

# Current Concerns

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## Weather instead of climate – a liberating idea

European Union plays the part of the driving force behind the climate change sham

by Dr phil Wolfgang Thüine, meteorologist

*We are changing the climate, and the climate is changing us. Climate protection is therefore a magic word in a double sense. It releases our endorphins, calms us and creates a comfortable mood; however there is something dangerous about it, because the security is deceptive. Nothing in life is more volatile than the climate. Inclinations may constantly change, even without our intervention. In the daily "struggle for existence" climatic disasters are therefore quite normal and can hit everyone unexpectedly. Our whole way of thinking and acting is aimed at being able to live in a good climate as well as in a pleasant atmosphere. Climate protection therefore meets with general approval, whether in society, in the media, in politics, economics or science. Everybody wants to be a beneficiary and promises his contribution for the improvement of the climate. Many want to make money from the climate; others are admonishers, scholars and saviors. There is a boom for the genre "do-gooders" who make the most of the climate disaster.*

Prior to the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, the German Foundation for World Population in Berlin thought to be particularly inventive with its claim "birth control helps climate". Even if the climate change may be something quite normal, it may spread fear and terror, when it is presented as a sudden event. We do not like sudden strikes of lightning. They interfere with our security needs. We want to control everything, have everything under control, but sometimes things develop their own momentum and get out of control. Probably the worst climatic crisis for politics was the sudden collapse of the financial climate. The bursting of the bubble had plunged some banks into ruin and developed an apocalyptic climate. The business and economic climate, the investment and stock market climate, the consumption and labor market climate deteriorated dramatically. The social climate threatened to be engulfed as well.

Besides, there is a climate that has not interested us at any time, because it does

not matter in our daily lives. For some unknown reason scientists started to make it a problem case some fifty years ago. In the United States of America people spoke about the "vulnerability to climatic change", about fears of the "man-made climatic catastrophe" in 1975. This concern was expressed by the American National Research Council in the study "Understanding Climatic Change – A Program for Action". The fear of man-made climate disasters spread onto the World Meteorological Organization in Geneva and the United Nations and sparked a kind of climatic pandemic at the expert level. In 1975, the Max-Planck-Institute for Meteorology was established in Hamburg. After the 1<sup>st</sup> United Nations Climate Change Conference in Geneva in 1979, the number of media reports increased by reports such as "The Earth has a fever", "World climate in danger", "Climate change threatens billions of people", and even a collapse of the climate, a global climate disaster was not excluded. The highlight? "The earth has only 13 more years to live" was the conclusion of the UN Climate Change Report in 2007. If the forecast for the 2020 doomsday were to be averted and global warming is to be slowed down, the emissions of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide would have to be reduced immediately, climate experts advised.

In view of the approaching apocalypse with the Linal Judgment climate change was lifted up into religious spheres and made a matter of protecting the Creation. The Christian religions were made responsible for all environmental sins because they had followed the biblical instruction "Subdue the earth"! With a bad conscience, they adopted the slogan of the environmental movement. As a gesture of obedience and prior to the UN Climate Summit in Berlin in March 1995, the Council of the Evangelical Church in Germany published the study "Endangered climate – our responsibility for God's Creation". The church did, however, refer to the reliability of the Noah's covenant "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease" and em-

phasized that God had kept his word. Man has defied this constant change of weather in the course of the days and years, in defiance of the impending "storm clouds". Why did the Genesis speak of the weather though, but not of the climate?

After the 1<sup>st</sup> UN climate summit in March 1995, federal minister for the Environment *Angela Merkel* said: "Climate protection is one of the greatest environmental challenges today and in the future." The director of the UN World Climate Research Program in Geneva, *Hartmut Grassl*, assisted the minister. In a joint publication of the Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation they both asked the anxious question, "Can our climate still be saved?" At that time, the word "climate" had become internalized and had developed such a momentum that no responsible person in church, politics, business and science dared to ask for the origin of the word "climate", what it meant and how it was defined. In order to save the climate *Hartmut Grassl* said, "The implementation of the Convention will still keep our children and grandchildren busy. We must assume that the Climate Convention may have roughly reached a first milestone in 2050." The composure of the UN Special Representative for Climate Change should have made us suspicious. If there had really been an imminent danger, why should the factor time play no longer a decisive role?

Meanwhile, in Copenhagen, the 15<sup>th</sup> climate summit has already been climbed without the weather making even the tiniest attempts to adapt to climate standards. Hardly anyone can assume what kind of obscure role politics and science play in this game. Only a few have ever suspected that fears are to be fueled by imaginary dangers in order to change inclinations, to achieve a redistribution of power and domination and to secure new sources of tax revenues. The pandemic of raising "ecotaxes" is spreading. It conveys the image of medieval indulgences, which brought forward the monk *Martin Luther* and led to schism, i.e. to Reformation.

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Such questions have been suppressed, but they are still waiting to be answered. Politics washes its hands of it and refers to the scientific world and its consensus opinion. The latter has been "approved" of by the majority of politicians so that all players can exculpate each other. In particular, the international court of arbitration IPCC behaves like a supreme instance of knowledge, which rules out any individual criticism. As an expert meteorologist and sociologist, I allow myself to take the role of a naive child and to say frankly: "But the emperor is naked!" There is no global climate. However, those who are courageous enough to oppose the zeitgeist, which dominates the climate of opinion, come into conflict with the authorities and can hear stereotypical responses like: majorities are always right; the world's top climate experts cannot be mistaken. And how they can be mistaken! Even if the greenhouse construct is built out of a concrete mix of hard truths, half truths and untruths and surrounded by high walls of protection, it has fundamental weaknesses which, although well-concealed, are yet visible with a keen eye.

**First, the terms are to be clarified**

The presented book aims at training this view on construction flaws and is therefore quite unconventional. As an author I trust both in expertise and in judgment and follow the imperative of the Konigsberg philosopher *Immanuel Kant*, "Sapere Aude". This was the motto of Enlightenment. Who does not have the civil courage to summon the courage to use his own brains, will never achieve an independent judgment, will never free himself from his self-imposed immaturity. This includes the advice of *Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel*, that at the beginning of any scientific activity we have to work on the concept. Words are our primary means of expression and communication, but only if their meaning is revealed. Ambiguous words such ambiguous terms can distract, mislead, manipulate, and be used as weapons. Words can even "kill"!

The word "climate" is of Greek origin and means "inclination" and defies definition because it says nothing about the strength and direction of the inclination as well as its variability. Our whole life is a struggle for inclinations about the climate. Literally, there is a climate disaster, if an inclination is overturned in an entirely unexpected way and love turns into hate, affection turns into resentment. Every politician is an acrobat of words, a word artist, because he has to compete for the favorable climate among voters and win their affection. The modern game is the juggling

with climate fears and dangers in order to be able to advertise and air oneself as a savior.

**Climate is a static concept – a locally and temporarily abstract construct**

"Climate" is not only an expression of affection, but also a term that – although scientifically defined – cannot be experienced in practice. Each climatic value is a statistically calculated and thus an abstract value without reality. It is widely interpreted and interpretable. Geologists and paleontologists understand something completely different when they talk about "climate" and "climate change" than meteorologists and climatologists. The World Meteorological Organization defines climate as the "average weather" in one place over a fixed 30-year period. Since you cannot feel average values, there is the phenomenon of the meteoropathy, but no climatopathy. Averages are no guidelines. Just like not a single man's life complies with the statistically calculated average life expectancy, the weather does not comply with the climate as average weather. Climate is a locally and temporally abstract construct. Via the abstraction of the abstraction of the abstraction in space and time we will make it to the global climate, from which the global temperature has been laboriously deducted.

The climate protection policy has set up things psychologically in an extremely intelligent way. According to Sir *Karl Popper*, its statements can neither be verified nor falsified. If in the future an increase in "weather extremes" is claimed in the most general way, and increasing heat and drought periods, cold and wet periods, storms and other weather conditions are announced without specification of place and time, the Prophet can never be wrong, but we should at least be suspicious. Climate experts are real reduction artists, scientific dreamers. They surrender to the weather dynamics, leaving the ungrateful weather forecast to meteorologists and indulge in first predicting the world's end and then promising the paradise on earth with an eternal "weather and climate balance".

With the "climate" as a construct derived from the weather, man has slipped into the role of a "creator". He has created a "second reality" besides the natural one. In this reality he sees himself as God, who calls for the protection of his creation! One can compare the transition from weather to climate with the transition from representational to abstract painting. *Wasily Kandinsky* painted the first abstract painting in 1911. The level of abstraction was determined by the artist. The expert does so for the climate. Climatology was a descriptive science in the context of geography, as the division of the earth in the

climate atlas shows. The data processing by computers was able to create a "climate reality" beside the weather reality and to convince people that this is the "super-reality", which is sitting in judgment on us, the climate offenders and threatens us with the maximum penalty of the "climate disaster". The "Azores high" and the "Icelandic low" are such statistic bogus structures that have no reality and therefore exert no influence on the weather.

In his 1966 book "The representation of nature in contemporary physics", *Werner Heisenberg* mentioned the great danger that abstractions could develop a life of their own in our minds and abrogate the line between physics and metaphysics or reality and virtuality. The Nobel physicist warned of the situation that a person resolves nature into models of his own thinking, and then believes he could rule nature with these models and impose his will on it. The climate experts succumbed to this temptation. They have represented the complexity of nature in simple models, and are now convinced that they can calculate the climate for any length of time without the weather. There is no greater delusion than that. The obedient computers however only reflect their model fantasies, nothing else. Climate experts revive the ancient art of fortune telling and give the impression that they might look into the future just like the clairvoyants with their "second sight" could look into a "second reality".

With the creation of "climate physics" the outdated "mechanistic worldview", the figure of "Laplace's demon" re-emerged on the scene. This demon resurrects the belief that the universe works like clockwork and everything is causally determined. The environmental movement as a new "eco-religion" has taken hold of this demon and raises the claim for leadership over the seven major world religions. It has declared climate protection to be protection of the creation and everybody humbly nodded. The "greenhouse" is like the temple, the spiritual superstructure, in which the eco-priests celebrate their "sacred act" of climate change. Not the Creator God, the Creator of man or superman determines his own fate and the future of the earth. If we do not want to change freedom for global bureaucracy and dirigisme, we should tackle with these new climate rulers in time.

The art of abstraction has made its arrival in many areas of life. In politics, the trend shows that the well-being of society has been placed above the welfare and dignity of the individual. Politics brings happiness to the "greatest number". Their magic word is "social justice". The sociological worldview of *Auguste Comte* is

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## Questions to Dr Wolfgang Thüne

*Climate catastrophes are worldwide on the rise – if that's no proof for global warming, what else is it?*

The statement of an increase in the number of climate catastrophes is at the same time both wrong and right. Wrong, because there is no such phenomenon in nature as “climate”, notwithstanding the fact that the fear of a climate change is a favourite fiction the climate experts like to tell us. However it is a spectre without substance. Since “climate” is an abstract entity deduced from the weather, talking about weather catastrophes makes sense but “climate catastrophes” don't. Classical climatology is a geographical-historical science studying the weather in retrospect in order to describe it and deduce typical regional characteristics which can be put down in climate maps. As for me as a meteorologist, I cannot picture such a thing as the “average weather pattern” at, say, Luxembourg during the period of 1961 to 1990. And the average temperature, being just one among a whole range of weather elements, is by no means sufficient to describe “climate”! We know: heat or frost waves, drought or flood periods, tornados and hurricanes, the seven years of abundance and of famine in the Bible – all of these are weather events occurring very randomly but never periodically or in cycles. Firstly, they cannot be predicted over a longer period, and even if one should succeed in predicting them, there is no way to influence or prevent them. Since man cannot change the weather, we are bound to adjust to it and protect ourselves from its consequences. This is the main task of all weather services on earth: to make short-term predictions as accurately as possible. As long as weather services

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based on the idea of “man as a machine”, which the “social engineers” are assigned to make use of. In this way, all the levers of modern media and entertainment industry are operated around the clock to turn us into good “social beings” who obey on command. Who are the programmers?

Our greatest weakness is thus exploited, the inherent fear. The birth cry is an expression of fear, of not getting enough affection, of starving. The child needs parental care and protection before it can enter the “struggle for existence”, the “struggle for climate”. Tormented by the fear for survival, every person is emotionally and without rational examination grateful for offers of protection. The main thing is that the timid “gut instinct” is calmed. The word “climate protection” creates an emotional exhilara-

The banker *David Rockefeller* before the “UN Business Council” in 1994: “We are on the verge of a global transformation. All we need is the right major crisis and the nations will accept the New World Order.” p. 574

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*Henry Kissinger*: “Today's worldwide upheavals and the extraordinary reception *Barack Obama* enjoys around the world are an ideal background to create a new world order” p.574

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All decision makers know very well that manias are practically immune against logical argument. Still there is justified hope that the fear campaign intimidating people with the imminent climate catastrophe is approaching its climax. More and more scientists take the courage to use their own reason thereby implementing *Immanuel Kant's* maxim of enlightenment. They dare to come out from under cover and voice harsh criticism of the artificial construction “greenhouse”. p. 577

Source: *Wolfgang Thüne, Propheten im Kampf um den Klimathron (Prophets in the struggle for the climate throne)*. 2011, ISBN: 978-3-00-035070-2



cannot even make reliable prognoses for the coming weeks, let alone one year in advance, any climate forecast is mere tea leaves reading or “Spökenkiekerelei”.

As for the mentioned “climate warming”, the younger geological history of the recent one million years has seen a continuous up and down of the temperatures with ice-ages and warm intervals. Surprisingly enough, warmer phases have always been described as “climate optima” in history, as good times with rich harvests. Were a “global temperature” of 15 degrees centigrade indeed the measure of all things, central Europe with our 8 to 10 degrees would hardly contribute to that at all. Should we succeed in lowering the tem-

peratures in the tropics and raising them in the middle and polar zones, in short creating a single “world temperature” for all human beings alike, this would certainly bring us closer to a vision of “global climate justice”. But from a physical standpoint this is utter ideological-utopian nonsense, since earth happens to be a “sphere” rotating within the radiation cone of the sun. [...]

*You criticize the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change IPCC. Isn't that a club of eminent scientists?*

The world climate panel is anything but a scientific body, unlike a fictional world

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tion in the subconscious mind. I trust in anyone who pretends to protect me! However, the subconscious mind does not realize that this is only playing with feelings and inclination reflexes. As helpful as the “gut instinct” may be, it is not equipped with the cool reason to realize that the “climate” is just a bogey and is misused to individually and collectively provoke artificial anxieties that do not exist in reality.

Politicians and climate experts were smart enough not to promise weather protection. There are fog and freezing rain, which can paralyze the air and road traffic. Weather protection means protection from the weather and never protecting the weather. The weather does not require our protection, it does anyway as it pleases. Either sunscreen, or rain gear, cold or wind protection, they all do not protect the sun, the rain, the wind and the frost. Even more astonishing is that the dialectical

trick, climate change was intended to protect the climate, has remained undetected in our “information society”. This is a proof how anxious we are by nature, and how blind we follow alleged shepherds. Those who devised the term “climate protection” had something in mind.

Whatever climate protection measures were decided on the 15<sup>th</sup> climate summit in Copenhagen by the 192 leaders of this world and will be negotiated at the 16<sup>th</sup> summit in Cancun, Mexico, it won't change anything for terrestrial weather patterns. Weather will remain what it has always been for humanity: a mystery. And that's a good thing! •

The text is an introduction to the book, “Propheten im Kampf um den Klimathron” (Prophets in the struggle for the climate throne).

(Translation *Current Concerns*)

## The “greenhouse effect” is mere fiction!

But what is not correct with the picture of the earth as a “greenhouse”? Which approximations and idealizations have been made tacitly and where are thus the discrepancies between model and reality? The bifurcation in thought, which finally leads to the total discrepancy between model and reality, lies in the assumption “equilibrium of radiation”. It is true, the *Stefan-Boltzmann-Law* describes sufficiently correct the grand total of the electromagnetic radiation emitted by black bodies on the basis of the model of “cavity radiation”, it must not be misused deliberately, however, to calculate sun and earth via the black “cavity” into a “equilibrium of radiation”. Any scientist, especially any physicist must know that the “Laws of Thermodynamics”<sup>1</sup> are only valid in the ideal case of “closed systems” in “thermodynamic equilibrium”. The “principle of conservation of energy” is only valid for the whole universe, but under no circumstances for an isolated subsystem like our solar system. It is certainly not valid for the combined systems “sun–earth”. Both systems are “open systems”, in fact the earth would not be viable if it not were an “open ecosystem”. [...]

**By choosing the Stefan-Boltzmann-Law, “climatology” tinkered a “globalization trap”, from which they cannot free themselves honorably.**

On the one hand they propagate the “solar community” and in the same breath they declare the sun so energetically impotent that its enormous radiation could “heat” the earth as a black body “globally” to some ice cold  $-18^{\circ}\text{C}$ . To express it graphically: the “climate experts” reverse the command of the Creator “let there be light” and turn off the light of the sun as source of

all life. A white radiation emitter of  $1373\text{ W/m}^2$  becomes a dark radiation emitter of  $240\text{ W/m}^2$ . Only a “trick” can help to escape this fatal model dilemma – the invention of a “counter radiation”, because in the thermodynamic equilibrium the boundary of the cavity must be heated up to  $390\text{ W/m}^2$ , so that the included “minuscule carbon dust” called earth gets a radiation temperature of  $+15^{\circ}\text{C}$ . This magic should be done by “greenhouse gases”, but they cannot do so due to general physical considerations. The emission of energy of a body is a perpetual process that depends only on its temperature and covers a wide continuous wavelength range. The spreading of electromagnetic radiation neither needs a carrier medium, nor “air ether”, not even an atmosphere.

At best an atmosphere can absorb “radiation” from the broad spectrum of long-wave “thermal radiation” by particular gases and warm up. But just like the atmosphere is transparent for the solar light radiation, so it is for wide ranges of the invisible thermal radiation of the earth. These ranges are colloquially called – not quite correct though “open atmospheric radiation windows”<sup>3</sup>. According to the view of the Commission of Inquiry and thus their advising “climate experts”, about “70 to 90 percent of the radiation of the earth’s surface” leak directly to the outer space through the window between “7 and  $13\ \mu\text{m}$ ” that the “greenhouse gases” cannot close and therefore does not exist in reality. With the absorption range at  $15\ \mu\text{m}$  the carbon dioxide molecules can oppose courageously the continuous “heat stream” of the earth between 3 and  $60\ \mu\text{m}$  and besides they can “energize” themselves, but

they never can “heat” the warmer earth against a temperature and heat grade.

The entire “greenhouse model” is both a theoretical and a reductionist model and therefore has nothing to do with reality. The “natural greenhouse effect” is, though it could rise to a political dogma, an ideological artifact, a utopian fiction. The “destruction campaign” against carbon dioxide as the “climate-killing” and “environment-harming” “greenhouse gas” bears the characteristics of a pathological “doomsday desire”. Indeed, if they succeeded in totally eliminating the “climate killer” carbon dioxide from the atmosphere on account of a socio-politically excessively fuelled fear for the “climate disaster”, all life would be transformed to the deadly “state of equilibrium”. •

<sup>1</sup> Kleine Enzyklopädie, Atom- und Kernphysik, Frankfurt a. Main 1983, p. 303. “Experience shows, that the macroscopic state of a closed system that neither can exchange energy nor matter with its surroundings will not change any more after a shorter or longer time. The system is then in its thermodynamic state of equilibrium.”

<sup>2</sup> Enquete-Kommission (Commission of Inquiry), *ibid.*, p. 189. “This greenhouse effect (of  $33^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) only makes life on earth possible, because without it the earth would be extensively frozen.”

<sup>3</sup> Enquete-Kommission, *ibid.*, p. 22 a, p. 188. Concerning “equilibrium of radiation” it says on p. 187: “Because the atmosphere is colder than the earth’s surface, the thermal radiation of the atmosphere that reaches the earth’s surface is correspondingly lower. Therefore there is a gap of about  $100\text{ W/m}^2$  in the radiation balance.” The report is full of such contradictions and curiosities.

<sup>4</sup> Enquete-Kommission, *ibid.*, p. 189/90. “The energetically most important window ranges are the open atmospheric steam window (7 to  $13\ \mu\text{m}$ ), in which the IR radiation of the earth’s surface is highest at least for temperatures between  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $+50^{\circ}\text{C}$ , and the spectral range 13 to  $18\ \mu\text{m}$ , [...].”

Source: [www.derwettermann.de](http://www.derwettermann.de)

(Translation *Current Concerns*)

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weather panel with all members being meteorologists. It likes to pose as an assembly of the world’s best climate experts, but in reality the world climate panel is a political enterprise. This is already reflected by the name IPCC with the I standing for “Intergovernmental” and P for “Panel”. It is an intergovernmental advisory panel, installed by the governments, an arbitral court, some members of which are hand-picked streamlined expert scientists, but the majority are bureaucrats, stakeholders and lobbyists of non-governmental organisations, especially from the green spectrum. Neither is it a club of eminent nor excellent scientists, however their political weight is so huge and their self-esteem

so elitist that it likes to declare their “consensus agreements” achieved by majority voting to be dogmas beyond the realm of professional criticism.

The noblest principle of scientific doubt, which is the cornerstone of all progress, is at risk to be eliminated here. But this would mean that science returns to faith, to non-knowing. He who negates “hell” has to do the same with its synonym “greenhouse”. Especially scientific subjects most relevant to society are once again ideologically misused, and the disdain scientists refusing to acknowledge the greenhouse effect doctrine are going through shows that. Should science turn into a democratic enterprise with “natural laws” being approved and voted on according to the majority principle, we better start all over again with *René Descartes*,

the father of “analytical thought” and his “cogito ergo dubito, ergo sum” (I think therefore I doubt therefore I am) If everybody realized that each one of us may suddenly have to face climate or weather catastrophes in any situation and that the state’s task of organizing harmony and peace in society with its diverse interests therefore has highest priority, that on the other hand the state promising to prevent extreme weather conditions from happening by means of climate protection is utter nonsense, this would already help a lot. Overcoming our fears makes us free of real or imagined dependencies, and opens the door for the freedom of thought. •

Source: [www.derwettermann.de](http://www.derwettermann.de)

(Translation *Current Concerns*)



# Central and Eastern Europe in the “new world order”

## Globalization and new world order want to build up their rule by means of private schools and universities

by Peter Bachmaier

Globalization in the modern sense began with the liberalization of the world trade and the introduction of neo-liberalism by the United States and Great Britain. It is closely related to the term “new world order”, which was coined by president *Bush* in September 1990 in a speech addressed to the American Congress, after the collapse of the Soviet bloc; and *Bush* added the explanation: a “new world order under US leadership.” This is the international system we have to today.

### The 1989 subversion with the help of the West

The main change in the new world order was the expansion of the West to Central and Eastern Europe, which had belonged to the dominion of the Soviet Union until 1989, but on 2 December 1989 *Gorbachev* “renounced” these countries in the *Malta conference* with president *Bush* and therefore they are now also part of the Western Empire. The collapse of the Soviet bloc and the upheaval in 1989 were due to the inherent weakness of the system, but also to the “western factor”, especially to the offensive by the United States under *Reagan*. The revolution would not have happened in most of the Central and Eastern European countries without the influence of the US *The Charter 77* in Czechoslovakia and *Solidarity* in Poland would not have been able to survive without America’s support. In this victory the western cultural influence played a decisive role, what we now call “soft power”, especially the influence of American pop culture, which entered the Eastern countries partly quite legally by means of radio, television, Hollywood films and cultural exchanges and thus spread “western values”. But that was not the classic European culture, but rather, liberalism, individualism, materialism, Hollywood.

### The new world order in Central and Eastern Europe after 1989

The new world order, which was introduced after the turn of Central and Eastern Europe implied the introduction of the neoliberal model, the dictatorship of money, which has the following features: full liberalization of the economy, dissolving of state property and privatization, dismantling of the state and deregulation, the subordination of the country under the control of foreign capital, and finally the integration into the Western political system, into the EU, NATO, the

World Trade Organization WTO. This reform was controlled by the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, and *subjected to political conditions*.

### US dominance

The intellectual foundations and objectives of the new world order after 1989 were drafted by the “Council on Foreign Relations”; these are documents such as the “Project for the New American Century,” headed and worked out by *William Kristol* and *Richard Perle* in 1997 in order to justify the end of the “era of the Westphalian Peace” and the international law. On the recommendation of this task force president *Bush* denounced the ABM Treaty with Russia in 2001, which had provided a limitation of the missile defense systems. One of the architects of the new order was *Zbigniew Brzezinski*, who called for the division of Russia in his book “The Grand Chessboard: American strategy of domination”, also published in 1997, or he demanded *the National Security Strategy of the United States 2002* and the “Vision 2015” published by the CFR 2008. The result was not the creation of a productive, creative middle class as the backbone of the new society, but a “dependent foreign elite” (*Brzezinski*), a class of “nouveaux riches” that are under the control of the IWF. Today their children study at elite universities in England and America, in order to return with a “new awareness”.

### The EU – a US project

A pillar of the new order is the European Union, which originally was an American project, too, elaborated by *Jean Monnet*, who actually was an American banker and a lobbyist for Wall Street. The plan designed the United States of Europe under American leadership and the dismantling of its nation states. In the treaties of Maastricht in 1992, Copenhagen in 1997 and Lisbon in 2007, the following provisions were set: essentially neo-liberalism with the four freedoms and the dissolution of nation states. The decisions are not made by the European Parliament, but by the European Commission, which is an unelected bureaucracy. The goal is still a centralized super-state with a uniform constitution, adopted in Lisbon, and an economic government.

Central and eastern Europe have been integrated by NATO and the EU into the Western system. The eastern extension was achieved by the EU programs Phare,

Tempus, and particularly by the treaties of accession to the EU in 2004 and 2007, and now there is the “Eastern Partnership” for countries outside the EU.

### The shift in values: Education for the “open society”

The new world order wants to create a new culture, *which replaces the traditional value system with its emphasis on national ideals, history, religion and the family*: it has the aim to establish a liberal, secular and multicultural society. In 2005 the American political scientist *Joseph Nye* coined the term “soft power”. His book is subtitled “The Means to Success to World Politics.” The EU laid down its values in the *Charter of Fundamental Rights of 2000*, which has been monitored by the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights based in Vienna since 2007. The agency is especially devoted to the monitoring of racism, xenophobia and discrimination based on sex, religion and sexual orientation. Culture is no longer a matter of nation states, for this purpose there is a European Commission Directorate-General for Culture, Media and Education, which administers the five-year programs for culture and the “Television without Frontiers”.

### The influence of Western companies on the media

The media in central and eastern Europe are actually controlled by the Western media companies: the News Corporation, *Rupert Murdoch*, the Bertelsmann AG (which owns Poland’s largest daily newspaper “Gazeta Wyborcza” and the biggest tabloid “Fakt”), the Springer Group (which owns the most prestigious daily newspaper in Poland “Rzeczpospolita”), the WAZ Group, the Swiss media group Ringier and the Austrian Styria Verlag, which is active in southeast Europe. The Western media companies are primarily market-oriented and promote a journalism, which has little to do with information, but much to do with image-heavy sensation. The education system is also controlled by the PISA studies and the Bologna process, which aim to unify the education system in terms of training for the market.

### The multicultural society

The multicultural society is determined by, among other things, the Framework

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Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in 1995, which provides reevaluation of minorities and actually affirms their equality with the majority population. An example is the Albanian University of Tetovo in Macedonia, where the language of instruction is Albanian and which produces graduates who have completed their studies in Albanian in a state with a Slavic-Orthodox population. This is the program of secession, which will come as well as in Kosovo, where it also started in the same way, when the Albanians only attended Albanian schools and did not learn Serbian any longer.

#### The role of NGOs

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play a major role in this cultural change and are also called the "third sector", like the "open society" of *Soros* (a major agency of globalization, which opened institutes in all central and eastern European countries, in Budapest already 1984), which advocates a globalized society, separated from national traditions. Examples are American foundations such as the national Endowment for Democracy, the European Cultural Foundation in Amsterdam and many others. The West established private elite institutions like the Central European University in Budapest, the New School for Social Research in Warsaw, the American University in Blagoevgrad near Sofia in Bulgaria, which were expected to train a new elite. A special feature of the new education system is the establishment of private schools and universities. Today there are about 200 private universities in Poland, mostly business schools, which charge tuition fees and guarantee their students to graduate with a diploma.

#### The role of Austria

Austria has had close economic and cultural relations to central and eastern Europe ever since, but it was also used as bridgehead of the West. After 1989 the expansion of the Austrian banks (*Raiffeisen*) to the East played a major role. Austria was given the task by the EU to spread the modern western culture in these countries by means of the organisation "cultural contact". Austria also plays a role in information politics: the official Aus-

tria keeps relations exclusively to the western mass media of the countries of central and eastern Europe. Therefore there is no independent information available. Moreover, only persons known for politically correct views get ever invited to institutes like IDM, IWN, "Diplomatische Akademie" (diplomatic academy). There is no platform for an anti-globalist or EU-critical position. *Richard Sulík*, for example, was never invited to Austria although he was speaker of the parliament. That way the wrong impression is generated that the public opinion in these countries is in favour of the EU and America.

#### Orange revolutions

In reality the eastern enlargement of the EU didn't go so smoothly. In countries where it didn't work, orange revolutions were launched like the one in Serbia in the year 2000 (where the organisation *otpor* was used), in Georgia in 2003, in the Ukraine 2004, in Belarus 2006. However there the revolution didn't succeed, therefore *Obama* imposed sanctions on the country and the EU joined them.

#### Continued resistance against EU-politics

In 1989 the people were against the dictatorship of the Nomenklatura and pro-Europe. But by now they have lost their illusions and they want national independence. They are against Brussels' centralism. They came out of the frying pan and into the fire. Central and eastern Europe today is the prolonged workbench of the West.

There is reinforced resistance against EU-politics, most of all against its growing centralism. During the euro-crisis there was resistance against the bail-out fund and the fiscal union in Slovakia (parliament under speaker of parliament *Sulík* refused the bail-out fund in October 2011), in the Czech Republic which didn't sign the fiscal union agreement, in Hungary under *Orban*, in Slovenia the conservative opposition party of *Janez Jansa* refused the fiscal union. Strong resistance movements exist in Serbia, where the *Serbian Radical Party*, the biggest party of the country, held a big protest rally on 29 September against joining the EU, in Poland where the *Justice and Fairness Party* holds an EU-critical position and in the Baltic states. In Croatia as well the critical attitude towards the EU was so strong that a majority in the ref-

erendum could only come about because half of the people stayed at home.

In the latter countries Swedish banks dominate who are connected with the IWF. In the Baltic States the shock treatment, i.e. the neoliberal experiment, is slowly coming to an end, because the gross domestic product (GDP) is declining and the unemployment rate is about 15%. In Latvia the biggest party is the pro-Russia party again, which however is not allowed to govern. The governments of the three states do all for the access to the euro system from which they expect the cure of all problems.

#### The euro-barometer-survey for the assessment of economy

According to the euro-barometer-survey which investigates the mood of the people in the different countries, in 2008 Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia and Estonia less than 50% consented to the EU and also Poland, Slovakia and Lithuania had only little more than 50% consent, and this mood has not improved since.1

In the latest euro-barometer-survey from December 2011 the consent with the EU was no longer investigated. But the question "How do you assess the economic situation of your country?" was answered in all ten eastern member states with "bad" by 60 to 90% of the respondents. The question "Do you think that the worst is still to come for the labour market?" was answered by the same percentage with "yes".2

The unemployment rate has reached 10 to 15% in all eastern EU-member states, with exception of the Czech Republic and Slovenia.3

#### Alternative: national resistance

The alternative therefore is the endorsement of the nation state, resistance to globalisation and the cooperation with Russia and other countries of eastern Europe. As a neutral state, Austria which has a long tradition of relations to the central and eastern European countries, should also build an alliance with these countries as a counterweight to the West. •

Presentation at the information and discussion evening "Hungary versus Globalisation", Initiative Heimat und Umwelt, Kolpinghaus, 6 March, 2012

<sup>1</sup> *Die Presse*, 26.06.2008

<sup>2</sup> *Eurobarometer*, december 2011

<sup>3</sup> *Eurostat*, 1.3.2012

(Translation *Current Concerns*)

## Our men in Iran?

by Seymour M. Hersh

From the air, the terrain of the Department of Energy's Nevada National Security Site, with its arid high plains and remote mountain peaks, has the look of northwest Iran. The site, some sixty-five miles northwest of Las Vegas, was once used for nuclear testing, and now includes a counterintelligence training facility and a private airport capable of handling Boeing 737 aircraft. It's a restricted area, and inhospitable—in certain sections, the curious are warned that the site's security personnel are authorized to use deadly force, if necessary, against intruders.

### US-funds were covertly passed to a number of dissident organizations

It was here that the *Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC)* conducted training, beginning in 2005, for members of the *Mujahideen-e-Khalq*, a dissident Iranian opposition group known in the West as the *M.E.K.* The *M.E.K.* had its beginnings as a Marxist-Islamist student-led group and, in the nineteen-seventies, it was linked to the assassination of six American citizens. It was initially part of the broad-based rev-

olution that led to the 1979 overthrow of the Shah of Iran. But, within a few years, the group was waging a bloody internal war with the ruling clerics, and, in 1997, it was listed as a foreign terrorist organization by the State Department. In 2002, the *M.E.K.* earned some international credibility by publicly revealing – accurately – that Iran had begun enriching uranium at a secret underground location. *Mohamed ElBaradei*, who at the time was the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations' nuclear monitoring agency, told me later that he had been informed that the information was supplied by the Mossad. The *M.E.K.*'s ties with Western intelligence deepened after the fall of the Iraqi regime in 2003, and JSOC began operating inside Iran in an effort to substantiate the *Bush Administration's* fears that Iran was building the bomb at one or more secret underground locations. Funds were covertly passed to a number of dissident organizations, for intelligence collection and, ultimately, for anti-regime terrorist activities. Directly, or indirectly, the *M.E.K.* ended

up with resources like arms and intelligence. Some American-supported covert operations continue in Iran today, according to past and present intelligence officials and military consultants.

Despite the growing ties, and a much-intensified lobbying effort organized by its advocates, *M.E.K.* has remained on the State Department's list of foreign terrorist organizations – which meant that secrecy was essential in the Nevada training. "We did train them here, and washed them through the Energy Department because the D.O.E. owns all this land in southern Nevada," a former senior American intelligence official told me. "We were deploying them over long distances in the desert and mountains, and building their capacity in communications – coordinating communication is a big deal." (A spokesman for *J.S.O.C.* said that "U.S. Special Operations Forces were neither aware of nor involved in the training of *M.E.K.* members.")

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## Inflation is coming

by Francis Gut



In 2010 *Stefan Risse* published "Die Inflation kommt" (inflation is coming) by the *Finanz- Buch-Verlag* in Munich. In 2011 the book's sixth edition was printed – despite

the fact that the current problems with the situation of Greece and the weakness of the euro had to be disregarded. The fact that the book is easily readable and the most important terms of financial management are explained simply and directly certainly contributes to its popularity.

The structure of the book particularly reminds us of single events of recent years, namely

- the end of the myth of "too big to fail",
- the collapse of the US investment bank Lehman Brothers,
- the wheeling and dealing of the US real estate market due to the too lax granting of credit and the transformation of mortgages into securities
- the currency crises in Asia and Russia 1997/98,
- the collapse of the dotcom-bubble of 2000/01 and the stock market rise in biotechnology shares (microbiology, biochemistry, molecular biology, genetics, bioinformatics and engineering). In short, we are led back to the historical crises of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The author welcomes the fact that today's politicians are not repeating the mistakes of the crises of 1929 in the United States and 1990 in Japan. However, whether the policy of cheap money leads to success remained, according to him, questionable. Debts needed to be reduced, and the most "socially acceptable" way of debt reduction was through inflation. And in this situation, he wants to help the "investors". The author *Stefan Risse* is a stock exchange journalist with *ntv* and works for an English company that trades and sells investments including derivative products.

Thus, the main thrust of the text is given. Although *Stefan Risse* criticizes the policy of cheap money, and acknowledges and verifies that the United States have amassed huge debts, he remains stuck in his presentation of the turmoil of our current business practices and tries to help the investors by explaining the advantages and disadvantages of various investments. Making the causes of the crisis and the huge debt loads accountable is not worth considering.

Fundamental questions about the meaning of economic activity or which form of economy we want at all, or in which way citizens can be more involved in the economy are disregarded, even if the author touches ethical questions and attempts to introduce new, meaningful rules.

The high sales figures of the book show that the public has a strong interest in economic issues. All the more important it is that laymen were able to buy comprehensible and sound books on economic issues.



www.finanzbuchverlag.de  
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**JSOC – a major instrument in the Bush Administration's global war on terror**

The training ended sometime before President *Obama* took office, the former official said. In a separate interview, a retired four-star general, who has advised the Bush and Obama Administrations on national-security issues, said that he had been privately briefed in 2005 about the training of Iranians associated with the M.E.K. in Nevada by an American involved in the program. They got "the standard training," he said, "in comms, crypto [cryptography], small-unit tactics, and weaponry – that went on for six months," the retired general said. "They were kept in little pods." He also was told, he said, that the men doing the training were from JSOC, which, by 2005, had become a major instrument in the Bush Administration's global war on terror. "The JSOC trainers were not front-line guys who had been in the field, but second- and third-tier guys – trainers and the like – and they started going off the reservation. 'If we're going to teach you tactics, let me show you some really sexy stuff...'"

It was the ad-hoc training that provoked the worried telephone calls to him, the former general said. "I told one of the guys who called me that they were all in over their heads, and all of them could end up trouble unless they got something in writing. The Iranians are very, very good at counterintelligence, and stuff like this is just too hard to contain." The site in Nevada was being utilized at the same time, he said, for advanced training of elite Iraqi combat units. (The retired general said he only knew of the one M.E.K.-affiliated group that went through the training course; the former senior intelligence official said that he was aware of training that went on through 2007.)

*Allan Gerson*, a Washington attorney for the M.E.K., notes that the M.E.K. has publicly and repeatedly renounced terror. Gerson said he would not comment on the alleged training in Nevada. But such training, if true, he said, would be "especially incongruent with the State Department's decision to continue to maintain the M.E.K. on the terrorist list. How can the U.S. train those on State's foreign terrorist list, when others face criminal penalties for providing a nickel to the same organization?"

*Robert Baer*, a retired C.I.A. agent who is fluent in Arabic and had worked under cover in Kurdistan and throughout the Middle East in his career, initially had told me in early 2004 of being recruited by a private American company – working, so he believed, on behalf of the Bush Administration – to return to Iraq. "They wanted

me to help the M.E.K. collect intelligence on Iran's nuclear program," Baer recalled. "They thought I knew Farsi, which I did not. I said I'd get back to them, but never did." Baer, now living in California, recalled that it was made clear to him at the time that the operation was "a long-term thing – not just a one-shot deal."

*Massoud Khodabandeh*, an I.T. expert now living in England who consults for the Iraqi government, was an official with the M.E.K. before defecting in 1996. In a telephone interview, he acknowledged that he is an avowed enemy of the M.E.K., and has advocated against the group. Khodabandeh said that he had been with the group since before the fall of the Shah and, as a computer expert, was deeply involved in intelligence activities as well as providing security for the M.E.K. leadership. For the past decade, he and his English wife have run a support program for other defectors. Khodabandeh told me that he had heard from more recent defectors about the training in Nevada. He was told that the communications training in Nevada involved more than teaching how to keep in contact during attacks – it also involved communication intercepts. The United States, he said, at one point found a way to penetrate some major Iranian communications systems. At the time, he said, the US provided M.E.K. operatives with the ability to intercept telephone calls and text messages inside Iran – which M.E.K. operatives translated and shared with American signals intelligence experts. He does not know whether this activity is ongoing.

**Assassination of Iranian nuclear scientists**

Five Iranian nuclear scientists have been assassinated since 2007. M.E.K. spokesmen have denied any involvement in the killings, but early last month NBC News quoted two senior Obama Administration officials as confirming that the attacks were carried out by M.E.K. units that were financed and trained by Mossad, the Israeli secret service. NBC further quoted the Administration officials as denying any American involvement in the M.E.K. activities. The former senior intelligence official I spoke with seconded the NBC report that the Israelis were working with the M.E.K., adding that the operations benefitted from American intelligence. He said that the targets were not "Einsteins"; "The goal is to affect Iranian psychology and morale," he said, and to "demoralize the whole system—nuclear delivery vehicles, nuclear enrichment facilities, power plants." Attacks have also been carried out on pipelines. He added that the operations are "primarily being done by M.E.K. through liaison with the Israelis, but the United States is now providing the intelligence." An adviser to the special-operations community told

me that the links between the United States and M.E.K. activities inside Iran had been long-standing. "Everything being done inside Iran now is being done with surrogates," he said.

The sources I spoke to were unable to say whether the people trained in Nevada were now involved in operations in Iran or elsewhere. But they pointed to the general benefit of American support. "The M.E.K. was a total joke," the senior Pentagon consultant said, "and now it's a real network inside Iran. How did the M.E.K. get so much more efficient?" he asked rhetorically. "Part of it is the training in Nevada. Part of it is logistical support in Kurdistan, and part of it is inside Iran. M.E.K. now has a capacity for efficient operations that it never had before."

In mid-January, a few days after an assassination by car bomb of an Iranian nuclear scientist in Tehran, Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta, at a town-hall meeting of soldiers at Fort Bliss, Texas, acknowledged that the US government has "some ideas as to who might be involved, but we don't know exactly who was involved." He added, "But I can tell you one thing: the United States was not involved in that kind of effort. That's not what the United States does."

• Source: *The New Yorker*, 6 April 2012 <http://www.newyorker.com/online/blogs/newsdesk/2012/04/mek.html#ixzz1u87d2utl>

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# Afghan endgame makes Pakistan shudder

by Brian M. Downing\*



The war in Afghanistan has been stalemated for several years now and eyes are turning to a negotiated settlement. In recent weeks, talks between the United States and the Taliban have come and gone, but they will almost assuredly return.

As welcome as these bilateral talks are, they all but ignore the vital interests of regional actors such as Russia, China, India, Iran and perhaps most importantly, Pakistan. All of them will let their interests be known, directly or indirectly, cleverly or clumsily.

The Pakistani army and *Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI)* have considerable influence with the Taliban and with many other militant groups along the Durand Line that separates Afghanistan and Pakistan. Having cut off US and *International Security Assistance Forces (ISAF)* supply lines through their country, these Pakistani security institutions feel they have expertly maneuvered the US into a corner.

The generals will be in an important position once negotiations restart, but how artfully they use it and what a settlement will bring are up in the air. Negotiations and a settlement could present the generals in their Rawalpindi compounds with major problems.

## Generals and mullahs

The Taliban emerged in the mid-1990s amid the chaotic aftermath of the Soviet withdrawal in 1989 and the collapse of the communist government in 1992 when former mujahideen groups formed from madrasa students regathered to fight warlords and bandits. Their success

won support from many war-weary Afghans but also from Pakistani generals. The generals wanted a strategic partner to the north that would expel Indian influence and safeguard commerce between the new Central Asian republics and Pakistani ports.

The generals and the mullahs shared the amalgam of religious and political creeds taught in Deobandi *madrassas* (seminaries), which opposed Hindus and Shi'ites alike and endowed Pakistani national security with a religious aura. Indeed, the uprisings against the Soviet-backed government in 1979 were to a considerable extent orchestrated by the Pakistani army in conjunction with the United States Central Intelligence Agency. This led to the Soviet invasion and decades of intermittent war and instability.

The generals are in a position to influence the Taliban by withholding supplies, arresting members of the group's council in Quetta and Karachi, or most drastically giving the whereabouts of principals to US intelligence and awaiting the inevitable. The generals will doubtless seek a settlement that restores Pakistani hegemony in Afghanistan and lucrative commerce with Central Asia. They will insist that the Taliban hold fast to the anti-Hindu agenda and see that India is expelled from the north or at least limited to enterprises that benefit Pakistan, such as the export of ores through Karachi.

India has won support from non-Pash-tun peoples in the north who loathe the Taliban and see Pakistan as supporting the insurgency and the assassination campaign against northern leaders. India will

find support from Russia, which seeks to check Islamic militancy along the Durand Line and Chinese influence in Central Asia. Iran too will support India as it

"Author Brian Downing has presented a competent, decent and correct analysis here."

Prof Mohammed Daud Miraki, author of "Afghanistan after Democracy"

sees the Taliban as a Sunni cult with ties to Saudi Arabia, with which it is vying for dominance in the Persian Gulf.

This could mean that Pakistani interests, as construed and advanced by its generals, will complicate negotiations and possibly even bring them to an impasse. Another complicating if not ruinous matter is the Kashmir question, which is central to Pakistani nationalism. News reports and school teachings assert that India stole the parts of Kashmir now under New Delhi's control and Pakistan must wrest all of Kashmir from Hindu dominance. Few historians outside of Pakistan agree with this position and few Kashmiris wish to trade India's rule for Pakistan's. But no matter, Kashmir is an *idée fixe* in the Pakistani imagination.

Detaching Kashmir from Indian control is a veritable creed in the Pakistani army. It commingles with notions of institutional honor and national mission, which enhance the ardor devoted to the creed. The army trains several militant groups to operate in Kashmir and conducts diver-

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sionary operations to aid their infiltration across the frontier. It has fought two wars over it (1965 and 1971) and lost them both, infusing their creed with the need to avenge humiliation.

The generals almost undoubtedly see their support of the Taliban, their constrictions of US supply lines, and their parleys with China as masterful movements that will culminate in settling the Kashmir question in their favor. Failure would bring more dishonor. Further, it would cause the militant groups trained to liberate Kashmir to turn against their state sponsors. So zealous are many in these groups such as *Lashkar-e-Toiba* that when the generals counsel restraint, they demand to be set loose and even vent their wrath by attacking Pakistani generals and politicians.

#### Pashtun ascendance

For all their strategic and religious affinities, the Taliban and the generals in Rawalpindi are distinct entities with interests that overlap, at least for a while, but are not identical. Fissures may already have surfaced. Two years ago, Pakistan arrested and detained a handful of Taliban principals thought to be on the verge of unsanctioned talks with the US.

Pakistan's concern with India's presence in the north may exceed the Taliban's concern, anti-Hindu though they are. This could lead to a harder line than the Taliban *shura* would want. Pakistan may seek to have the preponderance of Afghan resources shipped from its ports on the Arabian Sea (rather than north into Russia or west into Iran) and to impose hefty transit fees as well.

Further, Pakistani generals see the Taliban-controlled areas in southern and eastern Afghanistan as a redoubt in case of war with India and will seek a presence there. The generals will see those provinces as an autonomous region of sorts strongly influenced from their headquarters in Rawalpindi.

The Taliban have been misjudged by almost all powers as Pashtun bumpkins, unsophisticated in matters of the world around them. Their artful communiqués and effective campaigns indicate otherwise. Pakistan may be the latest power to take them lightly.

The past three decades of fighting foreign armies and non-Pashtun peoples has brought greater interaction and a somewhat stronger Pashtun identity. The Pashtun in Afghanistan have fought Russians, Tajiks, Uzbeks, and now the Americans and their allies, though they have also fought each other.

Some Pashtun tribes served with the Russians against the mujahideen, later al-



*A glance at the map of Pakistan's state territory shows the complexity of the situation in this country as well: In the North (northern areas) the Kashmir conflict, the conflict with India as a whole, the Federally Administered Tribal Areas in North and South Waziristan and the former Northwestern Frontier Province (now Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) at the border with Afghanistan with the Taliban groups and the threat of separatist movements in the Southwest province of Balochistan. (Graphics: roho/Current Concerns)*

lied with the old Northern Alliance against the Taliban, and are now supportive of the Western-backed Hamid Karzai government in Kabul. Nonetheless, the Taliban have coalesced a sizable cluster of tribes in the south and east, through parley, force, or apparent inevitability.

The Pashtun across the frontier in Pakistan see their language forcibly supplanted by Urdu in newspapers and schools – a formula for ethnic resentment. Many Pashtun tribes south of the Durand Line have revolted against Islamabad's presence and its alliance with the US. They have formed the *Tehrik-e-Taliban* (Pakistan Taliban – TTP), an umbrella organization of Pashtun tribes, which has stalemated the Pakistani army and which executes horrific bombing attacks on a regular basis.

The wars have led to tribal parleys and alliances that have brought a measure of common purpose to some of the disparate tribes that compose the Pashtun nation on both sides of the frontier. The Taliban are not at present a Pashtun nationalist movement, though their movement has very little support from non-Pashtun peoples in the north and indeed the Taliban's staunchest domestic foes are their non-Pashtun "countrymen" – a formula for nationalist sentiment.

The Taliban claim to be an Islamist movement, above the petty claims and mundane prejudices of tribalism and nationalism. A settlement, however, would leave them in official control of at least some Pashtun regions – and force them to contend with the petty claims and mundane prejudices therein. Islamist ideology does not offer meaningful guidance on improving harvests, developing mineral-logical resources, or finding export routes.

#### Pakistan's territorial integrity

The border between Afghanistan and Pakistan is an arbitrary creation of the British that is spottily demarcated and rarely respected. Pashtun old-timers and members of the middle classes will remember Afghanistan's vehement but powerless opposition to granting Pashtun lands to Pakistan. They are considered integral parts of Afghanistan unjustly wrested from them by the British army long ago and held today by their sepoys. Many favored being part of Hindu-dominated India rather than part of a Punjabi-dominated Pakistan.<sup>1</sup>

After the Indian partition in 1947, Afghan governments officially supported creation of an independent Pashtun em-

## Fifty states to attend missile defense conference: Moscow explains arguments against NATO-System in detail

The international conference on the missile defense system in Europe beginning on Thursday should, according to Deputy Defense Minister *Anatoly Antonov* show, among other things, how the new objects that NATO will deploy in Poland, Romania and Turkey, can affect the nuclear containment forces of Russia.

"In a comprehensibly language understandable for military and technical experts, we declare at the conference, what consequences the implementation of the missile defense plans of the United States and NATO may have for strategic stability," Antonov said in an interview published on Wednesday in the daily newspaper "Rossiyskaya Gazeta".

"Our previous consultations with Western partners on the level of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defence were held behind closed doors," said the Deputy Minister. When searching for the answer to the question of why NATO does not perceive the concerns of Russia about this project, "we have seen the need to gather experts dealing with the missile shield issue and make decisions in this area to explain once again our arguments against the implementation of NATO plans and at the same time we listen to the opinions of foreign colleagues."

For the conference, experts from more than 50 countries were invited: In addition to the NATO Alliance countries and free European states representatives of China, India, Japan and South Korea are expected. The NATO delegation will be led by the first Deputy Secretary-General, *Alexander Vershbow*.

While the largest European countries immediately accepted the invitation to the conference, "because they had always made special efforts to reach a compromise with Russia," some Eastern European countries hesitated and reacted slowly to it and finally decided to attend at the level of military attaches.

"Behind the deployment of missile shield objects on the territory of these countries are certainly political, economic and military aspects," noted Antonov. "After all, the construction of bases signify new jobs, investments and rents. Also some Eastern European countries feel as secondary Alliance members. In their view, their participation in a continental missile defense system would increase their weight in the Alliance."

The opening speech of the Chief of the Russian General Staff *Nikolai Makarov* will be broadcast live. Only part of the discussions at the conference would be held

behind closed doors. Besides the Russian Defense Ministry also wants to publish all the documents of the Conference in a brochure afterwards.

The objective of the conference was to influence the decisions of the NATO summit held in Chicago planned in the second half of May, it was said. "We consider the conference as an important phase in the dialogue between Russia and NATO," said the Deputy Minister. "The opinions of experts could help the diplomats and the military to find the right solutions for both sides."

The participants of the conference will be shown an early warning system deployed in Sofrino near Moscow on 4 May. "We want the partners to see, how the radar station controls missile launches, and convince themselves that Russia and NATO have a large scope for cooperation in this area," added Antonov. "In addition, such cooperation would increase the willingness of the national missile defense systems to defend against missile attacks from different directions. •

Source: *Ria Novosti*, 2.05.2012, [www.de.rian.ru](http://www.de.rian.ru)

(Translation *Current Concerns*)

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bracing what is now Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (previously known as North-West Frontier Province), the Federally Administered Tribal Area, and curiously enough, the western Pakistani province of Balochistan. The Balochs are not Pashtun; Kabul was simply playing upon Baloch resentment upon losing its autonomy to the Pakistani state.

Pakistan recognizes a double threat in Pashtun and Baloch aspirations. Balochistan already has a low-level insurgency against Pakistani administration, which is oriented around resource extraction and harsh repression. Baloch attacks have been part of China's reluctance to build a naval base in Gwadar and proceed with economic projects – rich though Balochistan may be in gold and hydrocarbons.

Lingering Afghan claims, an ascendant Pashtun movement, and an increasingly hostile and perhaps vengeful US make for anxiety in Pakistan, as Khyber Pakhtunkh-

wa and Balochistan constitute about 60% of the country's land mass. And territorial integrity has been of paramount concern since losing East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) in 1971.

Those concerns may have been behind the Pakistani army's disapproving response to the US's deployment of troops into southern Afghan provinces, just north of Balochistan, as part of its 2009 surge. The Pakistani army protested that the surge there would drive Taliban forces into Balochistan, requiring the redeployment of troops from the Indian border into Balochistan.

In that the Pakistani army only fights the Pakistani Taliban, not the Afghan Taliban, the protests reveal concern over US raids into Taliban sanctuaries in Balochistan and potential ties between the US and Baloch separatists – unlikely though it is from outside Rawalpindi.

Paradoxically, yet quite understandably in the context of Pakistan's security anxieties, the army also fears that the Taliban bands enjoying safe havens in Balochistan

will find common elements with Baloch separatists. This concern leads to a further one: the Pashtuns and Balochs will break away and provide their own pathway for Central Asian commerce to reach the Arabian Sea independent of Pakistani controls – by way of a Baloch Gwadar, not a Pakistani Gwadar or Karachi.

Long-standing resentment and hopes may bring about an at least nominally unified Pashtunistan embracing both sides of the Durand Line. Whether it would be an autonomous part of Pakistan as is Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, or an autonomous part of Afghanistan, or a separate state entirely is of great interest and concern.

More astute members of the Taliban's high council cannot be unaware of conditions in Pakistan and what they portend for their movement's post-settlement future. Pakistan is unstable, thanks in no small part to the Pakistani Taliban, but also due to ethnic antagonisms, immense poverty, and inept Punjabi generals and

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politicians. Pakistan is not trusted by other countries in the region and even China is stepping back from military and economic cooperation.

Pakistan, then, is of less usefulness to the Taliban once a settlement is reached. The Taliban know that they failed to develop the country during their rule and that it led to discontent, scattered insurgencies, and a lack of public support that revealed itself so well when the US intervened and ousted them in short order. The Taliban will look for broader international support than Pakistan can give – or want them to have.

It is unlikely that the US can take advantage of fissures between the Taliban and Pakistan, welcome though they'd be. Whatever reservations the Taliban have for Pakistan pale in comparison to the enmity they have for the US, which has occupied their lands for over a decade and killed their fighters in large numbers and also many civilians. However, the US can provide economic aid and perhaps could even be, under certain circumstances, helpful in the creation of a Pashtun autonomous region, aloof from the northerners of Afghanistan and alarming to the generals of Pakistan.

**Portents of a US withdrawal**

Pakistan must also be concerned with the consequences of a settlement that ousts the US. The more humiliating the US departure, the more concern for the Pakistani generals.

The US is slated to give its putative ally \$1.7 billion in military aid this year, and another \$1.5 billion in economic aid. Cuts in military aid and perhaps elimination altogether may be looming, though economic aid and trade advantages would likely continue to help the civilian government in its continuous power struggle with the army. Further, the US could move still closer to India. The two are cooperating in countering Chinese influence along the sea lanes to Persian Gulf oil supplies, and both look warily at Pakistan.

The Rawalpindi generals have long felt that triangulation between China and the US gave leverage over both and that the US would not press them too hard for fear of having the "China card" tossed down triumphantly on the table. The high command in Rawalpindi can no longer have that confidence. China has expressed reluctance to go forward with a naval base in Gwadar, despite its position only 800 kilometers from the Strait of Hormuz.

China has also backed away from funding an Iran-Pakistan pipeline. This was perhaps a reluctant concession to international sanctions on Tehran, but perhaps more importantly a reconsideration of Pa-

kistan's utility. The country is wracked by various forms of instability, not the least of which is the separatism in the western province of Balochistan where Gwadar lies and through which an Iranian-Pakistani pipeline would pass. Baloch separatists often target Chinese engineering teams to limit Pakistani exploitation. Furthermore, China reasons that Pakistan's untrustworthiness with the US may be repeated with them one day.

An exit from Afghanistan would free the US to press the Pakistani army on its ties to various militant and terrorist groups – a project that many states will support. A less than gracious US exit from Afghanistan would add resolution to the effort. International support for the effort would be substantial. The effort may have been recently signaled.

The US placed a \$10 million bounty for assistance in arresting and convicting *Hafiz Saeed*, the leader of *Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT)*, the Punjabi militant group behind the deadly 2008 attack in Mumbai. The choice of *LeT* is significant in that the Mumbai attack might be second only to the September 11 attacks in global significance.

There are two surviving accomplices to the attack, a plotter and a member of the assault team, both of whom have testified that they were funded and trained by Pakistani army officers. Of further international significance is *LeT*'s ties to al-Qaeda and the 2005 attacks in London. The two groups operate alongside one another in eastern Afghanistan, share their deadly skills, and hold the same Salafi beliefs.

Saeed has rallied popular support, openly. He operates freely inside Pakistan, on *LeT*'s well appointed compound. He does not have to hide himself near a remote army base, nor must his followers skulk in the mountains of North Waziristan and Paktia, though some of them do. Saeed's public posture makes it clear to all that *LeT* is condoned by Pakistan.

Pakistan may be on its way to being designated a state sponsor of terrorism and enduring international sanctions, though it would take a year or more to build the case before the world. The ruinous consequences of such sanctions can be observed just to the west in Iran, and Pakistan does not have oil resources to attenuate their effects. The generals must fret over what if anything was on the scores of hard drives the US seized on *Osama bin Laden*'s compound in Abbottabad.

**The Pakistani army and its vassal groups**

The threat of sanctions or their actual imposition along with other international pressures will aim at forcing the Pakistani army to break with its militant cli-

ent groups along the Durand Line and become a professional force geared to national defense and in a manner consistent with international law. This will be Pakistan's way back into the world order. Though desirable and almost inevitable, breaking from the client groups will be difficult and dangerous.

A settlement in Afghanistan would likely lead to *LeT* and kindred groups such as *Jaish-e-Mohammad* turning against Pakistan, especially if the Kashmir question isn't ended in a satisfactory manner – and in all likelihood, it will not. Sensing betrayal, militant groups will turn their attention to the army – former mentors now seen as traitors.

Some members of *LeT* have already sensed flagging commitment to the Kashmiri cause and taken part in assassination attempts on then-president *Pervez Musharraf*. The full force of *LeT*, those elements based in eastern Afghanistan and many others in Punjabi cities, would be fearful if launched against the army and state. There are thousands of officers in the Pakistani army, long indoctrinated by the Kashmir creed, who would back them.

Even in the unlikely event of a satisfactory conclusion to the Kashmiri matter, there would still be the problem of trained and zealous fighters, still under the sway of Islamist militancy and indisposed to returning to unappealing civilian occupations. In this respect, they may be similar to the Arab mujahideen after the Afghan war in 1989 or the Tuareg after Colonel *Muammar Gaddafi*'s overthrow last year in Libya. They will be available for other causes that require their special skills. The world is unlikely to refuse them.

Regardless of Pakistan's disposition toward its client groups, international pressure will come down upon Islamabad not only to break with them but also to take actions against them. Similarly, any Afghan settlement will insist that the Taliban break with, if not try to crush, the various groups operating in eastern Afghanistan. Win or lose in Afghanistan, the Pakistani army will one day have to fight the deadly groups that it helped to create and was confident it would always control. •

<sup>1</sup> See also *Amin Tarzi*, "Political Struggles over the Afghanistan-Pakistan Borderlands", in *Shahzad Bashir and Robert D Crews*, eds, *Under The Drones: Modern Lives in the Afghanistan-Pakistan Borderlands*. (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2012.)

\* *Brian M Downing* is a political/military analyst and author of "The Military Revolution and Political Change" and "The Paths of Glory: War and Social Change" in America from the Great War to Vietnam." He can be reached at [brianmdowning@gmail.com](mailto:brianmdowning@gmail.com).

## Russian and Chinese companies have signed 27 cooperation agreements

As the newspaper "Vedomosti" writes on Wednesday, 2 May, Russian and Chinese companies have signed 27 cooperation agreements with a total value of 15 billion US dollars.

The agreements have been concluded on Saturday during a Russian-Chinese Forum in Moscow. The largest projects concern Siberia and the Far East. According to Russian Deputy Prime Minister Igor Shuvalov a joint investment fund in the equivalent to four billion US dollars will be set up by the end of June.

The Russian Fund for direct investment and the Chinese Investment Corporation (CIC) had already agreed a joint fund in the previous year. Each side will invest a billion dollars into the Fund. Other Chinese investors may be added.

According to Kirill Dmitriev, Director General of the Russian Fund for direct investment, the geopolitical and economic preconditions for Chinese investment have been developed as early as several years ago. "The Chinese funds have a greater extent of long-term and relatively cheap resources, and create their own assessments. In Russia, the number of projects

in Siberia and the Far East is increasing. China is looking for sound partners. The projects should be important and should be supported by the state," Dmitriev said.

You should have no fear of Chinese investments, but it is necessary to compete for them, said a government official. Any structure, whether state corporation or fund, will create the conditions to attract investors (including Chinese) into the Far East. How China's expansion into these regions of Russia can be controlled, that is, however, the task of the Russian State, said the official.

According to the analyst Dmitry Surov from the BKS/UCS company the Chinese investors are mainly interested in raw material projects. Reductions represent a further incentive for investors. At the federal level, the State Company for the development of Siberia and the Far East will be exempted from profit tax, tax on the production of natural resources, water tax for ten years, and at the regional level from property-, land- and transport tax for five years, says the expert. One of the agreements was signed by Oleg Deripaska, director general of the aluminum producer UC Rusal (47.41 per cent in the group

En+) and of Basic Element and the owner of En+, and by Zhang Guoqing, president of the state-owned Chinese company Norinco (China North Industries Corporation). In the first three years, the partners aim at raising the revenues to more than one billion US dollars, they emphasize in a joint statement.

In 2009, Norinco accepted to acquire 1.68 million tons of aluminum before from 2016. Norinco is one of the biggest customers of UC Rusal in Asia, where two million tons of aluminum a year are to be delivered. China is a large aluminum market. According to UC Rusal information, China accounted for 45 percent of global consumption in the past year. Last year, UC Rusal had acquired 33 percent of shares in Shenzhen North Investments – a trading subsidiary of Norinco. North United Aluminium, the joint venture between Rusal and Norinco, started its activities last week. •

Source: RIA Novosti, 2.05.2012,  
<http://de.rian.ru/business/20120502/263480715.html>

(Translation Current Concerns)

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# “The structure of the police is to be completely smashed and turned upside-down”

## The police reform planned by the red-green Federal Government of Baden-Wuerttemberg

by Joachim Lautensack, regional Chairman of the German Police Union in Baden-Wuerttemberg

km. In the same way as the so-called “Gemeinschaftsschulen” in the school sector (as reported by *Current Concerns* No 18/19), Wilfried Kretschmann’s green-red government is also about to liquidate proven structures of other central sectors of regional politics in our neighbouring country Baden-Wuerttemberg. Up to now there were 41 police directorates acting in a quite citizen-oriented way; now these are to be reduced to 12 large-scale agencies. Also this change of structure was enforced in a great hurry and against strong protest. As we can hear, this is to be only one part of a radical dissolution of the present structures of the “Land”, a dissolution oriented towards the EU Concept of Regionalisation – including plans for incursions reaching into neighbouring Switzerland.

For a clearer understanding, we shall below present the speech held by the regional Baden-Wuerttemberg Chairman of the German Police Union, Joachim Laut-

ensack on 21 April 2012 during a countrywide protest rally ([www.dpolg-bw.de](http://www.dpolg-bw.de)).

Anticipating the result without any detour, I come right down to the point: This police reform is bad – bad for the police, bad for national security and bad for the citizens! The results of this police reform with its crucial points, its spatial conception and its decisions on location and above all with its far-reaching consequences have not been discussed in any professional manner! Such a professional discussion was refused to us by the Minister of the Interior, who stepped up into the new Land (regional) government pretending to endeavour a new style of politics, a politics of being heard and at eye level.

None of these promises was kept. There was information and communication, there were representations, justifications and defence, but the facts which are decisive for the decisions, were not put

on the table until today and will probably never be put on the table.

That is what this reform is suffering from – but not only that! This reform is not a reform of the police, as the Minister of the Interior tried to make us believe again and again. He gave the order for the project. This project order puts forward a clear and unequivocal direction and is politically motivated to a considerable degree.

And also the fact that the project’s results were compiled on a police-internal level does not dismiss the Minister of the Interior from his responsibility, under any circumstances. This reform is the reform of the Minister of the Interior *Reinhold Gall* and it remains the reform of Reinhold Gall.

Praiseworthy at best is the basic motivation of the Minister to want to strengthen the police basis and to preserve the total number of staff and the financial means. However, whether, how and when this can be achieved at all, is more than questionable. And whether the expected reform-motivated reinforcement potential, measured by the gigantic dimension of the internal and external distortions and conversion risks, pays off, is not at all probable from our view.

This police reform is a high-risk operation at the open heart of a healthy patient. Our police may have a cold, but to submit it to a lethal operation and to put it into an artificial coma afterwards, is grossly negligent, not to say deliberate.

The police of Baden-Wuerttemberg in the “Bund-Länder”-comparison, is acknowledged to be highly efficient. With the smallest staff we obtain the very best security performances. The present structure of the police is not least responsible for this achievement, which is now planned to be completely smashed and turned upside-down.

Everything is changed, yes, really absolutely everything: All business procedures must be redefined, networking must again be developed, co-operations must be adapted to the new structure, many well-known partners will no longer exist, local and personal acquaintances will be lost. What local security and a sense of safety is to be from a civic point of view, e.g. in Pforzheim, will in future no longer be conceived and planned by the police in Pforzheim for Pforzheim, but in Karlsruhe.

### Protection of privacy: Switzerland has an US-ally



Senator Rand Paul (picture ma)

US senator Rand Paul is in principle against any agreement. Because of his resistance a solution between Switzerland and the United States will be blocked in the Congress.

The Swiss Parliament ratified the supplement to the motion of amendment to the US-Swiss tax agreement last March. Nevertheless the contract is blocked for some time in the US Senate by a Republican senator, as the news agency “Bloomberg” reported.

This Republican senator, *Rand Paul*, principally opposes any agreement,

since he is committed to the strict protection of privacy. He disapproves of the US tax authority Internal Revenue Service (IRS) obtaining too much power caused by an extended exchange of information by way of administrative assistance.

#### Disadvantage for the right to privacy

IRS critic Rand Paul is connected with the ultra-conservative Tea Party movement. He is inspired by the “libertarian” principles of his Texan father *Ron Paul* who was US presidential candidate.

Rand Paul calls the agreement of the tax authorities as “too extensive”. In particular it may threaten the fourth amendment of the US Constitution. This amendment contains the right of American citizens to be protected against attacks from government, arbitrary searches, arrest or seizure.

Source: [www.finews.ch/news/finanzplatz/8371-tea-party-senator-torpediert-steuerabkommen](http://www.finews.ch/news/finanzplatz/8371-tea-party-senator-torpediert-steuerabkommen)

(Translation *Current Concerns*)

**“The structure of the police ...”**

continued from page 14

What, for example, the work of the four police stations in Pforzheim will look like, what they will focus on, what employment situations will have priority and from where the task force will be recruited, whether they still can afford to carry out the motorized patrolling – in view of the current Karlsruhe financial misery – how local shortages of staff will be overcome, what financial means and what equipment the districts will obtain in future, everything will be decided in Karlsruhe and no longer in Pforzheim. Beyond that, all those who decide on career questions, assignment questions and on many other completely personal things concerning the Pforzheim colleagues, are situated in Karlsruhe. The police work and police orientation of no less than 17 police stations and 49 police posts are in future centrally controlled by a giant agency in Karlsruhe.

Each and every emergency call, every message about a dwelling burglary, a traffic accident, an assault, about home disputes or fights, will in future accumulate at the central police directing agency. If central forces, such as traffic accident intake or permanent criminality service, will have to be called and assigned, long ways will have to be made. That means latency time and standing time which may become an eternity to the concerned in a situation of emergency and which will need additional police staff.

During the last days and weeks I had occasion to see the outskirts of the future new police headquarters several times. My journey from interchange Heilbronn-Weinsberg to Wertheim took more than one hour in good weather conditions and without traffic impact. In the future Heilbronn will be an office of the new police headquarters. Wertheim am Main is reached by the charming Taubertal and one passes through enchanting sceneries. However, this can and may not be a police guideline.

Another way led me from Karlsruhe to Calw and took more than one hour, too – with your permission: Crisscross through the scenically attractive “pampa” because traffic on the highway was absolutely heavy between Pforzheim West and Karlsruhe – as is often the case.

But the new administrative district Upper Swabian/Lake of Constance appears nearly idiotic. From Leutkirch or Isny in the Allgäu in the administrative district Ravensburg to the new police métropole Constance the journey takes more than 1 hour and 30 minutes according to the route planner. Provided, they reach the ferry of Lake of Constance in Meersburg on time or have no waiting periods, possibly due to the tourist overflow during the summer months or the winter break of the Lake of Constance fleet.

Or if we take a look at Freudenstadt which in future time should be steered and administered from Tuttlingen. What does Freudenstadt have in common with Tuttlingen? What connects these regions? Who knows whom there? Who is connected to whom? Utter nonsense!

All these unbelievable project decisions are owed exclusively the political dictate that in future there must be no more than 12 regional headquarters. This number is like an irrefutable dogma and smashes, cuts, dissects the present police scenery regardless of the consequences. The state government and also the Minister of the Interior do not seem ready to deviate from this crazy number 12. The number 12 probably had to be chosen in such a way, that the criminal investigation departments of the new agencies obtain at least a number of 200 employees. This means playing with figures and maths tricks which will affect the police work’s future quality and closeness to people in an exceptionally disastrous way and, above all, will affect the very personal and professional perspectives of the police employees.

In spite of the intention to create equally-sized, equally efficient police headquar-

ters this goal could not be achieved at all. While in future the new police headquarters of Karlsruhe/Pforzheim/Calw should have nearly 2400 posts in the area of competence and will be inflated to the biggest police station in the whole country, the neighbouring police headquarter of Offenburg/Rastatt will have just half as many posts.

Yes, there are distinct “losers” of this police reform, not only imagined losers! Many have already noticed it and give vent to their criticism. However, many are still in their deep sleep and may wake up only when hard reality catches them up.

The reform does not become better because the initial criticism here has fallen silent and the critics are “caught” in higher police management groups by the acquisition of new project tasks and the future position protection linked with it, so to speak. It does not become better either by the fact that certainly good experts have received the implementation orders. An essentially bad reform cannot be improved by a careful and detailed implementation.

All reform results are absolutely theoretical considerations. Nobody really knows whether the police generally will work and above all will work better in this form. The danger is very high that we must give up the excellent quality of the Baden-Wuerttemberg police work for years and be content with poorer quality. The “fervour” of the persons responsible for the project cannot be really convincing who promise everything under the sun and happier times.

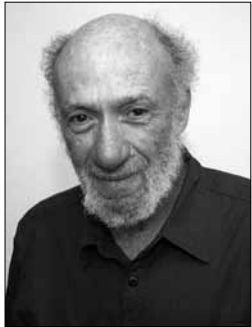
This reform is over-the-top, needless and above all oversized.

And if the Minister of the Interior readily holds it against the critics of the reform that their motivation was guided by a “parish-pump mentality”, I call out to the Minister of the Interior: In spite of all your reform zeal: Now that’s going too far! •

(Translation *Current Concerns*)

## UN rights expert raises alarm over Palestinian prisoners on hunger strike in Israeli Prisons

Press release of the UN Human Rights Council of 2 May 2012



Richard Falk  
(picture ma)

The UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, *Richard Falk*\* on Wednesday, 2 May, said he was appalled by the “continuing human rights violations in Israel

li prisons,” amid a massive wave of hunger strikes by Palestinian prisoners.

In extraordinary acts of collective non-violent resistance to abusive conditions connected to Israel’s prolonged occupation of Palestinian territory, more than 1,000 Palestinian prisoners began an open-ended hunger strike on 17 April 2012, Palestinian Prisoners Day. This hunger strike is a protest against unjust arrest procedures, arbitrary detention and bad

prison conditions. Prison authorities have reportedly taken punitive measures against those on hunger strike, including by denying them family and lawyer visits, confiscating their personal belongings and placing them in solitary confinement.

“I am appalled by the continuing human rights violations in Israeli prisons and I urge the government of Israel to respect its international human rights obligations towards all Palestinian prisoners,” Falk said. “Israel must treat those prisoners on hunger strike in accordance with international standards, including by allowing the detainees visits from their family members.”

Falk noted that since the 1967 war, an estimated 750,000 Palestinians including 23,000 women and 25,000 children have gone through detention in Israeli jails. This constitutes approximately 20 percent of the total Palestinian population in the occupied Palestinian territory or 40 percent of the total male Palestinian population in the occupied Palestinian territory.

“Israel’s wide use of administrative detention flies in the face of international fair trial standards,” Falk said. “Detainees must be able to effectively challenge administrative detention orders, including by ensuring that lawyers have full access to the evidence on which the order was issued.” The Special Rapporteur noted that Israel currently holds around 300 Palestinians in administrative detention.

Falk called on the international community to ensure that Israel complies with international human rights laws and norms in its treatment of Palestinian prisoners. •

\* In 2008, the UN Human Rights Council designated *Richard Falk* (United States of America) as the fifth Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights on Palestinian territories occupied since 1967. The mandate was originally established in 1993 by the UN Commission on Human Rights.

Source: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Geneva, 2 May 2012  
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=12102&LangID=E>

*cc. We are daily carried away and “spinned” with every nonsense here in the West, but it takes us two weeks to learn that Palestinian prisoners are on hunger strike in Israel. The “International Herald Tribune” reported the following on 3 May:*

1. “Prisoners, however, play a crucial emotional and political role in the Palestinian national movement. Virtually every family has been touched by incarceration, experts say, and there is a visceral sense of allegiance to people viewed as suffering for the broader community’s rights. The prisoners are highly organized, and analysts see nonviolent protest as the most promising path forward, with the hunger strike as a potential catalyst.”

2. “At least 1,500 of Israel’s 4,700 Palestinian prisoners have been refusing to eat or drink since 17 April and some for as long as 65 days. Their names and faces and details of their detention are plastered on protest tents in villages throughout the West Bank, and their struggle is the theme of chants at a growing number of small demonstrations each week.”

Source: *International Herald Tribune*, 3 May 2012