

Current Concerns

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“Currently all dangers come from the United States”

Interview by *World Economy* with Willy Wimmer



Willy Wimmer
(picture ef)

World Economy: Recently you've been in Russia. Provocatively formulated – is Putin preparing for a war?

Willy Wimmer: Regarding all the discussions I have had in Moscow – and I've just returned from Moscow – I must say: People worry about the same things there as we also do here in our own country. I'm familiar with the public statements of the Russian President and can only recognise that he calls for moderation and to have common sense. I didn't see any facet of arguments in Moscow, that would go in the direction you have raised in your question. Looking at the global political situation, one must soberly assess that currently all dangers

come from the United States. Hopefully this will settle after 8 November this year.

The Caribbean crisis started 55 years ago. You just talked about the United States, and we know or sense what happened at that time. Do we have a similar situation now which is to be characterised by: “it's an eleventh-hour decision”? Getting to the bottom of things, you have to look at it like this. The Caribbean crisis, the Cuban missile crisis, has a background, and most interestingly I listened to a speech by the long-time Soviet Ambassador *Valentin Falin* in Bonn at a conference that I attended. Within these comprehensive historical considerations Ambassador Falin called attention to something which directly resulted in the Cuban crisis. In the forties and fifties of the last century, there was an American strategic plan called *Dropshot*. This plan was to attack the 30 large

est Soviet cities with a nuclear decapitation strike, making the Soviet Union incapable of acting.

And most interesting – as broadcasted on the Franco-German TV station *Arte* a few weeks ago – the Soviets learned for the first time, what the United States intended to do in this great plan, from the communication intercept station of the Red Army on Brocken mountain in the German Harz. And it was mentioned within this *Arte* broadcast that the Cuban missile crisis had its actual root cause in this *Dropshot* plan. And so, it was for me not only fascinating to talk with Valentin Falin about it, but also to realise that these are the things we currently must deal with as part of NATO planning. NATO is taking aggressive action against the Russian Federation. The NATO has altered clauses of its contract regarding its purpose and is no

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The United States have been undermining nuclear deterrence

by Prof Dr Albert A. Stahel, Institute for Strategic Studies, Wädenswil



Albert A. Stahel
(picture ma)

Since the US dropped the two nuclear bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima on 6 August and Nagasaki on 9 August 1945, nuclear weapons have become a reality in our world. The reality of the presence of nuclear weapons resembles a Janus face. On

the one hand, these weapons are extremely threatening because of their enormous destructive power, especially for those countries that do not have nuclear weapons. On the other hand, nuclear weapons are also a guarantee of security because of their destructive potential, as, in view of their destructive effect, no nuclear power will dare to use these weapons in a conflict with another nuclear power. The number of countries having nuclear weapons at their com-

mand has increased since the fifties of the last century. Apart from the US and Russia, these countries also include the two European states of medium power Great Britain and France, as well as China, India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea.

The United States and the former USSR mutually recognised the mutual deterrence of their nuclear offensive weapons in their first armaments control agreement SALT-I (*Strategic Arms Limitation Talks*) of 26 May 1972, by means of numerically limiting their offensive weapons. Since the disintegration of the USSR at the end of 1991, this recognition also applies to the Russian Federation as the successor state of the USSR.

There are different definitions of deterrence to be found in strategic literature. Thus deterrence is described as the attempt,

“[...] not to fight a war but to prevent it by threatening any attacker

with retaliation that will bring him more harm than that which he may wreak by means of his recourse to violence.”¹

The authors Schwarz and Hadik define mutual deterrence as the

“[...] situation of nuclear-armed States, each of which is in possession of a sufficiently protected weapon of destruction, which allows it to prevent an attack by threatening that any such attack will be answered in the form of a crushing retaliation.”²

Robert S. McNamara, US Defence Secretary under Kennedy and Johnson, formulated the following objective for the US power of nuclear retaliation in 1967:

“What causes the deterrence is not our ability to limit the damage to

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longer a defensive Alliance, as we know it from the cold war, but rather an offensive one as it was revealed firstly during the war in Yugoslavia. Against this background, the situation concerning Russia is highly dangerous.

Furthermore – visible for the world – the Democratic-Republican war complex in Washington postulates a corresponding action against the Russian Federation.

Let's look in the direction of Syria – also a source of danger. Let's assume Russia retreats and pulls back from Syria, Assad is dethroned. How will the situation in the region and in the world develop? Next is the Libya scenario, is there a thread of a third world war?

I personally do not tend to make such considerations, because Syria is more than just a civil war, that we are currently facing. We must not ignore that here two different concepts from two different great powers play a role. On the one hand, the attempt of the United States – much like in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Mali or elsewhere – is to enforce a new world order according to their own preferences. However, on the other side the Russian Federation has a double interest from my point of view. Russia doesn't want to contribute to the American approach eliminating existing international law, which for a long time ensured peace in Europe and beyond. On the other hand, and this must be made perfectly clear, a victory for the coalition led by the United States would mean that those forces prevail in Syria, Lebanon,

Jordan and Iraq, all of which have origins in the Caucasus: As a result of the Caucasus wars Chechens, Ingush, Dagestan is ended up in the aforementioned region and are already settled there.

And their interest is to resume the Caucasus wars against Moscow. That is, in this area Russia is defending not only a major alliance partner or international law, but also its own national interests, which are to protect its own borders. Everything is in compliance with international law, and that makes the situation in Syria so complicated.

Thank you, Mr Wimmer. •

Source: www.world-economy.eu/pro-contra/details/article/die-nato-geht-aggressiv-gegen-die-russische-foederation-vor/ from 30.10.2016

(Translation *Current Concerns*)

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*ourselves but our ability to destroy an aggressor as a viable nation of the twentieth century. We cannot say exactly what kind and what degree of destruction we should have to inflict on an attacker to achieve this deterrence. However, it seems reasonable to assume that in the case of the Soviet Union, the destruction of say one-fifth to one-quarter of the population and one-half to two-thirds of the industrial potential would mean that it would be excluded as a major power for many years."*³

A year later, McNamara noted that the Soviet Union's deterrence would be the same in respect of the US. From this point in time onwards, the nuclear strategy was designated as "Mutual Assured Destruction", abbreviated MAD. Both superpowers of that time were supposed to be able to engage in a crushing counter-attack with nuclear weapons against civilian and industrial targets of the enemy power, even after suffering an enemy first-strike with nuclear weapons directed against their own nuclear-strate-

gic weapons. This meant that, after an initial enemy strike, there would remain a sufficiently large potential of *Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles* (ICBM), submarine-assisted ballistic missiles (SLBM), and long-range bombers for the counter-attack. For a credible mutual deterrence the mechanism of the MAD strategy had to be based on the potential of the nuclear-strategic offensive weapons belonging to the two powers.

In order to prevent one side's power of retaliation with offensive weapons being eliminated, the establishment of missile defence systems on both sides was numerically limited by the ABM Treaty (*Anti-Ballistic Missile(s)*), which was also an integral part of SALT-I.⁴ A comprehensive deployment of defence systems would not only have been able to outmanoeuvre the retaliatory and thereby the deterrence ability of both powers, but it would also certainly have triggered an expensive armament race on both sides. Thanks to their adherence to the ABM Treaty, a stable balance of deterrence prevailed for decades between the two powers.

Until the investiture of the *Bush jr.* administration in 2001, the ABM Treaty was considered as sacrosanct in the relations between the US and the USSR. Under the

influence of his power-hungry Defence Minister *Donald Rumsfeld* the younger President Bush unilaterally revoked the ABM Treaty soon after his appointment. Without paying any attention to Russia, the Bush administration decided to build a missile defence system that would not be restricted to the US. Amongst the elements of this defence system there had to be radar traps and missile defence systems put up in Poland and Romania. With their one-sided approach, the US has put an end to the ultima ratio of nuclear deterrence. Today there can no longer be any question of a truly stable balance of nuclear deterrence between the two powers. Instead, the US and Russia are increasingly confronted with a degree of mutual uncertainty about their possible use of nuclear weapons in a crisis. •

¹ Legault, A., & Lindsey, G. . *The dynamics of the nuclear balance*. Ithaca, N.Y: Cornell University Press. (1976)

² Schwarz, U. and Hadik, L., *Strategic Terminology, A Trilingual Glossary*. Econ-Publishers, Dusseldorf and Vienna, 1966, p. 62

³ Legault, A. and Lindsey, G.

⁴ Legault, A. and Lindsey, G.

Source: www.strategische-studien.ch (strategic-studies) of 30 October 2016

(Translation *Current Concerns*)

UN rights expert on the CETA treaty: No signing without referendum

Pressrelease by the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights, Geneva

The trade deal set to be signed by the European Union and Canada is a corporate-driven, fundamentally flawed treaty which should not be signed or ratified without a referendum in each country concerned, a United Nations human rights expert says.

Alfred de Zayas, the UN Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order, deplored the pressures brought on the Belgian regional parliament of Wallonia, which initially said it would not approve the treaty but later said its concerns had been met. "A culture of bullying and intimidation becomes apparent when it comes to trade agreements that currently get priority over human rights," the expert said.

In his reports to the Human Rights Council and General Assembly Mr de Zayas has previously warned that CETA is incompatible with the rule of law, democracy and human rights, and substantiated how and why before the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

CETA and TTIP give undue power to corporations

He believes that both CETA and TTIP – the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership currently being negotiated by the EU and the US – give undue power to corporations at the expense of national governments and human rights, and deplores that the mere existence of investor-state dispute settlement generates a regulatory chill.

Prof Dr iur et phil *Alfred M. de Zayas* is UN Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order and professor of international law at the Geneva School of Diplomacy.

His 2015 report to the UN Human Rights Council to the adverse human rights, health and environmental impacts of so-called free trade agreements such as CETA, TPP, TTIP and TISA. Check the report (A/HRC/30/44): www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/IntOrder/Pages/Reports.aspx. His 2015 report to the UN General Assembly focused on the incompatibility of Investor-state-dispute-settlement arbitrations with fundamental principles of transparency and accountability. Check the report (A/70/285): www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/70/285

"The danger of CETA and TTIP being signed and one day entering into force is so serious that every stakeholder, especially parliamentarians from EU Member States, should now be given the opportunity to articulate the pros and cons. The corporate-driven agenda gravely endangers labour, health and other social legislation, and there is no justification to fast-track it" Mr. de Zayas said.

"Civil society should demand referendums on the approval of CETA or any other such mega-treaty that has been negotiated behind closed doors," he noted.

The expert said the EU should have heeded expert warnings and strong civil society opposition to CETA. His specific concerns include provisions which he says could hamper States' regulatory powers and could allow investment companies to sue over legislation affecting profits, even in cases where the laws were designed to protect workers' rights, public health or the environment.

States should not sign the agreement unless their powers to regulate and legislate in the public interest are fully safeguarded and the so-called "investment protection" chapter is removed.

Chapter on investment protection must be removed

"This chapter creates privileges for investors at the expense of the public," said Mr de Zayas, noting that the new text may slightly amend this chapter but adding that the Investment Court System (ICS) is similarly incompatible with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which requires legal cases to be heard by transparent, accountable, independent public tribunals.

"The associations of German and Spanish judges have already decried this kind of investor-State dispute settlement, which is a one-way street, and also discriminates against domestic enterprises. Moreover, ICS is not necessary when all participating States are parties to the ICCPR and already have public courts that are independent, transparent and accountable," he said.

"CETA – along with most trade and investment agreements – is fundamentally flawed unless specific provision stipulates that the regulatory power of States is paramount and must not be impacted by a regulatory chill. It must also be clear that in case of conflict between commercial treaties and human rights treaties, it is the latter that must prevail."

The expert said there was now a strengthened case for a legally binding

instrument on corporate social responsibility, obliging transnational corporations not to interfere in the internal affairs of States, and imposing sanctions when they pollute the environment or shift their profits into tax havens. The Human Rights Council has established an inter-governmental working group on transnational corporations, which is holding its second session this week. Mr de Zayas, who has participated in this working group, urges the prompt adoption of a treaty that makes the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights legally binding and enforceable.

He also said it was time to discuss the secrecy surrounding the drawing up of the CETA treaty, and the anomaly that much of the information about it became available only through whistleblowers, in violation of State obligations to ensure open access to information.

Constitutionality of CETA and TTIP has to be tested

"The constitutionality of the CETA and TTIP agreements should be tested before the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg, and the human rights aspects before the European Court of Human Rights, which could be called upon to issue interim measures of protection," said Mr de Zayas.

"National courts should also test the compatibility of the agreements with national constitutions," the Independent Expert stated.

"There is a legitimate fear that CETA will dilute environmental standards, food security, and health and labour protection," he said. "A treaty that strengthens the position of investors, transnational corporations and monopolies at the expense of the public interest conflicts with the duty of States to protect all people under their jurisdiction from internal and external threats."

Mr de Zayas said the EU should have paid greater attention to a warning from a committee of Members of Parliament from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. The Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development said earlier this month that CETA imposed unacceptable restrictions on the legislative powers of national parliaments, and called for the signing to be postponed.

Source: www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20787&LangID=E from 28 October 2016

Official visit from Russia in Switzerland

Valentina Matvienko, Chairperson of the Russian Federation Council, was on a visit to Berne

Ef. On 20 and 21 October 2016, the Swiss government received an official visit from Russia. *Valentina Matvienko, Chairperson of the Federation Council*, the Russian upper house, took part in the annual meeting of all Senate presidents of Europe in Berne. On 20 October, she attended the 16th session of the Russian Economic and Financial Forum in Switzerland. For her stay in Switzerland, the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) had issued an extraordinary entry permit "on grounds of national interest" because, like other Russian politicians, she is still on the EU and US sanctions list. Although Switzerland has not accepted the EU sanctions of 2014, the special permit was necessary because of the Schengen agreement.

On the occasion of her visit, talks were also held with Council of States president *Raphaël Comte* and *Didier Burkhalter*, the Swiss Foreign Minister.

"Thaw in the bilateral relations"

The former president of the Council Of States, *Filippo Lombardi* (CVP), issued the invitation as early as in 2013, because he expected the meeting to lead to a "thaw in bilateral relations". In the spring of 2014, Switzerland had suspended its negotiations on a free trade agreement with Russia, which had been conducted in the EFTA framework. FDP National Councilor *Hans-Peter Portmann* told the newspaper "Tages-Anzeiger" in August: "Switzerland must strive to reduce its economic dependency on the EU. 'This includes expanding our trading activities in markets such as Russia.'" (9 August 2016)

International fight against terrorism only in the legal framework of the UN

The fight against terrorism was also discussed at the meeting of Senate presidents, which currently includes 15 European countries. It was agreed that in this

field, the cooperation of the countries is of utmost importance.

Parliamentarians should enhance cooperation internationally in order to agree on the "UN Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism" as soon as possible, said Mrs Matvienko to her colleagues. She stressed that Russia's position on this issue was that the international anti-terrorist cooperation must be based on the existing international legal framework, in particular, the UN Security Council resolutions and the global counterterrorism strategy of the United Nations. Despite the great importance of international cooperation and international mechanisms to counter terrorism, nation states should play a key role in that issue.

Developing and deepening of relations between Switzerland and Russia

After her meeting with Foreign Minister *Didier Burkhalter*, she told journalists that Switzerland had a very balanced position "even speaking about sanctions." About the Swiss Foreign Minister she said that he "once again showed interest in developing and deepening relations with Russia as strategic relations. This is Switzerland's stance that has remained unchanged, and we appreciate very much both our bilateral cooperation and cooperation on the international agenda".

Switzerland: Dialogue with all partners for peace and humanitarian aid

During her meeting with the President of the Council of States, *Raphaël Comte*, he pointed out the difficult situation in Ukraine and Syria and the subsequent flow of refugees. He continued to say that it was a Swiss tradition to take a stand for dialogue, peace and humanitarian aid with all partners. Switzerland did this bilaterally, within the framework of the OSCE,

the Council of Europe and other organizations. The parliamentary level was particularly suitable for dialogue, since parliamentarians were often in a position to express themselves more openly than government representatives might be able to do. Switzerland expected a constructive approach from Russia in the context of the negotiations that were taking place to resolve the ongoing conflicts. According to *Comte*, the Minsk Agreement and the resolution of the conflict in the Donets Basin had the highest priority. (Swiss Parliament press release of 20 Oct. 2016)

"Russia is playing an increasingly important role in world politics"

In an interview with the newspaper "Tages-Anzeiger", *Valentina Matvienko* commented on international cooperation: "Today everyone knows that no major international problem or even a regional conflict can be solved without us. On the contrary, Russia plays an increasingly important role in world politics. We advocate compliance with international law, leadership of the UN, and ensuring security of all. We are against the interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states and for these aims we are getting more and more support in the world." (translated by *Current Concerns*)

Matvienko: "The world has changed"

When asked what kind of world Russia wanted, she replied, "We are advocating a multipolar world and we refuse to accept it when a single state or group of states tries to dictate conditions to another country. This is not acceptable; the world has changed. A very fundamental transformation is taking place. We are advocating a more equitable worldorder in which the national interests of each country are valid. We are not letting ourselves be provoked and we are engaging in a dialogue with all our partners." (20.10.2016, translated by *Current Concerns*) •

Is another world war to be manipulated forth?

A historical view of the importance of EU and NATO as well as of the First World War

by Wolfgang Effenberger*



Wolfgang Effenberger
(picture ma)

On 24 June 2016, no more than 24 hours after the British voted on their country's leaving the EU, Paul Craig Roberts asked on the website of the "Institute for Political Economy", which he had set up himself: "The Brexit Vote - What does it Mean?" and in

his explosive article he gave an unambiguous answer: "Hopefully it means a break-up of the EU and NATO and thus the avoidance of the Third World War"¹.

For this former high official in the Ronald Reagan government Treasury, the EU and NATO are "evil institutions", created by the US "to destroy the sovereignty of the European peoples. NATO and the EU enable Washington to control the Western world. It is under this camouflage that Washington's aggression becomes possible. Without the EU and NATO, Washington cannot force Europe and the United Kingdom into a conflict with Russia. Without the EU and NATO, Washington could not have destroyed seven Muslim countries in the past 15 years, without being hated and isolated as war criminals. No US government official could have travelled abroad without being arrested and brought to justice."²

Paul Craig Roberts' crushing analysis is worth to be placed within its historical context:

The French President Charles de Gaulle had already learned at an early stage that US and British were concerned primarily with the connection of the Western European countries to the transatlantic pillars NATO and EU (then EEC). In the first months of 1947, the US had already kept two command centres out of the remnants of their Second World War command structures: the Pacific military command PACCOM in the east of

"The war parties in Washington, supported by the military-industrial complex, the tame media and the neocons, they are all agitating hard for war [...]. Ever since the times of Frederick the Great wise European heads of state and government have learnt not to fight against Russia [...]. All that is needed now is a terrorist attack like in Sarajevo to spark a great war between the two nuclear powers."
(Eric Margolis)

Eurasia and the European military command EUCOM in the west of Eurasia. On 4 April 1949, NATO was founded with the aim of "keeping the Russians out, the Americans in and the Germans down"³, as said the first NATO Secretary General, Lord Ismay. And as early as in December of the same year, NATO introduced its Dropshot war plan, which was about an attack on the Soviet Union in 1957.⁴ These imperial ambitions made de Gaulle very angry. He saw Europe as stretching from the "Atlantic Ocean to the Ural Mountains".

Europe was also to be divided economically. On 9 May 1950, which is today celebrated as "Europe Day," the French Foreign Minister Schuman announced the creation of a "European Coal and Steel Community" (ECSC), to the surprise of the Western Europeans (Adenauer is said to have been informed about all this just a few hours earlier).

John Foster Dulles as the chief power broker

Behind this plan was a whole network of politicians, military officers, bankers, industrialists and speculators. John Foster Dulles was to evolve into one of the shadow strategists. The ECSC was largely due to the French entrepreneur and diplomat Jean Monnet (1888–1979). Since the Versailles negotiations (1918/19), Jean Monnet had been keeping up a lifelong political and personal friendship with John Foster Dulles, then a consultant under Bernhard Baruch, the former senior representative of the US Reparation Commission, and a member of the "War Trade Board" (Central Office for Planning and Statistics). Under Baruch's instructions, Dulles formulated the German war guilt ("War guilt clause") in Article 231 of the Versailles Treaty. This article was the main reason why the first German delegation under Count Brockdorff-Rantzau refused their signature.⁵

In order to force the Germans to agree to sign a peace treaty, the effective sea blockade was continued after the armistice of 11 November 1918. When the German Minister of Foreign Affairs Hermann Müller (SPD) and Transport Minister Johannes Bell (Centre) had placed their signature under the Peace Treaty of Versailles on 28 June 1919, the blockade was lifted on 12 July 1919.⁶

In 1921, Dulles was a co-founder of the Council on Foreign Relations; he became a member of the "Rockefeller Foundation" and also took part in the compilation of the "Dawes-" and "Young Plan", which were intended to regulate German reparation payments.⁷

After 1919, companies such as the International Nickel Company or the Overseas Security Cooperation, and also banks such as J. P. Morgan were amongst Dulles' main customers. He advised them on credit transactions and partly also headed them. John Foster Dulles and his brother Allen represented US-American as well as German and European companies as part of their activity at the Sullivan & Cromwell Economic Chancery. These included Chase Bank, Ford, ITT, SKF, the I.G. Farben Group and the Belgian National Bank. However, they represented these companies not only legally, but also as hidden placeholders for company shares and as political lobbyists.

During the Second World War, Dulles also worked for the Bank for International Settlements.⁸

In 1945, Dulles advised Arthur H. Vandenberg at the United Nations Founding Conference in San Francisco, where he worked on the preamble of the UN Charter. Dulles later became a member of the General Assembly at the conferences from 1947 to 1949. At the same time, he kick-started the establishment of NATO and later that of its South Asian counterpart, the SEATO. As a supporter of the Korean War, he sharply opposed President Tru-

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man's containment policy, advocating a more aggressive variant, a policy of massive deterrence.

As Director of the CIA, respectively US Secretary of State, the brothers Allen and John Foster Dulles continued their previous activities unabated.⁹

Abolition of the historical nations of Europe

With the establishment of the ECSC, the first step towards the abolition of the historical nations of Europe was taken. Thus the Schuman plan is not the beginning of the construction of Europe, but the beginning of the destruction of the individual European nations by supranational institutions.

At the same time, de Gaulle saw a danger in the special relations between Great Britain and the United States, and this caused him to try to prevent their joining the *European Economic Community*. The distance he kept to the Anglo-American geo-strategy and his trustworthy relationship with German post-war Chancellor Konrad Adenauer kept him from repeating the policy of *Georges Clémenceau*, who had poisoned the already difficult relationship between France and Germany after the First World War.

From the spirit of discord to the mushroom cloud

As Paul Craig Roberts' statements about the motives which led to the founding of the EU and NATO are not to be disproved, he is not alone with his fear of a Third World War. On the same day, the Canadian journalist, author and human rights defender *Murray Dobbin* published his article "Do We Really Want a War With Russia?" in the US monthly magazine *Counterpunch*.¹⁰ The former board member of the *Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives* says that NATO has been steadily expanding by absorbing many former Soviet republics, such as Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Romania. It is hardly surprising that Russia sees this expansion as a gross violation of its confidence in the West and as a military threat, especially as NATO was officially established as a bulwark against Soviet communism. So, NATO would consequently have had to be dissolved in 1990. Dobbin also sees Poland as the key in this dangerous charade. Does he mean the similar situation of Poland as in 1938/39, when the war began with tensions on the Polish western frontier? In the course of the year 2016, NATO carried out extensive manoeuvres – Dobbin refers to Operation *Anaconda* with 30,000 Western military

men, the largest military deployment on Russia's borders since the German invasion of Russia in June 1941.

Poland's President: "We are preparing for an attack"

This goes together with the threatening gesture of Polish President *Andrzej Duda*, who said: "The goal of the exercise is clear. We are preparing for an attack."¹¹

On 25 June, an article with an identical title and commenting on Dobbin's observations was published on the platform of *Ron Paul's* Peace Institute. This was written by the internationally acclaimed US journalist *Eric Margolis*.¹² He graduated at the prestigious *School of Foreign Service* (SFS), which is part of Georgetown University in Washington D.C., the oldest Roman Catholic and led by Jesuits university in the USA. This school was founded in 1919 by the Jesuit Father *Edmund A. Walsh*, who taught political geography at the same time as *Karl Haushofer*. Today, *Madame Albright* also belongs to its teaching body.¹³

She is also a member of the board of the *Council on Foreign Relations*, the *Aspen Institute* and the *Center for American Progress*. As head of a NATO expert group, she presented a new strategic concept in 2010.

Margolis exhorts all today's politicians to read *Christopher Clark's* masterpiece "The Sleepwalkers" again and again. For Margolis Clark describes "how the small intrigues (small cabals) of anti-German officials in France, England and Russia manipulated forth the First World War, a conflict that was unnecessary, idiotic and illogical [...]; today we see the same process at work. The war parties in Washington, supported by the military-industrial complex, the tame media and the neocons, they are all agitating hard for war [...]. Ever since the times of *Frederick the Great* wise European heads of state and government have learnt not to fight against Russia [...]. One shudders at the thought of seeing *Hillary Clinton* as commander-in-chief in the future [...]. All that is needed now is a terrorist attack like in Sarajevo to spark a great war between the two nuclear powers."¹⁴

What cannot be read in the writings of Christopher Clark

What would Margolis have written if he had been aware of other connections which are not to be found in Clark's book? So, for instance, Clark withholds the activities of the naval department in the *Committee of Imperial Defense*: the long-term preparation (against international law!) of a naval blockade against Germany, which was to hit the German economy in a sustained manner. Two members of the CID naval division testified clear-

ly to this effect: *Maurice Hankey* in "The Supreme Command"¹⁵ and *A.C. Bell* in "A History of the Blockade of Germany"¹⁶. Such plans had been developed in the naval department since 1908, and the First Sea Lord *Churchill* was very pleased with them.

According to British naval historian, naval strategist and official historian of the Royal Navy *Sir Julian Corbett*, the First World War was planned by Lord Hankey and his co-workers within the British government with "an orderly completeness in every detail, that has no parallel in our history"¹⁷.

Significantly, you look in vain for the authors Hankey, Bell and Corbett in the index of Christopher Clark's "Sleepwalker". But neither do they appear in the German publications of *Winkler*, *Münkler*, *Friedrich*, or *Leonhard*.

Leon Trotsky's analysis about the First World War

There is another important contemporary witness whose historical analysis is not flattering for Great Britain: *Leon Trotsky*.

"... It is English democracy that has led to the imperialist war, not only in the sense of the general responsibility of all capitalist states for war – no, in the sense of the direct and immediate responsibility of the English diplomacy, which consciously and in a cold and calculating manner drove Europe into the War. If the English 'democracy' had openly declared that it would enter the war on the side of the Entente, Germany and Austria-Hungary would probably have beaten the retreat. If England had declared her neutrality, France and Russia would probably have retreated. But the British government acted differently. It secretly promised the Entente its support, and so misled Germany and Austria-Hungary by allowing them to reckon on the possibility of neutrality. Thus the English 'democracy' provoked the war [...]."

"Merchants of death" and the lessons of the World War

So we see that it was not the "small cabals" that led to the war in 1914 but larger ones. Ultimately, it was a small circle of British politicians who acted behind the backs of their unsuspecting colleagues: *Edward Gray*, *Richard Haldane*, *Herbert H. Asquith*, and not least Winston Churchill. They surprised Cabinet and Parliament, while Lord *Milner* pulled the strings in the background. In 1934, under the chairmanship of Senator *Gerald Nye*, the *Senate Munitions Investigating Committee* began to investigate the influence of American banks and arms manufacturers on the entry into the War in 1917. The

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committee found that, in addition to price agreements before and during the war, the arms industry had influenced US foreign policy strongly. Because of the immense loans to the Entente, the Morgan banks would have had to file for insolvency in the event of a defeat of the Entente. After two years (93 hearings and 200 witnesses, including JP Morgan), the Committee came to the conclusion that the US had been "tricked" into the War by the *Merchants of death*, i.e. bankers and armaments industrials.¹⁹

Does this scenario not seem somehow familiar to us? The interests of an unleashed greed for returns and resources have become visible behind the global unrest and conflicts at least since 2008. Today like then conflicts are being fuelled or even provoked, in order to break up economies and make countries dependent. Imperialism was by no means buried after the Second World War.

Looking at recent history we see that most of today's global upheavals have their roots in the imperial politics at the beginning of the 20th century. It was about ruthless exploitation and disregard for other cultures. With the peace of Versailles, injuries were manifested which cannot be permanently suppressed. Therefore the 100th anniversary of Versailles might be regarded as the occasion for all those concerned to recognise the bar in their own eyes and to initiate a process of healing – so that President Wilson's famous 14 points could finally be realised.

However, this requires the dissolution of the present-day imperial Western structures. With the withdrawal of Great Britain from the NATO-dominated EU, the restructuring process could be launched towards a genuine European Community, a European community that involves Russia. •

¹ Craig Roberts, Paul. The Brexit Vote – What Does it Mean? Friday June 24, 2016 www.paulcraigroberts.org/2016/06/24/the-brexit-vote-paul-craig-roberts/

² *ibid.*

³ Gebauer, Matthias; Neukirch, Ralf; Repinski, Gordon; Schult, Christoph. "VERTEIDIGUNG: Fortschritt im Schneckenempo" (Defence: Progress at a Snail's Pace) in "Der Spiegel" 9/2013 <http://www.spiegel.de/spiegel/print/d-91203385.html>

⁴ cf. Effenberger, Wolfgang. *Das amerikanische Jahrhundert Teil 1 "Die verborgenen Seiten des Kalten Krieges"*. (The American Century part 1 "The hidden sides of the Cold War"). Norderstedt 2011

⁵ *Der Unfriede von Versailles*. (The Discord of Versailles) In: "Der Spiegel" No. 28, 2009 (online).

⁶ Osborne, Eric. *Britains Economic Blockade of Germany 1914–1919*, p. 189

cf. Vincent, C. Paul. *The Politics of Hunger: The Allied Blockade of Germany, 1915–1919*. Ohio University Press, Athens, Ohio 1985

⁷ In 1929, the Young Plan superceded the Dawes Plan of 1923. Now repairs of 121 billion reichsmarks were to be paid in the course of 59 years (i.e. until 1988). As a result of the global economic crisis, transfer payments were significantly hampered and temporarily postponed under the Hoover moratorium in 1931. In 1932, the Young Plan was finalised at the Lausanne conference.

⁸ The Bank for International Settlements (BIS) was established on 17 May 1930 in the frame-

work for a new arrangement for the German reparation commitments. It is the world's oldest international financial organization. See "Schweiz: Hitlers beflissene Helfer" ("Switzerland: Hitler's Assiduous Fences") In: "Der Spiegel" of 17 March 1997 (Der Spiegel 12/1997 online) (access on 12 September 2015).

⁹ cf. Rügemer, Werner. *Die Berater*. (The Advisors) Bielefeld 2004

¹⁰ Dobbin, Murray. "Do We Really Want a War With Russia?" <http://www.counterpunch.org/2016/06/24/do-we-really-want-a-war-with-russia>

¹¹ *ibid.*

¹² Margolis, Eric. "Do we really want war with Russia?" <http://ronpaulinstitute.org> of 25 June 2016

¹³ In addition, Dr Albright was active in the management of the "Council on Foreign Relations", in the "Aspen Institute" and the "Center for American Progress". In 2009, Mrs Albright took over the presidency of an expert group to work out a new NATO strategy concept.

¹⁴ Margolis, Eric. "Do we really want war with Russia?" <http://ronpaulinstitute.org> from 25 June 2016

¹⁵ Hankey, Maurice. *The Supreme Command 1914–1918*. George Allen & Unwin, London 1961

¹⁶ Bell, A. C. *A history of the blockade of Germany and of the countries associated with her in the great war, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, and Turkey, 1914–1918*. London 1937

¹⁷ Corbett, Julian. *Official History. Naval Operations*. London 1921, Vol. 1, p.18

¹⁸ Trotsky, Leon. *Wohin treibt England? Europa und Amerika*. (Where is Britain going?) Reprint Berlin 1972, p. 54

¹⁹ Effenberger, Wolfgang/Wimmer, Willy. *Wiederkehr der Hasardeure – Schattenstrategen, Kriegstreiber, stille Profiteure 1914 und heute*. (Return of the gamblers – under cover strategists, war-mongers, on the quiet profiteers in 1914 and today) Höhr-Grenzhausen 2014, p. 438

(Translation *Current Concerns*)

Building bridges wherever possible

Willy Wimmer “Die Akte Moskau” (The Moscow File)

by Wolfgang van Biezen



To understand this unique history book in its diversity, it is helpful to remember the former British and now Anglo-American geostrategy for the European continent.

After the foundation of the German Empire in 1871 after the German-French War and the Prussian's victory, the European balance of power got considerably mixed up. The British elites faced a threatening of their predomination and their trade routes to India. Historically proven since 1887 is the up to now valid geo-strategical doctrine: Germany and Russia are not allowed to ally.

The First World War granted the world a new imperium. Since the British trade route and the American oil transport route in large parts were congruent, the new imperium readily participated in the experience of the British Empire 500 year lasting colonialisation. This unholy alliance persists until today.

After the First World War, the political systems on the European mainland and their territories were thoroughly destroyed. Three empires vanished. The Austro-Hungarian Monarchy was chopped up, Russia did not receive its promised reward – the access to the Mediterranean Sea. Instead it was drowned by revolutionary chaos, and Germany underwent a political humiliation and economical fragmentation by the “Contract of Versailles”. The victorious powers of the west – USA, England, and France – rearranged the continent. In the period between the world wars the *Molotov-Ribbentrop* Pact (between *Hitler* and *Stalin*) was not really a constructive connection between Germany and Russia. The Second World War granted Europe new borders and an Iron Curtain dividing Germany. From both sides of the curtain the atomic powers USA and USSR faced each other.

Hardened fronts during the Cold War

After World War 2, each citizen, each family in the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) and German Democratic Republic (GDR) had to deal with the Cold War while reconstructing Western respective Eastern Germany. The Building of the Berlin Wall cemented the geo-strategical reality for the citizens of both republics. The fronts were hardened. Media on both sides of the curtain operated the propaganda machinery by all available means. Nevertheless or maybe because of that it was a great pleasure, when the reunification hit Germany in a flush. Church ren-

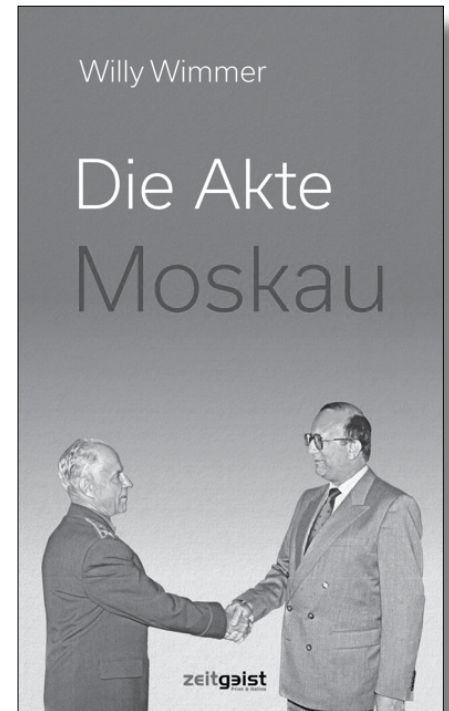
itence, Monday-demonstrations, “We are the people”, the fall of the Wall, the sell-out of the GDR, the setting in of a disillusion – all these things developed in such a rapid pace, that only now, after 25 years the process of coming to terms with it can start. “Die Akte Moskau” provides an insight into the historical context, which normally are accessible only by laborious reviewing of documents.

Willy Wimmer (born in 1943) grew up in the part of Germany under American influence, and he is a Christian and a Democrat. He was an active member of the CDU (Christian Democratic Union of Germany) in the German “Bundestag” for more than 30 years. He served as vice president of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, and as an undersecretary of the Federal Ministry of Defense, he was not only a contemporary witness but also an actor in the process of the German reunification. He was given the task of integrating the Bundeswehr of Western Germany and the NVA (National People's Army) of Eastern Germany, who opposed each other as hostile and atomic armies before the time of reunification, into an alliance of defense. He set the world on fire here, especially built bridges wherever possible – and quite often against considerable resistance within his own government and administration.

As the representative of the federal government in the eye of the tornado

At the time of “The Turnaround”, as a representative of the Federal Government, he was, so to speak, in the eye of the tornado, and thanks to his position, but also to his personality, we know today that behind the official agenda there is another one existing. He was unable to reconcile the NATO exercise *Wintex/Cimex* with his conscience, an exercise, which simulated the fact that US atomic bombs were to be thrown down to cities of the eastern part of Germany (albeit only by way of practice), and with the approval of Federal Chancellor *Helmut Kohl*, he put a stop to the the German part of this NATO exercise. The US representatives were not yet accustomed to this type of disobedience of one of their coalition partners.

After this crucial experience, Willy Wimmer noticed a lot of other oddities. Even before the reunification in 1988, official visits to the White House in Washington and, unexpectedly, also in the CIA headquarter in Langley, showed him who was pulling the strings in Europe. At time even he, who had some geopolitical expe-



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rience, was holding his breath. Like when he had to see how, as early as 1988, a new and modern Soviet constitution including civil rights like freedom of speech and religious freedom was worked out in a White House briefing. Another time, Willy Wimmer witnessed the preparation of the agenda for the Central Committee of the CPSU (Communist Party of the Soviet Union), also in the White House. In addition, there were serious considerations if (Western) Europe should still be run as a Condominium of the USA and the USSR. In the same year, in Langley, the CIA headquarter, of all places, he was told that, since the end of World War II, the Soviets in Central Europe were lined up in a purely defensive manner and that their proceedings were exclusively defensive, serving exclusively the protection of “Mother Russia”, as the instructing CIA official pointed out almost tenderly. Of course, such reports created a flurry of activity in Bonn's government circles since the possible consequences could not be overseen and were threatening to get out of control.

Such experiences with the US American agenda, however, are giving us food for thought, also because they demonstrate that Western Europe, the EU and particularly Germany are far from any sovereignty. The Empire, as *Daniele Ganser* is calling the US in his latest book “Ille-

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"Building bridges wherever ..."

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gale Kriege" [illegal wars], is controlling events on the Continent.

After 1990, the time for real disarmament had come

In his book, Willy Wimmer points out that, after the breakdown of the USSR, the time for real disarmament had come. Even more since politicians like *Mikhail Gorbachev* were signaling that they were serious about the reunification. As had been negotiated, the Russian troops were withdrawn from Germany and the West promised several times not to extend NATO towards the East. The Warsaw Pact was dissolved.

Willy Wimmer spoke to the commanders of NVA battalions, spoke to Russian military officials in the GDR, was received as a human being and listened to the cares and concerns of mothers and fathers who happened to be soldiers and feared for their existence. With them and his superiors he was looking for solutions in this highly complicated and unprecedented situation. The following became clear on both sides of the "Iron Curtain":

People are longing for peace and it would have made sense to also dissolve NATO for obsolescence. But the US military-industrial complex decided otherwise. Instead, the (NATO) defense alliance was transformed into an aggressive alliance; NATO was extended as far as the border of the Russian Federation, even though the states were aware that NATO's current progress reminded Russia of the

times of *Hitler* and *Napoleon*. This historical experience was deeply engraved into the Russian collective memory, as a CIA official told Willy Wimmer. Why then this demonstration of power?

The frantic call "No more war from German soil!", resulting from the catastrophic experiences both from World War I and the 55 million victims of World War II, was true for both German states. But a Red-Green Federal Government made a farce of it with lies and false appeals to humanity. Since the war in Yugoslavia, Germany is at war again.

Since the Yugoslavian War, Germany is at war again

And the real big war is in preparation. The situation is serious, if we tend to believe *George Friedman*, formerly of the *Stratfor Institute*, consultant in issues of war for the still acting President *Barack Obama*. The further development on the Continent depends on the Germans. A press brought in line is lulling Europe's citizens into a false sense of security. But the US know what they are doing.

Willy Wimmer's book is no easy reading, but it should be read, and it makes the reader to reflect if this planet really needs a power telling the rest of the planet how it should live. Who says that this Europe cannot take its fate in its own hands? Who says that this Europe cannot be sovereign? Who says that Europe cannot survive without a hegemon? Or should we join *Rolf Hochhuth's* demand: "Abolish NATO!"

Don't we think that the time has come to start working towards Europe and Rus-

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sia doing commerce on an equal basis, peacefully, sovereign and for the benefit of all their citizens and to jointly develop the Continent which has got so much culture, technology, science and resources? •

De-constraining, interfusion, appropriation

The 2016 White Paper of the German Bundeswehr

by Jürgen Rose*



Jürgen Rose
(picture Nahost-Forum
Bremen)

Ten years after the last “White Paper on German Security Policy and the Future of the Bundeswehr” had been published the Federal government thought it was appropriate timing to present the new amended version of this fundamental document on security issues in summer this year¹. It offers an overview about crucial parameters of security policies of the Berlin republic.

While the Federal Ministry of Defense had been in charge, as it has been tradition for a long time, other ministries contributed to writing the paper, such as the Federal Foreign Office, the Federal Ministry of the Interior, the Federal Ministries for Economic Cooperation and Development and for Economic Affairs and Energy, as well as the Chancellery.

Probably the most problematic aspect of the paper is dedicated to a development which has been expedited persistently and with determination by the protagonists of security policies of the Berlin republic ever since Michail Gorbachev had deprived the Atlantic alliance of their enemy at the end of the Cold war, which meant that the Bundeswehr [German Armed Forces] had to search for new commitments.

Strategies resulting from that search may be subsumed under the terms *de-constraining*, *interfusion* and *appropriation*.

De-constraining

The first of these crucial terms to describe the development of the German security policy, which is *de-constraining*, refers to the new spectrum of options for deployment of German military forces both in a geographical sense and in respect of form and content. These options range from “pre-emptive self-protection” via “anticipatory aid for allies”, deployment in the

“More than a quarter of a century after the end of the cold war thousands of German troops have participated in various missions of wide-ranging quality and intensity all over the world, hundreds of them have been harmed both psychologically and physically, many have been killed. Not to mention the victims on the side of their enemies and most importantly the civilians – the white paper doesn’t, unsurprisingly.”

context of a “reformulated Responsibility to Protect”, task prioritization in the context of “international conflict prevention” up to the unrestrained utilization of the military as “a means of foreign policy”².

More than a quarter of a century after the end of the cold war thousands of German troops have participated in various missions of wide-ranging quality and intensity all over the world, hundreds of them have been harmed both psychologically and physically, many have been killed. Not to mention the victims on the side of their enemies and most importantly the civilians – the white paper doesn’t, unsurprisingly.

Interfusion

One of the words that appear most often in the white paper 2016 is “networking”. This word belongs to those fashionable terms with positive connotation, since nobody wants to be isolated today; but everybody likes the idea of being kept warm and looked-after in as many cozy networks as possible. This attitude is utilized by the security strategists who declared the “networking approach” to be the “central guideline of our governance”³. “Our country”, the white paper authors point out, “has many competencies and instruments which are employed in order to meet foreign and domestic challenges.”⁴ And one of the most important of those instruments is the Bundeswehr, one should add. Since this seems to be the aim of all this networking rhetoric, namely providing legitimacy for the military, by letting the Bundeswehr take root as an indispensable instrument of German Foreign and Security Policies in the conscience of a highly unsettled public.

How handy it seems to be, that in the opinion of our Ministry of Defense “... military and civilian instruments complement each other in our networking approach”⁵. This exactly is the reason why the leadership of the ministry emphasizes the importance of “... anchoring the

networking approach of the Bundeswehr and developing it even further”⁶, moreover they plan to “intensify the co-operation between the Bundeswehr and governmental and non-governmental actors”, “nationally and internationally”⁷, that is.

Apart from taking over and colonizing all sorts of civilian non-governmental organizations under the pretext of security issues all conceivable risks will allegedly be mastered with this networking approach, including – and this is the actual goal – means of military violence which are pictured as essential political tools. The following quote of the white paper impressively illustrates how far the *interfusion* of the civilian sector by the military is supposed to go: “Effective networking of relevant political areas considerably improves the chances to successfully build resilience in order to fight off hybrid attacks. This includes improved protection of critical infrastructure, decreasing the vulnerability of the energy sector, issues of emergency management, efficient border control, supporting the police to maintain domestic order and creating rapid military deployment forces. Politics, media and civilian society are all to be enlisted in the efforts to counter propaganda with fact-based communication.”⁸ The tendency of this “networking” strategy towards a comprehensive “securitization”⁹ of more and more political areas and eventually a total militarization of state and society is clearly visible.

Appropriation

The third crucial term apart from *de-constraining* and *interfusion* is *appropriation*. This term refers to the new option to deploy the Bundeswehr in order to enforce national interests of the Berlin republic worldwide, which had been developed by the red-green coalition government according to the quote by Gerhard Schröder that “the military should be de-tabooed”¹⁰.

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"Deconstraining, interfusion ..."

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Ever since, the once revered "culture of restraint"¹¹ had rapidly gone out of favour and Germany had started to aspire to a new role in the international system using its military.

The paradigmatic paper for this process was published by two leading transatlantic lobbying organizations, namely the "German Marshall Fund of the United States" and the "German Institute for International and Security Affairs", under the programmatic title: "New power – new responsibility. Elements of German foreign and security policies in a changing world."¹² Soon afterwards this paper became the blueprint for the slogans in favour of a new German militarized Realpolitik, put on stage at the "Munich security" conference by the "trio infernale" of German foreign and security politics – president *Joachim Gauck*, foreign secretary *Frank-Walter Steinmeier* and defense secretary *Ursula von der Leyen*, that is – at the beginning of 2014.

The Orwellian newspeak phrase of "fulfilling leadership and responsibility in international politics"¹³ has been used extensively by the elites of the Berlin republic in order to euphemistically embellish their politics of belligerent interventionism, combined with neo-colonialism. In fact, no other term is used more often than "leadership" and "responsibility" in the new white paper of the federal government. Already in its introduction Angela Merkel states that "... the economic and political importance of Germany obliges us to fulfill responsibility for the security of Europe in co-operation with our European and transatlantic partners."¹⁴ The following 140 pages hammer the message of the necessity to fulfill "responsibility" and "leadership" by various means including military force into the readers' brains almost with missionary zeal. And just to make sure everybody got it Ursula von der Leyen repeats the mantra in the very last sentence of this defense-political prose as follows: "Germany and also its "Bundeswehr" stand for loyalty and re-

liability – guided by her interests and also the willingness to take the lead and accept more responsibility in international security politics."¹⁵

In plain words, this means nothing else than the sound of German troops marching shall be heard loud and world-wide. Consequently, this "White paper on security policies and the future of the Bundeswehr" manifests itself as a white paper on the insecurity of the Federal republic of Germany and anything but an uplifting future for the German military.

Far more important and constructive than that defense ministerial manifesto, which seems rather more anachronistic would, on the other hand, be a "White Paper on the Peace Policy of the Federal Republic of Germany" in the sense of both the fundamental and international norms of peace. And accordingly the motto of the Bundeswehr would have to be changed: It should no longer be "We. Serve. Germany." It should be "We. Serve. Peace." •

¹ Federal Ministry of Defence (ed.). "Weissbuch 2016 zur Sicherheitspolitik Deutschlands und zur Zukunft der Bundeswehr." Berlin 2016. www.bmvg.de/resource/MzEzNTM4MmUzMzMyMmUzMTM1MzMyZT-M2MzLzMDMwMzAzMDMwMzAzMDY5N-zE3MzM-0Nzc2YzYyMzcyMDIwMjAyMDIw/Weissbuch2016_barrierefrei.pdf

(The English version "White Paper on German Security Policy and the Future of the Bundeswehr" can be found on <http://www.gmfus.org/publications/white-paper-german-security-policy-and-future-bundeswehr>). Berlin 2016

² cf. more precisely Jaberg, Sabine. *Wehe, wehe, wenn ich auf das Ende sehe ... Zur Begründung eines friedenswissenschaftlichen Standpunkts zum Norm-Empirie-Problem bei Auslandseinsätzen der Bundeswehr*, in: *ibid.* Biehl, Heiko; Mohrmann, Günter; Tomforde, Maren. "Auslandseinsätze der Bundeswehr. Sozialwissenschaftliche Analysen, Diagnosen und Perspektiven." *Sozialwissenschaftliche Schriften*. Journal 47, Berlin 2009, pp. 302ff.

³ Federal Ministry of Defence (ed.). "Weissbuch 2016 zur Sicherheitspolitik Deutschlands und zur Zukunft der Bundeswehr", *ibid.* p. 58.

⁴ *ibid.*

⁵ Federal Ministry of Defence (ed.). "Weissbuch 2016 zur Sicherheitspolitik Deutschlands und zur Zukunft der Bundeswehr", *ibid.* p. 60.

⁶ Federal Ministry of Defence (ed.). "Weissbuch 2016 zur Sicherheitspolitik Deutschlands und zur Zukunft der Bundeswehr." *Ibid.* p. 99.

⁷ *ibid.*

⁸ Federal Ministry of Defence (ed.). "Weissbuch 2016 zur Sicherheitspolitik Deutschlands und zur Zukunft der Bundeswehr." *ibid.*, p. 39.

⁹ cf. about this inter alia Brand, Alexander. "Sicherheit über alles? Die schleichende Versicherheitlichung deutscher Entwicklungspolitik." In: *Peripherie* No. 122/123, Volume 31, 2011, Publishing house Westfälisches Dampfboot, Münster, p. 209–235; www.zeitschrift-peripherie.de/122-123_05_Brand.pdf; Anonymous: Securitization (international relations); [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Securitization_\(international_relations\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Securitization_(international_relations)); Gebauer, Thomas. "Die Versicherheitlichung von Politik". In: *medico.de*, 27 May 2010; www.medico.de/die-versicherheitlichung-von-politik-13977/; Baumann, Marcel M.; Zdunek, Gabriele; Zitelmann, Thomas. "Prozesse der Versicherheitlichung" von Entwicklungszusammenarbeit und zivil-militärische Kooperation", in: Jakobit, Cord; Müller, Franziska; Sondermann, Elena; Wehr, Ingrid; Ziai, Aram (ed.). "Entwicklungstheorien: Weltgesellschaftliche Transformationen, entwicklungspolitische Herausforderungen, theoretische Innovationen", *Sonderheft PVS 2014*, 2014, p. 230–253 as well as Anonym (ML); "Securitization", in: Seminarblog – Das Blog zum Seminar "Aktuelle Probleme der Sicherheitspolitik", 17 December 2009; <https://seminarraum.wordpress.com/2009/12/17/securitization/>.

¹⁰ Hofmann, Gunter; Naumann, Michael (Interviewer). Eine neue Form der Selbstverteidigung. Bundeskanzler Gerhard Schröder über die Bedrohung der westlichen Zivilisation und Deutschlands Rolle in der Welt. Ein Zeit-Gespräch. In: *Die Zeit* from 18 October 2001; www.zeit.de/2001/43/200143_schroeder.xml.

¹¹ Kinkel, Klaus. Abgabe einer Erklärung der Bundesregierung "Konsequenzen aus dem Urteil des Bundesverfassungsgerichts vom 12. Juli 1994". In: Deutscher Bundestag (Hrsg.). *Plenarprotokoll 12/240, Stenographischer Bericht*, 12. Wahlperiode, 240. Sitzung, Bonn, 22 July 1994, p. 21167; dip21.bundestag.de/dip21/btp/12/12240.pdf.

¹² Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik/ German Marshall Fund of the United States (Ed.). *Neue Macht – Neue Verantwortung. Elemente einer deutschen Aussen- und Sicherheitspolitik für eine Welt im Umbruch*. Berlin 2013, www.swp-berlin.org/fileadmin/contents/products/projekt_papiere/DeutAussenSicherhpol_SWP_GMF_2013.pdf.

¹³ Vgl. hierzu speziell Bittner, Jochen; Nass, Matthias. Kurs auf die Welt. Joachim Gauck, Frank-Walter Steinmeier und Ursula von der Leyen fordern eine entschlossener deutsche Aussenpolitik. Wie kam diese Wende zustande? Und in welche Konflikte führt sie? In: *Die Zeit*, No. 7, 6 February 2014, p. 3; www.zeit.de/2014/07/deutsche-aussenpolitik-sicherheitskonferenz.

¹⁴ Bundesministerium der Verteidigung (Hrsg.). *Weissbuch 2016 zur Sicherheitspolitik Deutschlands und zur Zukunft der Bundeswehr*, *ibid.* p. 6.

¹⁵ Bundesministerium der Verteidigung (Hrsg.). *Weissbuch 2016 zur Sicherheitspolitik Deutschlands und zur Zukunft der Bundeswehr*, *ibid.* p. 139.

(Translation Current Concerns)

Tropic House Wolhusen: a sustainable, pioneering idea

Coffee country Switzerland? Absolutely!

by Heini Hofmann

Situated in Lucerne's back country, at the gate to Entlebuch's biosphere reserve, *Tropic House Wolhusen* is a well thought out pilot project in more ways than one: It is being heated by industrial waste heat of a nearby gas compression station (of the natural gas pipeline North Sea – Italy) and thus produces tropical fruits and herbs that don't have to be transported halfway around the globe.

Having just been surrounded by cow pastures and farms, upon stepping into the big greenhouses, one is instantly enveloped by a fascinating, colourful and fragrant tropical jungle. All of the exotic fruits from the supermarket shelves can be found here, growing directly from trees and bushes – well-known ones like bananas, pineapples and papayas as well as exotic varieties like kumquat, sapote or cherimoya. And one is surprised to hear that Switzerland is also a coffee country.

The tropical garden is open to the public

Stimulated by a warm and humid climate, around 120 different varieties of tropical crop plants enticing the senses with their evergreen leaves, colourful fruits and fragrant flowers, can be found flourishing in the visitors centre spanning an area of 1,900 square metres. Themed islands providing information on the cultivation and processing of tropical products as well as critical reflections on how the tropics are being treated by western society have been installed all over the premises.

For those wanting more, seasoned guides are available as well as public tours on the weekends. Tours including the tasting of fruits and their products are especially popular with groups. Moreover, themed workshops can be booked for those interested in deepening their knowledge about the tropics. The kids are asked to participate in a tricky expedition game about a missing tropes researcher involving the entire facility's terrain.

Mahoi – exotic culinary delights

However, the Tropic House would not be complete without its own exotic restaurant. At Mahoi, guests can enjoy delicacies from the house's own production and local specialties paired with exotic drinks and selected wines while virtually dining in the jungle. Highly motivated 34-year old chef de cuisine *Andreas Halter* who worked at Mahoi since the restaurant's opening in 2010, was able to receive his 14th Gault Millau point this year.



Tropic House Wolhusen (behind) and house of production (in front). In the background the Pilatus. (pictures "Tropenhaus Wolhusen")

As is true for all of these types of sight-seeing and sightfeeling institutions, the restaurant is an essential pillar of the whole enterprise, that, as managing director *Pius Marti* mentions visibly proudly, after five years in business, is likely to welcome its 250,000th visitor soon (the number of restaurant visitors is already at 300,000). With its special ambiance, bar, lounge and big terrace in the midst of a tropical garden, Mahoi can seat 180 guests and takes bookings for private as well as company events.

A glimpse inside the production house

Even the big 5,500 square metre plantation that houses the actual production is partially accessible to the public by guided tour, which, of course, is always particularly fascinating. Within our latitude, where else would it be possible to visit a papaya, a chili or a coffee plantation? Here, selected tropical fruits, vegetables, herbs and spices are being grown and harvested for the restaurant, the store and external sales.

Similar to other institutions depending on visitors, e.g. natural history museums, botanical and zoological gardens, for the Tropic House, the information provided to the customers is key. For example, nature didn't equip the coffee plant with caffeine in its leaves, blooms and seeds in order to act as a pick-me-up for humans, but primarily to enable it to protect itself against insects, bacterial and fungal infestation. Furthermore, raw coffee is simply inedible. The roasting process is what first renders it potable, it lends the unmistake-

able aroma and the characteristic colour to the coffee.

Coffee country Switzerland – yes, really!

Due to climatic reasons, our country (except for Tropic House Wolhusen) obviously lacks coffee plantations. Notwithstanding that, the "brown gold" is still an important commodity for Switzerland. Surprisingly enough, as a refined export product, coffee outranks watches and chocolate. That fact alone should be enough to interest us in the incredible story of the brown wonder.

It all started in 12th century in Ethiopia, where the consumption of coffee fostered people spending time together. Later on, as the brown juice conquered the world, coffee was used to counter the effects of alcohol abuse before it morphed from being a luxury product for the wealthy to being the masses's lifestyle beverage all around the globe. But back to the coffee plant.

Arabica and Robusta

The *Coffea* plant is part of the Rubiaceae family and comprises around 120 species, but only few are used for coffee production. Today world trade is dominated by two species: the Arabica coffee plant (*Coffea arabica*), which is originally from Ethiopia and up to 5 m high, covers around 60% of the world's harvest. Its caffeine content is lower, its variety of flavours is high. The first plantations were

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Coffee recipes from all over the world – so many countries, so many coffee customs

Cafezinho/Brazil

Ingredients

1 heaped ts ground, Brazilian coffee
1 three-quarter cup of water
1 ts sugar

Preparation

Heat the water together with sugar in a saucepan until the sugar has dissolved (just before the boiling point). Add the ground coffee. Remove the saucepan from the heat. Stir the coffee well and strain the mixture using a fine sieve and serve.

Café de olla/Mexico

Ingredients

2 tb coarsely ground coffee
170 ml of water
25 g of brown sugar
1 clove
a little cinnamon

Preparation

Boil the water with clove and cinnamon and simmer for 10 minutes. Add sugar and, as soon as dissolved, add the coffee and continue simmering for 3 minutes. Put the pot aside and allow to stand until the coffee has settled. Strain and serve.

Maple coffee/America

Ingredients

150 ml fresh, very strong coffee
100 ml of milk and 100 ml of cream
50 ml maple syrup
little whipped cream

Preparation

Combine cream and milk in a saucepan, stirring constantly until thoroughly heated (do not boil). Stir in coffee and maple syrup. Then strain and serve with a little whipped cream.

Arabic coffee/Arabia

Ingredients

1 ts ground coffee, dark roast
about 50 ml of water
ground cardamom
ground nutmeg

Preparation

Mix water, coffee, cardamom powder and a hint of nutmeg well in a saucepan. Boil gently on low heat until foam gathers on top. Then pour the coffee into a pre-heated demitasse cup. Should be particularly enjoyable after lavish meals.

Ibrik/Turkish coffee

Ingredients

1 ts extremely fine (!) ground coffee
about 50 ml of water
sugar at will

Preparation

Pour water into a pot, add sugar at your will, stir well, then bring the mixture to a boil. Remove the pot from the cooker and add the coffee powder. Then boil up twice or three times, remove the pot from the cooker in between, remove the foam and stir thoroughly. Before serving, add 1 ts of cold water to accelerate the settling of the coffee powder. Pour the coffee in a cup without straining and serve.

Kopi Jahe/Indonesia

Ingredients

1 tb coarsely ground coffee
100 ml of water
15 g palm sugar
1 piece of ginger (hazelnut-sized and smashed)

Preparation

Bring coffee, ginger, and sugar to a boil with the water. Reduce heat and leave on the cooker until sugar has dissolved. Pour Kopi Jahe into a cup and enjoy it.

Indian coffee/India

Ingredients

1 ts ground coffee
100 ml of water
1 tb of rum
1 tb of sugar syrup
1 ts of coconut milk
½ ts of cornflour

Preparation

Mix cornflour with coconut milk and boil until thickened. Prepare a thin coffee and sweeten with sugar syrup, add rum. Then pour the mixture of coconut milk onto the bottom of the cup and pour rum-coffee over it.

Carajillo/Spain

Ingredients

45 ml espresso
30 ml Spanish brandy
1 ts sugar
3 coffee beans

Preparation

Put brandy with sugar and coffee beans in a small, heat-resistant glass. Heat the mixture with

the steam nozzle of the coffee machine. Light the heated brandy and deglace with fresh espresso.

Viennese coffee/Austria

Ingredients

100 ml of coffee
Vanilla syrup (optional)
1 ball of vanilla ice cream
Chocolate flakes

Preparation

Put a little vanilla syrup and one ball of vanilla ice cream into a heat-resistant glass. Fill up with coffee. Garnish with chocolate flakes at will.

Julekaffee/Denmark

Ingredients for "Christmas Coffee"

150 ml freshly brewed filter coffee
1 pinch of ground cardamom
1 pinch of ground coriander
1 soused ginger plum
2 cl Gammel Dansk Bitter Dram (bitter)
25 g whipped cream
½ ts ginger syrup
Chocolate powder

Preparation

Chop the ginger plum finely and put it in a high mug. Mix ginger syrup with cream. Brew the coffee, adding cardamom and coriander into the filter bag. Spread the Gammel Dansk over the ginger pieces and pour the coffee into the mug. Cap it with a cream topping and sprinkle with chocolate powder.

Irish coffee/Ireland

Ingredients

100 ml of coffee
40 ml Irish whiskey
2 ts of cane sugar
2 ts of half-beaten cream

Preparation

Put sugar and whiskey in a heat-resistant glass and heat it with the steam nozzle of the coffee machine. Add a freshly made coffee. Put half-beaten cream on it carefully. Serve without spoon.

Ginger honey/Origin?

Ingredients

45 ml espresso
1 ts honey
1 knife tip ginger powder

Preparation

Put honey and ginger into an espresso cup. Add a strong espresso. Stir before serving.

“Tropenhaus Wolhusen’ ...”

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known from Yemen before coffee conquered the world in the 17th and 18th century and gained a foothold in the higher tropical regions of Asia, Africa and America.

With the up to 8 m high Robusta coffee plant (*Coffea canephora*) the colonial botanists discovered an alternative to Arabica in 1897 which was less susceptible to rust fungus (hence the name Robusta). It has a slightly higher caffeine content, has a more bitter flavour and covers about 40% of the world’s harvest. Now one tries to incorporate its resilience into modern breeding products. A third variety (*Coffea liberica*), originally from West Africa and now spread in Central Africa, is involved in less than 1% of the world’s harvest, because its flavour is not popular with the customers.

More than 850 flavouring agents

The tropical undergrowth plant *Coffea* loves soil rich in humus. Propagation is done by seedlings (Arabica) or cuttings (Robusta). Their stone fruits (“coffee cherries”) contain two flattened seeds, the coffee beans. Each year, some 8 million

Coffee “Fünfliber” – Pure Swissness

HH. One of the most exceptional coffee recipes worldwide originates from the Entlebuch, quasi from the heart of Switzerland, at the entrance of which the Tropic House Wolhusen is located. Flamboyant coffee ideas seem to be traditional here. In terms of coffee Lucerne hinterland has always been way forward. Therefore the following special recipe shall be honoured:

Ingredients: 1 l and 1 dl water, 3 tablespoons ground coffee, 3 tablespoons sugar, “Schnaps” [brandy](pipfruit or plum), fresh fir branch, clean “Fünfliber” (five-Swiss franc coin).

Preparation: Boil water in a pot. As soon as it is cooking intersperse coffee and sugar and stir with the fir branch. Cook up the water again for a short time and take it from the stove. Pour 1dl cold water circularly in the pot. Put the Fünfliber in the glass and fill up with coffee until the *Tell*¹ is no longer visible. Add “Schnaps” until he is visible again. Remove the coin before drinking. Cheers!

¹ *Wilhelm Tell*’s head is shown on one side of the five-Swiss franc coin

(Translation *Current Concerns*)

Kaldi and the dancing goats A legend from the originating country of coffee

HH. Around the year 850 AD, the young Ethiopian goat shepherd *Kaldi* observed something peculiar: his bleating animals chewed the red fruits of a tree, whereupon they became unusually lively and began to jump and dance around. Curiously, *Kaldi* tasted some of those fruits himself and immediately realized that they were something special.

He ran to the nearby monastery and told the abbot of this peculiar effect. The man of God discharged his duty, declared the fruit as devil’s work, and threw it into the fire. After a short

time the heavenly scent of roasted coffee beans wafted through the monastery. The monks came running, fished the beans from the ashes, put them in a pot and poured hot water over them to keep them fresh.

During the night the monks tried the dark brew. It was irresistibly good and had an invigorating effect. So they vowed to drink it daily from now on, so as to keep them awake during their night’s prayers.

(Translation *Current Concerns*)

tonnes are produced. The top ten growing countries are Brazil, Vietnam, Indonesia, Colombia, India, Honduras, Uganda, Guatemala, Mexico and Ethiopia.

Coffee has been one of the world’s most popular drinks for centuries; for it offers pleasure and sensuality at the same time, and through the caffeine (purine alkaloid) it acts stimulating, awakening (not everybody is delighted) and mood-lifting. Anyone who thinks that you cannot talk shop and philosophise about coffee like wine is wrong. More than 850 chemically defined aromatics have so far been identified in roasted coffee beans – more than in wine.

The enjoyment of coffee depends on variety, degree of roasting and grinding as well as on the way of preparation, which varies around the world. The coffee aroma

is a result of smell and taste. A coffee can be smoky, nutty, flowery or fruity regarding odour, sweet or bitter, with a tea-like soft or syrupy-dense body and with citrusy, apple-like or vinous acid regarding taste. In addition, the appearance and colour of the crema are important to the eye. In short, you are amazed at what such a small bean has got in it! •

Additional information at:
Tropenhaus Wolhusen LU:
www.tropenhaus-wolhusen.ch, tel. 041 925 77 99.

(The analogous Tropenhaus Frutigen BE:
www.tropenhaus-frutigen.ch, tel. 033 672 11 44,
is specialised in sturgeon and caviar production instead of tropical fruit.)

(Translation *Current Concerns*)



Powder, butter and chocolate are made from the seeds (beans) of the fruit of the cacao tree. (picture “Tropenhaus Wolhusen”)

From the Rhine to the Volga – Exploring the Russian landscape and soul by doing “Pleinair” painting

by Gerda Reuter and Cornelia Jung, Bonn



Isaak Lewitan monument in Pljos (picture C.J.)

Following an invitation of the Russian Lewitan Museum, 6 German and 8 Russian landscape painters met on the Volga for a joint painting as part of the “Green Rush” project. The authors represented the “Kunststudio” of the University of Bonn (G.R.) and the “Volkshochschule “Bonn (C.J).

It is wonderful to sit in nature and to put a motif on the canvas like *Macke*, *Cezanne* or *Monet* did it. But at 8° C and in rain? The cool weather, however, did not prevent 8 Russian and 6 German landscape painters from painting “pleinair” in Pljos on the Volga, from 16 to 30 September 2016. The proud result of about 100 pictures was presented to the Russian audience at a vernissage in the professionally equipped cultural center Pljos. The audience welcomed the painters with curiosity and enthusiasm. In the subsequent exhibition in the Museum of Landscape Painting in Pljos, part of the works were to be seen until 14 October.

The painters had followed the invitation of the Russian Ministry of Culture, the Lewitan Museum, the Ivanovo Oblast and the International Foundation “Russian Province” to live the ancient tradition of landscape painting in the picturesque

town of Pljos on the Volga River. Painters and interpreters were accommodated in a good hotel on the Volga. All expenses, except flights and visas, were borne by the organisers and other sponsors, such as Metro. In exchange, each of the painters

made the Lewitan Museum a present of two works. The organizers were concerned not only with painting, but also with the cultural exchange between Russia and Germany. In the previous years, Italy, Estonia and France were painting partners.

The first rainy weather did not affect the good mood, because the tasty Russian cuisine, the often heated sauna and the evening social rounds, during which the participants painted and chatted until late at night, compensated the painters. In addition, cultural events such as a concert, sightseeing in the area and a Volga cruise were on the agenda.

The model for Russian landscape painting is *Isaak Lewitan*, who from 1860–1900 worked mainly in Moscow and Pljos. The Russian professional colleagues are painting in this style of Russian realism, which still take on an important role in Russia: the Russian colleagues do not live badly from their painting and have their customers as far as China. On the German side, expressionist elements were also introduced.

The Russian organisers and painters are very interested in continuing the exchange with Germany. An invitation should come from an official German site. •



Church in Pljos (picture C.J.)

About the importance of education

by Dieter Sprock

The question of raising children is less discussed these days. The issue has disappeared from the headlines and currently does not seem to receive a lot of attention among parents. One might think the knowledge about the importance of education has fallen into oblivion. In everyday life, we come across parents who are turning the natural order upside down. They constantly try hard to get everything right for their children and read every wish from their lips. They permanently cater to them and have handed over the lead.

A general mood has spread in which parents who still want to educate do not have the nerve to say *no* to their children for fear of being considered as uncaring parents.

Children without guidance

Parents who do not raise their children anymore but leave the lead to them, neither do a favour to themselves nor to their children. It is common knowledge that children do not show their appreciation. They develop the feeling that other people have to fulfil their wishes and become indignant if they do not. Recently, I watched a little boy, maybe three years old, pushing his toddler-friendly shopping trolley around the village shop without paying attention to his mother. When she called him to come, he insisted that she should come to him, and when she didn't immediately do so, he started yelling. Unfortunately, this is not an isolated incident. In many families stressful disputes take place every day – and sometimes degenerate into outright power struggles – about getting up, washing and teeth-brushing, eating and shopping, or about homework. For such behaviour we find no examples in nature. Everywhere, the young ones follow their parents and not vice versa.

It is heartbreaking when you see how parents get caught up with their children, and in particular through their efforts to make them happy – with the best intention, but completely unaware – put in motion and consolidate developments that make life difficult both for both their children and themselves. Children who have been the centre of the family and made their own decisions from a very early age, do not grow into independent personalities but become self-centred and confused, many develop learning difficulties because they have not been trained to listen to adults. Pediatricians, teachers and psychologists know a lot about this.

Jürg Frick, lecturer and consultant of teacher education and training at the University of Zurich, wrote on 5 October 2016

“Children need education and guidance. That means neither strictness nor force. Pressure generates counter pressure. The best basis is to enjoy the child, not only one's own, but the delight in one's fellow beings as such.”

in a guest comment in the “*Neue Zürcher Zeitung*”: “Too many pupils are not sufficiently prepared for the requirements of school and enter with completely wrong ideas, beliefs and claims. What is more, many children have a low frustration tolerance, plunk down everything if it does not work out straight away and refuse to meet any requirements. Their self-control, emotion control and empathy are underdeveloped. Many of these children have learned at home that adults (too frequently) adapt to them and the children themselves have hardly had to perform any adaptation. What happens is a misguided orientation of parents towards their children.”

This results in children who are barely acceptable at school because they cannot obey rules and are neither able to study or listen nor to work with their peers. But whereas in the past school was a valuable corrective, today, with the nationwide introduction of “self-determined learning”, this kind of mishap is not only continued, but even strengthened.

The assumption is wrong that children develop best when adults follow their needs. And if more proof were needed for this assertion, present-day school is providing it. More and more children are no longer able to cope with the “self-determined confusion”. They become victims of false theories, and the question arises, how long we still want to watch.

What does guidance mean?

Children need education and guidance. That means neither strictness nor force. Pressure generates counter pressure. The best basis is to enjoy the child, not only one's own, but the delight in one's fellow beings as such. Children need adults who give inner peace and safety orientation, so that they can focus on it. Clear rules give them security. They need adults who can cope with children not agreeing with them and who do not change their course, only to satisfy the children, adults who are able to deal with conflicts. Conflicts are a part of life. Their peaceful management allows inner growth and promotes personal maturity both of parents and children.

Guidance in education requires the ability to teach children patiently, with the inner certainty that they are willing to fol-

low because it is their nature and knowing that it is through free interaction with their mothers to begin with and later with the whole world that they can develop their human abilities best.

The world does not fulfil our wishes. Life is a challenge that sometimes can be hard and has to be mastered. Our task is to prepare the children for this.

The Geneva philosopher *Jeanne Hersch* writes the following about the needs of youths, which is also valid for children: “Their [the youths'] deepest and certainly most widespread need is the longing for real fathers and real mothers. No companions, but parents. Real fathers and real mothers whose love and protection is unconditional and whose authority is unshakable. They need teachers or at least one teacher whose word is valid, whose demands are friendly and without anger, and whose commitment towards them is unambiguous and unreserved. They need adults, people who show through their presence alone that life can be lived and have some meaning. “(from: *Jeanne Hersch*, “Antithesen zu den Thesen zu den Jugendunruhen 1980”, p. 47; translation *Current Concerns*)

The importance of education

We humans have to learn almost everything. Let us look at language, for instance: If a Chinese child grows up in a Bernese family in Switzerland, it will speak the Bernese dialect as well as every other Bernese child. There is no difference.

Feelings and conduct are also acquired. It is true that every child is unique and unmistakable at birth, not only externally, but also in terms of character. There are vivid and quiet children with considerable differences, as every mother knows. However, the “material dreams are made of”, the content of their feelings, is acquired. Babies kick and cheer, laugh and cry, are dissatisfied or happy, they babble and sometimes they even refuse. All this is at first quite spontaneous, simple expression of life. But soon the child realises that they can influence their mother's mood with his smile and thus a fine interplay develops

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Thoughts on common classroom teaching

by Hedwig Schär

What happens to the class during common teaching? I have given some thoughts to this question.

In my lower grade class I am fortunate to teach only half of the class during some hours a week. Then I often make a circle with the children and jointly work out the teaching material on a small scale. Thus I can keep an eye on all the children. To my right and to my left I can place children needing to be a bit closer to the teacher in order to be able to better concentrate. Together, we deal with the upcoming topic with materials or on a large page. Every child can follow and participate in his or her own way: actively or rather calmly.

The precise didactic preparation of the teaching material is an essential prerequisite. Under my guidance, the material is developed in small steps so that everyone can follow. Only when the previous step is understood, the next one follows. If a child does not understand a step for a long time, I notice that, observe it afterwards when the children solve their task sheet and give help if necessary.

During these processes the children have to be oriented to me as teacher; I know them well. It is great art that I guide, admittedly, but that every child actively follows and participates. Through the common lessons I quickly notice who has already understood and what or where

the obstacles are. Already a facial expression can show me that a child is no longer able to cope and follow. I deliberately call children who only sit and do not put their hands up. I am constantly encouraging, confirming or correcting the pupils' learning steps, without much fuss. Thus, the children are given an orientation and can gain knowledge themselves. It is strictly forbidden to laugh at somebody or to make remarks about a classmate's mistake. By that any quiet learning is made impossible.

Always one child solves a partial task, and the other children follow. At that, it is not necessary that every child is able to do everything himself. By watching and following, a learning process equally happens as in one's own doing. By not being so much in the centre, sometimes the children are even better able to think quietly. The individual learns from role-models, be it from the class-mates or from the teacher. At that, my role model effect as a teacher is of great importance. The children exactly observe and assimilate what I do, the way I do it. Individual learning steps can also be explained by pupils having already understood the task. In their words, they sometimes reach the other children better than the teacher. Due to this process of co-thinking and witnessing in the common part of the lesson, the

child is later on able to solve this kind of task himself.

Through this collaborative work a familiar atmosphere among the children and with me is created. The children learn from each other, listen to each other, and are also pleased with the success of their colleagues. This kind of work together with the children on common material is social learning.

This work with the children requires my highest concentration as a teacher. I have to be in the situation with all of my personality and human feeling. In doing so, my own attitudes towards learning are of paramount importance. It is fundamentally different if the teacher assumes that every child can learn everything, as if she thinks that the limit of a particular student is reached. In the second case, she gives up and does not ask the student anymore. If she has the attitude, everything is learnable, then she does not give up until the child makes his own learning steps. This is precisely the responsibility, satisfaction and challenge, even after many years of service, to promote each individual child and help him overcome any difficulties and deficits. If a hurdle is taken, something accomplished, it can spur a child. With his whole personality it has both feet on the ground. For me as a teacher this is also very nice. •

"About the importance of education"

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between mother and child, which is also actively shaped by the child.

If a child refuses everything at times – for whatever reason – and their mother gets nervous and takes the greatest effort every time this happens, then there is the risk that with her exertion she just strengthens the behaviour which in fact she wants to "wean off". Through her special attention the child learns that with-

drawal and refusal are ideal means of binding and guiding the mother's attention towards them.

Everyone develops their personal lifestyle from what they encounter in childhood, the way they go about things and meet the challenges of life in general.

Hence, the little boy who we met earlier in the village shop is not angry because his grandfather already had tantrums, but because he has acquired it as an obviously successful kind of behaviour. And because this behaviour is learned and not in-

nate, they can also change it with pertinent corrections. That is the good news.

Education is an obligation towards the individual as well as the common good. There is a new challenge for every generation due to the requirements of the current time. For certain, however, a lot of emotional distress and disappointment could be avoided if mothers and fathers knew more about parenting in order to understand better the kind of developments that could only be briefly hinted at here. In any case, the importance of education cannot be overstated. •