

Current Concerns

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English Edition of *Zeit-Fragen*

Hit Syria – Target Russia

**“Worse than a feud with the Anglo-Saxons can only be a friendship with them.”
(Alexej Jedrichin–Wandram)**

Interview with Professor Andrei Ilyich Fursov

The following conversation with Professor Andrei Ilyich Fursov, Director of the Centre of Russian Studies at the Institute of Fundamental and Applied Research of Moscow University for the Humanities (MosGU), a member of the International Academy of Sciences, and a member of the Writers' Union of Russia was published on 9 August 2012 at KP.ru. Given the initial question it reaches unexpectedly far into the sphere it covers. Starting from the current situation in Syria and the “Arab Spring”, the Russian historian tries to provide considerations on and prognosticate the further development there, ranging from the concrete to the global.

Last remark: the term “regime” does not necessarily have a negative connotation in the Russian language.

Why is the West in such a hurry to hammer the nails in the coffin of the Assad regime?

Professor Andrej Fursov: This small Middle Eastern country has suddenly become a major sore spot of the planet. The UN has meetings on it, continually. China and Russia take a hardliner stance. A squad of our warships with marines headed for the Mediterranean also stopping in Syria on the way. The US provides the “rebels” with another \$ 15 million. Is there a sense of a greater war here?

Gas war

How did little Syria spoil things for the powerful West?

Actually by everything. Let's look at it one by one – from small to large, from regional to global. In all the constellations in the Middle East in general and in the Americans' and the Sunni monarchies' (Saudi Arabia, Qatar) fight against Shiite Iran, the country is not just an ally of Tehran, but also the link connecting it to the Shiite factions in the Arab world. Without such a link Iran's influence in the Arab world would be greatly reduced. I am not talking even about the oil pipeline running from Iran through Syria. Without a solution to the Syrian issue,

Pussy Riots – made in Great Britain Necessities of the Empire ...

ab.ief.iev. For more than a year we women have been regularly informed by “Herald Tribune” about both the construction and the development of the “Female Factor.” The last decisive threshold was the claim that women ought to keep up with male competition also in the domain of science. This has meanwhile obviously taken place: A female professor from Silicon Valley and a female government official, especially assigned for the purpose by Obama, have been teaching the young women of America for a couple of weeks: “You can have it all!” Career, job and family can easily be combined, it's no problem at all.

With this the Empire finally establishes what we have already been doing for two generations! We all can now – if we want – become copies of Christine Lagarde. The question is only if it were not up to those who plunged the world into an economic quagmire to tidy up the mess.

But now there is a new offer at hand: We all have the opportunity to become “Pussy Rioters.” Great Britain makes it possible. It has already made quite a few things possible according to Prof Albert Stahel (see the last edition of Current Concerns No. 36, p. 9): However they all lack “sustainability.”

Watch out, dear gentlemen, in case we can shortly be seen as singers competing with the noise of the Hoover and the screaming of our 2-year-olds, or answering customers' questions in the firm singing a Pussy-Riot-song – thereby causing the collapse of the capitalist economy or making at least headlines in Russia – one thing is clear, we can finally see the opportunities of a genuine suffragette movement!

What is the best position to adopt if you are staging a sit-down protest outside Downing Street and do not want to be dragged away by the police? How can you make your body so cumbersome that security guards will find it hard to remove you? What are your legal rights if you form a human chain stopping the traffic?

The Suffragette Summer School, a two-day feminist training camp taking place in Britain in mid-September, will provide strategic advice as it instructs participants in the art of nonviolent protest. The camp's promotional material promises to help “budding Pussy Rioters” hone headline-grabbing techniques.

Wary of more conventional methods of campaigning, its young organizers hope to inspire a new generation of feminists with the same dynamism that saw the original suffragettes chain themselves to railings to secure the vote.

“There are creative ways in which ordinary people can put feminist issues into the mainstream agenda,” Kat Banyard, the founder of UK Feminista, the group organizing the summer school, explains. “Direct action doesn't have to be illegal. It is really important that people are confident about their legal right to protest.”

There appears to be a real appetite for the course, and about 500 individuals and

representatives from small feminist groups around the country are expected when the summer school opens, on the campus of Bristol University, on Sept. 15. Ms. Banyard hopes that this enthusiasm reflects the beginnings of a feminist revival in Britain.

“Until recently, the only time that feminism was mentioned in the press was to remind us all that it was still dead,” she says. “But there has been this huge upsurge. No one can deny that it is back.”

She set up UK Feminista three years ago, aiming to encourage the creation of new, energetic grass-roots feminist groups, ready to take action across the country to fight for greater equality between the sexes.

Ms Banyard, 30, who is also the author of “The Equality Illusion,” a well-received book outlining how far women are from achieving equality in Britain, estimates that the number of small affiliated groups has tripled to more than 100 in the past two years. Much of the anger that has driven this growth has, she believes, been prompted by the realization that women have been much harder hit by the ailing economy and the government's austerity policies than men.

Source: Amelia Gentleman,
International Herald Tribune.
August 29, 2012

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the Anglo-Saxons, i.e. the British and the Americans will not dare to tackle Iran.

The Syrian regime is in fact the only strong secular regime in the Arab world. The fact that it is strong irritates the Atlanticists with their plans of restructuring the Middle East and the world. The fact that it is a secular and economically successful regime annoys the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

Some say that this is the first war for gas. Gas fields were indeed discovered in the Southern Mediterranean – in the sea and on Syrian territory (Kara). It is hard to say how big the reserves are, but they are there. Qatar exports liquefied gas with the help of a tanker fleet. If the *Assad* regime collapses, Qatar will be able to transport the "blue fuel" directly from the Mediterranean coast to Syria. This would at least double the volume of its exports and at the same time complicate Iranian exports. The strengthening of Qatar on the gas market will worsen Russia's position. Well, if the Americans succeed in controlling the Algerian gas, it looks like a blockade of the Russian oil and gas exports. So the economic interests of Qatar coincide with the US' geopolitical interests in their efforts to maximally weaken Russia, which is not to not be reinvigorated.

The Anglo-Saxons are global billiard players: They make use of the "controlled" chaos

Does that mean that the Yankees in Syria indirectly attack Russia's beloved Gazprom?

The Anglo-Saxons are global billiard players; they work by the principle of more than one ball into the hole (which we have to learn from them). The greater Middle East with its ongoing controlled chaos separates China from the necessary sources of oil and gas, while at the same time it is cutting the Chinese off from the Western European part of Eurasia. *The control over gas and oil from the Middle East means first of all control of the US over Europe, especially Western Europe, which to a great extent contributes to the weakening of the Russian Federation and its position. But if Europe does not like it some day, one can trigger off some Arab-African uprisings – so that the well-fed citizens wished it would soon be over.*

This logic (though not the only one) determines the North Atlantic elite's drive toward the East across the Arab world: Tunisia, Egypt and Libya. Now they have arrived in Syria. But on the Syrian spot the Atlanticists faced another global power, comparable to them economically and even militarily, but representing a completely different civilization.

This is China, with its drive towards the West. China's drive is a kind of crusade for resources. Pakistan is already under the influence of China. The Chinese have a long-standing relationship with the Afghan Taliban. Iran is also an ally, though specific. The south of Iraq is basically controlled by Shiite allies of Iran. Geographically and even geo-economically China does not only push ahead to the coast of the Indian Ocean, but from this perspective also to the Atlantic (the Mediterranean coast of Syria). *Objectively, the Western crusaders ran into a Chinese wall in Syria.*

For the first time, the Anglo-American-Jewish elite, that has developed in the course of the last century and became one of the organizational and historical achievements of the West, is faced with a global, non-Western type of enemy (the Soviet leadership, too, was the implementation of a leftist project of the West, the Jacobin Modernity). Apart from that, the European segment of the Western elite from which it takes its historical experience, is opposed, however, to the no less or perhaps even more ancient Chinese segment. It is also focused on the tangibles, on trade and money. At the same time it is very adventurous, as the Chinese have their own global criminal system.

The objective of the West: See China collapse, cut it off from the resources of raw materials and suffocate it technologically

The Chinese mafia is probably worse than the Italian ...

Yes, and not to mention the gold reserves of China as a formidable financial weapon.

Beijing knows quite well that Syria is just another trail mark in the direction of the North-Atlanticists' main attack – and *their objective is to see China collapse, to cut it down to size within the country's borders, cut it off from the sources of raw materials and suffocate it technologically.* Hence China's tough stance on Syria at the UN.

What about the position of Moscow? Why is it so different from that in Libya?

First, we have a different president today. Second, the story of Gaddafi has taught our leadership well. Third, we have a naval base in Syria. Fourth, our military-industrial complex has serious interest in Syria, and economic interests are sacred to the Russian leadership. Fifth, Syria is much closer to the Russian borders and the post-Soviet area than Libya. All this determines Moscow's position whose nuclear and diplomatic potential reinforces China's position. Neither Russia nor China could stand alone.

Of course, the Anglo-Saxons do not care about our veto in the UN, the UN itself and about international law, which they plan to abolish anyway. But so far, these have only been intentions. As Stalin once said *the logic of the circumstances is stronger than the logic of intentions.* These circumstances are Russia and China, causing the North-Atlanticists to be furious – just listen to Ms *Clinton* and look at her facial expressions.

USA today overstraining its forces

Despite the hardline stance of Moscow and Beijing, the West does not retreat. Why not?

First, it is not in the historical tradition of the Anglo-Saxons to release the prey which they have sunk their teeth in like a pit bull terrier. They will exert pressure as far as possible until they have achieved their objective, or until the opponent has broken their jaw. Second, in the last 25 to 30 years, the Anglo-Saxons, defeating the Soviet elite (it is exactly about the Soviet elite – they surrendered), have simply become arrogant. They got used to Russia giving up everything and they hope to be able to exert pressure on the Russian elite that keeps its money in Western banks. Third – and this is the main reason which outweighs all the others: the stakes are too high; the fate of the North Atlantic elites themselves is at stake, and not just the hydrocarbon resources or the Middle East. The West has no alternative than pressing ahead. The bottom line is the following: Today, the US experiences an excessive overstrain of its forces, despite all the material and information potential of this vast machine, operated by experienced supranational geo-constructors and geo-engineers. "Nihil dat fortuna mancipio" – fate does not guarantee anything forever! America's time is over. To delay or prevent the final decline, it needs a break. It is no coincidence that the new military doctrine, which was announced by *Obama* on 5 January 2012, is about the US' unwillingness to be prepared for two wars at the same time – as has been the case so far – but only for one plus some indirect actions in several regions. Also bear in mind that the Americans regroup up to 60% of its military power in the Pacific Ocean, the eastern Pacific, in preparation for a fight with China. It is not accidental that *Foreign Affairs*, a journal of the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), one of the most influential American institutions concerning international relations, recently published several articles that directly say: The US need a break, "to focus on rebuilding the foundations of national prosperity". America today resembles the Roman Empire of the Trajan time

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(early 2nd century AD). Then, Rome shifted from the strategic offensive to strategic defense; Rome began to build the Limes (defensive wall) and abandoned some of the conquered territories – especially in the Middle East.

Controlled chaos: So that in case of retreat the competitors may not occupy the territory

This is a direct analogy. The USA promised to leave Afghanistan and they withdrew from Iraq ...

The results of the NATO summit in Chicago on 20 – 21 May 2012 showed: Neither have the US nor NATO actually left the Middle East nor Afghanistan, in the literal sense. It was not for that reason they went there. However, they will have to "get out" in this former sense, as the leadership model will change there. And the only reason is that in case of retreat the competitors may not occupy the territory: the European Union, above all China. Hence the idea behind the new leadership model in the region is controlled chaos. We cannot imagine any better candidates for its creation and maintenance than the Islamists, the "chain dogs of globalization American style". And here we see how in the Middle East – particularly in the key country Egypt – the Islamists take over as a result of the so-called "Arab Spring". More precisely, it is them for whom the others were paving the way. However, the Anglo-Saxons hit two stumbling blocks on their way, two countries where Islamists are either not strong or not active. These countries were Libya and Syria. Libya has already been destroyed by the barbaric aggression of NATO, and Syria is under siege today. Syria's army is indeed fighting international terrorism, which, as it suits it, is directed by the puppeteers – the Anglo-American leadership.

The true face of the "Friends of Syria"

Excuse me, Andrei Ilyich! Western media report that the people rebelled against the Assad regime. The insurgents were Syrians, deserted from the army.

That is what the Western media are doing, or to be precise: the instruments for mass propaganda, agitation and misinformation. They fulfill the purely military function of a disinformation and psycho-historic war. The "Syrian rebels" have modern precision weapons, anti-tank weapons, thermal imaging devices, the best sniper rifles and many more, mostly from Turkish production. Is n't that a bit too sumtuous for deserters and fugitives? But the most im-

Diplomat: USA let private military companies do the dirty work in the war zones

The USA deploy private security companies in war areas to avoid the responsibility for the violation of international humanitarian law. This is what *Konstantin Dolgov*, commissioner for human rights and democracy in the Russian Foreign Ministry, says.

In a commentary that was published on the website of the Foreign Office, Dolgov expressed his amazement that the US Justice Department had ceased the investigations against the security company *Blackwater* (now *Academi*). The company is said to have tried to bribe the leadership of the Iraqi Interior Ministry with a million dollars in order to

get a licence for further work in Iraq and to avoid responsibility for the shooting of 17 Iraqi civilians in Baghdad. "Despite the scandalous experiences with *Blackwater*, the US Defense Department and the State Department further engage mercenaries to do dirty work in conflict zones among others", Dolgov said. "By such outsourcing of government functions to private companies the US government avoids the responsibility for the violation of international humanitarian law."

Source: *Ria Novosti*, 28.8.2012
(Translation Current Concerns)

portant thing is the organization of the armed conflicts. Since the end of June the situation in Syria has changed drastically. Assad is confronted with a staff culture of highly professional planners behind the military diversions, which deserters, ranging from captain to major, would never be capable of. The "rebels" have changed their tactics from wearing down and fatiguing; they have moved to the tactics of massive attack, behind which there is apparently a contingent of 25-30000 men. The armed fighters are descendants coming from Libya, Tunisia, Afghanistan and other Muslim countries. By the way, transferring them to Syria has solved an important problem for the West and the Sunni monarchies. After all, this combustible material must somehow and somewhere be occupied. These guys will not work, and a rabid dog may once bite its owner.

The international terrorism that the US allegedly fight is in fact their self-created weapon

Along with professional mercenaries and international terrorists, parts of Syrian criminal bandit clans fight against government forces; they murder their own neighbors and then blame it on the Assad regime. The Syrian situation has clearly exposed the fact that *international terrorism that the US allegedly fight is in fact their self-created weapon*. In Libya, it was *al-Qaeda* which solved the problem posed by the Atlanticists. In Syria the Islamist *Abd al-Hakim Belhadj* who once commanded the Libyan "insurgents" infiltrates the militant fighters. He is the most powerful military member in Tripoli, since long associated with *Al-Qaeda*. *Al-Qaeda is a very handy tool for the American and British intelligence services*. If necessary, you can blow up your own twin towers, and put the blame on the organization of *bin Laden*. And if necessary you can merge in ecstasy with this organiza-

tion and take action against *Gaddafi* or *Assad*. Now *al-Qaeda* is good again; as our Protopope *Avvakum* once said "yesterday the son of a bitch, today a priest".

They should stop telling us lies: the Syrians are not fighting Syrians, but the Anglo-American elite, waging war through the hands of international terrorists. Their operations in Syria resemble, for example, *John Negroponte's* death squads in Guatemala. In their perspective the "friends of Syria" (formerly the "friends of Yugoslavia, Iraq, or Libya") are also the "friends of Russia", they are the major international terrorist power themselves. I really hope that in the end they and their associates (including the ones from The Hague) will finally see "their Nuremberg". Many in the West just describe the similarity of *Bush Junior's* attack on Iraq and Afghanistan with *Hitler's* attack on Poland, the Netherlands and France. The only question is if Syria becomes the last line of a new – now no longer world war – but a global war. Sooner or later, the criminalization of politics by the Western leadership will lead exactly there.

The US has actually justified the recent terrorist attacks in Damascus that killed senior representatives of Syria.

Yes, among the dead are Defense Minister *Daoud Rajhi*, the head of military intelligence *Assef Shawkat* and the head of the crisis committee *Hassan Turkmani* – all very close to Assad, his support. Such action was to be expected; I do not believe that it was possible without collaboration of Western intelligence agencies. *Bashar al-Assad* resists, they were not able to break him in the course of 15 months, so the course is now directed at the physical destruction of the Syrian leader and his inner circle. They expect that in case of his retreat, Assad's regime will collapse. Whether these plans will work out is a

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separate issue. Something else is important: After having killed Gaddafi, Western elites now openly and blatantly run the path of physical destruction of those leaders that interfere with their plans, i.e. the path of terror. And while farce trials were arranged against *Milošević* and *Saddam Hussein*, Gaddafi was just killed in banditry-like, "specific" manner, not even hiding a joyous "wow" about it. And what about the invaluable scene at the White House in May last year, when the US government publicly gathered in front of the screen to watch the killing of "bin Laden". To what level must beastly brutality and moral degradation have risen, if we watch a slaughtering and savor it like a medieval wild mob? Western leadership act as genuine global organized crime, not even hiding the fact. They act on the principle of "you're guilty anyway, because I want to eat". Recently, the pro-American former French president *Sarkozy* directly threatened Syrian Christians (about 10% of the Syrian population) that in case they continued to support Assad they would be victim to attacks after the overthrow. And these attacks are already taking place.

Moreover, not only Christians, but also Druze, Alawites, members of the Baath Party ruling since 1963 are being killed. The real carnage will begin, after the West has succeeded to topple the Assad regime which can become possible only in case of foreign military intervention.

Combined tactics of desintegration and massive attacks

Do you think the West will actually go that far?

This question should be asked to the global organized crime groups who hold their "shares" in Washington, New York, London and Brussels. We can only weigh options. The only military power that NATO counts on is Turkey, which dreams of splitting Syria up into 4 to 6 units and then seizing control over half of them; a structure starting to resemble the former Ottoman Empire. However, such a war is an uncertain affair for Turkey, given the position of Russia, China, Iran, plus the Kurdish issue – even with NATO's military-technical support. And Syria itself is not a weakling. Rather, it can be assumed that this war will continue, that the West will try to squeeze Syria with the hands of the mercenaries, *combining tactics of destruction and massive attacks and trying*

to physically destroy Assad. US and UK have invested too much in the destruction of the Syrian regime and will only withdraw in case they will have to pay an unacceptably high price for the victory.

And they really put in a lot?

Yes. Both financially and in terms of organization. Back in 2006, the program "democracy in Syria" was launched which provided grants for projects worth \$ 5 million. In 2009, the "Council for Democracy" that distributed the grants among the "democratizers" in those countries, which the United States intended to weaken, received \$ 6.3 million from the State Department for the implementation of the program "initiative to strengthen civil society" related to Syria (apparently, the Anglo-Saxons believe that by killing Syrian women and children through mercenary hands they are building a civil society). The "Syrian Business Forum" for example disposes of a fund of at least \$ 300 million. Half of this amount is meant for the so-called "Free Syrian Army"'s funding. Saudi Arabia and Qatar that have both signed a secret agreement play an active role in financing the anti-Assad forces. The behavior of the Saudis and of the Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh *Hamad bin Jassim bin Jaber Al Thani* give clear evidence of the Western/Salafites alliance. Staged movies about fighting in Tripoli and Damascus were filmed in Qatar, when there has been no fighting yet. The Emir paid the storm of Tripoli and sent a contingent of 6,000 Arab rabble dressed in Qatari military uniform. By the way, *bin Jassim* ordered the assaults on the Russian Ambassador *Vladimir Titorenko* in Qatar.

Moscow demands international investigation of terrorist attacks in Syria**Similarities to the approach in Yugoslavia: actions that shall produce ethnic-denominational differences**

Moscow insists on an investigation of the terrorist attacks in Syria and proposes to call in representatives of the UN and the Arab League to this task, says a comment of the PR-office of the Russian Foreign Ministry issued on Wednesday.

"In recent days cases of bloody reckoning with Syrian civilians in the Town of Daraya near Damascus have come to light, where after a freeing operation of the government troops more than 200 dead including women and children were found", writes the Foreign Ministry.

"That was a new provocative crime analogous to the crimes that were committed earlier and had caused a big uproar in the world", they underlined.

The Foreign Ministry points out, that on Tuesday twelve persons died and dozens were wounded in the explosion of a car bomb at a cemetery in the town district Djaraman of Damascus.

"Moscow determinedly condemns such barbarian acts of violence", writes the Foreign Ministry. It expresses its deepest condolence to the families of those who died.

Moscow does not doubt, that "certain interested forces will not give up their attempts to heat up the tensions in Syria even more and thwart any steps

for a political solution". In this context the actions that intensify the interdenominational differences are conceived with particular concern.

In this context The Foreign Ministry mentions the murder of the prominent Islamic clergy *Hassan Barnau* and the blockade of the town Rabla on the border to Lebanon which is inhabited by Christians. These acts "look like blasphemy against the background of the numerous calls by opposition politicians to prevent a humanitarian catastrophe in Syria", they underline.

The international community "cannot calmly watch the attempts that extremists and terrorists undertake for a further destabilization in Syria, especially the repressions against ethnical-denominational minorities like Christians". "We stand for an immediate stop of actions by all sides without exception and for a guiding of the conflict into a political track on the basis of the existing consensus for the Syrian solution – the plan of Kofi Annan and the Geneva agreement. There is no alternative to that", underlines the Foreign Ministry.

Source: *Ria Novosti*, 29.8.2012

(Translation Current Concerns)

The battle for Eurasia

Some leaders in the West offered the Russian leadership to shelter Assad and his family. Following the motto that the Syrian people will then say "thanks to Moscow"! What will the consequences for Russia be after the collapse of the Assad regime?

Syria is our only ally in the Arab world. With its collapse, we will finally lose all our positions in the region. But it is not only about the Arab world. Russia may easily disappear from the historic scene completely. After Syria and Iran (and that the Atlantacists will attack Iran after Syria is very likely – analysts have even told the name for the operation beginning with an US-Israeli attack on Hezbollah: "Big Storm") it is likely to be our turn. So we can say, hit Syria (and Iran), and target Russia. Preparation is going on in all directions: the situation in Middle East, the deployment of missile defense, NATO expansion to the East and so on.

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Well, the case of missile defense and NATO expansion to the East is clear. How specifically are Syria and Iran linked to our security?

They are close to our borders and our sphere of influence – the Caucasus and Central Asia. If the current regimes in Damascus and Tehran collapse, there will be a continuous zone of chaos controlled by the Atlanticists, spreading from Mauritania and the Maghreb to Kyrgyzstan and Kashmir. The arc of instability will push like a wedge against Central Eurasia, from where Atlanticists are already directly threatening Russia and China. However, first of all Russia.

This is all megalomania – instead of just purchasing the natural resources*Why is Russia first?*

The coming global systemic crisis will dramatically increase the importance of control over natural resources. This importance will increase under the conditions of the predicted geo-climatic and geophysical disasters. I am not referring to the mythical "global warming". I refer to the quite prosaic attenuation of the Gulf Stream, the restructuring of the food chains in the world's oceans (which happens once in 11½ to 12½ millennia) – these are features of a planetary restructuring that began in the early twentieth century and will only be over in the first thirty years of the 22nd century. Under such conditions and after such a crisis the only stable area in the world containing resources for the next century will be Northern Eurasia, mainly geospatial Russia. This makes our area the main geo-historical prey of the 21st century and the next few centuries. The well-known Rus-sophobes *Zbigniew Brzezinski*, *Madeleine Albright* and many others in the West have often said that it was unfair that Russia has such a space, and such resources. All of which should belong to the world community – that is the Atlantic elites, organized in lodges, clubs, committees, orders and extraordinary structures.

However, this requires gaining control of Northern Eurasia, a concentration area – Central Asia. Americans are already present there, but Syria and Iran separate them from their control of the Middle East and hence Central Asia. The fuse, which was lit in North Africa, is wearing thin here and goes out. Without the destruction of these two countries Atlanticists cannot start the battle for Northern Eurasia. Russia is seen as a source of natural resources, China as a source of workforce, i.e. something secondary. And if this "secondary" dares to hinder the plans of the globalists it will drive them insane. The West cur-

rently tackles the resolution of the Russian and Chinese issues with the help of Islam and the Arabs, either in form of controlled chaos of a new Arab invasion or a war between the caliphates against unbelievers. The Anglo-Saxons, true to their tradition of agitating larger states and nations in order to weaken or destroy each other (twice in the twentieth century Germany and Russia were set against each other), will also try to destroy Islam. This objective will be achieved by the Islam's maximum radicalization with Wahhabism, deprivation of domestic economic and demographic forces in the course of the Eurasian wars and then by converting the Muslim world into neo-traditional ghettos, deprived of resources and technology. Those who played "Dungeons and Dragons" as a child will probably remember the version of "The World of the Black Sun". The globalists will try to break up the Islamic world into many small pieces, which can be controlled with the help of private military companies and mercenaries of multinationals who can squeeze out the rest of the resources and then throw them onto the rubble of history. The West will only control the points of resource concentration (for example the nearly 1,800 kilometers of Mediterranean coast of Libya, which has already become reality). The rest will be handed over to be at the mercy of tribes, clans, and criminal syndicates that control the remaining bits and pieces. These "pieces" can be a part of Saudi Arabia, Pakistan (with a separate Baluchistan), and Iran – a Muslim mosaic. At the same time, the West will need wardens in the region, and this role may well be conceded to a Greater Kurdistan. The only state that can afford to be big.

Why so?

The source of all the major rivers in the region will be in the region of Greater Kurdistan, if once established. This means that in an era of water scarcity and, consequently, an era of "water wars", the major levers of influence on the region will be in the hands of the Kurds, this ancient people – just as in the days of Assyria. *Kurdistan could become a major watchdog in the area, succeeding Israel in this role.*

Could you be more precise about Israel, please!

Israel's prospects in a changing Middle East are very vague. In all likelihood, the West will dismantle Israel as it has become unnecessary, which was predicted by *Arnold J. Toynbee* in 1957. Certainly, only after evacuating the "upper third" of the population. The option to create a Greater Kurdistan and dismantle Israel is probable – not at one hundred percent but highly probable. This is of course not an affair of the next few years.

Do not trust the adders*What should Russia do in this dramatic situation developing around Syria?*

The same as it already does – support Syria at best, not to let it be crushed. We have already sent a naval unit, not in a great number, but it is better than nothing. Besides, if we wage war, it is necessary to fight rather by skills than by number. Next. On 7 June two intercontinental ballistic test missiles were launched; "Topol" (which we confirmed) and "Bulava" (not confirmed, but the Americans claim that it was launched). This is a certain sign. After all Russia is still a nuclear power, despite all military reforms; and it is us, not the Chinese, that the Americans have always considered their main enemy and they will continue to do so. Our diplomats are doing their job. I liked the way *Vitali Churkin* talked to the Ambassador of Qatar, and I notice with satisfaction the impotent rage that Madame Clinton and some minor officials of the State Department demonstrated against our leadership. I welcome the Syrian air defense having obtained 18 units of our "Buk-M2" missile systems and 36 units of our missile defense systems "Shell C1"; and deliveries of the S-300 systems and Mi-25 helicopters are pending.

I very much reckon on the survival instinct of the Russian leadership and the fact that they drew the right conclusion from the tragic fates of Milosevic, Saddam Hussein and Gaddafi. They all once trusted the West – and paid with their lives for it. *Shakespeare's* Hamlet speaks of Rosencrantz and Guildenstern "... whom I will trust as I will adders fang'd". You cannot trust adders – they bite, and they fatally do so in the banal physical sense of the word. Or they try to bite, using internal problems which Russia really has in abundance. Is it by accident that the gathering of the "white ribbons" in late 2011 and early 2012 strangely coincided with the statements of the Russian leadership on a tough stance on the Syrian issue? I think not. And in all strictness we are facing a "fifth column" here which emerged over the last quarter of the century. We live in an era of war, which began with the NATO aggression against Yugoslavia and which is now knocking boots at the Syrian gate. In such an era we have to act along the lines of war. No one has been able to defeat the external enemy, or at least successfully confront him without the suppression of the "fifth column"; of course, by law, only by law. And finally, we need an effective international military-political alliance capable of curbing the aggressor and bring about security, or at least a break of some 8 or 10 years' time. During this time, Russia may be able to recover and prepare for the great war of the 21st century.

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ry – the last hunt for the era of capitalism, which, unfortunately, can most likely not be avoided. Prepare and succeed.

Well, and for the moment we will have to keep potential enemies at bay and support the weak in beating the aggressor far away – not only strategically, but also morally.

Lessons and prognoses

What did Russia learn from Libya and Syria?

First of all, do not trust the Western elite in any case. It will always consider us its main enemy, and will strike adamantly at the time of our maximum weakness at which it is incessantly working to finally solve the Russian issue. As noted by *Leonid Shebarshin*: "The West wants only one thing from Russia: that Russia will no longer exist". The example of Libya showed us how to erase the weak. With the example of Syria we observe how the stronger ones may give somebody a rough time.

Second, the Libyan-Syrian version of the NATO aggression shows how things will develop in case of military action: mercenaries, mostly Arabs, and private military companies will do the fighting. According to the Syrian scheme they will try to destabilize the Caucasus and the Volga region: Capturing of a city or part of it, massacres, appeal to "the global public", which would require the imposition of sanctions, monitoring, base creation (although we already have one in Ulyanovsk, the rear base of NATO).

Third: With the decisive role of the external factor, the state of the "object" plays an important role with the situation in Syria: an inefficient system of governance, corruption etc, which all creates a point of vulnerability. In this respect, Russia is also very vulnerable: the same lack of good governance, corruption, criminalization of the economy, the tight integration of the economic elite in the world economy and, therefore, a class of pro-Western compradores, with a low professional and moral level of the upper classes, the rule of clan interests over the public interest. Not to mention the collapse of the army, the spiritual and moral crisis, as well as the "wearing off" of human potential of an important part of the population.

It is true, the external threat can mobilize and unite people, as has always been the case with the Russians, whether in 1612, in 1812, in 1941. And the enemy is well aware of that. In this regard a recent article by *Henry Kissinger* about the Syrian situation is rather interesting. Unlike his usual habit of writing clearly, there is a lot of vague reasoning in this article, including the mention-

ing of the Holy Roman Empire and how its final downfall was brought about. But following the pure logic of the text and articulating exactly what one of the major "wirepullers" of the world hinted at, we read the following: "Old Henry" warns the West about the undesirability of such pressure on Syria, which will cause a tough stance of Russia and drive it towards a confrontation with the West. As a result, there is a risk of losing everything one has achieved over the last 20 years, to weaken Russia. And these achievements were more important than Syria.

they will be devoured up. And if so, the course must change essentially, at least for the sake of wealth, status and life. Examples of pro-Western Arab leaders such as *Ben Ali* and *Mubarak*, demonstrate the validity of the remarkable Russian geo-politician *Alexej Yedrichin-Wandram's* thesis: "Worse than a feud with Anglo-Saxons can only be a friendship with them." The West, especially the Anglo-Saxons, do not guarantee anything, especially to those who betrayed their country and its people. As the ancients said, "Roma traditoribus non premia" (Rome does not pay trai-

- 1) Do not trust the Western elite in any case.
- 2) Mercenaries, mostly Arabs, and private military companies will do the fighting.
- 3) An inefficient system of governance, corruption etc, which all creates a point of vulnerability.

Kissinger, the sharp dog, really gets to the bottom of things!

Indeed, the confrontation with the West can fundamentally change the situation in Russia, in all social strata and above all in the upper class, which will not only understand but feel first-hand that the Western elite will never accept them in their circles, and sooner or later

tors). More precisely, they pay, but only to a certain point. And then they go separate ways. And this is also a lesson that Moscow learnt from the Middle East.

When, in your opinion, can we expect distinct changes of the situation?

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"Novyje Izvestia": Israel evaluates war against Iran at USD 40 billion**Transnational companies want to leave Israel**

The Israeli company *Business Data Israel (BDI)* has estimated the loss to the exchequer, should the government decide on an attack on Iranian nuclear facilities, the daily newspaper "Novye Izvestia" writes on Tuesday. According to this information, the strike against Iran with globally approved weapons would cost more than \$ 40 billion. The military operation, the inevitability of which the press stresses ever more frequently, will be the most expensive military intervention of the Israeli army for the last 20 years. "The direct damage being caused to the infrastructure of the country and the properties of Israeli citizens in case of a war with Iran will amount to 47 billion shekels (one euro = five shekels), according to BDI. This is six times as large as the damage that was caused by the Lebanon war of 2006", notes the newspaper. "Besides, it must be noted that an attack on Iran will inevitably provoke a war against the pro-Iranian Shiite organization Hezbollah, which controls southern Lebanon. Also

combat operations in the Gaza Strip are not excluded, where the power belongs to the Sunni radicals of the Hamas organisation. Due to disagreements on the Syria issue, its relations with Tehran have indeed deteriorated, but it is not hard to imagine on which side Hamas fighters would fight in the event of an Israeli-Iranian war."

"The very media hype about the impending war with Iran harms the Israeli economy. Transnational companies are really afraid and are transferring their production capacities away from Israel", writes the paper. "Meanwhile, the number of laid-off workers has reached its three-year peak in July. One third of those released are young people aged between 25 and 34 years. As Israeli Prime Minister's head of office, Ariel Locker, pointed out, Israel is not Greece, nor Spain – in the event of serious economic difficulties he would have to cope alone."

Source: *Ria Novosti*, 28.8.2012
(Translation Current Concerns)

Switzerland: Our country currently experiences attacks of unprecedented violence around its financial center

“And there is the time of the war, even more threatening”

by Pascal Décaillet, journalist

The recent fiscal affair with France concerning the inheritance tax has finally stirred people's minds in our country. There were the fast ones, like *Philippe Nantermod*, who immediately expressed their anger. There were others, more deliberate and even some with Christian inspiration, who have been waiting which way the wind was blowing – but now finally a large part of the political class in Switzerland calls for explanations. How could *Eveline Widmer-Schlumpf* let herself take in to such an extent? What does *Didier Burkholder* do? Does he still exist, is he alive? What is the overall strategy of the Federal Council? Answer: Nothing.

Our country currently experiences attacks of unprecedented violence around its financial center. The countries, where these attacks emanate from, starting with the United States, strictly do not have to teach us any lesson on financial ethics. Not to mention Great Britain. Even less France, whose management of the public finances has been disastrous for decades both under a rightist as well as a leftist government. With its actions against Switzerland France wants nothing else than to replenish its own cash register. This is the truth, this and nothing else.

In the face of this war – it is one, and on several fronts – each normally constituted country would respond with war. Clearly set out our values. Explain to the population that the Swiss banks are not a spawn of the devil, that they cer-

tainly made mistakes, but that they remain immense sources of employment and national wealth. In times of war we need a strategy, a crisis, a clear vision, a steadfast will to defend the interests of the country. Frankly speaking, do you feel this Dionysian furor with Mrs Widmer-Schlumpf? Or with Mr Burkhalter?

The worst are the enemies from inside. The nice moralizers! In the middle of the war, when you have to go to the front to ward off the worst – they teach us lessons on the corrupted Switzerland, about Switzerland that has to adapt and to fulfill all requirements of our dear neighbors. These purists of abstract morality, these Archangels of perfection, have they understood that we are at war? That others, over there, have decided to get us down on the pretext of ethics? Don't these good people see that human history is nothing more than the balance of power? Which historical culture do they have? What have they read?

Those who have been reading my articles in this newspaper for more than twelve years know very well that I am not working for the power of money. And that I support the primacy of the state and of public interest over the mess of the economy. But finally, there is a period of reforms, of discussions. And there is the time of the war, even more threatening. We are in the latter. If we sleep, we will be dead.

Source: *Le Nouvelliste* of 17 August 2012
(Translation *Current Concerns*)

“Hit Syria ...”

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Well, am I a prophet? Forecasting is difficult in the modern world, which is at the crossroads. But if you start from the state of the US economy, whose remission (in the medical understanding) is projected to be completed in early spring of 2013, and if you consider that serious action will not be taken until the US presidential election, it might happen in the period between December 2012 and February 2013.

For heaven's sake! You just mentioned mystical dates: the end of the world according to the Mayan calendar, the approaching of the celestial murderer Nibiru ...

This is not a mystery but a manipulation of public opinion, to divert mankind from the real problems and intimidate them to the extent that a man shouts: “I want a world government, as only that will protect me from disaster, from a giant asteroid, or aliens!” The “boys” are much more dangerous than aliens, because they are beyond good and evil and devour humanity like ruthless reptiles. They are the ones charging Syria and it is precisely them that we must now stop on the Syrian border. As Voltaire said “Ecrasez l'infame!” (Crush the infamous vermin). •

Source: *Yevgenij Chernych, KP.ru, 15 August 2012*

(Translation *Current Concerns*)

Speaking of tax CDs: How to become more intelligent

gs. Our nine year old comes home from school – an average Swiss school. “The Germans must be clever for once and stop abusing us, the Swiss!” declares the junior in a strikingly self-confident tone. We listen in astonishment. “I always say that you must not underestimate the young generation,” somebody mutters. “How, for example, could we achieve that?” the head of the family asks us in a highly official way, as what the junior has brought home is obviously a declaration of principles. “We invented a joke during the break, but please note: We've invented it ourselves!” The thing is getting more and more exciting. “Would you like to listen to it?” Sure we want.

“So listen: A German –” “A German!” he repeats with emphasis, “is on holiday in Africa. One day he goes to a village market. There is a stand with a few chickens, next to it another one with a couple of goats for sale. Then the guest from Germany comes to a table with nuts, beans, and the like. He looks at a bowl with very small seeds: apple seeds. ‘What do you use them for?’ he asks. ‘They are quite fresh’, says the African. ‘You become more intelligent by eating them.’ ‘Oh, do you?’ that is a thing that is of interest to the German ‘But you must eat them immediately. Once they are dried out, they don't work anymore’, the African explains. ‘And how much are they?’ the guest asks. ‘Two euro each.’ ‘Good, OK, I'll take three.’ Takes the three little seeds, pays and swallows them. Then he ambles on. On a table a bit further along, he spots some fine, fresh apples, one for one euro fifty. He buys some.

But after that he simply has to go back to the seeds stand. ‘Listen, over there you can buy whole apples. How could I be so stupid not to buy one there in the first place?’ he complains to the seeds seller. ‘You see, Sir: The seeds are already working.’ the African answered, keeping a straight face.”

(Translation *Current Concerns*)

A country is seeking its own rules

Gentle lithium extraction – the lithium of the Salar de Uyuni in Bolivia

Dr Niels Peter Ammitzboell and Dr Barbara Hug

Bolivia is equipped with an abundance of natural resources, which it will exploit strictly in accordance with ecological principles. Some time ago, the (salt lake) Salar de Uyuni took the center stage, because enormous lithium deposits exist there, the largest in the world. Bolivia under President *Evo Morales* is absolutely determined not to let the mining of this richness in natural resources be done by foreign investors and then be transported away.

This decision of Morales' government was taken in 2008. The state-owned lithium project – *El Proyecto de Litio* – was established.

A department of the *Autonomous University Tomás Frias* in Potosi was equipped technically and professionally to control the lithium production technology, lithium mining and processing. This raw material – that was originally intended – should remain in national ownership and the production technologies should remain in the country itself. The exploitation of the enormous lithium treasure by multinational companies should be stopped from the very beginning. Since manifold vultures are already waiting for their prey.

Different from the Atacama Desert in Chile, from Argentina, USA or China, where lithium is also won, it is impossible to compile large evaporation ponds on the Salar de Uyuni. On an average of 3–4

months a year, there is rain falling on the Altiplano, which is accompanied by extreme floods that last for 1 or 2 months more. Accessing the area is then very difficult. The lithium extraction from the salt lake of Uyuni practically stagnates for a period of 6 months. Other technologies than the ones used in the Atacama Desert have to be found and brought into use.

For many decades there has been a fruitful collaboration between the *Autonomous University Tomás Frias* in Potosi (Bolivia) and the *TU Bergakademie Freiberg/Saxony* (Germany). Mining in the most extensive sense was the joint research and training topic. At the suggestion of Professor *Wolfgang Voigt* a lithium initiative was launched a few years ago at the Bergakademie Freiberg, and it was obvious, that the existing cooperation – student exchanges, academic conferences, etc. – was consolidated also for the mining and extraction of the enormous lithium deposits of the Salar de Uyuni. Together with the TU Bergakademie Freiberg/Saxony pilot projects on environmentally friendly technology used at the Salar de Uyuni have been developed since 2009. Different from the work plan of *Comibol* (Corporación Minera de Bolivia), ecological considerations were at the center of attention. As it is known, many factors must be considered if environmentally responsible mining methods

are to be used: for example hydrogeology, hydrochemistry, energy consumption, income, cost, ease of use for initially unskilled human workers.

From this and additional environmental considerations, a pilot project was launched at the Salar de Uyuni, whose basic features will be briefly presented in the following.

Particularly the method of the evaporation cones or the intensive vaporization cones has to be mentioned.

Robert Sieland, hydrogeologist at the TU Bergakademie Freiberg, describes it in an interview with the newspaper *Quetzal*.

After *Evo Morales* had promised the drafting of a law in April this year which was to define the equitable sharing of benefits from the lithium production among the central government of Bolivia and the province of Potosi, there seemed to be no more obstacles for a gentle lithium production. The processing of the valuable raw material, for example in batteries in the country itself, would then be a further step. If there is an honest will to develop the lithium project in Bolivia – however conflicting interests seem to be predominant here as well – the lithium resources will remain under control of the Bolivian people themselves and will be used for their own benefit. •

Interview with Robert Sieland, geo-hydroecologist at Freiberg University of Mining and Technology on the lithium resources in the Salar de Uyuni, Bolivia

Quetzal: How is lithium extracted from the salt solution?

Sieland: The lithium is present in the brine in relatively high concentrations, but to technically win it, the concentration levels are still very, very low, always less than 1 percent. You would have to put enormous energy into a treatment process in order to get the lithium. To make the production more or less economical, this salt solution must be first concentrated. To that end one uses the natural conditions, sun and wind, to evaporate the water and to enrich the lithium which stays resolved in the water until the end. A second advantage is that one can precipitate even certain salts by this evaporation process, which one doesn't want to have, such as sodium chloride or a part of the magnesium salts. Potassium chloride as it separates out is a welcome fertilizer. It is extracted as solid matter early in the process and can thus be separated.

As far as we know, there are different methods to concentrate the lithium. How do they work?

Currently, the world's largest lithium production (about 70%) is in the Atacama desert. Evaporation takes place in huge evaporation pools. In other words, large basins of several square kilometres are built, the brine is pumped in, then the brine is steamed down by the very intensive natural sunlight during a very long time. When a certain concentration is reached, one can almost pull off the solution and prepare the next technical step. The Bolivian Government at the Salar de Uyuni tries to work with such huge evaporation pools. However, it's a basic problem that we have very different climatic conditions there compared to the Atacama desert. It is the driest region of the Earth at all with less than 10 litres of rain per square metre per year. In the Salar de Uyuni, however, we have a rainy season from December to March with about 150 litres per square meter and year. That is still little, when compared to Germany, where an average of 800 litres falls per square meter, but it is sufficient to make the evaporation process impossible during the rainy season.

The Freiberg University of Mining and Technology has chosen another way. You are working on the so-called "cone project". Such a cone looks a bit like a Bolivian "Chulu" Cap...

The Freiberg University has had very close ties to the University of Potosí in Bolivia for forty years. On the basis of



Bolivia: Lithium extraction in the Salar de Uyuni with cones of the Freiberg University of Mining and Technology. (picture Quetzal-editing, Ariane Schön)

this good and long-standing relationship our partners in Bolivia presented the proposal to us to make a project dealing with these huge lithium resources in the Salar de Uyuni. In 2007, initial talks took place, and an agreement was signed. We thought we ought to make the evaporation process faster than is possible in the huge pools, and we just arrived at the idea of the conical structures. There the brine is pumped up and then it flows down on the outer surface of the cone. In other words, additionally we have some flow, and so the evaporation by the sun and wind becomes significantly much faster and more effective.

Can this difference be measured?

With the cone concept, the brine is "ready for harvesting" in a few days or in a week to a maximum. In the pool, it takes usually between 8 and 12 months, with respect to the three-month rainy season plus potentially even longer lasting floods. This means that a year may not be sufficient if the rainy season starts shortly before the end of the evaporation process.

But on the other hand, aren't the cones quite small?

The prototypes we have developed were 3 meters high at a maximum and were built from simple materials which locally are widely available, such as metal rods and plastic fabrics or several other materials. It is also possible to build the cone right out of salt out of porous salt piles and one stretches a plane on the surface. In this re-

spect, the cost of such cones are also very low. Whereas such a small cone is quite fast it will not produce a large amount. To operate it on an industrial scale you must establish several hundred of these cones. With regard to the cones, which are still in the development stage, you can optimize sizes and diameters and optimize the process towards larger amounts of brine.

It sounds as if the separation of other salts was easily possible if proceeding that way?

Exactly. This is particularly elegant when using the cones. The salts separate out on the outer surface in the order they can no longer chemically dissolve in the water. Sodium chloride drops out first, as it has the highest concentration in the solution. If I know at what concentration sodium chloride separates, I can interrupt the process briefly and can scrap off and sell it separately as table salt. Continuing the process potassium chloride can be precipitated next, then magnesium sulfate and other salts. This way, I have a temporal separation of salts.

If the cone-concept wants to cope with the evaporation basins of the Bolivian Government, mustn't there be at least about 4,000 cones, as we tried to calculate the gain of the same amount of lithium carbonate? That would be quite a cones forest ...

Possibly.

"Interview with Robert Sieland ..."

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But the Salar is as well very large – about four times as large as the State Saarland or half as big as Saxony-Anhalt...

Yes, it is 10,000 square kilometers. However, it should be noted that in a "forest of cones" there is an interaction, for instance the humidity will be increased. In other words, the effectiveness of evaporation would be reduced. Cones would have to be arranged in smaller groups and the groups would have to be set up in some distance.

This technology would really suit a decentralized structure quite well, where the local population, the indigenous comunidades (communes) live.

This is true. You can use the cones everywhere in a very mobile way, and when the rainy season starts, you can dismantle them or simply shut them down. Once it is dry, you could start the process again. In this way there would be losses for a short time only, when the rain would come unexpectedly. Another advantage of the cone is, that in contrast to the large pools they do not permanently change the overall appearance of the landscape.

And how much would such a cone cost?

Our goal is to keep the production cost below \$ 200. One can further reduce the cost by using salt or cheaper fabrics and planes. Each 5 cones need a solar panel for the power supply as well.

You have made tests in the village Tahua. Is it realistic that the comunidades or just families manage such cones and operate them?

In theory, this would be possible. It would take just a little training to do so. You don't need an academic education, one would just need someone who explains and shows it to the people in an appropriate manner. Whether the comunidades will really implement it and want to conduct the work, depends on many prerequisites, not least, how the people accept the new technique and attend to it.

Have you seen a certain willingness? Or did the people block it right from the beginning?



Bolivia: Lithium extraction in the Salar de Uyuni with cones of the Freiberg University of Mining and Technology. (picture Quetzal-editing, Judith Heinrich)

No, no! They were euphoric and wanted to join in absolutely. Several villages wanted to have the cones at once. The problem was, that 20 villagers who then watched the procedure, were there for only one day and disappeared the next day. We don't know why. We would need locals, which could convincingly communicate the project. And as well some cultural anthropologists, who know the structures and century-old traditions of these comunidades and consider how you could at all introduce something new. This is asking too much of a natural scientist.

Finally there is still another important topic – the environmental impact of the extraction of lithium, specifically on the water. What do you know about it?

The national Bolivian mining company Comibol has made an estimate – based on data from Chile – that in an industrial production of lithium around 4,000 cubic metres of fresh water and about 5,000 cubic metres of slightly salted brackish water per day will be consumed. To obtain these quantities per day, the water from the Rio Grande – the main tributary – is by far not sufficient. In other words, much groundwater must be pumped up in addition. It has been found however by isotope studies, that the ground water is very old – be-

tween 90 and 1,000 years. This means, that what is pumped as groundwater, does not come from today's rainfall, but was formed many hundred to thousand years ago. Thus, it is a non-renewable resource. If you pump it up and consume it, this "tank" in the underground will slowly get empty.

In other words, the concern of the inhabitants, of what could happen with their vegetables, Quinoa cultivation and their Lama breeding, is justified...

I would see it like this. In view of these amounts of water being pumped up the groundwater level will be lowered. Thus, it can happen that springs run dry and aqueous environments fall dry, where then cultivation, for example, of Quinoa, is no longer possible. The question is as well, where the pumping is done and how big the affected area is. But also with regard to the cones the question is open, how much water will be required to clean them up, etc. There is still no pilot project where you could gain some experience and assess the impact.

Source: www.quetzal-leipzig.de
(Translation Current Concerns)

“The ‘Green Economy’ is the new colonialism, with whom our peoples shall be conquered”

Address by His Excellency Evo Morales Ayma, President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, during the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio + 20, in Rio de Janeiro, 21 June 2012



President Evo Morales
(UN Photo)

The peoples of the South today are celebrating our Andean Amazonic New Year, the *Inti Raimy*, the Festival of the sun; in Ketchuya it is the *Inca Cutio*, the return of the father sun; in *Aymara* it is the cosmic clocks that show us the times of Mother Earth. Today is a holiday in Bolivia. We are celebrating the Amazonic and the Andean New Year. I wish all the peoples of the south the best of luck, especially the indigenous people.

20 years ago, the Earth Summit was held here in Brazil and it called for a deep reflection on life and on mankind, taking into account our Mother Earth. And I recall the message from a great wise man, *Fidel Castro*, who was the President and Commander of revolutionary Cuba and told us at the time “Let’s end hunger, not men. Let’s pay the environmental debt, not the state debt.” Now we see that this man was absolutely right; we confirm that the blame is to be put on the capitalist system and the so-called poor nations or developing nations, we feel that the countries of the capitalist system have an unpayable debt.

At this conference, I feel it is important to engage in profound reflection, taking into account future generations. We heard about the “Green Economy”. According to the sentiments of social agents throughout the world, especially the indigenous people, “environmentalism” (Spanish: *ambientalismo*) of the “Green Economy” is a new form of colonialism for subjugating our peoples and the anti-capitalist governments.

Environmentalism of the “Green Economy” is a new form of colonialism in two respects. On the one hand it is colonialism over nature by mercantilizing the nat-

ural sources of life. On the other hand it is a form of colonialism over the Southern countries, which carry the responsibility of protecting the environment on their shoulders, whereas it was destroyed by the capitalist industrial economy of the North. This so-called “environmentalism” mercantilizes nature; every tree, every plant, and every drop of water and everything from nature is turned into something to sell, subject to the dictatorship of the market which privatizes wealth and socializes poverty.

The “Green Economy” usurps creativity of nature, which is the common heritage of all living beings, and expropriates it for private profit making on behalf of those who protect nature. Environmentalism is an imperial system, which quantifies every river, every lake, every single plant, product, and turns them into money for making business or for private ownership. And thus the source of life of all generations is turned into a private asset for the benefit of just a few people. It grants economic yield for nature, and for that reason, environmentalism is just a way of realizing destructive capitalism, an increasing and gradual destruction of nature.

But beyond that, capitalist environmentalism, the “Green Economy”, is a rapacious colonialism, because it makes it possible that the developed country’s commitments of preserving nature for future generations is imposed on the so-called developing countries, while the developed countries focus their efforts on the commercial destruction of the environment. The countries of the north are enriching themselves in a frenzy of using the resources while we, the countries of the south, are forced to be their forest guardians.

They intend to deprive us of our sovereignty over our own natural resources by limiting and controlling our use and benefit from them. They want to create a mechanism of intervention in order to enforce, monitor, judge and control our national policies. They plan to judge and punish our use of natural resources with environmental arguments.

They wish a weak state, with weak institutions, which are submissive and unregulated, so that we give up our natural resources to them, as always happened in our history. For that reason, it’s extremely important to engage in deep reflection at this international conference, on how the capitalism of the “Green Economy” promotes mercantilism and capitalism of bio-

diversity, making a business of biological resources and biodiversity. Biodiversity does not mean life for the “Green Economy” but a business. When I think about that, I reach the following conclusion. Life is not a right. It’s just a business for capitalism and colonialism, which is using the environment to its own ends at this conference.

Dear Presidents, it is not possible to allow the so-called civilization of some 200 or 300 years to destroy the harmonious life that indigenous people have lived for over 5,000 years. That’s our profound difference between the West and the countries of the South and especially the civil movements that live in harmony with Mother Earth!

A small contribution from Bolivia in this struggle is that the law for Mother Earth and the comprehensive development in favor of life was adopted by the Senate two days ago. Its objective is the good life in comprehensive development and in harmonious balance with Mother Earth to build a fair and equitable society, based on solidarity and the reduction of poverty.

In order to achieve the comprehensive development we must work in a complementary and compatible manner and in mutual dependency towards the realization of the following rights:

- a) the rights of Mother Earth,
- b) the rights of indigenous peoples,
- c) the rights of the poor to overcome poverty,
- d) the rights of the Bolivian people to live together well (*vivir bien*),
- e) the right and the obligation of the state to promote sustainable development.

We can neither develop ourselves without affecting nature, nor by destroying nature, and for that reason does our law propose the complementarity of the rights. Beyond that, our law also creates the plurinational authority of climate justice, in order to manage climate change and mitigation and adaptation to the climate change as well as a national fund for climate justice.

One experience we made in Bolivia in our search for the good life of our peoples is the regaining of our natural resources. We have thereby substantially improved our national economy. I can give you three examples. The largest Bolivian company, *Yacimientos Petrolíferos Fiscales Bolivianos* made only 300 million dollars profit in 2005. After nationalizing fossil fuels this year, the profits will amount to 3.5 bil-

"The 'Green Economy' ..."
continued from page 11

lion dollar, due to the efforts of this Bolivian people, and due to the (government) mandate, which is to nationalize our natural resources.

We know that we are a small country, a so-called poor country and a developing country. Our international reserves in 2005 amounted to 1.7 billion dollar. This year, we have reached 13 billion dollar national reserves. Public investment in Bolivia, before I became President, was at 600 million dollar in 2005, 70% of which were in the form of credit or donations. This year, public investment is to reach more than 5 billion dollar. So you can just imagine what has happened to our economy after recovering and nationalizing the ownership of our own fossil fuels. This is an important experience in terms of recovering our own fossil fuels. With great re-

spect to the countries around the world, I call upon you that they need to recover their natural resources and nationalize them. These are the natural resources of our peoples and they must be subject to state authority. They should not be the business of multi national corporations.

In addition, I refer to another experience with basic services which should never be subject to private companies' control. In Bolivia, we had privatized water and telecommunications. After I was elected President we started to recover those basic services and we thus achieved to regain the basic services as a state obligation and saying 'no' to privatization. No business with a multinational will help us to solve our social problems in Bolivia which are so important.

Dear colleagues, present at this conference: it is important to honestly think about future generations, and we can only do so by stopping the exploitation models

that eat up and loot our natural resources. Capitalism is not a solution. I really regret that we are following the "Green Economy" because it is nothing but a new form of colonialism, to subjugate peoples and anti-imperialistic and anti-capitalist governments. We need to reflect carefully on the well-being of future generations. If we wish to have this event be an entirely new one and go into history, we have no other alternative than passing a document which will enable us to stop economic policies, ecological policies and social policies that will lead to an extinction of mankind. We need to decide for humanism instead. That would be very important for all the peoples around the world.

Thank you very much, Mr President, for your attention and I think it will be important for all the peoples in the world to continue to work together. •

Source: www.un.org

(Translation *Current Concerns*)

Bolivia: Morales opens Lithium conveyor

by Benjamin Beutler

Bolivian President *Evo Morales* inaugurated the country's first conveyor for the industrialization of the world's largest lithium reserves. "The semi-industrial potassium chlorate plant is the beginning of the industrialization of evaporate raw materials in Bolivia," Morales said at the saline lake Salar de Uyuni in the highland department of Oruro, some 550 kilometers south of La Paz. According to the leftist the factory at an altitude of 3670 meters above sea level, in which the Bolivian state so far invested 18 million US dollars with its own resources, is going to "produce lithium in October or even in December".

This second step in the plan for the industrialization of the lithium deposits is financed with loans from the central bank at the amount of 216 million US dollars. "The funds for it are secured," so the state-run daily "Cambio" quotes the leader of the governing Movement Towards Socialism (MAS). "We have to give to our natural resources a surplus value," Morales declared his economic policy. In a third step the construction of

a pilot plant for the manufacture of lithium cathodes, a component of battery accumulators shall be implemented. For that purpose, recently a 50-50 joint venture with the Korean consortium *KORES* was signed.

Morales recalled that the evaporate deposits previously were in the hands of foreign private firms. So, through its subsidiary "Non Metallic", the Chilean "Quiborax" had the license in the Salar de Uyuni to the extraction of ulexite, a rare ore for the production of boron. According to the state-owned mining company COMIBOL the dedicated plant in the province of Quijarro has the capacity for the extraction of 1,000 tons of potassium chlorate per month, a chemical component in the production of batteries. Initially only 200 tons were to be extracted. The substance is also a part of antidepressants and it is used in the ceramic production. •

Source: <http://amerika21.de/-meldung/2012/08/54145/bolivien-lithium-salar> from 11.8.2012

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The honest way would be “more sustainable”

The survey by the government of Evo Morales in the case of TIPNIS

by Dr Muruchi Poma*

The government of *Evo Morales* in Bolivia is doing everything possible in order to reach the 69 communities of TIPNIS (*Isiboro Sécore National Park and Indigenous Territory*) and to question them if they agree with the construction of a highway across this National Park. Contrary to this, the residents of the park oppose this survey and – in order to demonstrate their opposition to the road construction – they twice went on foot more than 500 km in less than a year, and now they are looking for legal channels. The government is in favor of the survey, and the residents are against it. That is what we can perceive at first glance. However, this is a false perception. Our interpretation of this reality shows the opposite. Let us take a closer look.

The indigenous people of TIPNIS already marched 22 years ago. This march made history. In August 1990, the people resorted to these means and called for “land and dignity”. After a self-sacrificing march from Beni to La Paz for more than one month and over a distance of 500 km, the neoliberal government of *Paz Zamora* was forced to declare the National Park *Isiboro Sécore* an indigenous territory (later known as TIPNIS). This is the area where the indigenous marchers live. Since that time, the *Isiboro Sécore* National Park has been classified as indigenous territory.

In reality, this march was a historic event because it reversed the process of assault on indigenous territories in the east of Bolivia, their acquisition and distribution. The message was clear: On the one hand, the reclamation of their lands and territories and on the other, the recapture of political, economic and cultural rights by the indigenous people. By the march of 1990, the process of change had begun which was consolidated in 2006 by the government of *Evo Morales*, but came to a standstill later on.

In contrast to this social process, the character of the TIPNIS Park has other roots; they are more of western origin. They took greater care of the protection of the trees than of lifecycles, among which the human lifecycle is exceedingly important. Twenty-five years earlier (in 1965), this park was declared a national park and thereby it belongs to the sixty protected areas that occupy 20% of the area of Bolivia, home to 17 of 36 indigenous peoples.¹

TIPNIS is situated in the heart of Bolivia, in the south it borders on the Chapare area of coca production, and in the north

is situated the catchment area of approved timber companies. Bolivia is one of the countries with the richest biodiversity in the world, and with a surface 14 times as large as Berlin TIPNIS reflects this natural diversity with 402 registered species of flora and 714 of fauna.

It is well known that “TIPNIS is the heart of Bolivia’s water reserves, and with the size of its reserves of fresh water it ranks 5th in the world”.² This fact underlines its national importance and depicts all arguments as absurd that the Bolivians are nothing but the guardians of the tree population in the world. If the Bolivians do not protect their groundwater resources, they will be the first ones who suffer from the irrepairable consequences of the destruction of this ecological zone of water production. The final destruction of the trees and the humidity in this zone due to the absence of clouds passing over the Altiplano and falling as rain can have disastrous consequences, experts say. It seems that the government *Linera-Morales* does not have the slightest intention to heal this “lung” of TIPNIS, suffering from “cancer”, but that it will rather sound the death knell for it. The large landowners in Santa Cruz annually lumber 250,000 hectares of forest. *Linera* plays down his promise by saying that “only” 200 hectares of forest will get lost by the highway he wants to build through the TIPNIS.

The indigenous organizations of TIPNIS

The people, who have always been living on the territory of the TIPNIS, belong to the peoples of the *Mojeños*, *Chimanes*, *Yuquis*, *Yuracares* and *Trinitarios*. It is estimated that around 15,000 inhabitants live in 69 municipalities. They are organized in the associations TIPNIS and *Sécore* and the Indigenous Council of the South (CONISUR) and they all belong to the *Confederation of the Indigenous People of Bolivia (CIDOB)*.

It took the leaders and members of these organizations much effort to regain their rights. One year after the historic march, the Bolivian Parliament is forced to sign the *International Labour Organization Convention 169 Concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries* (Law No 125 of 11 July 1991). After 16 years, although still under the conditions of a strong presence of the oligarchy of landowners in the east of Bolivia in parliament, the parliament is forced to accept the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (Law No 3760, dated 13 November 2007). We can still watch the President of

the CIDOB, *Adolfo Chávez*, being brutally beaten by the thugs of the landowners, accidentally broadcasted by the Bolivian television, and only because he defended the adoption of the new Constitution of Bolivia, which was accepted by a referendum of the Bolivian people in 2008.

The previous survey

But what rights had the Indians gained not only in the east but in the whole of Bolivia? The joint ownership of their territories must be implemented not only in theory but also in practice. One year after the introduction of the new constitution for the multiethnic state of Bolivia, President *Evo Morales* personally gave the property title to the inhabitants of the TIPNIS.³ There is no doubt that all of these laws intend state intervention in any project. The inhabitants have the “right to a prior mandatory consultation by the State, in good faith and mutual consent”.⁴ When reading these laws, you may believe that the interests of the indigenous people are protected by law. It must be said “were protected”, for now they are no longer protected. The law remains frozen in the legal text. It is politics trampling law with contempt in practice.

A fact occurred in this process of change which gets to the bottom of the current involvement. In 2008, the government of *Morales* and *Linera* awarded the contract for the construction of a highway amounting to 332 million US dollars to a Brazilian company (*OAS Ltda. Brazil*), without first asking the “homeowners”. Not only the construction company, but also the investor is from Brazil. Although the contract was cancelled only on 9 April 2012 by the Bolivian government, that fact does not mean that – after the aforementioned survey has been carried out – the same funding sources will not be charged again. The truth is that the road is vital to the agricultural and livestock industries of Brazil, particularly in Rondonia. They are interested in the Asian market. Currently, to get there, they have to use their ports on the Atlantic and make a circumnavigation of the globe to get to China, for example. If the road through the TIPNIS were built, they would have to cover only 1,450 km to reach the ports in the Pacific. This is why Brazil does everything possible for this road to be built.

However, this situation does not explain why the Bolivian government has avoided questioning the inhabitants of TIPNIS first. There are reasons that may explain this negligence. We see: the road was divided into three sections. There is a section in the

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north of TIPNIS (part of the Beni Department), a section in the centre in the largest part of TIPNIS, and a section in the south, which is part of Chapare in the Department of Cochabamba, where Evo Morales has its strongest support. On closer inspection we have to realize that both the construction of the northern and the southern part of the road had started as early as 2011.

Of course, the coca producers of Chapare have a special interest in this road in order to better reach unsettled regions of TIPNIS. This is a suspicion that makes sense. On the one hand there is a great demand for land by the coca growers. On the other hand, the new constitution (see Article 399), prevents every opportunity to get hold on the large landowners' estates. There seems to be no alternative for the coca growers than to grab the indigenous communities' land. These arbitrary attacks will increase with the construction of the road, despite the intention of the government to punish this offense.

But let us return to our consideration why no survey was conducted. It is possible that Evo Morales and his colleagues thought they did not need the consent of the TIPNIS inhabitants for the construction of the road (Part 2 from Villa Tunari to San Ignacio de Moxos) just as they had not needed for Part 1 and Part 3, because they hold the absolute majority in parliament and they hold governmental power. Since Evo Morales considers himself the President of the Indigenous Peoples, he had certainly believed that they would blindly trust him. But we must also take into consideration the lack of executive laws to carry out a survey. Only the March of Indigenous People forced the Bolivian Parliament to adopt such laws.

When everything with respect to the road construction seemed to have been done, the inhabitants of TIPNIS called for the 8th march together with the *National Council of the Ayllu and Marka of Qollasuyo (CON-AMAQ)*, which represents the indigenous people of the Altiplano and the valleys. At first, the government did not take much notice of the march, but then it realized the enormous popularity it gained. Police forces stopped the marchers near the village Chaparina. This intervention made the march even more popular. On 24 October 2011 there was no other alternative for Evo Morales' government than to adopt the Law No 180, which prohibits the construction of the road and renders TIPNIS untouchable.

There is no doubt that Morales, Linaera and his colleagues were in a bad position. Days later, they foamed with rage. As TIPNIS is now untouchable, they proceed against the foreign investors there. Even the breeding of lizards by the locals in TIPNIS will not be spared. On 11 No-

vember 2011 the environmental license for the tourist trader *Untamed Angling SA* was withdrawn. The company had built holiday cabins in TIPNIS from local natural materials. The tourists were flown in from Santa Cruz by helicopter. The exclusiveness of this tourism was known. Undoubtedly the residents also benefitted by work and income. The residents were not dependent on public assistance. But instead of taking care for the indigenous people to benefit more by this kind of tourism the government rather destroys every means of income. It really is a paranoid attitude to call for foreign investors on the one hand – as is the case with lithium mining – but prohibit foreign, non-extractive investments.

The manipulated survey

The law prohibiting the construction of the road allows the government to gain time. Morales has only now been torn out of his lust for power and understands that a survey is necessary. But his attitude is not honest: He does not want the survey to bring about a decision as to whether the road is built or not, but simply to justify its construction.

They speak of a "preliminary survey", but in reality it is a survey afterwards. This is contrary to the constitution. Actually, the government would have to work to ensure that the constitution is amended. However, they do not, but their followers (CONISUR) started a march from Chapare to La Paz for the enforcement of a survey. They require the construction of the road and ask to be consulted about it. In February 2012, parliament passed the Act No 222 with the intention to conduct the "preliminary survey". And now the government and its supporters present themselves as defenders of the constitution. The show is perfect.

In contrast to that, the TIPNIS inhabitants organized the IXth march. On 18 June 2012, six days prior to their arrival in La Paz, the Constitutional Court declared the "conditional constitutionality" of law 222 and the other law 180 as unconstitutional. The conditional conformity refers to the agreement between the adversaries. Thus, the new court of 2011 misses out on the chance to be an independent instrument of the constitutional state. Nonetheless, in the

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Working conference**Lithium exploitation in Bolivia –
over exploitation or equity of resources?****The working conference is taking place:**

On Saturday 22 September 2012, from 9:00 to 17:40,
in Germany, Leipzig, University of Leipzig,
New department building (room no. 401–403, entrance over the courtyard),
Universitätsstr. 1, D-04109 Leipzig

Organizer: Ayni e.V.

Contact: Dr Muruchi Poma, Bernhard-Görling-Str. 148, D-04277 Leipzig.
Phone: 0049- (0)341-3029397.
Mail: tanitani1@web.de

Registration

Preferably until 22 August 2012;
E-Mail: tanitani1@web.de
Registration fee: 10 euro; Reduction 5 euro (i.e. for students) on request,
payment by cash or bank transfer at the beginning of the conference.
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Request

The development of rechargeable lithium-ion batteries, their widespread use for a variety of applications in the electronic industry and the coming of electric and hybrid cars have brought the saline lake of Uyuni and its lithium reserves (the largest in the world) to the industry's focus of attention.

This salt desert has turned into an important place of pilgrimage for scientists, industry managers and tourists. In contrast, the local residents look confused, curious and stunned on those who drill and build basins in the saline lake. They are told that lithium is mined, one thing they do not know.

Scientists of international reputation concerning the theme of lithium will appear at the conference. Personalities from the Bolivian Community, students and the interested public have the opportunity to bring forward and discuss their ideas.

White drinking milk from green roughage

Switzerland is grassland

by Heini Hofmann

It is hardly imaginable: Switzerland was once forested up to the treeline. Nowadays grassland is dominating. About 80 percent of the agriculturally used area of 1.5 million hectares is covered by meadows and pastures. However, without the farmers' work the original state would once more become reality within a few decades!

Environmental conditions of our country such as soil and climate favor and are almost perfect for the growth of grass for fodder. Quite apart from the fact that in the Jura, in the Alpine foothills and in the actual mountain area few alternatives to growing fodder and forestry exist. Therefore white milk and red meat is produced from green grass. And because this processing of grass and hay into milk and butter is happening between the poles of economy and ecology, it concerns both producers and consumers.

Swiss milk = roughage milk

Helvetia's total area can be roughly divided into three pieces of cake: 30 percent unproductive area, 30 percent forest and woodland and 40 percent of agricultural



(picture agroscope ART)

land. Of the latter roughly four fifths are grassland vegetation (artificial and natural meadows and pastures), from which annually 8 to 10 million tons of roughage (calculated as hay) are yielded.

Grasses, clover and herbs are enhanced by the grazers among the farm animals to high-quality foods such as meat and milk.

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term "agreement" (Spanish: concertación), the indigenes of the ninth march see the chance of having a dialogue with the parliament and the executive authority.

Meanwhile, the IXth march reached La Paz on 24 June. The grand reception of October 2011 does not repeat. It becomes a defeat. They do not achieve the abolition of law 222. They do not realize that the state machinery for the said preliminary interview is in full swing. While they were marching, Evo Morales and his supporters from Chapare were in the TIPNIS all that time, giving away laptops, cell phones, outboard engines and other goods. This was to bribe the residents who stayed at home. Also, the leaders of the IXth march were accused by the government of being the henchmen of imperialism, because Adolfo Chávez of the CIDOB held out a hand to the Santa Cruz Governor and other large landowners. It was also clearly evident that the Catholic Church was behind the march. Many of whom had supported March VIII were deterred from joining in. There is strong indication that even the police revolt of mid-June was labeled as part of the conspiracy of the ones marching against the government.

When the marchers arrived in La Paz, Evo Morales was on tour, as all too often. Even after his return, he was not prepared to get in contact with the leaders of the IXth march. Linera and his ministers took the same stand. Instead, the government continued to follow the path of splitting the indigenous people. Thus, the indigenes from Chapare and CONISUR (Evo Morales' loyalists) were brought to La Paz, where they staged a "monologue". They approved of the survey and made the request for constructing the road. Thereafter, the march IX-participants decided to return to their communities in TIPNIS in order to put up resistance to the survey. Parallel to that they filed a motion in protection of the constitution with the court in Sucre, in order to achieve compliance with all legislation. They argue that the survey protocol is totally unknown to them. The court rejected the motion. The government ministers made clear that they would talk to the TIPNIS communities. They will most likely question them until the citizens finally surrender and agree to the construction. One has to realize that those who are in favor of the road construction are the same who carry out the survey. At that, one should know that the participants of the IXth march are probably also in favor of the road construction; however, they do not wish the road to run across the center but alongside

the edge of the park. The peak of the government's impertinence had been reached when a lawsuit was filed against the leaders of the IXth march.⁵

The Morales government may have roads built anywhere in the country. Yet, it may neither trample on the constitution nor on laws. It moves within the wake of lawlessness and abuse of power and, even worse, it sows hatred amongst the indigenes. In this, it does the same as colonialism and neo-colonialism have always tried to do. What the government is trying to combat is becoming its own instrument.

The text was translated from Spanish by Andrea Roscher-Muruchi.

(Translation *Current Concerns*)

¹ Cf. Dittmann, Wencke. *Starke Gesellschaft – Schwacher Staat. Entwicklung der Bevölkerungspartizipation am Schutzgebietsmanagement in Bolivien*. Dissertation. Leipzig, September 2010, p. 33f

² Cf. Prada Alcoveza, Raul. *En Torno al TIPNIS* http://www.amigo-latino.de/indigena/noticias/newsletter_07_11/461_09EntornoalTIPNIS_rp.html (accessed 21.09.2011)

³ Cf. "Request for the protection of the Constitution" by Fernando Vargas Mosua. The document is dated 27.07.2012.

⁴ Cf. Constitution of Bolivia, Art. 30, No 15.

⁵ See: http://www.laprensa.com.bo/ciario/actualidad/bolivia/20120809/el-gobierno-inicia-juicios-por-la-consulta_31265_49998.html (accessed 13.08.2012)

"Switzerland is grassland ..."

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These are Switzerland's 1.6 million cattle (of which more than 700,000 are dairy cows), 430,000 sheep, 66,000 goats and 51,000 horses. If they were fed with concentrated feed (e.g. cereals, soya), they would be competitors for the food of man. On average, three-quarters of the food of our dairy cows is roughage, and only a quarter is concentrated feed. In certain countries, the ratio is reversed.

Therefore, Swiss milk is roughage milk. To meet its nutrient requirements, a cow must be fed with about 100 kg green fodder or about 15 kg of hay per day (plus 50 liters of water). And because in Swiss meadows neither insecticides against fungi pests nor fungicides are used, the milk of our cows also has a quality advantage.

Dairy cows – refinement miracles

Unlike cows human beings possess (like horses and pigs) only a glandular stomach. Cows on the other hand have a ruminant stomach, consisting of three chambers (the rumen of 150 liters, the reticulum of 8 liters and the omasum of 11 liters) and a glandular stomach (abomasum of 15 liters).

Therefore, the cow is a real phenomenon, which will be exemplified by intensive farming in the Swiss Central Plateau: An average cow eats the roughage yield of half an acre meadow in a year, thus generating 5,500 liters of milk – an almost 'super animal' performance since a cheese maker can produce for example 100 Appenzeller cheeses à 5 kg or 38 kg of butter or some 30,000 yogurts with these amounts of milk.

This miraculous transformation of grass into milk happens in several steps: In the rumen, the grass is watered down and processes with the help of bacteria. The reticulum returns insufficiently crushed material into the mouth for rumination. The omasum withdraws then the mash water, while in the abomasum the actual digestion takes place. In the gut finally nutrients from the digested slurry can be transferred into the blood, which carries them to the udder, where milk is produced from water and nutrients.

The cycle of nutrients

The principle of give and take also applies to the use of agricultural resources.

The farmers' objective must therefore be: closed nutrient cycles and balanced nutrient balance for grasses, clover and herbs extract nutrients from the soil such as nitrogen, phosphorus or potassium. Grass-eating animals ingest them, but the majority of them are again excreted via faeces and urine. This cycle is closed by applying natural fertilizer such as manure and slurry.

However, 10 to 20 percent of the nutrients leave that cycle as milk and meat. They are replaced by small amounts of concentrated feeds and mineral fertilizers. In addition the ability of clovers to fix nitrogen from the air spares an intensive nitrogen fertilization, which is common practice in foreign farming of artificial fodder (= seeded, pure grass stock).

Even cows are gourmets and prefer young, succulent plants from meadows rich in energy, protein, minerals, trace elements and vitamins. And because our dairy cows receive small amounts of concentrated feeds, they heavily rely on high-quality roughage. This automatically leads to a balance between economy and ecology, between intensification and extensification.

Diverse types of meadow

Since our animals have to achieve these performances and concentrated feeds should be used sparingly, a majority of roughage derives from medium and very intensively managed meadows. If the latter are mowed or grazed four to six times a year, very soon species prevail that are resistant to frequent cutting or bite, namely ryegrass, meadow grass, meadow fox-tail, white clover and dandelion meadow.

In medium intensively managed meadows are found cocksfoot, high growing herbs like cow parsley and hogweed and red clover and alfalfa in sown meadows. In agricultural areas such sown meadows are the basis of cattle feeding and also an important link in crop rotation by suppressing weeds and plant diseases and improving soil structure.

What the layman likes better are less intense or even extensively managed meadows.

Typical of the former are meadows with wildflowers and late first cuttings. Income is low, though the benefits for biodi-

versity are big. The most important example of extensively managed grassland with only one or two cuttings per year is the lean, unfertilized brome meadow on dry, sunny slopes. It is the most diverse community of plants.

Where have all the flowers gone?

As a result of intensive farming species-rich, flourishing hay meadows in the Swiss Central Plateau have become particularly scarce. But they would provide a habitat for endangered plants and small wildlife (insects, birds, etc.), and also embellish the landscape and offer a true feast for the eyes, including those of tourists.

In order to produce seeds such meadows have to be mowed late, which means that forage yield and quality are low. And also because society is divided (cheap products versus paradise conditions), and there is foreign competition of large area, which produce more efficiently and therefore cheaper, farmers get between the hammer and anvil.

To bring economy and ecology back into line, i.e. full milk cans versus bouquets, agriculture has accomplished a lot in recent years. This attempt to square the circle is called graded management of meadows of a farm, ranging from intensive (roughage for performance animals) to low intensity (fodder for young cattle, infertile adult animals, sheep or horses). Such creations of natural habitats on the basis of compensations will in the long-term probably only work if the consumers' thinking goes along.

Meadows in comparison

Different types of meadow at the same location have different yields:

On one hectare (10,000 m²) of lowland meadows 12,400 liters of milk can be produced on an intensive grass-white clover meadow with five cuttings, whereas on an extensive, flower-filled hay meadow with just two to three cuttings this only amounts to 6,600 liters. This gap also applies to mountain areas, only that feed and milk yields are generally lower. •

(Translation *Current Concerns*)