

Current Concerns

The international journal for independent thought, ethical standards, moral responsibility,
and for the promotion and respect of public international law, human rights and humanitarian law

English Edition of *Zeit-Fragen*

Big central states as risk of war

Lessons from history: small states are more inclined to peace and social balance than large formations – EFTA as an alternative to EU

by Tobias Salander, historian

While the EU stumbles from one crisis into the next, while the euro is presented as having no alternative and the bank bailouts are presented as inevitable, despite the fact that many EU countries have not adopted the euro at all and the UK openly thinks about leaving the dungeon that the EU represents in this time of crisis, more and more people begin to look for alternatives: Charles de Gaulle's concept of a Europe of nations is reflected by a growing number of citizens, and even whole parts of centralized nation-states begin to consider themselves again as independent states and homelands: Scots, Catalans, Basques, but also Bavaria certainly see a new form of co-operation in Europe: beyond the double stranglehold by their own metropolis and the one by Brussels. In Switzerland, these processes are observed with great interest, a large number of small states would mean not less but more security because: wars have always emanated from large power structures, hardly ever from small states, which need and require cooperation. An economic alliance of freedom and beyond the Brussels commissioner economy would already be available: The EFTA does still exist, even 50 years after its foundation – a real alternative for old-new small states. The economic success model Switzerland looks forward to welcoming its European neighbors in this network.

A plea for the small states, with examples from the parliamentary debate in Bavaria in the winter of 1871, when they should be incorporated into a juggernaut based in Berlin – containing opinions of freedom-loving patriots which in their clarity still have full force and effect even in 2013.

By their nature all peoples want nothing but one thing: to shape their lives in peace and security, to maintain family and friendship ties, give themselves a home without excluding other people. Throughout the centuries, people have struggled to arrive at a form of social life, safeguarding political, economic and social peace: the democratic state

“If they want to found such a great empire, as is intended here, when all the forces are gathered to establish a state that has already been called an ‘absolutist-monarchist-military state’, which in Berlin is referred to as abandoning all parliamentary life, all liberty – we cannot agree with such an oeuvre. Where does the creation of such a state lead us? The addiction, the domination of Europe lies at its roots, and this gathering of the forces will lead to war in the near future.” (quoted after Scharnagl, p. 25)

based on the rule of law which is even more successful if it is not designed to be great. Early forms were the poleis in ancient Greece, the urban communes in Northern Italy during Renaissance, the cooperatives all over the world, which partly initiated the foundation of states as for example the Confederation in Switzerland – especially the latter communities, built from the bottom up, recognize man as a person, endowed with an inherent dignity that must not be violated with impunity. Own judges, elected by the affected population have to ensure this. This happened in Switzerland, where it was laid down in the *Federal Charter* already in 1291, a document of peace and of the principle “one for all and all for one”. An own military readiness, supported by everyone, has to secure this peace against the outside world. The Age of Enlightenment then included the ideas of separation of powers, an intensified people's sovereignty and the principles of equal rights derived from natural law, on whose foundations the peoples of the Western Hemisphere established an economic order that gave each individual the freedom to reveal unknown forces. The Industrial Revolution led to a long-term and hitherto unknown prosperity for the

broad public. And so Europe might consist of flourishing landscapes these days, with thriving economies, and it would still have enough money left to be transferred to the peoples of the Third World as part of compensation for the devastating consequences of colonial history.

The war of conquest begins beyond a certain critical mass

However, Europe plunges from one crisis into the other and makes use of approaches to solve the problems that are actually part of the problem. And: European powers rearm and rearm and wage wars on other continents again, just as recently in Africa, where they are still remembered ingloriously. The EU as a peace project? The present times reveal quite a different picture: the centralized large entity with headquarters in Brussels fits in with a whole gallery of declining or defunct juggernauts which behaved even more belligerently towards the outside and dictatorially towards the inside, the bigger and the more centralistic they were. If we knew the term “natural law” in history, we would be inclined to talk about it here. Starting with Athens or Sparta,

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Mali – One war can hide another

by Thierry Meyssan

A long time in the making and announced by François Hollande six months in advance, the French intervention in Mali was portrayed as an emergency decision in response to dramatic developments. This scheme aims not only at seizing Mali's gold and uranium, but more especially at paving the way for the destabilization of Algeria.

“Appetite comes with eating”, says the proverb. After having re-colonised the Ivory Coast and Libya, then having attempted to get a hold on Syria, France is now setting its sights on Mali in order to take Algeria from behind.

During the attack on Libya, the French and the British made wide use of the Islamists to fight the power structure in Tripoli, since the Cyrenaican separatists had no interest in overthrowing *Muammar al-Gaddafi* once Benghazi became independent. At the fall of the Jamahiriya, I was personally witness to the reception of the leaders of AQMI (Al Qaida in Islamist Mahgreb) by members of the National Transitional Council in the Hotel Corinthia, which had just been secured by British special forces who had come from Iraq for that purpose. It was clear that the next target for Western colonialism would be Algeria, and that AQMI would play its part, but at that time I could not see which conflict could be used to justify international intervention.

Paris has imagined a scenario in which war will enter Algeria via Mali.

Shortly before NATO's capture of Tripoli, the French managed to bribe and return the Tuareg groups. They had the time to supply them with abundant funds and weapons, but it was already too late for them to play a role on the ground. Once the war was over, they went back to their desert.

The Tuaregs are a nomad people who live in the central Sahara and on the borders of the Sahel, which is a vast area shared between Libya and Algeria, Mali and Niger. While they have obtained the protection of the first two states, they have been ignored by the last two. As a result, since the 1960's, they have been challenging the sovereignty of Mali and Niger on their land. Quite logically, these groups, armed by France, have decided to use their weapons to impose their demands on

Mali. The MNLA (National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad) has taken control over almost all of northern Mali, where they live. However, a small group of Tuareg Islamists, Ansar Dine, which is connected to AQMI, has taken advantage of this occupation to impose sharia law in some areas.

On the 21st of March 2012, a strange coup d'Etat was perpetrated in Mali. A mysterious group called CNRDRE (National Committee for the Recovery of Democracy and the Restoration of the State) overthrew President *Amadou Toumani Touré* and declared their intention to restore Malian authority in the north of the country. This resulted in great confusion, since the putschists were incapable of explaining how their actions would improve the situation. The overthrow of the President was even stranger since a presidential election was to be held five weeks later and the outgoing President was not running for office. The CNRDRE is composed of officers who were trained in the United States. They halted the election process and handed power to one of their candidates, who happened to be the Francophile *Dioncounda Traore*. This sleight of hand was legalised by the CEDEAO (Economic Community of West African States), whose President is none other than *Alassane Ouattara*, who was placed in power in the Ivory Coast by the French army a year earlier.

The coup d'etat exacerbated ethnic divisions in the country. Elite units of the Malian army (trained in the United States), whose commander is a Tuareg, joined the rebellion, taking with them their arms and equipment.

On the 10th of January, Ansar Dine - supported by other Islamist groups - attacked the town of Konna. It then moves out of Tuareg territory to spread Islamic law to the south of Mali. The transitional President, Dioncounda Traore, declared a state of emergency and called to France for help. Paris intervened within hours to prevent the fall of the capital, Bamako. Far-sightedly, the Elysée had already pre-positioned in Mali troops from the 1st Marine Infantry Parachute Regiment (“the Colonials”) and the 13th Parachute Dragoon Regiment, helicopters from the COS (Special Operations Command), three Mirage 2000D's, two

Mirage F-1's, three C135's, a C130 Hercules and a C160 Transall.

In reality, it is highly unlikely that Ansar Dine represented any real threat, since the true combative forces are not Islamists, but Tuareg nationalists, who have no ambitions in the south of Mali.

In order to carry out its military intervention, France has turned to a number of countries for support, including Algeria. Alger is trapped – it either has to accept collaboration with an old colonial power, or take the risk of an influx of Islamists on its territory. After some hesitation, it agreed to open its airspace to French aviation. But then a non-identified Islamist group attacked a British Petroleum gas terminal in southern Algeria, accusing Algerians of complicity with Paris in the Malian affair. A hundred people were taken hostage, but they were not only Algerian and French. The aim of this attack is clearly to internationalize the conflict by transporting it to Algeria.

This technique of French intervention is a copy of the one deployed by the *Bush* administration – use Islamist groups to create conflict, then intervene and occupy the area under the pretence of restoring order. That is why *François Hollande's* rhetoric picks up on the “war against terrorism”, which has long been abandoned by Washington. The usual cast of actors can be found in this play – Qatar has bought shares in the major French companies installed in Mali, and the emir of Ansar Dine has close ties to Saudi Arabia.

The arsonist-fireman is also a sorcerer's apprentice. France has decided to reinforce its anti-terrorist measures, the “Vigipirate plan”. Paris is not afraid of actions by Malian Islamists on French soil, but of the influx of jihadists from Syria. In fact, over the last two years, the DCRI (Central Directorate of Interior Intelligence) has favoured the recruitment of young French Muslims to fight with the Syrian Liberation Army against the Syrian state. Since the SLA is failing, these jihadists are presently returning to their native land, where they may be tempted, out of solidarity with Ansar Dine, to use the terrorist techniques that they have been taught in Syria. •

Source: www.voltairenet.org
(Translation *Pete Kimberley*)

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which from a certain size on fell victims to the madness of power, going on to *Alexander the Great*, who made the idea of the polis an absolute absurdity and himself the largest warlord of his time. The city on the seven hills is another example, which – once it had achieved a critical mass or size – was lost in imperial hubris and imposed wars of conquest on the world – or at least on Europe. If we approach more closely to the present, we could mention the English colonies in North America. Once freed from the European yoke, it was just about a hundred years, until the formerly oppressed were penetrating the continent and killed millions of indigenous people or subjected them before they started their imperial leap either directly with military means or with their dollars. A wave of countless wars was to follow, all controlled by a central authority and a gigantic military-industrial complex.

Would an independent Idaho and Kazakhstan have conducted a Cold War?

Just imagine the US states had only loosely united as a confederation, or there would have been two unions, a northern and a southern one. Or some single states, as recently called for in Idaho, had left the union and joined the United Nations as independent sovereign states. We hardly need to mention the centralized, totalitarian structuring of their countries by dictators such as *Hitler* and *Stalin*, and the belligerent consequences. What would have happened if the various nationalities in the Soviet Union had declared themselves independent, and the individual countries in Nazi Germany had successfully defended against their "gleichschaltung" and enforced their withdrawal from the Reich? Would a state of Thuringia, a city of Hamburg, a Free State of Bavaria, a free Ukraine, a free Kazakhstan or on the other hand a free state of Baden have attacked an independent state of Alsace? Probably not, since other small states had intervened as mediators; and if they had, it would never have had such devastating effects, and hecatombs of dead, as were the consequences of the big empires' wars.

Or back to history: Would France have waged all those wars if it had not been governed and centralistically structured by *Louis XIV*? Would France and hence Europe, usurped and subjugated by *Napoleon*, have attacked Russia?

The wars of the EU countries – what can Switzerland do?

The reader may be inclined to ask himself what these arguments are aiming at. In short: An increasingly centralized,

highly armed EU that denies the sovereignty of the individual states will trigger off major wars, as all historical experience shows – and the minor ones have indeed already begun: Members of today's EU waged the 1999 NATO war of aggression against Serbia in cooperation with the US, thereby violating international law. Members of the EU reduced the UN Resolution No. 1973 in Libya to absurdity; currently there are EU members in Syria using covert operations; in Mali as well, but there they do so openly with air and ground forces, as there had never been the verdict of former US Defense Secretary *Robert Gates* that today every general or politician who gives the order for a ground forces operation against Islamists should see the psychiatrist. We have come so far today, that even calls from the empire – which continues to wage wars, however newly following the specifications of "smart power", only smarter, i.e. cleverer and more cunningly – that such calls are not taken seriously by a highly arming EU.

Who will stop this madness? Switzerland cannot do it. It can however be prepared and confront the arrogance of power and strengthen the economic exchange with the rising BRICS states. And remain well-fortified. And immediately suggest our own fickle politicians to resign.

Free State Bavaria in the Europe of nations – an utopia?

But what do things look like within the EU? The EU citizens will know themselves how to handle that. However, from the Swiss point of view, we may point out to an event that appears sustainable and deserves full moral support. The talk is of Bavaria and the local efforts to recapture the long lost sovereignty. In this regard, *Wilfried Scharnagl*, longtime editor of the "*Bayernkurier*", collected extensive and memorable material in his book "*Bayern kann es auch allein. Plädoyer für den eigenen Staat*" ("Bavaria can also do it on its own. A plea for a separate state"). Bavaria: a state, almost twice the size of Switzerland, with a population of around 12 million inhabitants, about the seventh-largest economic power in the group of countries in the EU, net payer in the equalization payment of the Federal Republic, thrifty and allowing itself not many of the luxuries that other states enjoy although they receive funds. Not complaining about a population decline like other provinces, a dream destination for almost all federal Germans because it is so fundamentally solid, possesses a well-structured dual education system and therefore hardly complains about youth unemployment. It includes a social cohesion, which is deeply rooted in Catholic social teaching, a country where the vast majority of the population

lives the values of compassion and charity with total conviction. The country, whose population was allowed to vote on its own constitution after World War II as the only one of all the federal states; it is a free state which rejected the Basic Law of the Federal Republic of Germany, because the latter was aimed at a central state and seemed too little federal. A state that after the Second World War had seen a number of important politicians who had spent their exile in Switzerland and had brought with them many direct democratic ideas from our country.

Treitschke about the defeat and breakup of Bavaria by Prussia

Bavaria – a state which had lost sovereignty under tragic circumstances very early in the 19th century; a state whose people's representatives – though unfortunately in the minority then – had almost prophetically anticipated where a large central government under Prussian leadership would have taken them to: into a major war. The speeches of the Bavarian MPs in the memorable debate in the Bavarian Parliament in January 1871, the time of the Franco-German war, read as if they had been made today, as if they were talking about the EU and as if they were not warning against a great German Reich under Prussian guardianship that was inevitably aiming at the conquest of Europe, then the world, and consequently was tantamount to war. The speeches could be almost directly transferred to the current European juggernaut; therefore some excerpts are to be quoted below.

The guideline was that everyone, who opposed the German unification under Prussian leadership, would belong to the diehards and hillbillies, and it had already been unequivocally set up, for instance, by *Heinrich von Treitschke*: "Bavaria is a non-viable political malformation, actually a dwarf with a water head, and Prussia's task is to smash Bavaria and restrict the House of Wittelsbach to his Alpine countries." (quoted in *Scharnagl*, p. 20). These are tunes, which are not entirely unknown to the citizens of the small state of Switzerland; either that they remember the former outbreaks of hatred of a *Goebbels* or *Hitler* or – more recently – the cowboy-like behavior of a *Steinbrück*.

Bavarian MPs: The German Reich is going to wage war in Europe!

In 1871 in the Bavarian Parliament, despite *Treitschke*'s announcement, a majority of 102 MPs did unfortunately not counter the subjugation of Bavaria, so strong was the propaganda for the Second Reich. However, at least 48 deputies were farsighted enough to realize where a spurious Berlin central government

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would lead them. So the Palatinate lawyer *Adolph Krätzer*, Member of the Court of Appeal in Passau and representative of the constituency Grafenau said: "If they want to found such a great empire, as is intended here, when all the forces are gathered to establish a state that has already been called an 'absolutist-monarchist-military state', which in Berlin one refers to as having abolished all parliamentary life, all liberty – we cannot agree with such an oeuvre. Where does the creation of such a state lead us? The yearning to dominate Europe lies at its roots, and such gathering of the forces will lead to war in the near future." (quoted after Scharnagl, p. 25). Note, that at the same time, as these words were spoken in Munich, it was only three more years until in 1874 in Switzerland the referendum act was adopted by a peo-

ever, Krätzer and his colleagues said they opposed the feared centralism: "We want that, we want a state whose innate nature is defensive, not offensive, and which does not seek to dominate the world." What would the world have looked like if these voices had been stronger? Certainly there must have been similar concerns in other German states against the Prussian central government – just like today's opposition to the EU juggernaut which is certainly greater than the published opinion wants to make us believe. Krätzer continued: "For peace is he who brings prosperity, war destroys prosperity, and such is our prospect. We see that it will come if we consider the traditions of the trunk, to which we are to tie ourselves if we consider the constitution, which is presented to us." (quoted after Scharnagl, p. 26)

Other MPs pointed out that Bavaria had indeed joined in the war against France, but now it should pay the victory with the destruction of its own life. "Where in



ISBN 978-3-86995-048-8

"They [the Bavarian MPs] were oriented towards a phrase by the philosopher Friedrich Wilhelm Schelling, according to which the Germans were not destined to live in a central state but rather to be 'a people among others.'" (quoted after Scharnagl, p. 21)

ple's vote on federal level. While in Germany people feared to relapse into an absolutism, that would be based on iron and blood, south of the river Rhine a form of people's sovereignty was achieved, which was unique not only at that time. This right to referendum, which had already been introduced in the cantons, led to a peaceful settlement of disputes and also had an educating effect, since the proposals all had to be closely studied and discussed by all voters, whereas the neighboring country lacked the formation of a critical public, who could effectively counter the war propaganda. Nevertheless, people like the mentioned Bavarian lawyer Krätzer saw the disaster coming. Thus Krätzer continued in his speech to the parliamentary colleagues: "Do you think our people is willing for its sons to be sent from one war to another? I think at the moment we are experiencing a war that has brought great misery which is truly appalling. The happiness of thousands is now shattered. I do not think it is our job to help establish states whose objective is the domination of Europe."

Bavaria as a vassal state for the Prussian wars? No, thank you!

The Bavarian opposition against the subjugation to Prussia was not at all addressed per se against an all-German state. How-

world history did that happen before?" asked *Joseph Conrad Pfahler*, representative of Straubing, parish priest of Deggen-dorf. And the Regensburg cathedral vicar *Joseph Neumaier*, member of the electoral district of Landshut, remarked in a similar tendency: "Yes, what is this: having provided such assistance to Prussia, shed so much blood, spent such sums of money, so many millions and finally then mediated or, if the term is not popular, made a vassal state?" (quoted after Scharnagl, p. 27)

"... because the people did not want any war."

Just like today, the central government's propaganda worked with the TINA argument which represent the first letters of the phrase "there is no alternative". The lawyer *Wiesnet* countered that he wanted national cohesion, "but we want to get it on the basis of equality and not on political vassalage, as the present Federal Constitution expects of us." (quoted after Scharnagl, p. 31) Another speech makes clear that the people themselves have never wanted war, but that it was always those aloof elites who did so. The theologian and writer *Franz Mahr*, member of the electoral district Forchheim, said about the Franco-German war: "... because the people did not want any war, neither here nor over there." He continued in a tone that one

would like to hear more often, today, "But the Bavarian people share the view that whenever princes and diplomats are not able to contain their wounded vanity, their inordinate ambition, their greed for land and lust for conquest or if their position has become morally indefensible, they cause a war and the people who do not want that war should then massacre and ruin each other, while the criminal creators of the war still live in dulce júbilo and drink their champagne on their reserved heights." (quoted after Scharnagl, p. 33) Who does not remember the Messrs. *Schroeder* and *Fischer*, waving their champagne goblets on the Kosovo mission? Who does not imagine immoral EU commissioners who think they have to give themselves a justification?

How right the Bavarian patriots were! Unfortunately!

Unfortunately history proved that the Bavarian MPs, who had been in the minority, were right. The great German Reich, though not alone, was to blame for the First World War. Of course the British Empire, too, in its thirst for oil.

We would wish the Bavarians today to build on their proud history of over 1,000 years of an independent state, and return to "becoming the master of the Bavarian Lion Inn" as *Wilhelm Hoegner* had put it. Hoegner, who as a Social Democrat returned from his exile in Switzerland to postwar Bavaria and was given the post of prime minister, had the fresh memories

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Letter to  the Editor

Europe and the Austrians' decision for compulsory military service

"Only wanting to be human is not enough"

We as Central Europeans are still in the situation that many thousands of US troops and equipment are stationed in Europe, although the enemy from the East has been lost. And when there is talk that the threat of today is of a different kind because terror and technological progress in the art of killing demand higher standards, it is completely incomprehensible that anybody wishes to integrate himself in a military armed force. For Austria as a neutral country this means an intentionally raised threat! Compare this to Switzerland!

The actual historian fact kept from the citizens, for example is this: Forgotten and unknown is, that the West deliberately staged the experiment in Russia, and then turned Marxist-Leninist socialism adrift. In the 70s the US initiated the capitalist experiment to leave the financial markets to its own devices. Both experiments served US interests of world domination plans and to destabilize Europe.

Another unknown fact is that the EU body is a construction created under American influence and still is, for example, in Germany where the Chancellor File exists. Without having signed it, no German can become chancellor. Something similar is the obligation of every US president to support Israel. Both are an outrageous affront.

That's why the decision can only be read as follows: to realize the perpetual neutrality in a socially and environmentally aware lifestyle and as a citizen not to allow to take away the cohesion of the country. Isolation of the individual is a danger that opposes a universal compulsory military service. Just and only a militia army can not be misused against its own citizens.

However, to open up the way for the integration into a military bloc EU, US and NATO, one decides for world domination, which can then be exerted by a single nation. That means for the individual that he may think only what he is allowed to think. His opinion has to be the one of the

world-state power. The ban on thinking, coming from the US, can be felt already.

So not election year is the bad start, but the political attitude of the citizens needs to be strengthened. Since merely wanting to be human is not enough. The citizen must obtain a serious information by comprehensive reporting with all details. He can only be in a position to know what is up by having a thorough knowledge of the historical facts, which is what irresponsible politicians want to hide by using their confusion policy with reference to compulsory military service or professional army. Who allows his mind to be corrupted, will not come out of the hereby caused constriction. To get out of it, however, is a citizen's duty. If he does not, the most annoying thing in a democracy will happen after all, namely that he is not really be able to cope with a matter.

Harald Högler, Salzburg

(Translation *Current Concerns*)

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of the direct democratic processes of the Confederates in his luggage.

The Bavarian example shows what Switzerland could be in for – being exposed to a dual stranglehold: by the capital of the nation state acting ever more in a centralized manner, and secondly by the even more centralized Brussels headquarters.

The EFTA for a Europe of nations – for the small ones like Bavaria as well

Van Rompuy's dictum is still resounding: the parliaments of the EU Member States should transfer their entire authority. The logical consequence would be that the parliaments of the individual members of the EU countries, as for example Bavaria, were then completely disenfranchised. We can only wonder how the citizens of the State of Bavaria, but also those of Scotland or Catalonia, the Basque people and many others will react to Brussels in the future. Certainly not in the sense of the European Greens under *Cohn-Bendit*, who demand a Europe of regions – with the open goal of crushing the nation states in order to throw the small components

directly into the throat of the Brussels moloch – without any protective intermediate level.

Should one or the other state leave the EU and possibly even their own centrally run state, these new small and medium-sized states would be welcomed by a union of states which some time ago was numerically equal to the EU and which still is equal with respect to its concept; even more so, since is superior to the EU, because it highly respects the sovereignty of European homelands: The EFTA is the network of countries that operate with each other on friendly terms and trade in equality – without being pureed into an EU mish-mash. Switzerland as an EFTA member already settles a good portion of its foreign trade with countries like Bavaria. This bilateral trade – but also that among all European countries – would even be more flourishing if the financial oligarchs behind Brussels took their greedy fingers out of the pie – because the peoples of Europe no longer want it that way!

Literature: Wilfried Scharnagl. "Bayern kann es auch allein. Plädoyer für den eigenen Staat." (Bavaria can also do it on its own. A plea for a separate state.) Cologne 2012. ISBN 978-3-86995-048-8.

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Publisher: Zeit-Fragen Cooperative

Editor: Erika Vögeli

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P.O. Box, CH-8044 Zurich

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Subscription details:

published regularly electronically as PDF file

Annual subscription rate of
SFr. 40,-, Euro 30,-, £ 25,-, \$ 40,-
for the following countries:

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hongkong, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Qatar, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, USA

Annual subscription rate of
SFr. 20,-, Euro 15,-, £ 12,50, \$ 20,-
for all other countries.

Account: Postscheck-Konto: PC 87-644472-4

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Austria

Forward-looking army on the basis of conscription

by the Austrian Officers' Association ÖOG *

In accordance with the statutory mandate, as the "security-political conscience" of the Republic of Austria, the *Austrian Officers' Association ÖOG* welcomes the people's decision in the referendum held on 20 January 2013 and sees its demands confirmed on the basis of the current policy position and on the ÖOG positions from the Special Assembly of Delegates on 24.11.2012.

The future requirements for the army need a customised professional component and a larger number of efficient troops set up according to the militia principles. The nature of conscription and the militia system is expressed by a relatively short but intense military service and regularly recurring military exercises.

Only this framework guarantees the armed forces' capacity for large-scale deployments and hence the complete fulfilment of their tasks. It is to be the basis of all reform measures.

Key demands of the ÖOG

- Enactment of the new security strategy in parliament.
- Ensuring that all relevant national military defence measures are taken to maintain the sovereignty of the state.
- Immediate increase of the defence budget to at least 1% of GDP, as well as the provision of the necessary financial resources to implement the planned reform measures to enhance the appeal of the armed forces and military service.
- Derivation of the tasks for the Austrian Armed Forces:
 - Ensuring the defence mission by implementing territorial protection, air traffic control and guaranteeing assistance missions.
 - Participation in international conflict management and humanitarian assistance.
 - Contribution to EU defence.
- This fulfilment of tasks must be guaranteed by
 - permanent and readily available forces for air surveillance, for evacuation operations, to support the troops abroad, to support national security

and to render assistance after disasters on an extraordinary scale

- in addition quickly deployable militia forces, mainly to ensure national military defence, for object protection and security assistance services, but also to provide humanitarian aid in case of natural disasters;

- The introduction of a new army employment law, which among other things supports personnel staff development by introducing temporary military careers including transitional provisions for soldiers already in service and socially acceptable arrangements for surplus personnel.
- To make the armed forces more attractive as a competent and reliable employer in the Republic using modern equipment, facilities, infrastructure, and to continue offering professional instruction, training and development of staff and market-driven, competitive wages.
- To maintain an intense and sustainable six-month military service, with recruits to be trained for a deployment function.
- The reduction of the recruits as "system sustainers" [= non-military staff, the translator] by providing additional funding for the employment of soldiers under limited contracts and civil servants, the use of technical aids or outsourcing to civilian providers.
- In principle the conscripts have to contribute to a functionally appropriate training of cadres and to safeguard the tasks of the armed forces. In addition, they constitute the recruitment base for longer serving soldiers and professional soldiers
- Thus the conscript represents a significant multiplier in terms of defence policy and the provision of security in Austria.
- Clear commitment to the militia and thus to the capacity for large-scale deployments of the armed forces.
- Adaptation of the legal framework for a flexible summoning of the militia in all armed forces operations.
- Improvement of the necessary organisation for about 23 000 militiamen to ensure on the one hand the new and re-



placement rates and continuing education and training, and on the other hand the ability to act.

- Restoration of the currently suspended militia exercises to maintain the operational readiness of the militia units to be structured. The exercises should take place at least every two years, and could be harmonised, for example, with the training of recruits by partner organisations or the simultaneous exercises of militia and recruits in their 6th training month.
- Renovation and new construction of infrastructure where necessary. To modern standards, by renewing or improving accommodation, sports facilities, childcare facilities, workshops, the practice equipment and other facilities necessary for the performance of tasks. This measure serves to improve the appeal of the locations and the Armed Forces as such.

The ÖOG therefore demands

- *the immediate increase in the defence budget to at least 1% of GDP, including start-up funding to ensure the reform,*
- *the immediate introduction of the necessary reform measures,*
- *the necessary political and legal framework for a credible defence and military policy.*

Source: www.oeog.at

* The ÖOG is committed to the goal of a comprehensive security and national defence policy and sees itself as Austria's security-political conscience in all security, military and defence issues. It is the voice of all provincial officer associations for issues whose fundamental importance to Austria is beyond dispute. (www.oeog.at)

(Translation *Current Concerns*)

“No, the war – this is not France.”

by Dominique de Villepin, former prime minister of France



Dominique de Villepin
(picture wikimedia/Georges Seguin)

Mali, a country that is a friend to us, collapses. The jihadists are advancing towards the south, and suddenly there is a state of emergency.

But let us not give in to the reflex to answer war with war. The unanimity of the warmongers, the obviously hasty departure, the déjà vu of the arguments of the “war on terrorism” are worrying me. This is not France. Let us learn our lessons from the decade of lost wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Libya.

Never did these wars lead to the development of a sound and democratic state. On the contrary, they encourage separatist tendencies, failed states and the iron law of armed militias.

Never did these wars make it possible to get up to the terrorists who are spread-

ing in the region. On the contrary, they legitimize the most radical forces.

Never did these wars bring peace to a region. On the contrary, the Western intervention allows everyone to evade responsibility.

Even worse, these wars are interlinked. Each sets the stage for the next. These are the battles of one and the same war that is spreading like an oil slick from Iraq to Libya and Syria, from Libya to Mali, and is flooding the Sahara with smuggled weapons. This must be stopped.

In Mali, no condition for success is given.

We are fighting haphazardly, for a war objective is lacking. Halting the jihadists’ advance towards the south, retaking the north of the country, destroying the bases of AQMI (Al-Qaida in the Maghreb) – all these are very different wars.

We will fight alone since a solid partner is lacking in Mali. Elimination of the President in March and the Prime Minister in December, the break-up of the split Malian army, general failure of the state – what do we want to base on?

Our fighting will come to nothing for the lack of a strong regional support. The Economic Community of West African States (Communauté économique des Etats de l’Afrique de l’Ouest, CEDEAO) holds back, and Algeria has expressed its reservations.

Only a political process can bring peace to Mali.

It needs a national momentum to rebuild the Malian state. Let us rely on national unity, on putting pressure on the military junta and on a process of democratic and constitutional guarantees by means of a policy of close cooperation.

In addition, regional dynamics are required by mobilizing the key players, namely Algeria and the CEDEAO in favor of a stabilization plan for the Sahelian zone.

Finally, it takes political dynamics to isolate the Islamists, while involving the Tuareg in a reasonable solution.

How could the neoconservative virus occupy the minds of everybody to such an extent? No, the war – this is not France. It is time to put an end to a decade of lost wars. Ten years ago, we gathered in the United Nations every day to step up the fight against terrorism. Two months later, the intervention in Iraq started. Since then I’ve never stopped looking for political solutions of crises and engaging against the cycle of violence. Today, our country can open the path that allows the way out of the deadlock of these wars if it creates a new model of engagement based on the realities of history, the desire of the peoples and the respect for their identity. This is France’s responsibility to history. •

Source: *Journal du Dimanche* of 12 Jan 2013, www.lejdd.fr/International/Afrique/Actualite/Villepin-Non-la-guerre-ce-n-est-pas-la-France-585627

(Translation *Current Concerns*)

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Germany – Export world champion with impoverished citizens

Germany is regarded as the richest of the EU countries; its government is aspiring to lead the EU. Germany is a EU net contributor, that is, Germany is paying for the largest part of the rescue package ESM. But who really is paying? Germany's elites? Germany's banks? Germany's citizens?

mb. The German charity group *Paritätischer Gesamtverband* is blowing the whistle: More than 15% of the German citizens are at risk of poverty. So many people are poor in one of the richest countries of the earth – and this although the number of unemployed has declined and the economy of the export world champion is growing. There is “no positive correlation between the economic development and the development of poverty”, the group states. “Last year, the economy grew by 3.9% while the poverty rate also grew by 4.1%.¹

Why is that so? Many of those who work do not make enough money to feed their families. The group sees this as an “obvious indication towards low wages and uncertain, inadequate employments.” The low unemployment rate in the statistics is paid for by an “Americanization of the job market”. People are poor in spite of work: “working poor”, the group stated. We have previously explained (Current Concerns of 14.1.2013) that the impoverishment of the population is connected to the fact that the economic crisis has provided a justification for reducing wages, replacing full employment by part-time employment and contract work and cutting labor laws.² The “Münchener Merkur” is talking about “modern contract work slavery and exploiters fobbing their employees with breadline wages.”³ Of course, money is made that way – but not by the employees. Nor by the middle class who is threatened by decline – although it represents the backbone of society and the biggest employer. The “Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger” writes: “But the comfortable middle class is diminishing. Chances for advancement have become rarer. Some large fortunes are still growing but at the same time the number of those who are endangered by poverty is rising. The social gap is widening.”⁴ So where do we find the money that is generated by Germany's hardworking citizens? Ulrich Schneider, head of the *Paritätischer Gesamtverband*, quotes Minister von der Leyen who has disclosed that “in Germany we have a downright obscene concentration of fortunes in the hands of a few.”⁵

The group sees the alternative in a billion-euro emergency program: a minimum

wage should be introduced; social benefits as well as housing subsidies should be increased. A program like this would cost “between 10 and 20 billion euros”.⁶ The group is not the only organization bringing forward such claims. Generally we hear a call for a basic income, for more social benefits etc. And who should pay for this? Communes and states.

Record debts of communes and states

However, the financial situation of states and communes in Germany is dramatic. “In spite of increased tax revenues, the public debts in Germany have reached a new high: At the end of the first half of 2012, the federal state, the states and the communities with their separate budgets had accumulated a debt of 2082 billion euro – that is 3 percent or 61.3 billion more than the year before.”⁷ For years, the communes have not been able to maintain their schools and streets sufficiently, let alone to bring them back to shape; public swimming pools and libraries are closing; vacant positions in the administrations are not being filled; administrations are reducing the service for the citizens or charge them for it. “According to the consulting company *Ernst & Young* one out of three communities is not capable of repaying their debts.”⁸

Already in 2010, the German Association of Cities and Communities (DStGB) envisaged a negative balance of eleven billion euro, warning that the communes were facing “the worst financial crisis since the foundation of the Federal Republic of Germany.”⁹ *Roland Schäfer*, president of the “Deutsche Städte-und Gemeindebund”, DStGB (German Association of Cities and Communes), warned that “the trust of citizens in local democracy was at stake.” Already today, the communes are spending most of their money on public welfare. In face of the communes' level of indebtedness, it does not seem likely that we could extract more money out of them. Probably even less in future because an increasing part of the budget had to be used for to paying the interest.

So we are facing a situation where both private debts and impoverishment and the debts of the communes and states are a disaster – without much hope for an improvement. But – we are asking it again – where has the money gone that was generated?

ESM – European debt-monster

On the one hand, of course, we find it with the billionaires previously mentioned, the profiteers at the highest lev-

els of economy, the speculators and the bankers who are ever getting richer. But, and this is closing the circle, a large part of the fortunes generated is going into the ESM which euphemistically is called a “rescue package”. Even “Die Welt”, not exactly known to be critical of the government, writes: “Mainly the payments of Germany into the permanent rescue package ESM will dramatically increase the debts. According to a sentence of the Federal Supreme Court, this year the Federal Government would be permitted to deposit two of the five tranches of 4.34 billion euro each; for this a total of 8.68 billion will have to be provided.”¹⁰ “Have to be provided” – by whom? – Eventually by us, the citizens who will have to pay dearly with our existential independence and, hence, with the loss of our sovereignty. And who will rescue the “rescue package”? Certainly not the highly indebted countries like Greece, Portugal or Spain. Their citizens will not see a cent of the money but they will be forced to axe the achievements of their social states: health system, educational system, social security, labor laws. They as well are being squeezed out like lemons. So who will get the money? It is going to the banks and the speculators who have lured the countries into the debt trap with inflated credits, with goods (like weapons for Greece), excessive infrastructure facilities, and unused housing like in Spain etc. In this context it is worthwhile to reread *John Perkin's* book “Confessions of an Economic Hit Man”, *Chossudovski's* “The Globalization of Poverty” or *Naomi Klein's* “Shock Doctrine”. Just like the countries in the Third World were first driven into the debt trap and then bereaved of their sovereignty, we European nations will be suffering the same treatment – unless we citizens stop it. If we, the citizens, do not want it, all this will not be possible.

Retrieving our sovereignty and our national economy

According to the *Paritätischer Gesamtverband*, poverty is most virulent in the Ruhr district, the former industrial district of Germany and its biggest agglomeration. In Duisburg, for example, 21.5% of the population are suffering from poverty. That is one fifth of all citizens! “There”, the head of the group warns, “we might see similar unrest like recently in Paris or London. If this cauldron of five million people starts

The EU in 2013: Financially bankrupt, they will politically become a dictatorship

by Karl Müller

These are the official figures: the state deficit of all EU states together amounted to 7.8 trillion euro at the end of 2008, to 8.9 trillion euro at the end of 2009, to 9.6 trillion euro in 2010 and to 10.3 trillion euro in 2011. This corresponds to rates of the whole gross domestic product (GDP) of all EU states of 62.5% in 2008, of 74.8% in 2009, of 80.0% in 2010 and of 82.5% in 2011. In 17 states of the euro-zone the figures look even worse. (For comparison only: debt-to-GDP-ratio – thus the percentage of the whole national debts compared to GDP – amounted in Switzerland to 52% in the end of 2011, having still amounted to 55% a year before, and in 2012 it sank even further to 51%.)

Who is to pay these enormous sums back and how this can happen, is anyone's guess. The so-called bailout funds ("Greece-aid", EFSF, ESM, target credits, bond purchasing by the ECB etc.) should make the citizens in the EU states believe that one could solve the debt problem by redistribution between the "rich" and the "poor" states within the EU. On closer inspection, however, it becomes clear that all these bailout funds do not at all lead to a redistribution between the states, but to a redistribution from all states as well as from all tax payers in direction to a select high finance circle.

"For me it is quite clear: we have gone too far in Europe. We are in a dead end; it is impossible to continue. In a dead end, there is only one way: namely to go back."

Vaclav Klaus in "Neue Zürcher Zeitung" of 24 January 2013

The hope, some few countries, among them above all Germany, might be able to shoulder all this, is a sheer illusion. 20 percent of all national debts in the EU are accounted solely to Germany; in 2011 they amounted to 2.1 trillion euro which the federal government, states and municipalities owed to some financiers. The following holds true: The private capital in Germany is about twice as high. And if it was about the goal to really make an honest new beginning, then perhaps it might even be possible to erase the debts where it is reasonable and fair, with civil assistance. That is to say, citizens are still receptive to the idea of contributing to the public weal. But currently everybody knows the current redistribution plans just do not serve the public weal. To spend even more money only for those who already have money in abundance – this is not communicable.

That is probably the reason why the EU, respectively the present power elites in the EU states, do not rely on freedom and reason but on lies and coercion, since they know very well that the free thinking man will see through their evil game. One tells the lie about indispensable "harmonisation", "rationalisation" and "centralisation" within the EU – all this allegedly indispensable in the globalized world of the 21st century in which sovereign nation states with the variety of their autonomous ways were allegedly not only outdated but actually impeding the solution of human problems? To that effect were the words that *Manuel Barroso*, President of the EU Commission, spoke in Dublin on the 10th of January of this year. And the citizens

are compelled to relinquish: to relinquish public services appropriate to human dignity by the drying out of public finances in the municipal authorities; to relinquish a fair wage and share in the created value by the ideology of the alleged "competition of locations" (cf. *Current Concerns*, No. 1/2 of 14 January 2013); to relinquish freedom appropriate to human dignity, to relinquish law and democracy via the EU which is usurping more and more competences and which even according to the German Federal Constitutional Court quite obviously has a "democratic deficit."

The EU states are "masters of the treaties" – this principle is still valid. The states may change the EU treaties, they might even liquidate the EU if they wanted to and send the officials of all EU institutions and all commissioners etc. home. The EU dictatorship can still be prevented within the scope of the valid legal norms.

However, there are attempts now to change even that. On the 5 December 2012 the President of the European Council, *Herman van Rompuy*, presented a paper entitled "Towards a genuine economic and monetary union", according to which – as he would like it to be – the still existing fundamental tenets of sovereignty of the nation-states are to be dismantled, those tenets which are above all represented in the more or less remaining King's right of the parliaments, i.e. the budget right.

"The EU intends to use the current crisis to reform European parliamentarism. The national parliaments may be useful for the states, for the EU they are rather

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"Germany – export world champion"

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boiling, it will be hard to cool it down again." – We should not let this happen. Riots mean casualties, blood and suffering, chaos and destruction – and in the end? Who will seize power?

We have other possibilities. We need to opt out from the ESM, to win back our sovereignty instead of handing off even more as [Minister of Finance] *Schäuble* recently demanded in an article published in the "Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung". We have to

focus again on our country, our national economy, for the benefit of the citizens. Didn't we have something like a Social Market Economy? Rhine Capitalism? Certainly there are sufficient starting points.

And of course Switzerland would be well advised not to force more money down the throat of this monster – to what end? Not to speak of handing over sovereignty to this juggernaut EU or to subordinate to EU law. Ideas like this – *Evelyne Widmer-Schlumpf* seems to be stricken with them – are hard to surpass in absurdity. But the Swiss cit-

izens will know how to prevent such impositions. •

¹ "Süddeutsche Zeitung", 20 Dec. 2012

² "A German-dominated EU policy taking that many victims requires correction." *Current Concerns* 14 Jan. 2013

³ "Münchener Merkur", citation according to n-tv of 20 Dec. 2012

⁴ "Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger", citation according to n-tv of 20 Dec. 2012

⁵ *Der Paritätische Gesamtverband*, press release 28 Nov. 2012

⁶ "Süddeutsche Zeitung", 20 Dec. 2012

⁷ "Financial Times" Deutschland, 11 Oct. 2012

⁸ *Spiegel online*, 1 Nov. 2012

⁹ *Spiegel online*, 28 Dec. 2012

¹⁰ "Die Welt", 13 Sept. 2012

"The EU in 2013: Financially bankrupt, ..."
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annoying. Therefore, the EU-Commission wants all important budget decisions no longer to be taken by the states, but by the EU-Parliament." This could be read in the German magazine "Deutsche Wirtschafts Nachrichten" ("German Economic news") of 7 December 2012. It further continues: "In the future the EU wants to have an important say when it comes to national budgets. Especially van Rompuy would like to determine what states will have to conduct reforms. Therefore, the European Commission wants each state to sign a binding contract with the EU, in which it agrees to certain requirements. However, van Rompuy does not want to abolish the national parliaments completely on his own: They are to agree to their removal by formally signing the treaty of self-abandonment. In this sense, the merely rubber-stamp proceedings for the ESM are to be seen as a first, successful trial run. The German "Bundestag" has thus already qualified for the new democratic political Euro-League," a lot alike the German "Reichstag" in the Enabling Act in March 1933. At that time the German parliament, the Reichstag, authorized Hitler's government to issue laws without the consent of the Reichstag, and thus destroyed the separation of powers. After that everything happened very quickly: Within six years Berlin's new central government led the world into the war. First, the enforced political conformity of the countries, which took place from top to bottom: the state parliaments were eliminated, the states

were centrally governed by Reich governors, the communities were governed by mayors without councils. Then followed the continuous break with the Versailles peace treaty; next the secret four-year plan, which was to prepare the German economy for the war; the dress rehearsal in Spain, the air attack on Guernica; Munich, 1938. The consequences are well known. Processes that could have been avoided at various points of time, even from outside. But certainly from within: again, it was confirmed in a frightening way what had been predicted by the representatives in Bavaria, in the memorable debate in January 1871 (see article editorial pp. 1): Geat structures, central governments, that trample on a federalist structure of state will subdue the whole of Europe after the submission of their own countrymen and finally of the world.

Doesn't the world learn anything at all? Is nobody left breathless, when today the EU boasts to trim the economy by armament? And when the monster in Brussels has practiced the given method by Jean Monnet since 2010, making use of a crisis in order to continuously reduce the sovereignty of nation states and to do further steps towards an EU dictatorship?

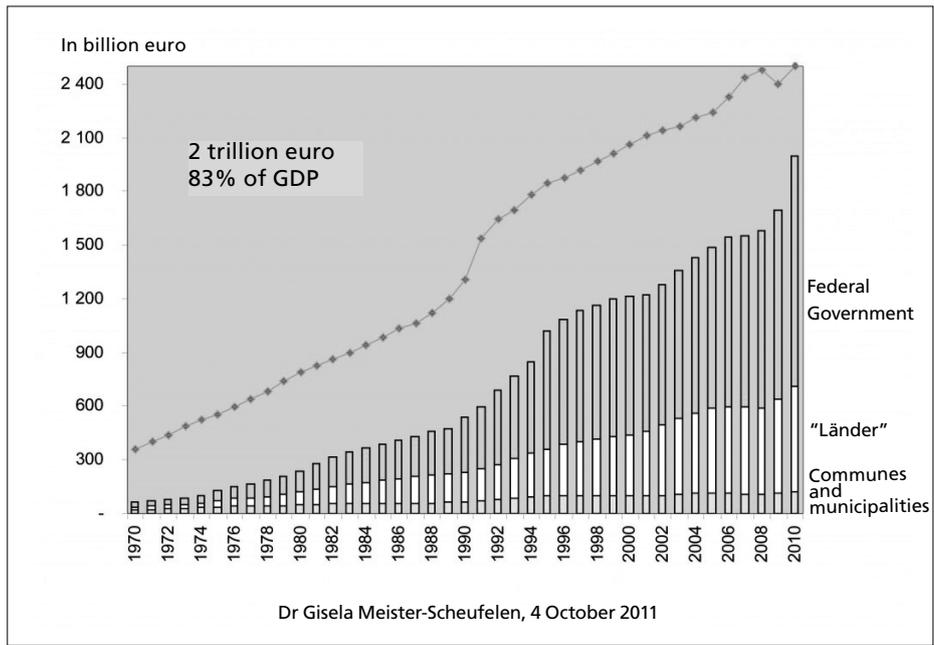
But EU superiors do not only want to dictate EU citizens and states, what they may or may not do. This is shown by the current response from the EU to the plans of the new Japanese government. They want to rebuild the infrastructure lying on the ground with the help of public expenditures and thus stimulate the economy of the country that has been

Government debts in the EU countries, second quarter of 2012	
Government debt in the member states of the European Union, second quarter of 2012 (in billion euro)	
Germany	2169.35
Italy	1982.24
France	1832.60
Great Britain	1633.93
Spain	804.62
Netherlands	411.17
Belgium	382.92
Greece	300.81
Austria	228.92
Poland	209.88
Portugal	198.14
Ireland	179.72
Sweden	150.70
Denmark	112.66
Finland	99.64
Hungary	77.04
Czech Republic	65.45
Romania	47.20
Slovakia	35.31
Slovenia	17.33
Cyprus	14.94
Lithuania	12.79
Latvia	9.18
Luxembourg	9.15
Bulgaria	6.33
Malta	5.01
Estonia	1.20

Source: <http://de.statista.com/statistik/daten/studie/198377/umfrage/staatsverschuldung-in-der-europaeischen-union/> from 19.1.2013
(Translation Current Concerns)

weakened over years. The German finance minister responded with an angry outburst and condemned the plans of the Asian country. What is this? "The world should simply adopt the German approach," was the saying when the imperially outreaching emperor ruled in Germany. Today, no country will ever accept if the EU – being up to mischief – tries to dictate the world their political, economic and cultural way. And that is a good thing, indeed.

"I am not looking for the majority in the EU or in the EU structures. This is a wrong thinking. No, I am looking for the majority in Europe. I do not mean to be presumptuous, but I think that the opinion of the majority of the population should come into play in politics. Actually, such a majority already exists in Europe, but it is difficult for people to organize. Again: majorities in Brussels are something different than a majority among the people."
Václav Klaus in "Neue Zürcher Zeitung" of 24 January 2013



The attack on democracy by the EU and financial elites

From national majoritarian democracy to financial imperialism of global financial elites

by Prof Dr Eberhard Hamer

Until the early 20th century we had hierarchically ruling monarchies in Europe. Until then, the nobility, as pillar of the monarchy had appropriate economic (estates) and social (officers) privileges with respect to the middle class and especially the working class, in Germany and Europe there was a feudalism of the nobility.

Nobility feudalism and monarchies not only bore the blame for the First World War, but also did not survive it as a class. Their collapse paved the way for a democratic majoritarian society with universal suffrage. Instead of permanent birth elites now short-time functional elites ruled, who had to be re-elected repeatedly and therefore were in principle oriented not upwards but downwards. Democracy draws its legitimacy from the majority of the population who can express their will in their voting rights, unlike the previous systems, which owed their legitimacy to supposedly divine institution (“by Grace of God”) and thus derived their central power downwards from above.

However, democracies are not immune to extreme ideologies, as the examples of Germany and Italy showed in the 20s and 30s. How *Hitler* managed to transfer the legitimacy to rule to himself and a troop agreeable to him by legal procedures requires a separate analysis that is beyond the scope of this review. But the Second World War eliminated these dictatorships and triggered a new wave of democracies in Europe.

Historians have warned us many times that throughout history democratic approaches have often been regarded as temporary exceptional situations. Over the millennia, the rule of a monarch or a leader or an oligarchy with a hierarchical command from top to bottom was more common than the reverse system of a democratic legitimization to rule from bottom to top. Obviously democracy, like other political forms, is a system of government that does not automatically – almost *sui generis* – have the strength to withstand the onslaught of power and particularly of financial elites.

The ruin of democracy by the EU

Today, many constitutionalists ask what our national democracy is still worth, if

- in the Treaty of Lisbon the nationality of the 27 member nations is expressly replaced by “Europe” and by a European citizenship;
- according to research by the constitutional lawyer and former Federal President *Herzog* now 84% of all German

regulations are not determined by the parliament itself, but are handed down as instructions or directives by the EU Commission and must be “implemented” by the member states’ parliaments without comment and opportunity to change anything, which means they must be obeyed;

- the European Central regulators not only regulate basic things, but also the details of Europe from the curvature of cucumbers to lamps, from the thermal insulation to the possibility of military service for women. Since long the legislative competence of the national parliaments has largely been centralized and passed onto the EU Commission to Brussels. No longer do the citizens determine, what is to be law, but the Brussels polit-commission does;
- the centralization and transfer of legislative power to the Brussels Commission, however, also means that no more elected representatives represent the people in the legislature. The polit-commissars of the European Commission are not elected representatives and not accountable to the European pseudo-parliament, but are proposed and appointed by the governments of the member countries. They are accountable only to the President of the Commission, to no one else. Thus the EU Commission is practically a “Politburo” modelled on the socialist one, an all-mighty central office with polit-commissars not responsible to the people whose autocratic decisions are binding, superior law for the subordinated pseudo-democracies of the member states.

“When reading the unpublished reality of the European financial crisis, it is obvious that it is not about saving some European member states, not about the euro and neither about Europe, but about safeguarding the credits of a handful of international speculating banks which they lent to over-indebted countries, that is about ‘rescuing’ these banks from depreciation losses and thus to prevent a partial collapse or a devaluation of the world dollar system.”

Juncker: Just try, how far one can go

By centralizing more and more former national sovereign rights and transferring them to the European Politburo, by dismantling the nations in favor of European supremacy and by transferring more and more state functions to EU institutions such as the new department under Foreign Office Commissioner *Ashton* with 7,000 officials, *Euroforce*, the High Court as the supreme court or the euro banking union (at the expense of healthy German banks) and fiscal union (financial sovereignty of the Euro-Politburo instead of individual countries) systematic dismantling of our national democracies to centralize all rights on the Euro-Politburo is operated, we have already far more euro-dictatorial foreign regulation than democratic self-determination in the European member countries. EU official *Juncker* admitted that this de-democratization and Euro-centralization is done deliberately and systematically: “We decide something, then we flag it up and wait a while to see what happens. If there is no great clamor or riot because most people do just not comprehend what has been decided, we continue – step by step, until there is no turning back.” That is how the loss of democracy in Europe and the takeover of the Brussels Politburo works.

The Euro-centralization through the dismantling of democracy of the member countries was not only the self-interest of the Brussels Politburo’s expansion of power; the European financial crisis clearly shows that beyond the actors in Brussels an even more powerful force is operating, that could at least force the European countries and all of Europe to assume the debts for the gambling international banks (adoption of foreign private debt).

In the background: financial dictatorship

When reading the unpublished reality of the European financial crisis, it is obvious that it is not about saving some European member states, not about the euro and neither about Europe, but about safeguarding the credits of a handful of international speculating banks which they lent to over-indebted countries, that is about “rescuing” these banks from depreciation losses and thus to prevent a partial collapse or a devaluation of the world dollar system.

"The attack on democracy ..."

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- It is no coincidence that the world's leading rating agencies, belonging to the world's two most powerful financial clans *Rothschild* and *Rockefeller*, have always scored down banks or countries in the euro area, when the dollar became weaker and therefore the annual 400-billion-dollar inflow needed for the funding of the US superpower from abroad dried up. Without this influx, the US would be unable to pay, the dollar ripe for devaluation, the dollar empire of the dollar dominant, leading world banks would be at risk.
- Neither by accident are the crisis' major actors the former banksters of the infamous *Goldman Sachs* Bank, which controlled, among other things, the forgery which led to Greece's accession to the EU: *Draghi*, *Monti*, *Sarkozy*, *Lagarde*, *Juncker* and others. Therefore one has to suspect an at least "concerted action" of this bankster gang in the euro crisis.
- As early as with the collapse of the *Lehman Brothers* a former *Goldman Sachs* President and Acting US Finance Minister (*Paulson*) enforced that banks belonging to the financial clans would be saved "without alternative" with the taxpayers' money. The American government requested that from *Merkel* and Europe at the time "without alternative", because we are, as *Schäuble* admits, a still not sovereign, but an occupied country.
- At about over 70% the dollar dominates the financial sector of the world. The private *Federal Reserve Bank (FED)*, controlled by the US high finance clans, is therefore the monopoly bank, a slave to the two financial clans that can print money freely with international standing and that has multiplied the dollar amount by 40 in the last 40 years. Therefore, whenever a country no longer wanted to sell its resources for this paper money, its leaders were suddenly declared terrorists, although former friends of the United States, to who had to be eliminated – for instance *Saddam Hussein* in Iraq, *Gaddafi* in Libya, *Ahmadenejad* in Iran, *Putin* in Russia. In case namely the dollar would no longer be accepted as the dominant global currency for commodities, the US dollar empire's house of cards would collapse, the high financial aristocracy would lose their power base, and they would no longer be able to control the world, the people and the financial markets by printing dollars.

**Dollar, loans and debts
as decisive cornerstones
of the world financial domination**

In fact, dollar, credit and debt are the decisive cornerstones of a world financial domination, whose ruler is a financial aristocracy, led by a few dozen families whose decisive forces are in turn the two financial clans *Rothschild* and *Rockefeller*.

John Perkins describes how he and the top agents of *World Bank*, *IMF* and US "Agency for International Development" (*USAID* pressed excessive credits in foreign countries) with even falsified reports, some had to be made credit-inclined only with bribes or threats by the US government. Who was too unruly, suffered fatal accidents such as the Presidents *Torrijos* (Panama), *Roldos* (Ecuador), *Allende* (Chile) and others. The US financial sharks offered funds for the development of infrastructure, power plants, highways, ports, industrial parks and other things: "A condition of such loans is that engineering and construction companies from our own country [USA] must build all these projects. In essence, most of the money never leaves the United States; it is simply transferred from banking offices in Washington to engineering offices in New York, Houston or San Francisco."¹ Thus, although the money almost immediately flows back to corporations belonging to the *Corporatocracy* (US high finance), the recipient country must repay all the debt plus interest. "If an EHM [Economic Hit Man]

"Would namely the dollar no longer be accepted as the dominant global currency for commodities, the US dollar empire's house of cards would collapse, the high financial aristocracy would lose their power base, and they would no longer be able control the world, the people and the financial markets by printing dollars."

is completely successful, the loans are so large that the debtor is forced to default on its payments after a few years. When this happens, then like the Mafia, we demand our pound of flesh. This often includes one or more of the following: control over United Nations votes, the installation of military bases, or access to precious resources such as oil or the Panama Canal. Of course, the debtor still owes us the money – and another country is added to our global empire."²

The FED as a money-printing press

Owning the FED, the US high finance has unlimited funds for such machinations. They simply print them. The money machine FED is the power by means of which the US high finance rules the whole world, makes it subservient by giving out loans and turning those who have accepted their money into permanent debt subjects.

The new form of world conquest is just the fact that nations are no longer directly militarily subjugated, but that services are offered indirectly to the peoples by offering them excessive loans in order to dominate the respective nations financially and economically by means of their debts and returns (*debt interest servitude*). The result is the same: Either way, peoples are made into dependent vassals who have to pay a permanent tribute.

The US high-finance's world hegemony with the help of unrestrainedly printed dollars, loans, debt and interest yields, is therefore the *new form of world imperialism* that does no longer require bayonets but builds on debts and *has subjected over 200 countries in the world this way*.

Now it becomes clear why financial imperialism cannot tolerate that certain countries liberate themselves from their debt and from the credits granted by the high finance by declaring national bankruptcy (as in Greece). A default would end the reign of the creditors, destroy their credits and stop the interest tributes.

Anyone who read *John Perkins* understands well why our government had to push through Germany's indebtedness for foreign countries as a matter "without alternative". It was not about the euro, and not about Europe but about preserving the high finance's credits and the fact that these loans and the associated debt bondage should not be resolved by a country's collapse which would mean that a first stone would be taken out of the wall of the bastion.

For the same reason there mustn't be any "private participation" of the banks to settle debts. The debt must not become a problem of the US bank creditors but is to seize the particular debtor country and charge its citizens and taxpayers in the long run. If a country like Greece is at its wit's end, then just another country like Germany which is not as heavily indebted yet is used as a guarantor. Thus the total liability of many debtor countries is created from a debtor's individual liability in order to fortify the credit imperialism of the high finance.

**The transition from democracy
to the welfare state**

That the capitalist financial imperialism could assert itself around the world and

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"The attack on democracy ..."

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could become the ruling system, has to do with the transition of democracies to welfare states:

Democracy is the result of the struggle for freedom, justice, self-determination – springing from ideas and fighting for these ideas.

An exaggerated solicitude, however, has everywhere transformed the original democratic system of responsibility by the absence of a strengthening structure to a socially dominating system. Especially in the helping professions a trend has spread to extend the own helper structures at the expense of the taxpayers, to "manage" the people in need and to create a right to exist for their own structure. The professionalization of any assistance in competition with the help of family and voluntary missions has topped all that during the last twenty years.

Therefore, the basic issues have not been fully discussed. For example,

- whether it was socially just, if everyone could enjoy especially on his own the fruits of his own performance (liberalism),
- or whether it should be permitted that the «higher earners» are deprived of more and more of their income to be distributed, at least on demand, to others (civic parties),
- or whether in principle everybody should be offered the same income and equal living conditions through redistribution (socialism).

These ideas – particularly prevailing in Europe – have therefore declared a comprehensive redistribution of service providers to service users, from high earners to low earners as the national objective of the welfare state; this way they have been turned into a proper occupational therapy in their obscurity. The left has created a social class of people in need of permanent help as a substitute for the proletariat; not only the weak but also immigrants belong to these persons. Especially before elections there is a new redistribution to win over the electoral majorities by promising additional election gifts. The development of the last twenty years complicates a rational discussion of the whole problem; the 20:80-society with untold wealth on the one hand and poverty on the other hand has created not only a sense of injustice within the population, but also a real inequitable situation that must be reorganized in the whole society.

The privileged group of the redistribution helpers

Winners and a new elite of the welfare state of the 20th century were the redis-

tribution helpers: politicians, civil servants, social functionaries. They have – as is the case in every feudalism – made themselves not only invulnerable by the fetish word «social», but have also developed into the privileged group which could buy power and gratitude by granting social benefits. The social functionaries won their privileged social feudal status not only towards their social clientele, but also towards the exploited elite of which they could unrestrictedly deprive income and assets by using the term "social". The social functionaries are the new privileged social elite, the new social aristocracy, who is living most comfortably on the above described redistribution. In Germany they are serving more than 66.7% of the population.⁴

The redistribution has, however – like any system of corruption – the disadvantage that it can only be reduced with difficulty, because the exit from this passive situation would have to be achieved by a well-functioning development program. Instead there is a constant and increased redistribution of more and more new gifts. And what cannot be paid with current revenues is uncontrollably paid by credits, and so the costs of excessive social benefits are augmented by increasing future debts. Thus all redistribution democracies have more or less – some unrestrainedly – run into debt and have – somewhat by their own fault – been taken in by international loan-offering creditors.

EU acting as redistribution-union and as a bloc enforcing passivity

Also the European Union has been a Union of redistribution since the beginning which collected funds from member states and moved them – after deduction of a growing bureaucratic cost consumption (50,000 officials) – to the vast majority of the member states, delighting them with subsidies, to allegedly "bring about a balance of prosperity in the EU". Greece, as an example, has taken more redistributed subsidies from the EU (mainly from Germany) in the past 20 years than the amount of debt it piled up in addition. Since the beginning, Germany has been the main payer of EU-charity and remained so, ultimately, constantly and systematically being exploited for the benefit of other EU countries.

In net terms it results: the EU has always been a transfer Union at the expense of Germany – without the benefited member states becoming any healthier. Rather they became accustomed to the subsidies and ran into even much greater debt. Thus stopped being responsible democracies and definitively fell into European and international debt bondage.

The dictatorial financial elite

All this is becoming obvious again in the European financial crisis. With an absolute majority, the black, red and green representatives in the German parliament decided – contrary to the wish of 80% of their electorate – to take over the debt of European bankrupt countries that these countries owed to international banks by means of guarantees and German payments, thus burdening current and future generations with the highest debt in history. They did so not in their own interest, but in foreign interest. The next generation will have to pay for that.

Why do members of parliament betray their own voters and burden them with a debt they are not responsible for? Why do they deliver the wealth of their voters to foreign countries and banks even partly destroying the future of the next generation? This isn't democracy any longer, because 80% of the people don't agree to this acting, however, they can't stop their representatives, whom they elected themselves, to consent. These members are apparently subjected to a greater pressure than the obligation to benefit their voters. Obviously their legitimization from the bottom is weak or hardly noticeable in comparison to the pressure from above. It has driven members to agree to the "bailout fund" opposed to the people's benefit, respectively to the "Europäisches Schulden Monster", ESM, ("European Debt Monster", officially European Stability Mechanism) .

Who has driven the representatives to betray their voters?

Formally, the leaders of the black, red, green and yellow parties have summoned their Members of Parliament to agree to this legitimization to robbery. In the case of the FDP, the party leadership even sabotaged the MP *Schäffler's* survey of members with the goal to achieve at least a thin majority for the desired yes-result.

Obviously, in Europe's financial crisis, the vote of the electoral base is no longer important, neither is the interest of members of parliament, but a directive was dictated by the party leaders who apparently got instructions from above:

- one knows about Mrs Merkel that she has seen the first "bailout" as problematic in regard to compliance with the constitution and that she hesitated until President *Obama* shouted at her on the phone and insisted on obedience.
- she had passed on this command to Federal President *Köhler*, a financial specialist, who had recognized like all other independent financial experts that he should not sign the document "for the sake of the people", since on

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the contrary it would harm the people. The pressure was so strong that finally he signed. If he would have resigned before the signing, he had become the people's hero. His resignation after the signature made him the people's coward.

- The red and green party leaders easily complied and agreed to take over the debt and concented to the bailout fund. Since *Steinbrück* and *Trittin* received an invitation to the "Bilderberg Group Conference" in February – in contrast to the governing parties – they were ready to not only take over the old debt of all European bankrupt countries, but they wanted to make their German voters accountable even for all new debts – at whatever amount (Eurobonds).
- However, one cannot blame these two top ranking officials for the direct damage they inflicted on their own voters insofar as their voters – belonging to the lower classes – are mostly benefiting from transfer wages, so they live on other peoples' taxes, instead of paying them. But indirectly the debt payments to foreign countries will harm them as well, namely the efficiency of the state is reduced inside the country, hence hampering future transfers to the red and green clientele.

Foreign rule by foreign financial interests

So the financial crisis illustrates foreign rule over Europe following foreign (financial) interests. *Instead of the will of the electorate the central will of the world financial industry is applied.* It rules over more than 200 countries around the world with the help of debt and servitude and builds a new kind of world financial Empire, shifting competences and structures of the countries from central democracy to central obedience to the rule of the financial imperium. In this respect, the rule resulting from the financial oligarchy's financial capitalism is a new elite rule, the rule of the financial industry under the leadership of the two ruling clans as a replacement of the democratic majority system.

The financial empire won over the support and help of some hundred of the most important people of this earth. Annually, this oligarchy meets as "Bilderberg Club".⁵ It was founded in 1952 by Prince *Bernhard of the Netherlands* and the two financial clans *Rothschild* and *Rockefeller*, to draw up proposals for the "one world government" and to implement joint plans for the benefit of the ruling financial elite. Among the objectives are:

- International identity rather than national. The national identity should be fully undermined, branded as "far right" in the whole world and must not be allowed to compete to the leveled "one world" in the future.
 - Central control over the entire inner and foreign policy. This is formally exercised with the help of the government of the United States, however, practically this government is as well remotely controlled by the high finance. Europe is governed as a subset by consensus in the European Union.
 - Finally it is planned to centralize the rule over the world at the United Nations and to collect direct UN taxes from the "world citizens" or indirectly by UN price reduction on raw materials.
 - NATO will be built up to become the UN World Army and will intervene in more and more trouble spots as soon as the financial domination is threatened by such conflicts.
 - The International Court of Justice will be the only and highest court of the world in a unified and consistent legal system.
 - In global education people will be educated to global freedom and unity: freedom of capital, freedom of access to work, freedom of investment, freedom from any national ties, freedom as well from national history and ties, equality of all races and people.
 - This is served by a world-uniform orientation of the media. The media centralization and monopolization is a means of the world education planned by them.⁶
- Towards the end of the 20th century a red thread of centralization runs through these proceedings: the financial need of the transfer countries on the one hand and the need for loans to new borrowers by US high finance on the other hand:
- via the reduction of national sovereignty through debt – interest – bondage and
 - via European centralization of the key competences of democracy towards the EU ruled by a central Politburo and
 - via systematic shift of power to political officials in bondage to the high finance everywhere in the world;
- consequently running to a no longer democratic, but hierarchical, central world domination system, which is dominated by a new elite of capital under the leadership of the financial oligarchy.

The democratic system based on the majorities of the people – namely in the form of representative democracy without the corrective possibilities of referendum and initiative – has sold itself financially by corrupted transfer payments. The new lords of finance, the lenders and lords over

debt, interest rates and financial assets are already centrally ruling the new virtual world of financial capital. They are the actual dictators of the capital and rule over more than 200 countries of the world, determining whether a country will receive money or will get into trouble and who is finally to pay for the outstanding loans (definitely not their own banks).

The euro crisis has made these power structures unmistakably clear.

What is still called democracy in the EU, is a hollowed-out form with increasingly less competence. Deciding in one's own responsibility is replaced again – like centuries ago – by the bondage to authorities, except that this time it is an indirect financial mastery and financial bondage, hard to understand for the general public, because it operates in a hidden manner and is covered by the media in a grandiose mendacity. But it may be much more brutal than the earlier direct dictatorships. •

¹ John Perkins, "Confessions of an Economic Hit Man", San Francisco 2004, p. XVII.

² John Perkins, "Confessions of an Economic Hit Man", San Francisco 2004, p. XVII.

³ cf. Hamer, E. "Die US-Hochfinanz treibt die Welt planmässig in Schuldknechtschaft" in *Der Welt-Geldbetrug*, 3rd edition, 2012, pp. 36.

⁴ cf. Hamer, Eberhard, "Mittelstand unter lauter Räubern", pp. 16.

⁵ cf. Daniel Estulin, "Die wahre Geschichte der Bilderberger", 3rd edition, Rottenburg 2011.

⁶ cf. Estulin, pp. 50.

(Translation *Current Concerns*)

km. Professor Hamer writes: "Why do members of parliament betray their own voters and burden them with a debt they are not responsible for? Why do they deliver the wealth of their voters to foreign countries and banks even partly destroying the future of the next generation? This isn't democracy any longer, because 80% of the people don't agree to this acting, however, they can't stop their representatives, whom they elected themselves, to consent. These members are apparently subjected to a greater pressure than the obligation to benefit their voters. Obviously their legitimization from the bottom is weak or hardly noticeable in comparison to the pressure from above. It has driven members to agree to the "bailout fund" opposed to the people's benefit, respectively to the "Europäisches Schulden Monster", ESM, ("European Debt Monster", officially European Stability Mechanism)."

The analysis is correct. Also the German citizens know that. They also know that direct democracy offers a way out. Direct democracy is the right of citizens as well in Germany. To correct the wrong approach in this matter. And again, to commit the members of parliament to what they are obliged to as a matter of law.

The last witness

He went through many hells – and has always remained upright.
A visit to Erwin Jöris on his 100th birthday

by Stefan Martens



Erwin Jöris (picture wikimedia)

An apartment building in a suburb of Cologne. The nephew opens the door. Also the nephew has already exceeded the seventy. *Erwin Jöris* rises from his chair. He has been a 100 years old, today. He greets with a strong handshake. You can feel this still tall man's combative spirit. For over 50 years he has lived in Cologne, but he has never given up his "Berliner Schnauze" (Berlin dialect). On the walls in the living room memories in pictures: Jöris as a young man, the certificate of the Federal Cross of Merit, friends and his wife *Gerda*. "She died four years ago," he says, "suddenly – here she was lying on the floor." Erwin Jöris has been witnessing a belligerent and suffering century. With his history as a double persecutee under the dictatorships of *Hitler* and *Stalin* he may be the last witness.

Berlin in 1918/19, shortly after the end of World War II. Revolutionary days. Spartacus fight against government forces. Erwin Jöris is just seven years old. His father is a member of the USPD, a split-off of the left SPD. In Jöris' house secret meetings take place. Little Erwin listens to these talks. "Of course, we children realized when strangers went in and went out. My brothers would rather sleep, but I stayed awake and perked up my ears." Jöris remembers the mood: "You had to be careful, something might happen any time, for example a shootout. In the street I saw bodies covered in blood. Men had been summarily executed. I remember the great anger I had, about the way people were dealt with."

With fifteen Jöris joins the *Communist Youth League* and will soon be its leader in Berlin's Lichtenberg. At that time, the NSDAP is gaining influence. Jöris experi-

enced numerous battles in the streets and in the halls between brown SA troops and young Communists. He gets strongly involved, is inspired by the idea of a just society.

The trained carpenter tells how his worldview showed first cracks: In 1931 a "sinister cooperation" between KPD and NSDAP begins in Prussia. Both parties initiate a referendum with the aim to dissolve the parliament and overthrow the socialist government of Prussia. At a meeting of his party Jöris protested in vain. "You would not believe it today, if you had not experienced it yourself: Communists along with the Browns raced through Prussian cities. We had a joint operation between Hitler, *Hugenberg* and *Thälmann*." In November 1932, Nazis and Communists organized a strike of the Berlin transport workers collaboratively: "Just imagine. *Ulbricht* and *Goebbels* formed a united front." Jöris sees that many of his comrades defected to the NSDAP.

In KZ Sonnenburg

1933 – Hitler takes over the power. Reichstag fire. The Communists are the first to be arrested. Erwin Jöris is arrested by SA men and taken to their premises: "Already at the entrance, I had to throw up. Former comrades greeted me with a sneer and a roar."

First Jöris is delivered to Spandau prison, then to the concentration camp Sonnenburg, but his combative spirit remains unbroken. "On the way we sang 'the Internationale'." In Sonnenburg he met personalities like *Erich Mühsam* and *Carl von Ossietzky*. "Once I had not seen von Ossietzky for a few days. Then I almost did not recognize him: His face was black and blue from the torture." Jöris and his fellow prisoners had to look on while inmates were forced to dig their own graves. "A coffin was placed in the middle of the yard. We were ordered to march around the coffin and sing a marching song."

After three months, Jöris is set free. He must declare in writing that he will no longer participate in "anti-state activities." "We signed the scrap of paper, you did not need to stick to it after we were released."

Hotel Lux

The party sends Jöris to Moscow via Prague, he is to receive a professional training and go to the *Comintern school*. In Moscow, he is admitted to the famous "Hotel Lux", where many prominent com-

munists reside. The carpenter Jöris, however, finds accommodation in a simple common room in the backyard of the hotel. A cadre interview before a commission follows. Jöris reports everything, including his signature on the Nazi paper. A member of the commission snaps at him that this had been capitulation to fascism. "This man was *Herbert Wehner*, *Wilhelm Pieck* sat beside him." When Erwin Jöris is telling this, his voice raises and an angry frown forms on his forehead. Addressing Pieck Jöris snaps back: "You fought together with *Rosa Luxemburg* and *Karl Liebknecht*. They were murdered and you are alive ...". Jöris, the unruly. He can not keep his mouth shut. "I did not want to be accused of having capitulated."

Russian everyday life

Jöris is not incorporated in the cadre. Instead, he is expected to stand a test first. Work is assigned to him at a machine factory in Sverdlovsk in the Ural Mountains. Here it is where he gets to know Russian everyday life and gets to see what is not really meant for his eyes. "Why don't you have a look around the housing of the workers", a Russian murmurs to him. Jöris can see bread shops which are guarded by soldiers. "If they eventually had black bread, the workers were the happiest people. I often saw them standing at the factory gate, not being allowed home. Instead, they were transported on trucks to 'freely' work on collective farms, while the red bigwigs lived like princes." Jöris visits Russian families. "When they drank Vodka the Russians started chatting. I learnt more there as with the *Comintern school* and above all everything that was not reported in the party organ."

In June 1937, Jöris is called back to Moscow by the Control Commission of the *Comintern*. But here, too, he does not try to get buddy-buddy with party people. Instead, he asks questions and complains about conditions. He gets within the turmoil of the Great Purge which not only afflicted the CPSU. German and often foreign communists in Soviet exile are seized. Countless are shot.

Because of "Trotskyist activities", Jöris is arrested by the Soviet intelligence NKWD and imprisoned in the Lubyanka, the notorious Moscow prison. Even there, he messes with his henchmen. "Whoever is not in the concentration camps in Germany today, sits in with you in the Luby-

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anka." Where most prisoners are awaiting execution . . .

Erwin Jöris takes a sip of coffee. How much pain can a human being endure? This was never a question for him. He talks without complaint, without bitterness. He could never help, but resist all that means despotism and injustice.

"This mass prison cell in the Lubyanka was the real party convention to me. There were people of the government, the union, scientists and priests. When you sit together with these people you get to know communism."

When Jöris refuses to apply for Soviet citizenship, he is deported from the Soviet Union to Germany and taken into custody by the Gestapo.

After his release, he works in his parents' coal business. He retreats from the illegal work in the Communist Party. His experience in the Soviet Union made him become estranged from the party.

1940. What's more, Erwin Jöris was not spared to be drafted by the army. First, he takes part in the French mission. Thereafter, he is deployed at the eastern front, the Ukraine – against the Soviet Union, which he had always wanted to defend. On the army retreat in which he participated as driver of a medical unit, he falls into Soviet captivity in 1945. He is injured by grenade shrapnel in the final days prior to surrender. After all, in April 1946, because of this injury, he is allowed to return home to Berlin from the prison camp at Mojaisk near Moscow. Here, he is back in his father's coal business. He has ultimately turned his back on the party and doesn't even want to join the SED.

In the Gulag

War is over. Together with his wife Gerda he wants to build a life in Lichtenberg, his

former district in Berlin – certainly without any political involvement. He is denounced, however, by a former comrade with whom he had been arguing in the street. "We sat in the Lubyanka, while you were flirting with the fascists", Jöris yells at him. For alleged espionage, defamations of party leaders and betrayal of the proletariat, the once ardent communist is sentenced to 25 years in the Soviet labour camp of Vorkuta. "Your mouth will freeze in Siberia", the magistrate had said and Jöris blatantly replied, "Yours as well".¹

After a short pre-trial detention in Berlin-Hohenschonhausen, Erwin Jöris is back in the Soviet Union. With a consolidated waggon transport, he arrived at Vorkuta Gulag in the Arctic Circle, where he is denounced a "fascist pig" and is sentenced to hard work in the coal pits, often 10 hours underground daily. Camp life is unbearable. "Many told me, 'Either I am free next year or I am a stiff.' And to cheer up I always said, 'Next year you are not free and not dead, you only got used to the situation. When lamenting, you merely do them a favour'."

Three years afterwards, however, relief is felt in the camp. The camp commander refrains from punishing – a result of the rapprochement between the Soviet Union and the young Federal Republic. "One day, the hairdresser said to me, we are under instructions not to cut too short the Germans' hair in the camp." Then, in December 1955, shortly after *Konrad Adenauer's* legendary Moscow visit, Erwin Jöris is released and free to return to Germany.

Late satisfaction

His wife had waited for him. They leave East Berlin and finally find a new home in Cologne and Jöris a job in a cold storage house. "At first I was suspected of being a war criminal because I returned late from

war captivity. But at a staff meeting I set the record straight and from that moment I had the people behind me. I worked there for 22 years."

Decades later, in 1995 with 83 years, Erwin Jöris finds late satisfaction: He is rehabilitated by the Supreme Military Court of Russia, the judgment against him is reversed.

Erwin Jöris' life story was honored in two books and a movie. He often went to schools and took part in many events, also to enable young people to judge about mistakes and weaknesses of the history. "I never acted with a wagging finger and pointed at others. No, telling what you yourself did wrong – that attracts."

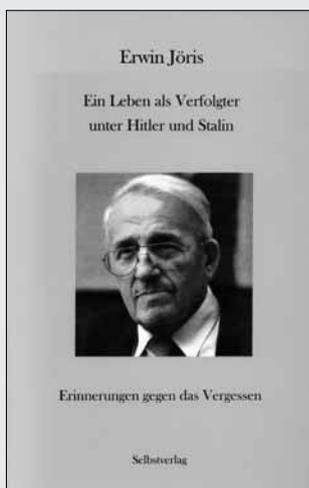
When Erwin Jöris talks about his life, a man speaks who has kept his inner freedom in all circumstances and thereby has still encouraged others in dark times. He gives no thought to how he survived it all. "I searched for allies and never allowed anyone to order me to be quiet. I wanted to survive." He does not feel hatred towards his tormentors: "I don't know hatred. What they did I regard as stupidity. Why should I hate them? They had to fulfill their standards or else they would have even been taken away themselves."

What is it that shows in the words of this centenarian, the visitor asks himself.

A child, a young person who develops own thoughts, an own attitude and analytical thinking to political processes in his family and environment, is obviously better prepared against the storms of the world. •

Erwin Jöris. *Ein Leben als Verfolgter unter Hitler und Stalin – Erinnerungen*, Selbstverlag 2004

¹ "Das Leben von Erwin Jöris" in: Andreas Petersen. *Deine Schnauze wird dir in Sibirien zufrieren. Ein Jahrhundertdiktat*. Wiesbaden 2012 (Translation *Current Concerns*)



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ISBN 13-978-386 539 2848



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