years. The authors argue from an in-

built point of view, they give a description of the symptoms highly accurately and carefully and propose as a solution the treatment of the symptoms. They do not devote a single word to the real cause of the illness in our economic system: today's money bears interests that are fixed by the *FED* in its own interest (The *FED* was founded in 1913 by the richest families of the USA and affects the central banks worldwide.)

Interests and compound interests augment the fortune of the richest with exponential rate at the cost of the value-adding citizens. In contrast, debts of citizens and of their governments increase exactly in the mirror-imaged way. Without further details on causes of the illness the symptoms are described and evaluated elaborately and in detail. That alone cannot lead to a thorough rectification of the problem.

In addition, we believe that a central authority, which can control governments and banks worldwide, is a dangerous instrument because high finance is strengthened and the participation of the citizens is restricted by such an instrument.



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"Switzerland's economic order ..."

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dum). Or they could bring about a constitutional revision with 50,000 signatures, which also had to be voted on (people's initiative, article 120). These far-reaching changes were only possible because the population in the municipalities and cantons had already been "practicing" and learning direct democracy for a long time. – Imagine, as early as in the 19th century the Swiss population (and not only an educated elite!) had been capable of deciding on complex economic issues and on a total revision of their constitution!

Economic constitution of 1874

The new Federal Constitution of 1874 gave the industry a common regulatory framework that – in modern terms – can be called an "economic constitution". This framework will be reproduced here in wording:

Article 31. Freedom of trade and industry is guaranteed throughout the territory of the Confederation.

Reserved are:

- a. Manufacture and sale of gunpowder and salt, the federal customs duties, the manufacture import fees for wine and liquors as well as other excise taxes explicitly recognized by the Confederation in accordance with article 32.
- b. Medical police measures against epidemics and cattle diseases.
- c. Decrees on the exercise of trade and industry, taxation of enterprises and the use of roads.

These provisions shall not affect the principle of freedom of trade and industry itself.

Explanations

These few lines contain the core of the Swiss economic constitution – to this day. It is worded in a more modern fashion and in more detail in the present Federal Constitution. Its content has basically remained the same. These lines contain so much that they need to be explained:

Johannes Reich explains them as follows: The freedom of trade and industry – today called economic freedom – in Switzerland is a constitutionally guaranteed fundamental right of individual citizens – such as the freedom of assembly or the freedom of establishment. Each freedom right is limited by the interests of the community. Public safety or health or social policy concerns set the limits. For example, Article 34 of the Constitution of 1874 explicitly states, "The Confederation is entitled to enact uniform regulations on the employment of children in factories and on the working hours [...]. It is like-

wise entitled to enact regulations in order to protect the worker against the operation of unhealthy and dangerous industries." This happened a few years later with the adoption of the then advanced Swiss Factory Act and later the Labor Code.

Another example: The Constitution of 1874 prohibited the operation of casinos in order to protect families from ruin. This ban was relaxed in 1928 and 1958 in two other votes. Thus, the pool was reduced to 10 francs. The voters repealed the ban as outdated in a vote a couple of years ago. It should be added that it would probably have been better, to extend the gambling ban on banks that negligently play with their money.

Principle of economic freedom

Article 31 of the then Federal Constitution provides that the citizen's right to freedom of trade and industry (now economic freedom) may be restricted. These restrictions shall not affect the principle of economic freedom. What does this mean?

Another example from the work of Johannes Reich: In the fight against alcoholism, the cantons did already limit the trade in alcoholic beverages – as they continue to do so today. Numerous communes even went one step further and limited the number of taverns within their boundaries. The poet *Jeremias Gotthelf* (1797–1854) impressively described the dangers posed by taverns of the time in his novels. A commune, however, would violate the principle of economic freedom – if it intended to protect the local restaurant owners from further competition. But – can this be clearly determined? A commission of the Council of States judged these issues to be "very difficult and often downright fiddly". In 1874, the Federal Council sent a circular letter to all cantonal governments with the following contents: The setting of maximum number of taverns presented a violation of the principle of economic freedom, and the cantons should fight alcoholism mainly by taxation. This, however, had not been the last word on this issue.

The *Schweizerische Gemeinnützige Gesellschaft* (SGG – Charitable Swiss Society) and religious organizations did not agree with the Federal Council and collected 50,000 signatures for a referendum, which was aimed at giving the communes the constitutional right to limit the number of taverns within their boundaries. – In 1885 the vote was held, and the founders were right.

The voters have the last word, even when it comes to set a regulatory framework for the economy – in our example of the taverns. The above example shows that the principle of economic freedom is not absolute. Deviations are allowed if they are provided for in the Constitution. •

Current Concerns

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Germany on track into its self-made greenhouse trap

by Wolfgang Thüne – certified meteorologist, Oppenheim workshop for weather studies

Would you move into prison voluntarily and live under the state's surveillance according to rules imposed on you although you are innocent? Certainly not! But would you consider this option in case somebody warned you against life outside getting more and more dangerous, even fatal? That hatred, intrigues and conflicts were on the rise without anything the state could do about it? A well-protected freedom of equals among equals might offer more liberties than a life of constant jungle warfare on the streets, even more so if the proposed jailhouse does actually comprise the whole world and therefore has no boundaries. Once all people have the same "footprint", they will all jump just as far. Nobody can step off file. No envy will spoil the peaceful co-existence.

Living their lives in greenhouses is certainly not so bad for the plants. Sure, they wouldn't volunteer to go in there but once they have been planted in the greenhouse they have no reason to complain. Deadly night frosts, which may occur even in May (as anybody knows who has ever heard of the "Frost Saints"), won't touch them. They live under constant temperatures with stable humidity in artificially air-conditioned places. There is no shortage of clean air either. They are fed with an excess of carbon dioxide and any resulting oxygen is disposed of immediately. They may have to grow in file under constant surveillance, but they do produce lots

of fruit and yield good earnings. Quite a nice existence, isn't it, delightful not only for the gardener? All tomatoes display a somehow similar kind of red and none is being discriminated.

Angela Merkel advertises a secure life in the greenhouse with supporting guide rails

On 14th July 2012 the chancellor proudly announced in her video potcast: "Germany has the leading role of a vanguard for climate protection!" What is it that she wants to tell us that way, who is to be led? What is the significance of a "vanguard" anyway? In the old days, vanguards used to be the standard bearers of the cavalry. Today we have the standard bearers in the opening ceremonies of Olympic Games, who wouldn't exactly ride, but march ahead of their teams into the stadium. Does Germany feel like the vanguard of the world, marching ahead of the pack as everybody's leader who sets the tone, speed, direction and fighting goals? Should such an insane megalomania lie at the bottom of the vanguard idea, then good night, Germany. Shall the German spirit heal the world?

This allegation is certainly not justified in case of the chancellor, but that of an insane megalomania is. The insanity lurks in the intention to protect the climate. Here the natural scientist has crossed the Rubicon and left physics in direction meta-

physics. Here a physicist acts as a political world healer who wants to attenuate the fears of the deluded and to calm down the troubled people's emotional climate. She poses as a caring greenhouse mother, who promises life in the greenhouse to be paradise-like under her supervision.

All the evil-doers out there, those climate killers and greenhouse sinners, would be punished and made pay for their reckless and quick-and maximal-profit-oriented behavior which leads towards climatic cataclysm as well as blood and thunder in climate wars. What the chancellor doesn't say and untruthfully keeps silent about, is her inability to actually mend the weather. However, without this capacity the concept of climate protection is impossible and absurd. This cant is the hallmark of all climate politicians and climate experts who promoted "lies and deception" to become an "integral part of their research".

A newspaper article from the "Allgemeinen Zeitung Mainz" of 27 July 2012 fits well into that. It reports on a study conducted by researchers from Berkeley University in California, who posed the simple question: Which social class is more prone to act immorally – the upper or the lower class? The result? Members of the upper class will cheat and lie more easily than those of lower social classes. The researchers infer a more positive attitude towards greed in general. When will the middle class, the classical bourgeoisie, rise up to the occasion and show the upper class the limits to their greed for power?

EU climate commissioner Connie Hedegaard also claims the vanguard role

At the EU level the efforts of Angela "Goddess of climate" Merkel may be welcomed, but they also raise suspicion, since all activities inevitably lead to questions regarding the pecking order. Just when the chancellor had flexed her muscles at the 3rd Petersberg Climate dialoguer, EU climate commissioner Connie Hedegaard insisted on showing off hers. Whoever holds an office also wants to rule! She wants to make carbon dioxide emission drastically dearer, from the current 6 Euro per ton to 40 Euro per ton in 2020. She announced an "enabling law" to that effect which she would put before the EU parliament as well as those of all 27 member states. Were those emission rights practically given away for free up to now, this had to stop, since climate politics would count

Warm winters

The warm winter at the turn of the year 1806 to 1807 caused quite a stir and did the poor people good; and this lad or that lad now yet bopping around cheerfully in his boy's shoes may be sitting as an old man on the fireside bench 60 years from now telling his grandchildren that he once had also been like them and that Anno 6 when the Frenchmen were in Poland, between Christmas and New Year one had eaten strawberries and had picked violets. Such times are unusual, but not unheard-of and the old chronicles for 700 years witnessed 28 years like this.

In the year 1289 when they have not yet known anything about us, at Christmas and at Three Kings Day it was so warm that the virgins wore wreaths of violets, cornflowers and other flowers.

In 1420 the winter and the spring were so mild that in March the trees already withered. In April they had already early cherries, and the vine stock flourished. In May there were yet quite a lot of little grapes.

In spring 1807 we could not boast about anything like that. In winter 1538, the boys and girls could kiss each other in the green meadow if only it happened honorably; for the warmth was so extraordinary that by Christmas all the flowers were blossoming.

In the first month of 1572 the trees were coming into leaf; and in February the birds were breeding.

In 1585 at Easter Day the corn was ready for reaping.

In 1617 and 1659 the skylarks and throstles were gay in January.

In 1722 people finished heating their parlors as early as January.

The last extraordinary warm winter was in 1748.

Summa: It is better if on the St. Stephen's Day the trees are sprouting shoots, than having trees icicled on Midsummer's Day.

Source: Johann Peter Hebel.
Kalendergeschichten.

(Translation Current Concerns)

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on this income and were pointless without it. If they pollute the environment, all carbon dioxide intensive industries would have to pay severe penalties. With regard to the serious question as to whether the industry will survive their decarbonization, whether they are going to perish during the operation or escape to other continents, politicians shrug their shoulders. They just want a carbon-dioxide-free Europe. Even if that should do away with any climatophobias, without carbon dioxide much greater fears are bound to set in. These would be existential fears, and the greenhouse would turn to be hell.

That is why the European Union is so keen on persuading the world climate conferences that their way is the only one leading to salvation and the entire international world should adopt it. Brussels could develop into the "4th Rome" of a new world religion, the global climate religion. The first step is to declare the current state of the climate with global average temperatures of 15 degrees centigrade to be "normal".

Any trespassing against this standard, regardless in which part of the world, will be declared "abnormal" and a consequence of the climate sins committed by these states. These states can then be brought before international climate protection tribunals, pilloried, punished and ostracized. There will be plenty of opportunities for show trials and fictitious sentences. This won't change the weather anywhere, but with such powers and corresponding "religious consecration" bestowed on them the world government could act as it pleases just like the inquisition of earlier times.

Theoretically the global greenhouse is ready and furnished, only the architects are reluctant to move in

Long before the imminent climate catastrophe had been announced in Germany in 1986, the two super powers USA and USSR had constructively designed the "greenhouse" in secret in the 1950s and promoted the "ecological balance" to become the ideal state of nature. This news was spread all over the world via the United Nations and their sub-organizations. When the first World Climate Conference was held in Geneva, organized by the World Meteorological Organization in 1979, the first draft of this new "religion of world dominance" had been introduced into international politics. Ever since it has been essentially capitalistic-materialistic and focused on the Here and Now. "Climate paradise" on earth is the goal.

The "greenhouse" inspired the whole model. It all fits in a neat theory, one man-

kind, one world, one greenhouse. This is the only place where the old socialist-democratic goal of the greatest happiness of the greatest number may materialize at last. Let some egoists be unhappy with it, at the end the majority decides. If need be the majority can be persuaded for its own good, provided the envy reflex is employed and the illusion of equality is created.

Are these red tomatoes or red roses unhappy after all, grown in file as they are in their greenhouses?

They all look equally lucrative and sell well on the market. Why, ant colonies thrive well under their "Queen", too. People know the ideal of the "good shepherd", who leads his flock to the best pasture and takes care of the "evil wolf". Many animal species threatened by extinction lead sustainable lives in zoological gardens. They are protected from enemies, groomed and fostered. Wasn't that the task for which man was put on earth by his creator, to till it and to keep it, by the sweat of his brow?

For many a shepherd and prophet this modern world with its gigantic opportunities of communication has reached a degree of ripeness for unification of all people on this earth and the whole world, so that they aim to tear down all differences of sex, race and religion in the common greenhouse and take care of "peace on earth". Nobody should fear any more, and what is so bad about living all together under one greenhouse roof, isn't it quite similar to the glassy firmament? Those minimal restrictions of freedom are no real loss considering the enormous gains in quality of life and security. And obviously fighting off the imminent global climate cataclysm comes with a prize. Nobody could survive a global climate collapse. So all arguments speak in favor of the global greenhouse, for life in a "closed ecological system", under a common climate sky, guaranteeing "global climate justice" to all people.

Wars for religion or world interpretation would come to an end, too, once all people would adhere to the climate religion. What a brave new world! Man his own creator, man as the good shepherd of the global and therefore unlimited greenhouse! A world zoomed down to a common climate level knows no consumption of resources and has no "rogue states". It lives the eternal sustainability! This is also what the scientific advisory board of the Federal Government for Global Environmental Change argues for, which is chaired by "Potsdam Institute for Climate Change Consequences (PIK)" director Prof Dr *Hans Joachim Schellnhuber* and demands a "Grand Transformation".

Jorgen Randers, Professor for climate strategy at the Norwegian School of Management and author of the Club of Rome

study "2052", put it quite appropriately when he wrote in the 17th June issue of the "Berliner Tagesspiegel" about the RIO+20 summit: "A good dictator. That's what the summit is!" He refers to Rome 2000 years ago, when quick decisions without long discussions were favored in case of external threats. For that reason they elected a dictator. Arguing for such a "benevolent dictator" one plays with the fire though, and one should also bear in mind that even those dictators were not able to prevent the Empire from collapsing. Even more alarming: "China is an interesting example. The Communist party made some long-term decisions there for the benefit of future generations. They are not subject to democratic control. [...]" In Randers' view the Chinese Communist Party is such a "benevolent dictator" who just does the right thing. Therefore it were not so bad that they claimed the power against the will of many other people. Those fresh winds, which are supposed to prevent the climate catastrophe from happening – is that the way they are blowing in the global greenhouse?

The weather cannot be protected, and neither the climate

This both groundbreaking and trivial insight was gained by Robert Goebbels, member of the EU parliament for the Socialist Workers' Party of Luxemburg (LSAP). He summarized his impressions of the RIO+20-summit in the "Tageblatt" of 5th July 2012: 1.) *Stop the summit-mania*. "Mankind would benefit a lot if the international community actually stopped the travelling circus of international 'climate summits'." 2.) *The globe hasn't got a thermostat*. "The official climate goal of the EU to stabilize worldwide carbon dioxide emissions in a way that average temperatures won't rise by more than 2 degrees is a total illusion." Further: "As if the world climate could be regulated by means of some sort of thermostat ... Average temperatures are useless anyway, on a planet with temperatures oscillating between -50°C to +50°C depending on season and latitude." And his conclusion?: "The Europeans are about to destroy their industrial basis for utter dogmatism." And EU climate commissioner Hedegaard confirms this notion! With their illusionary "CO₂-free society" the EU bids farewell to the circle of industrialized nations in order to purge themselves for the sin emanating from the discovery of the steam engine in England which eventually did "heat up" the greenhouse. Untouched by all of that the weather follows its path as it is destined by the course of the stars and seasons. And just as the question "why" is in-

Welcome to nature!

Native flora bringing life into private and public gardens

by Dr Reinhard Witt

A brief glance at the majority of gardens and parks says it all: We can see mainly sterile lawns, raked and cleanly mulched borders, rhododendron, forsythia, thuja hedges and exotic flowers. In contrast to all this, the following article by Dr Reinhard Witt is informing you about the manifold benefits of native plants.

It is paradoxical: To most people garden center plants are more familiar than the native flora of indigenous meadows or dry and steep grassland. Who is familiar with the hollyhock mallow or the harebell (*veronica teucrium*) or with its distinction from the long-leaved speedwell (*veronica longifolia*)? What about the black broom (*cytiscus nigricans*), a beautiful, honey-scented small shrub? They all would be splendid bee forage plants. Yet they are nowhere to be found.

The results are fatal, not only as regards man's general alienation from nature, but also for nature in particular, because only the native wild plants guarantee the survival of wildlife. Their ecological value is immense: On average an indigenous plant species is the forage base for ten herbivores, especially insects. And without herbivorous insects there is no fauna – no wild bees, cater-



Also kindergartens and schoolyards can be semi-natural and enriched by native plants. In the kindergarten above in Upper Bavaria thousands of cowslips are blossoming. (picture Reinhard Witt)

pillars, leaf beetles, no grasshoppers and hoverflies. And therefore there are hardly any birds in gardens and parks, apart from common species like blackbirds, jays, magpies and Co., and there is no spotted flycatcher, because it hunts larger flying insects occurring only in places where many indigenous plants grow. And thus no goldfinch, because it eats the seeds of wild shrubs. Therefore natural gardens and green spaces are residual spaces for fauna and flora – and also for the human species.

The concept of the natural garden

Natural gardening can be realised if we use the native wild plants of our country. Here we distinguish between urban and rural areas. In the urban area, we use all the domestic wild plants, in free agriculture preferably only regional species. According to the guidelines of specialized firms for semi-natural green areas, a genuine natural garden consists of at least 60% indigenous plants, but there are often 80% or more. Accordingly, it consists of a maximum of 40% non-native species and varieties, that is cultivated forms and exotics. It is of course entirely up to you how many native wild plants you will plant. Even gardens with less than 60% native wild plants are a valuable contribution to the preservation of our basis of life, especially in urban areas. Each native species is an improvement and a benefit for nature! All landscaped habitats in the urban area might generally be semi-natural, or at least closer to nature, for example private gardens, public parks, traffic stripes, - islands and roadsides, experimental nature spaces such as schoolyards, kindergartens, playgrounds, commercial and industrial areas.

Many benefits

The natural garden concept combines many benefits: It is not only cheaper in the setting up and in the upkeep, but also environmentally friendly and resource saving. There is not so much need to interfere, because evolution (natural succession) and alteration (dynamics) are the core ideas. Correspondingly shaped areas are even more durable and resilient, especially when used intensively. With this approach pioneer, stress-tolerant and competitive plants are skillfully combined. It offers a variety of design options and phenotypes with onion plants, annuals and biennials, shrubs, small and large groves, and semi-natural roses. Here native animals are settling by themselves. Thus a diversity of experiences is created which appeals to all the senses, to large and small, to old and young. And what is best: Such a paradise, created by the work of human hands, will persist over very long periods of time, without us having to interfere significantly. This is exactly the principle of sustainability! By this term, meanwhile being excessively used for anything and everything, we mean the following:

- regional potential of soil and building materials,
- friendly use of materials and energy,
- semi-natural rather than technical construction methods,
- seeding and plants adapted to location and utilization,
- natural propagation by seed or runners,
- long-living (native) plants or semi-natural, self-renewing varieties,
- crops of high ecological value for animals,
- dynamic evolution and alteration,

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appropriate with regard to the weather the changes in climate remain as enigmatic.

Researchers of the *Justus von Liebig University of Giessen* recently revealed that the alleged heating up of the greenhouse isn't quite the case. Together with an international team of researchers they investigated growth rings of Finnish pines in Lapland as far back as 138 BC. They concluded that the Roman period and the Middle Ages were warmer than previously thought. In a press release of the scientific information service "Informationsdienst Wissenschaft" on 9 July 2012 Prof Dr *Jürg Luterbacher* announced: "We were able to show that historical temperatures during the Roman and Middle age periods had been underestimated as cooler than they actually were."

Something can't be quite right with the greenhouse hypothesis, upgraded as it already is to pseudo-religious dogma status, if it was warmer 2000 years ago during Roman times and in the Middle Ages as compared with today. And some more to ponder for all climate worriers: with no doubt, those two warm historical periods were optimal times for Europe. •

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Citizens protest against natural parks and reservations

jaqr. Construction of pigsties or highways is stimulating protests of German citizens, increasingly sensitive to noise and odour. However, this weekend in the Teutoburg Forest a protest movement gathered against natural park projects, which are oversized in their view. Environmental organisations and eco-politicians were often “not honest”, *Ralph Gerdes* justifies the project. On Saturday he will receive the protesters from all over Germany in the village Schlangen near Detmold. For the installation of national parks (as is currently planned in the Teutoburg Forest) the presented arguments are not correct – for example, like increasing numbers of tourists. In fact, those numbers are even decreasing, says the local FDP politician, because (legal) requirements complicate the access to nature.

According to the Federal Statistical Office the nature conservation areas in Ger-

many have been increased considerably in the past 20 years. The areas of national parks increased by 48 per cent, of the natural conservation areas by 174 per cent, that of the biosphere reserves were nearly tripled. Bird-wildlife-flora-habitat conservation areas have grown to four million hectares. The involved conservation organizations such as BUND or Nabu have an annual budget in the triple-million range and therefore have become lucrative enterprises themselves.

The cost of nature conservation projects will usually not be communicated to the taxpayers, says Gerdes. In the case of the Teutoburg Forest it amounts to more than 200 million euros for the transformation of forest areas and farmland. “Generally, it is always said, nature conservation is beneficial, but it is not clearly explained, why it is beneficial. Generally, it is said, nature parks should be extended,

because of the loss of biodiversity. “But in the Teutoburg Forest, we can not compensate the loss of species in Brazil.”

In the projected National Park “The leadership” of nature conservation organizations “have already provided themselves with jobs in the National Park Coordination Unit.” The citizen movement fears, that the forestry and timber sector will be forced back or the access to the forests will be limited. Eight citizens’ movements, that had already made such experiences, in the Bavarian Forest, in Brandenburg and Mecklenburg, come together now. On Lake Schaalsee for example, a citizens’ initiative has been fighting for years against the nature conservation authority, describing their administration as authoritarian and subjugating. •

Source: *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 30.06.2012. © All rights reserved. Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung GmbH, Frankfurt.

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- sensitive accompanying maintenance.

Some disadvantages

Despite all these benefits there are also some disadvantages. In the late summer, for example, the semi-natural areas are no longer representative. Instead of many colorful flowers brown shades are dominating. From nature’s view this is

hardly surprising, because for the wild plants it is now all about seed production, which in turn pleases the goldfinches and other seed eaters. Moreover, they are less attractive. Nature does not provide the same highly cultivated, effect-seeking varieties of plants as the world’s breeding laboratories. In addition, the natural garden idea often requires explanation. It must be accompanied by good press and public relations work, so that a layman can understand that the most beautiful flower meadows grow on gravel or rubble, and not just on rich topsoil. And finally, semi-natural flora has often been misunderstood and copied by pseudo-experts and thereby brought into disrepute.

How it works

Native shrubs and especially groves need time before they can develop their full strength, since their survival strategy consists in more or less longevity. In the worst case it may take a few years, which sometimes requires much patience. Skillful, habitat appropriate plant selection will certainly lead to success. If garden centers, nurseries and DIY markets are no reliable source of indigenous seeds and plants, where will we get these species from? This is no problem: 22 years ago the *Verein für naturnahe Garten-und*

Landschaftsgestaltung/Naturgarten e.V. (Association for natural gardening and landscaping) was founded precisely for this reason. In its nationwide network all the wild plant lover’s heart desires can be found. •

Source: *Allgemeine Deutsche Imkerzeitung ADIZ* (General German beekeepers newspaper) No. 7/2012

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Recommended reading

Reinhard Witt, *Nachhaltige Pflanzungen und Ansaaten. Kräuter, Stauden und Sträucher. Für Jahrzehnte erfolgreich gärtnern.* Naturnah, praktisch, klimafest. Unkräuterlexikon und Pflegestrategien. (Sustainable plantings and seeding. Herbs and shrubs. Successful gardening for decades. Semi-natural, functional, in any climate. Weeds glossary and maintaining strategies.)
Order via book store: www.reinhard-witt.de

Information on the Internet

www.naturgarten.org
Association for natural gardening and landscaping
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Certified specialized companies for planning, design, wild shrubs and seeds in cooperation with Bioland
www.naturgartenplaner.de
Certified organic natural gardens, school yards, playgrounds, kindergartens, public parks

(Translation *Current Concerns*)



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