

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*

Standpoint at the beginning of the year

Reflecting at the beginning of a new year what the tasks are that we as individuals and as mankind carry over unresolved into the new year and with what further tasks we might be confronted, may be an opportunity to reflect the basics on which we want to address and are capable of addressing these issues and problems.

Zeit-Fragen, respectively *Current Concerns*, orients itself towards those values of human coexistence which in all cultures have proven essential for our living together in peace, equality and dignity embracing *all of mankind*.

Within one country and in inter-state dealings, the principle of right has precedence over the principle of power as an unshakeable foundation. This also includes the claim that the sovereignty of every state be observed and that all states are respected as inherently equal. History and not least contemporary history of the past 25 years has aptly taught us that forceful interferences from outside – labelled euphemistically “protection of human rights”, “responsibility to protect” or “humanitarian intervention” whatsoever – were in reality driven by power and profit interests. Not one single case led to a genuine solution and improvement of people’s lives.

War is always the agent of power and profit. It deeply contradicts human nature. Genuine progress is only possible by way of peaceful conflict resolution enshrined in international law (in the sense of the UN Charter). Peace is one of the most basic prerequisites to human life and human development. Unfortunately, in many parts of the world we are far from it.

Switzerland with its permanent armed neutrality has created a model which takes both into account, this political reality as well as the demand for peace. Its maxim says that we defend ourselves in order to protect our freedom and our

self-determination, our people and our country. We will never put ourselves at the service of power politics of others. In this sense, any national state has the right to self-determination.

The principle that right must come before might is also valid within a state. According to Swiss experience, it is the federalism, a political system built from bottom up that ensures civil peace best. Centralistic tendencies always contain the germ of power abuse and put this peace at risk. Where solutions can be influenced and shaped by the directly affected people, as is the case with Swiss direct democracy at all government levels, each individual has legally enshrined opportunities to participate in shaping the coexistence in a self-determined and direct way and to share in the responsibility for the common good. Hence, Swiss experience shows that there is a basis for sustainable and humane solutions to problems so that they need not lead to violent forms of struggle.

What is true for political coexistence in general has to be valid for other areas of our social life, both, small and large. The economy is not to lead a life of its own. Neither is it determined by the market. Economic activity has been part of human life, for the well-being of all. An economy of this kind does appreciate and respect the treasures of nature and the achievements of different cultures. The *International Year of Family Farming* will give reason to repeatedly illuminate these correlations. It shall remind us of the fact that it is the small family enterprises and not the agro-multinationals or the international corporations which constitute a real perspective in the fight of hunger. This is another scandal of our world and, furthermore, the product of power politics and greed preceding over right.

These values and demands for coexistence on a larger scale correspond to the personalist view of man. Every human being is a person, capable of reason and ethics. As a social being, man is part of the human community in which he lives. In the context of his family, his social environment and its culture, he develops his personal identity. Mental development happens while relating to his fellows. It corresponds to his social nature to be able to better develop his individual personality, the more he feels connected to his fellows.

This is why our work is based on the personalist view of man and the findings of the personalist anthropology, a personalist psychology and pedagogy. Hereby, the welfare of the individual as well as the common good serve us as benchmarks. Just as in the context of the larger coexistence, the equality of man has to be generally respected in the context of human relationships. Good faith, sincerity and honesty as a basis are valid as much in interpersonal relationships as in the media. It contradicts the dignity of man and it contradicts the sovereignty and integrity of the individual as well as the peoples, if manipulative methods to direct people are employed. The free expression of public opinion within the political field must be maintained by all means otherwise warmongering and abuse of power will have their way.

Tendencies which raise these basic values to question, which endanger or help ruin them will therefore be critically discussed by us. With our cooperative, our commitment and our newspaper we want to counteract these tendencies.

These are our ethical principles. For these values we stand up.

The editors

Quo vadis NATO?

by Hans Christoph von Sponeck

Human rights, military operations, geopolitical interests are three NATO slogans raising three important questions:

1. Human rights for whom?
2. Military operations by whom and on whose behalf?
3. Is it a matter of geopolitical interests or global political decisions?

NATO 1949

The Washington Agreement of 1949 (NATO treaty) had required the “peaceful” resolution of conflicts and declared that the geopolitical interests of the transatlantic alliance would not reach beyond the borders of NATO member states! The NATO treaty pointed to the fact that NATO states accepted United Nations law (the *Charter of the United Nations*) as binding and that they accepted subsidiarity. This means that human rights apply to everyone, that the NATO countries’ geopolitical interests are limited to their territory, and that military operations are only allowed when it is about the defense of the NATO area. Nevertheless, there was already then a caveat for NATO: The NATO states were to decide whether the UN Security Council had taken the “right” steps. If, in their opinion, this was not the case, they would act within the meaning of Article 5 of the NATO treaty – without reference to Article 51 of the UN Charter. This shows that from the very beginning NATO leadership thought in the same way as they act today! This means that today as well as in the past they have always questioned the monopoly right of the UN Security Council, since the Council is the only body that has the right to decide whether to intervene either with military or else with other means.

NATO 2013

In the 64 years since NATO’s founding international relations have considerably changed. The NATO of 12 states in 1949 has turned into the NATO of 28 states in 2013. NATO has installed itself increasingly as a global security policy establishment in these years of hyper-linking. “We are prepared to develop political dialogue and practical cooperation with any nations and relevant organisations across the globe that share our interest in peaceful international relations,” reads the NATO strategy of 2010.

Furthermore, NATO insists that it is their job to deal with all the major national issues of military and human (!) security. Energy security is a first priority in this sense. US Senator *Lugar* went a step further when he emphasized that NATO could intervene militarily according to Ar-

ticle 5 of its Statute, if some NATO states’ access to energy sources was threatened somewhere in the world. However, it would mean a serious violation of international law, if this actually happened.

There is not much left of a NATO subsidiarity within the United Nations in the year 2013! The result is a network of 28 nations that are linked by “Partnerships for Peace” (PfP) worldwide. A variety of former USSR states is involved. There is a dialogue agreement with Mediterranean states. By means of the so-called “Istanbul Initiative” the countries of North Africa and the Middle East are included in the NATO agenda. Particular connections exist between NATO and the Gulf States plus Yemen. Furthermore there is a loose cooperation between the Israeli navy and the naval forces of NATO. Special agreements were settled between NATO and Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, New Zealand and Australia. The world’s two largest drug producers, Colombia and Afghanistan, cooperate with NATO. Britain, which still owns the San-Diego islands in the Indian Ocean, has leased them to the United States. The local military bases are used by NATO for deployments.

On behalf of NATO the US is currently trying to intensify its military relations with Vietnam, Myanmar and East Timor. Similar attempts are made in the area of the five Central Asian states. In Liberia the “US Africom” was recently deployed in Monrovia after having been withdrawn from Stuttgart. In most regions where there are no land bases, NATO is represented by ships of the US Navy. Strategic presence and a visible embrace of China and Russia continue to be perfected. It should not come as a surprise that this brings along serious consequences for international relations!

The NATO enlargement is associated with the non-declared goal of weakening others, especially of alliances such as the *Shanghai Cooperation Organization* (SCO). “Gladio”, the mysterious underground organization of western states, which already existed in the times of the Cold War, is an indication for the means that are used, even if they are not legal.

Developments in recent years have shown an ever more expanding, but also increasingly weaker NATO. Defeats in Afghanistan and Iraq, a war against Yugoslavia in violation of international law and an invasion of Iraq that had not been approved by the UN Security Council have become milestones of NATO’s weakening. The serious violation of the four *Geneva Conventions* and the *Hague Conventions* by the mistreatment of prisoners at

Bagram, Abu Ghraib and Guantánamo as well as US flights transporting prisoners to secret prisons in order to torture them in other countries, are additional causes of this weakening.

The abuse of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) – handed over to NATO in 2011 by the UN Security Council for the welfare of the civilian population in Libya – and the actions of individual NATO states in the Syria crisis have significantly added to resistance against NATO.

New provocations such as the establishment of a network of missile defense systems in Spain, Poland, Romania, Turkey and Germany met with Russia’s legitimate resistance and withdrew the NATO-Russia Council’s confidence base.

What is the explanation for NATO’s development between 1949 and 2013?

The dissolution of the Soviet Union in December 1991, the resulting independence of the 12 Soviet republics and the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact – along with the signing of the Charter of Paris for a New Europe following in November 1990 – bore the great opportunity of replacing the Cold War by a warm peace. In many places, there was talk of the expected “peace dividend”. It turned out differently. NATO did not dismiss itself to history; it was rather looking for a new *raison d’être*.

The administration of *George W. Bush* and the other neoconservative circles in the US, inspired by the belief in an “American Century” (*Project for a new American Century* – PNAC) lying before them, wanted to maintain NATO under US leadership. The 11th September 2001 encouraged the political circles in Washington to justify the American claim to hegemony. This “PNAC psyche”, i.e. the belief in the leadership of the United States, existed across all parties before and after the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York. The European NATO member states and Canada were prepared to act as willing stooges.

In parallel, under American leadership NATO has developed continuously from a defensive alliance, protecting those who lived within the community, into an alliance with a global order. The NATO strategies from 1991, 1999 and 2010 prove this in clear language, according to the motto: new threats justify new approaches. “NATO is the most capable and effective political-military alliance in the world” was said in November 2010, when the latest NATO strategy was presented in Lisbon. It was no secret that it was about

«Quo vadis Nato?»

continued from page 2

the “security” and the “freedom” of NATO now amounting to 28 member states; it was hardly about the welfare of the other 165 UN member states. How else are we to explain NATO’s anti-satellite systems in Europe and Asia or the NATO inspections of merchant vessels in international waters? Further examples are NATO military exercises at crisis points of intersection such as on the Korean peninsula and elsewhere. It is all about selfishness and hubris. It is for these reasons that a large part of the remaining world repeatedly draws the existence of this transatlantic community into question.

Closest and excessive connections (“hyper-connectivity”) and networks at many levels have led to a significantly stronger polarization in international relations, which has its origin in the aggressive appearance of NATO.

NATO, continually thinking in a unipolar way, is facing a growing multi-polar opposition. The *Shanghai Cooperation Organization* (SCO) and the *Collective Security Treaty Organization* (CSTO) are two examples of security alliances that respond to NATO’s development. “We are experiencing an almost unrestricted use of military force, which plunges the world into an abyss of permanent conflicts!” These are the words of the Russian president *Vladimir Putin* spoken in 2007.

Since then, the level of confrontation between NATO and an increasing number of countries in Asia, Latin America and also in Africa and the Middle East has continued to rise. The conflicts with Libya (2011) and Syria (since 2011), the war against the Taliban in Afghanistan and Pakistan (since 2001) as well as the US-led invasion violating international law and the eight years’ occupation of Iraq (2003–2011) have significantly contributed to the polarization of international relations.

The obvious double standards of NATO, the egotism of the Alliance, the political corruption of individual NATO states and the repeated offense against international law have played an important role in this case. The deliberate spread of misinformation by government institutions aiming at influencing the national and international public adds up to all that. Just to mention only one of the many political examples: the performance of US Secretary of Defense *Colin Powell* on 5 February 2003 in the UN Security Council. In the presence of UN Secretary General *Kofi Annan*, Director General of the

IAEA *Mohamed ElBaradei* and the Commissioner for Iraq’s disarmament and head of UNMOVIC *Hans Blix*, Powell obeyed his government’s order to forward the evidence that Iraq under President *Saddam Hussein* possessed weapons of mass destruction. This was a serious misdirection, because not only professionals knew that Iraq was highly disarmed in 2003 and could no longer pose a threat. There was no protest from NATO circles! The present High Representative of the UN indirectly supported the subsequent US-led invasion of Iraq by their silence and thus were complicit.

**Basic theses on the question:
Quo vadis NATO?**

NATO “defense”

The approach of NATO under the pretext that the community must defend itself against an enemy often has to do with provocations generated by NATO itself. That is, it is not uncommon to look at NATO itself as the cause of a crisis. An important example is the anti-satellite initiative of the United States connected with NATO’s eastern expansion. The response, the symptom, is made the cause here. Once the NATO finished with such a provocation, the “defense” would become unnecessary!

Global Change

Signs are increasing that the world is rapidly turning away from unipolar politics and considers a much more nuanced paradigm for international relations. This process brings new obstacles to international cooperation, but also new opportunities. In the interest of international security, a peaceful development, human rights for all, and especially developing international trust would mean that alliances such as NATO and the SCO give up their narrow security approaches and agree to a world-wide cooperation. Such a development does not need to remain a utopia when it is recognized that the common features of the 193 member states of the UN are the better alternative.

Chapter VIII: “Regional arrangements” of the UN Charter

The integration of the alliances’ tasks in the responsibility of the United Nations is accepted by all UN Member States. It is, therefore, an international legal obligation and should not be dismissed as utopian, but be supported as an objective by persistent negotiations and UN reform discussions. The existing – and recognized

– NATO capacity could supply valuable contributions to crisis management and peace as a result of integration (subsidiarity). Wars in space, terrorism, piracy, drug and human trafficking could be overcome by means of cooperation in the spirit of Chapter VIII.

UN reform

The security-political responsibilities for the global, regional and local development lie with the Security Council of the United Nations, not with NATO. Structural weaknesses of the UN have increasingly meant that the Security Council has become unable to perform this function. The crisis in Syria is another serious example of incompetence and thus a dangerous reality threatening world peace. Proposals for fundamental reforms have not been lacking. For over twenty years report on report has been published on this subject. The international community has so far lacked the political will to reconsider these proposals, adopt them according to plan and implement them. This includes primarily the reform of the UN Security Council. Valuable considerations for the customized composition of the Security Council, for the status of membership, for the right to veto or the majority voting rights, subsidiarity issues of alliances such as NATO, etc. have already been made.

Accountability

The framework for international cooperation is largely defined by the UN Charter and the two International Covenants on political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights. Compliance with this recorded international law is mandatory for all states that are members of the United Nations, and thus also for NATO states. In reality, however, there is a culture of impunity. Decisions in the UN Security Council or in other forums, which have led to serious violations of human rights, remain without consequences for the decision-makers. The consequences of an inhumane sanctions policy, enforced by NATO member states in the UN Security Council in the case of Iraq, the NATO war against Yugoslavia, the illegal invasion of Iraq or the NATO mission in Libya are all empirically verifiable. Accountability is a prerequisite for a new beginning of international relations.

The road to peace, which NATO should take, is known. Once the NATO recognizes this path itself, a healing process will begin.

(Translation Current Concerns)

Law of the jungle cannot last forever

by Willy Wimmer, retired State Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Defence

km. For nearly 15 years the illegal war of aggression against Serbia has been justified with lies by the governments of the NATO countries. Willy Wimmer, former State Secretary at the German Ministry of Defence, could write a book about it. A few months ago at a new request sent to the German Ministry of Defence he once again got a standard response.

Denying the responsibility for the caused disaster, and refusing the necessary reparation is a prominent feature of the NATO countries' law of the jungle.

To this day, the mixture of lies, threats, and the willingness to pursue power politics in violation of any law defines the policies of the NATO countries. That will only come to an end, if more forces will support, what Willy Wimmer demands: putting an end to the law of the jungle and a renewed commitment to international law.

Those who, in violation of applicable international law and in a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations, used the NATO military machine against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia from 28 March 1999, driven by their mere political and especially economic power, want to enforce the acceptance of their aggression's consequences by those who were attacked. Their purpose is to achieve a delayed and subsequent legitimization of their bellicose aggression. In this effort they even willingly accept to compel certain NATO and EU Member States, who are particularly affected by the extorted resolution of disputes concerning the territory of the former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. What they demand from the aggression's victims on the territory of the former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, strikes at the very heart of certain NATO and EU Member States and is sowing new hatred.

In order to avoid any doubt on the occasion of the 15th NATO-war anniversary against the former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia: to consider a domestic threat to NATO and the EU, to even commence a still refused relentless investigation of this war by all parliaments of NATO and the EU, are not at all sufficient.

Who, if not those who, in violation of applicable international law, did wage a crude war of aggression against the former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, should be punished by the War Crimes Tribunal in

The Hague? Who, if not those who, in violation of applicable international law, did wage war against the former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, must restore the Republic's status as it had existed before the outbreak of this war?

Who, if not those who, in violation of international law, have invaded a United Nations Member State in peace-time, must provide compensation for the damages to life and limb and infrastructure that were caused by their acts of aggression?

The damages to life and limb are sufficiently known. Estimates of the extent of damage to infrastructure as well. Damages caused by using uranium munition can only be estimated.

- Approximately 4,000 people have lost their lives as a result of the NATO aggression.
- About 10,000 people were among those injured as a result of the NATO aggression.
- The amount of damage to any form of infrastructure is about 100 billion dollars.

Today, it is clearer than ever, what led to this European disaster, for the war against the former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is nothing else.

Europe was full of hope, when the consequences of 1945 seemed to have been overcome with the national unification of Germany in 1990. Above all, the Soviet Union and the United States of America stood for the success of the Helsinki process. The Helsinki Charter of 1975 did not only help to overcome the division of Germany and thus of Europe. The peoples of Europe could breathe again, and they cherished the well-founded hope to see that even the long-term consequences of the alleged peace conferences at the end of the First World War were solved by the scales and diplomatic means of the so-called Helsinki process.

Together with *Mikhail Gorbachev* – and as a close friend of *George W. Bush* – *Helmut Kohl* wanted to open a new chapter in the German-Russian history of the 20th century, which had been determined by immense suffering. He also had in mind this target with respect to the relations between the Germans and Serbs. At the same time he had in mind the history since 1914. Only this way you can understand that he had already scheduled a visit to Belgrade in

the summer of 1999, and immediately after the completion of the internationally illegal war against the former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The Honorary Citizen of Europe, *Helmut Kohl* in Belgrade – and that, after the NATO bombs had wiped out not only lives in Belgrade – it would have been a visible sign that there had existed – and still exists – a different Europe than a Europe of aggression.

It is part of the tragedy of those years that it had been *Henry Kissinger* of all people, the so highly esteemed *Henry Kissinger* who – after Helsinki and its successes – had not called for the further development of the valid international law, but had championed the destruction and elimination of international law that had continuously been developed since the Thirty Years' War and even before, and that his own government had followed him on this path. The law of the jungle – the power of the strongest – was to set the tone, exercised by the „indispensable nation“ as *Mrs Albright* had postulated. Not only that henceforth no peace dividend should be paid any longer in Europe and other parts of the world after the end of the Cold War; a war in Europe, in total disregard of international law, was the rejection of international law and the postulated return to the law of the jungle that had always brought nothing but misery to the people.

It is now – after the wars against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia up to the war against Iraq – almost general understanding that there is no end of history, but there is a limitation to the time of the ruling fist law, such as the international treaties on the Syrian chemical weapons or the interim agreement with Iran demonstrate. Here we must understand that a number of questions from the period between Belgrade and Tehran shine through and demand our answer:

1. Where were the United States as the haven of freedom and justice in the period from 1999 to 2013?
2. Can there be a prosperous world with international law as the backbone of the international community, without a Russia that is capable of acting?
3. Is Europe more than the brat, with which everyone do as he likes? •

(Translation *Current Concerns*)

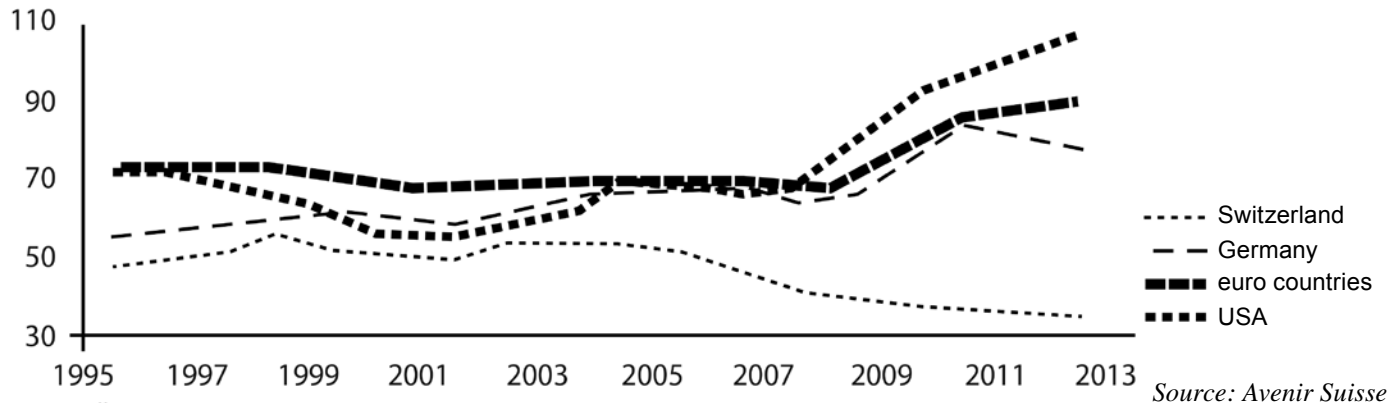
Why is Switzerland doing so well?

Direct democracy guarantees moderate use of tax money

by Dr iur Marianne Wüthrich

The debt brake is taking effect

National Debt as a percentage of the gross domestic product (1995–2012)



State debts in Switzerland have decreased significantly since the introduction of a debt brake in 2003 while they increased in the EU and the US.

Today, many states are over-indebted and unable to sort out their budget. The fact that Switzerland is doing well in comparison to other countries apparently bothers some politicians and journalists abroad. Since they do not know the Swiss state model, they think the prosperity of Switzerland has its origin mainly in the financial market. That is not true.

Swiss economic strength is based primarily on the small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)

The prosperity of Switzerland is based only to a small extent on the added value of the banks.

Half a year ago, based on the report of the Swiss National Bank, you could read in the daily press:

“The added value of Swiss banks decreases continuously: by the end of 2012 it was only 35 billion francs which corresponds to a proportion of barely 6 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP).” (see “20 Minuten” of 17 June 2013)

Actually the Swiss economic strength is based primarily on the small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which make up more than 90 percent of the companies. Most Swiss banks are also SMEs.

Reasons for Switzerland’s high economic performance

The reasons for the high economic efficiency of Switzerland are, among others, a good education system and a high motivation of the workforce, the reliability of the companies and the high quality of the products. Two particularly important factors should be added:

- *A decentralised economy, structured in small units:* Similar to the federal structure of Switzerland, the companies are also not agglomerated in the cities only, but many good small and medium-sized enterprises have settled in the country, their management is embedded in their community and in the Canton and feels responsible for the flourishing of the location Switzerland
- *Strong dual vocational education and training system:* Over two-thirds of young Swiss people are completing a vocational training. Almost all SMEs and all big companies train apprentices. This is a natural contribution to the welfare of the country, but also to the formation of the younger generation making them responsible professionals and citizens who are willing and able to assume their tasks in the direct democratic structure.

Direct democracy and State budget

Why is Switzerland so little indebted?

The direct democratic state structure has a decisive influence on the financial status of the Swiss nation.

Unlike most other states Switzerland has a relatively balanced state budget both in the Federal State and in the cantons and communes. Three factors are responsible for this:

1. Citizens decide about government spending

All cantons and communes have either the compulsory or optional financial referendum. So the voters decide directly on government spending. If they consider an issue unnecessary or exaggerated, they vote no.

This happens frequently. To give some examples, I chose the largest commune of Switzerland, Zurich, and the Canton of Zurich as the most populous canton as well as a small village in the Canton of Schaffhausen.

- City of Zurich, 400,000 inhabitants: Compulsory financial referendum Municipal Code Article 10: the voting by the community [that is, by the voters; A/N] are mandatory for: [...] (d) One-time expenses for a specific purpose over 20,000,000 francs or annually recurring expenditures for a specific purpose over 1,000,000 francs. Example: Communal vote of 22 September 2013, credit of the city of 216 million Swiss francs for the construction of a stadium, rejected narrowly by the voters with 50.8% No votes against 49.2% Yes votes.

- Canton of Zurich, 1.4 million inhabitants: An optional financial referendum Cantonal Constitution Article 33: on request the following issues will be submitted to the people’s vote: d. decisions of the cantonal parliament for:
 1. new one-time expenditures of more than 6 million Swiss francs,
 2. new, annually recurring expenditures of more than 600,000 Swiss francs
 The optional referendum can be taken in the canton of Zurich with the small number of 3,000 signatures (Cantonal Constitution Article 33).

continued on page 6

"Why is Switzerland doing so well?"

continued from page 5

– Commune of Büttenhardt (Canton of Schaffhausen), 354 inhabitants: Communal Assembly
The following transactions are to be decided upon by the Communal Assembly [in addition to many others, A/N]:

- Decision on the approval of new unique expenditures exceeding 20,000 Swiss francs
- Decision on the approval of annually recurrent expenditures exceeding 5,000 francs.
- Authorization to purchasing, exchanging or selling land or granting building rights exceeding 30,000 Swiss francs.

Moreover, in communes with a municipal assembly citizens vote on the budget every year. They can cut items of expenditure, thus, for example, the commune of Büttenhardt (in addition to many other communes) cut the contribution of 1,100 Swiss francs to the planned nature park Schaffhausen on 29 November 2012.

2. Citizens decide on taxes

In the Confederation, the cantons and the communes voters decide on the introduction of new taxes or on the rise or lowering of existing taxes.

– Example Confederation: Federal referendum of 27 September 2009 about the value-added tax increase in favour of the disability insurance

People and cantons agreed to a limited rise of the value-added tax from 7.6 to 8 %.

– Example Canton of Zurich: Mandatory vote about taxes according to Article 32 of the Cantonal Constitution: The following laws are submitted to the people for the vote [...] f. Tax laws [...] and their modifications which introduce new taxes or entail higher tax charges for individuals.

Education for citizenship as an indispensable basis of direct democracy

At the municipal assembly of the commune Büttenhardt the community President welcomes the three young citizens who became 18 years old this year and so have the new voting rights. Her words express what constitutes an education for citizenship.

N.G., F. M. and S.R. can be officially admitted as voting citizens.

The common celebration of young citizens of the municipalities Lohn, Stetten and Büttenhardt was traditionally held on the ship in summer. The chairwoman pointed out to the young citizens that with the majority they would have a lot

– Example commune of Büttenhardt: Annual vote of the communal assembly on the local tax rate.
If a new schoolhouse has to be built, the citizens increase the tax rate or they renovate the existing schoolhouse – it is as simple as that.

The consequence of the citizens' direct right to decisions, especially in the communes: The Swiss communes operate in the black.

3. Debt brake

Voters in the federation and in most cantons as well as in many towns have introduced a so-called debt brake by referendum.

"Against the worldwide trend, the Swiss state has reduced debts in the recent past. The national debt rate (Confederation, cantons, communes and social securities) could fall below 30% by 2016, while in many places rates of 100% and more are registered. It is but a huge merit of the debt brake introduced in 2003." (cf. "Neue Zürcher Zeitung" of 15.11.2012)

– Debt brake in the Confederation: Federal Constitution Article. 126 Financial management

- 1 The Confederation shall maintain its income and expenditure in balance over time.
- 2 The ceiling for total expenditure that is to be approved in the budget is based on the expected income after taking account of the economic situation.
- 3 Exceptional financial requirements may justify an appropriate increase in the ceiling in terms of paragraph 2. The Federal Assembly shall decide on any increase in accordance with Article 159 paragraph 3 letter c.
- 4 If the total expenditure in the federal accounts exceeds the ceiling in terms of paragraphs 2 or 3, compensation for this additional expenditure must be made in subsequent years.

of rights on the one hand but on the other hand also a lot of duties. So a lot of endurance and will is required in the jobs or at school. The ideas and views of the youngest voters are very valuable and it would be nice if also the young citizens actively participate or perform functions for the municipality.

The municipality president wishes the young citizens a lot of strength, happiness and good health. The assembly takes the young citizens with acclamation into their ranks.

Source: Protocol of the Municipal Assembly Büttenhardt from 29 November 2012

– Debt brakes in the cantons
The cantons have made varied arrangements. Appenzell Innerrhoden, for example, has no debt brake, because people of Appenzell economize without such a law.

Two examples:

In the *Canton of Lucerne*, the Cantonal Constitution does not allow the current account to show any deficit. Possible deficits are to be discharged within a period of four to eight years considering the economic situation.

In the *Canton of St. Gallen* a balance of the current account is targeted. If the expenditures exceed the budget limits a tax rise is compulsory.¹

Conclusion

The good condition of the Swiss budget is the result of direct democracy in Switzerland and its careful pursuance by the voters in the Confederation, the cantons and the communes.

Every citizen in Switzerland or abroad is called upon correcting the floating errors about the origin of the well ordered Swiss household.

¹ Source: "Fiskalische Budgetbeschränkungen zur Stabilisierung öffentlicher Haushalte", in: Die Volkswirtschaft. Das Magazin für Wirtschaftspolitik 2-2004, by Dr Christoph A. Schaltegger, economic advisor in the Swiss Federal Tax Administration (SFTA), Bern

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A military doctrine of illusions

by Gotthard Frick

No potential enemy of our country would have ever dared hoping to smash our army without massively resorting to violence, as we have done ourselves in a few years and as we are still doing. The army could have indeed slightly been reduced, but not everything that constituted its strength should have been destroyed.

The two, now seriously ill twin sisters of our foreign policy – our formerly absolute peacefulness based on strict neutrality and a strong national defense – have been perceived as exemplary and credible around the world, also among many ordinary people, and have assigned a very high reputation to Switzerland on the international level. On the basis of earlier, no longer valid ideas, people assume here and there – sometimes even in today's China, as the author learned on various occasions to his great astonishment – that all Swiss men and women were ready to fight for freedom and independence in case of attack, and that we basically do not interfere with foreign quarrels. However, we have to say to our people loudly and clearly what the general staffs of major powers already know:

Today we have no longer an army that can keep war off the country.

By the way, under international law of neutrality, we are obliged to deny the warring parties the inclusion of our country and our airspace in their operations in case of war. *We can no longer meet this international obligation today.*

Cost-benefit analysis before deciding on attack

Even major powers make cost-benefit calculations before deciding on attacks against other countries, and they wonder if the price they intend to win will justify the costs. Anyone who currently reads the news has noticed that even the still militarily powerful United States have become cautious about interventions due to the exorbitant cost of campaigns like those in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Immediately before and after the outbreak of the Second World War, the General Staffs of Germany and France have made cost-benefit calculations as to whether it would be worthwhile for their own army to attack the enemy via Switzerland. They also considered whether it would be worthwhile for their enemy to attack their own country via Switzerland. In the end both general staffs decided that this was neither worth the effort for their own nor for the army of the enemy, due to the strength of the Swiss army and the difficult terrain. The *Joint Chiefs of Staff* of England also considered the issue for

both parties, and for the same reasons they said it was neither worth for France nor for Germany. The German Chief of Staff *Halder* yet commented in his war diary that the circumvention of the French Front “via an undefended Switzerland would be a tempting possibility”.

Literally, for example, a German attack planning in World War II mentioned the “important north-south trade routes” (Gotthard, Lötschberg-Simplon) with their energy supply as first prize and only secondly a reasonably intact Swiss economy and “furthermore undestroyed power plants and railways”. Only they considered “a reasonable price for an armed intervention in Switzerland”. The plan highlighted the significance of these north-south trade routes, i.e. the Alpine tunnels, with the words, “Only their full ownership means a clear military victory over Switzerland”. Then the following conclusion is made, “The conquest of the troops in the Swiss National Redoubt bitterly defending themselves will be a difficult task.”

In 1944, when the Allies got stuck in France for a long time, *Stalin* ultimately asked them to circumvent the German front by an attack via Switzerland. The top military leadership of the then so powerful US forces checked this option and concluded, “The difficulties of the terrain and the well-known ability of the small but efficient Swiss armed forces in the fight on their own soil would make such a project doubtful.” Even Americans obviously found the cost of an attack via Switzerland too high.

States will make some cost-benefit considerations in the future before deciding on attacks. Further examples from the Second World War that will also be mentioned in the following text show other considerations made during the war or constraints they could not escape – even by militarily superior powers. Such considerations will be made and the constraints will exist as long as there are wars. A lot would be gained if our people were aware of them.

Our aim should be to ensure that the cost-benefit calculation is always made in favor of our country and that we can thereby prevent the involvement in a war. However, the more the WEA, (“Weiterentwicklung der Armee”) i.e. the further elimination of our army proceeds, the smaller a potential attacker will estimate his costs and the larger his benefits; since an occupation is possible quickly and without great destruction and casualties and then our economy and the transport network are largely functional at his disposal. The general staffs of some future potential attacker will gratefully have



bookmarked the sellout price we offer him for an attack.

The reality of war

A deterrent army and a culture of defense capability that is absolutely committed to peace, as we had earlier, can only be built up over long periods of time. Since our saturated people are not aware of what war really means and will not be shown what a future threat of war might look like, they believe – in the face of the long prevailing peace in Europe – that this condition will remain for all times and that the citizens' personal commitment and the means for a credible national defense were no longer necessary.

For many Swiss people all the horrors of the last 75 years up to the more recent conflicts in Kosovo, hence in Europe, as well as the current barbaric massacres in the Middle East and Central Africa are quasi scenes from a horror movie that they can observe from a comfortable and safe auditorium with voluptuous horror before they have a good dinner.

Do we really have to remind them by mentioning terrible examples from reality – without also talking about the killed soldiers and the widespread destruction – that in this historically very short past reaching into our present time millions of defenseless, innocent people were gassed, shot, buried alive, burned, hanged, deported to slave labor in mines and factories? Do we really have to remind them that frenzied soldiers have raped tens of thousands of young women for days and

continued on page 8

"A military doctrine ..."

continued from page 7

then killed them by poking piles or broken bottles through their vagina into the abdomen? People have done and are still doing all these and many other atrocities to other people on the basis of hatred, revenge or because they experienced injustice and humiliation before. What atrocities will the people in Europe be able to do, what leaders will they follow if, for example, the gigantic mountain of debt collapses and will lead to general impoverishment and chaos?

Military doctrine of the Swiss Army

In No 2/2013 of the *Military Power Revue*, the professional journal of the Swiss Army, five authors described the current state and prospects of the "Military doctrine of the Swiss Army."

An unrealizable order

The criticism below is not aiming at these professionals. They have done their duty and tried to loyally execute an unrealizable order within the strangulating regulations of the Federal Council and Parliament to devise a national defense that can fulfill the constitutional mandate. This explains the tricks with which they were trying to achieve that goal since it cannot be achieved with the available resources. It speaks in their favour and shows their competence that they suggested over and again that other conditions would be required, and that they drew attention to the risks associated with this kind of "security policy".

*The WEA***(Further Elimination of the Army)*

The elimination of the army which has already happened as well as its further elimination has been sincerely criticized from third parties. Here are the main points of breakup:

- Our worldwide unique, simple, inexpensive and almost ineliminable mobilization system has been destroyed. Today the rump army is partly functional only after many months. According to reports apparently a faster system will be introduced again, initially for 1,500 men.
- The army was whittled down massively and large parts of the rump army are not even intended for fight, for military use.
- Today the rump army can no longer be fully equipped. This is reminiscent of the Chinese Army in the Korean War, when only the first wave of attackers was equipped and each sub-

sequent wave had to pick up the weapons of fallen soldiers in order to fight.

- Contrary to every military principle the previously decentralized and therefore almost indestructibly stored equipment was concentrated in five major logistics centers, whose exact location is generally known, even by any foreign general staff. In other words, the equipment of the army can be suddenly and abruptly eliminated from a great distance, even before a war has begun. It seems to be somewhat decentralized again as part of the WEA.
- Thousands of bunkers, destructible but equipped with powerful weapons, have been abandoned. The time and material which an opponent calculates to eliminate a part of it before deciding to launch the actual attack would heavily be weighed in a cost-benefit analysis, and maybe would then be ascertained as too large a loss, and therefore lead to a renunciation of an attack. Provided our enemy was even engaged in a war with other powers, which is very likely, they would need such bunker cracking weapons elsewhere. That would weigh even more in a cost-benefit analysis.

(A German attack planning during the Second World War very clearly expressed that means used at one point are missing elsewhere. It was pointed out that for an attack on Switzerland divisions would need to be removed from virtually all German fronts. Then the consequences were drawn: "Due to the attack on Switzerland therefore a temporary substantial weakening of the defense forces meant to repel landings of the Allies forces will occur. A withdrawal of troops familiar with the eastern war [against the Soviet Union, the author] means a dangerous loss on this front.")

- Large stocks of military hardware – tanks, armored personnel carrier enhanced for combat and other – were either scrapped or sold abroad. As one critic rightly remarked, no one would scrap old, not quite powerful fire trucks before the new ones are ready.

Possible military threats

It is beyond the scope of this assessment of the military doctrine to dwell on conceivable military threats. However, it should be remembered that a new world order is emerging. What it will look like, is not clear yet. In such times of upheaval in the past, wars often took place.

Asia, led by China, India, in Europe Russia, but also many other states are heavily upgrading their armies. The US, still the largest military power, have newly focused their main interest away from Europe to the Pacific. Old and new tensions, caused for instance by the creation

and management of spheres of influence, or because of sovereignty over territories and the control of resources (water, agricultural land, raw materials), or migration and the increasing contamination of air, water and ground, as well as the increasing gap between rich and poor, and many others are reinforcing each other. Dormant volcanoes, such as the gigantic state debts which can no longer be easily redeemed in an orderly way could explode, and rapidly lead to extreme levels of anger and revolts among the people involved, and in turn, provide the fuel for new wars.

Questionable priorities concerning the tasks of the Army

In the order of tasks that, according to the military doctrine, are to be taken over by the army, the country's defense comes last. That speaks volumes.

Peacebuilding

The first argument claiming that we needed a tool for "peace supporting operations abroad", does really not justify an army. It is not an objective of Switzerland to maintain intervention forces and send them around the world so that they might ensure "law and order" on behalf of the "OSCE" or the "international community". These jobs often serve to promote Western interests, even if camouflaged by popular rationalizing, like the "protection of human life", e.g. in Libya. And considering Libya: up to now China has abstained from such "world community" deployments ordered by the West. It probably follows the advice of their great reformer, *Deng Xiaoping*, who had recommended not to attract any attention until China was strong enough to assert its views forcefully. In future, China, getting stronger, as well as Russia are likely not to consent to military operations for "peacebuilding" but only in rare cases; that would probably rule out a use of Swiss troops altogether, provided our country will continue to be perceived as neutral.

(A lot is revealed about today's SPS [Social Democratic Party of Switzerland] by their commissioning the German "Study Group Alternative Security Policy" with an "expertise" about Swiss security policy entitled "Responsibility and Protection", and that it uses "peacebuilding" missions abroad recommended in that study, to justify an army of 50,000 men, – and even that only just tolerated for a certain amount of time – as the basis of their own "security policy").

Military support of civilian authorities
Furthermore, the doctrine mentions reasons for a military operation under the title "Military support of civilian author-

* In VBS jargon WEA stands for "Weiterentwicklung der Armee" (Development of the Swiss Armed Forces) [the editors].

"A military doctrine ..."

continued from page 8

ities", which are not an argument for an army. All these tasks, as helping in case of earthquakes and other natural disasters could be transferred to specialized, rapidly mobilized civilian corps (for example, with staff and equipment of construction companies), after the adoption of the relevant legislation and appropriate preparations. Even the police could be quickly reinforced by specially prepared forces in cases of possible mass violence.

*Defense competence
rather than defense capability*

There is no other justification for a strong army than a country's defense and with highest priority and as the main goal the prevention of Switzerland's involvement in a war or unrest in our neighborhood accompanied by extensive violence.

Under the last title, "Defense", the doctrine confirms that we have no longer an army, because the latter should not have the capability to fight but only the "competence" to fight, which means that it only needs to know how one would fight in case one had the time to prepare and the human and material resources to do so. To this end, the military doctrine states:

"Defense capability is achieved only after a political decision and a longer preparation time." Only "a small number will guarantee the maintenance and development of know-how that is necessary for the defense against a military attack."

(In a German attack plan, dated 1942, there was an explicit warning not merely to consider the soldiers that were serving at the time but the total number of soldiers that could be mobilized – as the demobilized military were able to fight immediately in case of an attack. Later, until the end of the last century, this defense capability was still intact and whole regiments were able to march to the mountains and hold trainings with sharp skirmish shooting with artillery and aircraft support in the afternoon of the very day they had sat together with their families at breakfast.)

"Added value" of an army

If a strong army with many skills and material is available it will bring additional benefits; for example supporting civil authorities after an earthquake or in the narrowly-defined foreign "peace-building" missions that the current military doctrine mentions. But there is no reverse justification for an army. This has been clearly recognized by our people. Given the confusing situation of orders, it is understandable that the military men have questioned their contribution to the security of our country, represented by a recent SMS

survey carried out by the CdA ("Chef der Armee").

Regarding the promotion of peace, we always have to be aware that the UN is being manipulated by the Great Powers to enforce their interests. Also, one may wonder whether neutral Switzerland does not have different and more effective ways for the promotion of peace than by its army. Nobody except the United States and NATO, who would like to get us involved anyway and are supported by the Federal Council, would blame us for that.

In case of war Switzerland will be confronted with the problem of "insufficient defense depth", as noted in a German attack plan of the Second World War. That is, our territory is so small that the whole country would become the battlefield. The consequences of war are therefore more devastating for us than for many other countries. This correct assessment would be another reason to do anything to keep a war away from our land.

**Adaptation of the defense capability
to the security situation**

Correctly the doctrine states that the intelligence service's task is to continuously monitor and assess the security situation. Based on the assessment the defense capability needs then to be adjusted, i.e. increased, if the situation deteriorates. We may rightly assume that the intelligence service is able to perceive and assess changes in the overall security situation.

But it is an illusion to believe that such assessments of the security situation – which are nothing more than an interpretations of information, i.e. opinions of employees of the intelligence service – would be accepted by the Federal Council and the majority of parliament as this would mean that they take an overall long term strategic view, and not just an ad hoc short-term view as it is today.

Even if the politicians had the insight that the defense capability must be increased quickly, they had to be ready and willing to provide enormous financial resources that are essential for closing the gaps that have opened up due to previous neglect. The necessary defense capability needs to be created again and a larger army needs to be built in a short time. Many more men and women would have to be trained so that the army will have enough resources to endure a prolonged active service and its respective rotating scheme. Men and women serving would become unavailable to the economy for several months. Finally, the current economic and financial situation would have to allow these efforts. It is an illusion to assume that this scenario could be realized.

If the deterioration of the security situation became manifest so quickly and con-

cretely – as was the case for example before the Second World War when within just six years the Rhineland was re-militarized, anti-Jewish riots and the annexation of Austria took place, Czechoslovakia was destructed and *Hitler* had built up a large modern army and air force from zero – that even our cabinet ministers and parliamentarians could not deny this, all possible efforts to increase the combat capability would come much too late, given the current state of the army. At best some gaps might be closed – just like before the Second World War.

Unpredictable strikes by enemies

So far we discussed only long-term developments. But today, major powers have the opportunity to take surprising strategic measures or carry out destructive or localized strikes over large distances off the cuff. (The US is currently working on a weapon that should be in a position to destroy a goal anywhere in the world within one hour).

It is an illusion to believe that the intelligence service could identify such strategic measures or targeted strikes in advance. With the destruction of our mobilization system and the extreme concentration of equipment in well-known, easy to be destroyed logistics centers, we have made sure then that we will only be able to watch helplessly as our equipment is surprisingly destroyed within a few moments and we are left without militarily capability. Previously, the rapid mobilization capability and the immediate takeover of the decentralized storage of material by the fighting forces additionally hindered opponents to rapidly destroy our military material. Today, opponents have plenty of time to prepare unpredictable strikes on well known targets.

Two recent examples of surprising actions:

One may safely bet a large sum that no intelligence service could have foretold that China would surprisingly introduce a no-fly zone in a region of political tensions. South Korea has now followed with its own no-fly zone, which partially overlaps those claimed simultaneously by Japan and China. This has led to a dangerous increase of tensions in the Pacific virtually overnight.

After *Putin* had been re-elected president of Russia, he had put large parties of the army on the alert on several occasions without any upfront hint. Significant troops were shifted over thousands of kilometers, rockets were ordered to march and had to be intercepted by the air defense. A large number of planes and ships were deployed. All intelligence agencies probably recognized these actions only in

"A military doctrine ..."

continued from page 9

retrospect. This notice should not be interpreted in such a way that Russia is currently planning an attack. But later, an army thus trimmed could carry out an immediate surprise attack. These examples show very clearly how illusory it is to assume that there is a longer reaction period to increase an army's combat capability.

**Illusion of military defence:
Our trump not played**

The "military defence" as presented in the doctrine is another illusion due to the inadequate size of the army. How could an attack take place? Initially and surprisingly triggered off, e.g. as a short, very intense cyber-war, missile and air attack from a distance, to eliminate at least our electricity supply and telecommunications, which means to paralyze the country and to destroy the few logistic centers of the army with selective strikes. As the army cannot be mobilized in a short time anyway and will not have any equipment available after the blow against its logistic centers, further action of the attacker will no longer be urgent.

We actually had a trump card but we gave it away caught in our illusions of eternal peace: our transalpine routes. The military doctrine confirms that by stating that "the major part of the actions is likely to take place in the Midlands".

For most of our potential enemies or their allies the transalpine routes are of superior strategic importance in a war, and later, when having entered peace again, of continental economic importance. If we were able to defend and destroy them, we could avoid to become solely paralyzed and bumped off from space and air only like Serbia a few years ago. We would have the opportunity to blackmail most opponents with the threat to destroy the transalpine routes in such a way that they could no longer be used for years neither in the subsequent peace, in case the enemy wanted for example to completely destroy our electricity supply and important hubs of the infrastructure from the air and paralyze the country. All Western European countries would hold for example the United States back in such a case, if they had such an intention. With regard to Russia, this argument could have less effect depending on the circumstances. But its enemy would be trying to prevent the paralysis of our country in his own interest if we were in the war against his opponent.

Although we have no longer expect to count on huge tank armies, every major power has a sufficient number of battle units, to use a much larger force against us than our downsized army would have.

Given the lacking strength of the army and the large number of objects or areas to defend, it is incomprehensible that the military doctrine foresees the "main part" of war activities in the Midlands, which means multiple concurrent actions to prevent an occupation.

According to WEA, the air force is to be equipped with only three airfields after the completion of the next stage of the further elimination of the army. Will we leave them to the airborne troops of the enemy without fighting, so that they can be used immediately by his air force? We have two intercontinental and several smaller civilian airports. Are they to be defended, or are they left to the enemy undefended from the very beginning as bases for his supplies, his warplanes and attack helicopters? And the transalpine routes? Are we willing to defend them or will we leave them to the assailant? In case we want to defend these infrastructure components essential to our country, would our downsized army have enough combat units at all? It is obvious that we cannot leave these important installations of our infrastructure to an enemy. But will there be any units left to "act" in defense of the midlands with its cities and villages, its power plants, industrial facilities, railways and highways?

Or can we cherish the illusion, that an opponent would attack only selectively at individual points with weak forces, so that the army – always assuming that it is mobilized prior to the attack at all and could be readily equipped – could take over selective tasks with weak forces. Or would the enemy attack rather professionally, with a larger number of battle units on a wide front and possibly from different directions, from the air and space? The answer is obvious, that is, the defense of the Midlands with our downsized army is a further illusion, although in the same issue of the *Military Power Review* the Chief of Army presents a very convincing concept for the warfare of our ground troops in a – probably unexpectedly complex – modern war.

How will this downsized army with its low firepower meet the illusory claim of the doctrine "to prevent by all means the enemy from reaching his goals quickly; heavy losses should be inflicted on him, forcing him to give up his actions"?

The requirement of the doctrine to "after start of hostilities [...] conduct strikes in the depth of the enemy room" has to be seen as an illusion. Where is the necessary "firepower", the heavy artillery, rocket artillery, the air force? Further on, what "special operation forces" available in this downsized army would be able to conduct such strikes in the depth according to doctrine, and not just punctually and thus annoying an opponent with in-

effective needle stitches? Didn't we learn for example in Libya, that many thousands of combat aircraft sorties are needed to do effective "strikes in the depth of the enemy area"? And isn't it an illusion to believe we could achieve something crucial with "offensive" action in the "electromagnetic – and cyber space" against a major modern power? Couldn't an opponent, however, turn off our own electromagnetic installations relatively quickly, for example the positioning system and lead center installations?

What size are the "combat units" or how many are available in the downsized army, fighting with integrated weaponry in their respective "zones"? In how many "zones" can the army be present at all at the same time, even if one would waive the defense of transalpine routes and the military and civilian airports? How big are the "mechanized reserves" foreseen for "counterattacks"? Let us watch out for illusions here.

The worst thing to a country is to have illusions on tackling one of the most challenging but most rewarding tasks, namely to keep the war out of a country. Let us tell the truth to our people. Let's point it out, that it must rebuild a credible national defence or has to accept taking upon itself the whole abomination, terror and destruction of war and losing our freedom in the worst case. But it shouldn't be deluded that our further downsized army could spare it from war as in the last 200 years.

**Will the demons of war
die peacefully while sleeping?**

The crucial question, which was already asked above, is whether a war in Europe is still possible and if so, what could trigger it off and how would it look like. Many deny this possibility looking ahead into the foreseeable future. If they are right with their assessment, we wouldn't really need an army.

We must tackle this question with the highest priority and then find out how the defense should be set up to be able to keep a war from the country.

If an opponent wants to subjugate a country in the long run and use in his favor, he must occupy it with own numerous ground troops, even if he initially "defeated it thanks to superior technology and firepower". This finding gains acceptance after the defeat of the United States in Iraq and Afghanistan. This is a chance for us.

To make our army stronger and particularly to prevent an occupation or make the latter possible only at a very high price, we should find our own way. So in addition to the downsized army, we could build for example robust units, with high firepower, but neither armored nor fully

Crisis over – critics refuted?

by Prof Dr Eberhard Hamer

When in 2002 the author thought about the course and consequences of a great depression – he was one of the first to do so with the now famous book “What happens when the crash comes?” – he was accused by bankers, politicians, the mainstream press and even by most professorial colleagues that such thinking was “indecent”, “completely overhauled”, “ignorant” and “unrealistic”. However, when in 2008 the global financial crisis actually broke out, suddenly all of them had already seen it coming, and some hastily copied from the author’s book in order to “keep up with the times”.

“A military doctrine ...”

continued from page 11

motorized battle groups below the electromagnetic threshold, tasked mainly to hold the position (cities and towns, airfields, the transalpine routes, infrastructures, hubs) and, where appropriate, to support the civil authorities. An assailant would have to fight with ground troops, to occupy these areas. The highly flexible, mobile and fully equipped, heavily armored downsized army, which would be again part of a credible national defense would thus fight in conjunction with the static units to be created according to the concept of the Chief of Army. The recent wars show how strong lightly armed but highly motivated fighters are against a modern army which can’t absorb little losses and is closely watched by the media and its own citizens. The here proposed robust combat units would have incomparably more firepower, and would be better trained. For such a solution we need lot of mental agility and creativity and more, but affordable money. This way we would really be well prepared.

No one will accuse *Jean-Claude Juncker*, until recently Chief of the Euro group, being “a narrow thinking, diehard yesterday’s militarist, embed in the Réduit”, as the opponents of a credible army accuse their proponents, such as for example the author. In two very serious interviews on German television and in “*Der Spiegel*” in the year 2013, he said that Europe is much more fragile than everyone would have believed, and also in Europe a war would again be possible. He concluded that thought by saying: “The demons are not dead, they are only sleeping.”

We all hope that in future history books, future generations will have the opportunity to read that these demons had died peacefully while sleeping. But let us remain prepared, in case they wake up! •

(Translation *Current Concerns*)

Meanwhile the prevailing opinion has, in turn, declared the financial crisis as overcome, although

- the debt not only of the individual states, but as a whole has not been reduced, but has continued to rise dramatically,
- this overall debt is now ruining the currencies by the FED’s and the ECB’s unrestrained money printing, and
- the ruling high finance clique evades the rescue measures, by shifting the consequences as a gigantic total liability onto the citizens of Europe, especially Germany.

All this does not even worry the finance ministers of the countries that now bear additional liability for the ailing states. “Guarantees are no household debts”, *Schäuble* boasts, referring to German guarantee obligations in triple-digit billion range, which can turn into payment obligations at any time, if the crisis breaks out again.

The dominant actors have pushed the crisis to the back of their minds, the author was labeled a “crisis guru in the crisis” in a New Year’s review since we don’t have a crisis, but

- booming stock and financial markets with a Dax of more than 9000 points,
 - a euro climbing up to \$1,37 instead of a euro crisis,
 - a gold price fallen below 900 Euro,
 - a booming labor market with the highest employment rate and
 - full social security and pension funds.
- Instead of a euro-crisis Ireland could leave the rescue shield at the end of the year and Latvia joined the euro as the 18th State.

To speak of difficulty or crisis is again as indecent, unworldly and ignorant as it was in 2002.

Again and again the author has noted, however, that a good entrepreneur or asset manager does take crises into account and must prepare himself for them. In case the crisis does not come, the preparation was still correct. If, however, the crisis does come the preparation was existentially necessary. And he who is now spreading only optimism with the dominant press, politics, financial industry and their jubilation choirs, overlooks the fact that we are currently living in a specious prosperity whose source is the unrestrained printed fiat money without any value.

- Only by means of this money bubble
- the debt orgies can be held before the collapse, even driven further and even increased,
- the international financial elite could not only keep the debt bondage over more than 200 countries, but even in-

crease it by debt assumption through other countries (Germany),

- an artificial demand pull to economic growth and high employment could be generated and
- the social systems could be held liquid from the lushly gushing money sources.

The unrestrained money supply increase has not only levered out the market forces, but also manipulated the interest rate artificially downwards by the fact that this money was pumped into the banks at zero interest rates. And the inflation, – generally following an unrestrained multiplication of money according to market law – is clouded by statistical tricks at present or simply denied, although every housewife who does her shopping at *Aldi’s* or *Edeka’s*, experiences the daily price increase.

In fact, the financial crisis was not solved, but only extended and contrary to all laws and morals, enlarged, clouded and its effects delayed by granting guarantees and by unbridled money printing. Greece now has twice as much debt as at the beginning of its crisis, the US stumble from debt summit to debt summit. Most European countries do the same.

Only short term thinking prevails in our time and one responds only to short-term stimuli rather than considering long-term developments. And a population of mostly childless self-realizing egoists is blindly relying on the fact that a reduced next generation could yet guarantee pension wealth to them. Nobody wants to see the future. The crises of the future, inevitably following today’s mistakes, must not be dealt with. “Our readers want good news”, the chief editor of a newspaper wrote when he sent an essay on crisis warning back to the author.

The dance on the volcano continues. Anyway, it must not end while the ruling political, financial and journalistic elite is still in office. Therefore not only this elite itself pushes away all crisis thoughts (*Draghi*), but also does not want the population to be “disturbed” by it.

The crisis of the 30s, however, showed that only a minority of entrepreneurs and property owners overcame the crisis unscathed, if they recognized it in time and prepared for it. The mass, which would not see the crisis clouds, has always been the losers.

A “crisis Guru” can thus enlighten only the wise, prudent and long-term thinking ones and keep them from harm as he did in 2008: If the mass is reached by the crisis, it is too late for prevention. Then it will take revenge that one regarded the crisis as overcome and ceased to take the crisis warnings seriously. •

(Translation *Current Concerns*)

The intellectual climate in Germany has become cramped and stuffy

km. Without prejudice to the actual economic and political development within the European Union, the new German Government has set clear accents in its coalition agreement: “The European unification project remains the most important task of Germany”, is the first sentence in the chapter on the European Union, which again is falsely equated with Europe for demagogic purposes. Germany has “European political responsibility” and wants a “democratic Europe.”

Shortly after the decision on the coalition agreement, however, have internal party critics on the European policy course of the CDU, who had been elected to the “Bundestag” again by the citizens lost their previous positions in the parliamentary committees. “CDU punishes the Bundestag’s Euro-critics”, was a headline of the “Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung” on 30 December. CDU politicians who had criticized the Government’s euro-strategy in the last legislature, had been “sidelined in the Bundestag.” Two CDU parliamentarians lost their seats in the Budget Committee, one of them even the position of the group’s chairman. A parliamentarian lost her seat in the European Committee. Such side-lining manoeuvres contradict the previous parliamentary practice.

The newspaper quotes the former chairman of the Budget Committee in indirect speech as follows: “With one third of newbies in the CDU, they obviously wanted to set an example on him, how things were going with deviants. Who had run off the

track, could not remain in his position, was suggested to him.”

Article 38 of the Constitution provides that the “Members of the German Bundestag [...]” – elected by the citizens and not by the parties – “are not bound by orders or instructions, but only by their conscience”. In Germany’s policy the lack of respect for the Constitution is obviously on the increase. Germany is ever more being governed as a country in “state of emergency”.

Dealing with those who are not willing to conform when it comes to EU and the euro, produce some strange effects. “Populism” is one of the most harmless phrases. The European Central Bank President *Mario Draghi* stated in an interview with *Der Spiegel* that in Germany there was a “perverse (!) anxiety”, “that things would be turning worse.” For Draghi is of the opinion that everything is going wonderfully on the whole. The “Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung” of 9 January even placed the headline “Greece sees himself at the end of the crisis” on its front page.

Herfried Münkler, one of the German political elites’ favorite professors, used the hundredth anniversary of the beginning of World War I, in an interview with the *Deutschlandfunk* (30 December 2013) to seriously accuse the voices who are critical of the really-existing EU: the largest threat of war in Europe today was coming from them [the critics]. At the same time an attempt is made, a few months before the elections for the European Parliament in May of this year, to decompose the new party “Alterna-

tive für Germany,” in such way that makes you think of the *Stasi Directive 1/76*.

How self-assured of their success in the matter are those barkers for EU and euro, if they have to fight with no holds barred? *Ulrich von Suntun* anyway, Director of the *Center for Applied Economic Research of the University of Münster*, in the “Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung” of 3 January 2014 showed once more that Professor *Hamer* with his analysis is probably closer to reality. Since there are some interesting sentences namely: “15 years after the introduction of the common currency the euro-zone is in existential difficulties. Meanwhile there is not much left of the original stability agreements: self-responsibility for the national debt, prohibition of monetary financing of the state, Maastricht debt limits – all this is only on paper at best.” “The Central Bank, committed to an independent, single monetary policy, mutated into a fiscal institution that buys bonds of weaker member countries on a large scale and without regard to their creditworthiness.” The ECB operates “nothing other than the creation of money without real value.” The threat to the euro is “to become an inflation and debt currency”. “[...] The fundamental difficulties of the euro area are [...] not being resolved, to the contrary.” “At least when it comes to official depreciation of shares held by the ECB and rescue fund issue papers, [...] the taxpayers will be asked to pay.” •

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From the personalist view of the human being to the psychiatrization of child behaviour

Ever new educational reforms lead to an increase of learning difficulties and mental disorders in children

by Dr Andreas Bau, Hackborn

cc. To understand, assess and be able to classify current events and developments, we need to be capable of surveying social, economic and political developments over a long period and with a keen mind and to assess them with reference to their humaneness. The resulting insights can point the way ahead and will serve the good of all. This also applies to the fields of education and medicine (social sciences), as the following article most impressively illustrates.

Today, children that stand out by some learning problems or conspicuous behaviour, are – as early as in kindergarten and also later in school – being diagnosed with psychiatric disorders such as ADHD, autism, Asperger's syndrome, etc., and they are often treated with psychiatric drugs such as *Ritalin*. This has not always been the case. Still in the 60s of the last century such behavioural conspicuities were corrected in the same field in which they had been created: by educational, psychological or educational means. The changes explained below are meant to show the close relation between the paradigm shift in the schools, the no longer personalist view of man and undesirable developments in medical diagnostics that are all running parallel to each other.

Since the 60s of the last century, this change from the personalist view of man to the psychiatrization of child behaviour has – by means of ever new reforms in the education sector – led to an increase in mental disorders of children.

Paediatricians had to deal with this problem, too, and we had to acquire a point of view in accord with our professional ethics.

First school reforms and psychosomatic disorders

In a short time during the late 60s to the early 70s of the last century an unusually large number of children aged from 6 to 8 years were referred to the big psychosomatic department of one of Germany's largest children's hospitals in Hamburg. These children seemed very nervous and insecure and showed a number of unusual behavioural problems. They all came from the neighbouring state of Schleswig-Holstein and there went to the first and second grade of elementary school. This occurrence attracted the attention of the head of the children's hospital in Hamburg, Prof

K. Seelemann, who was also responsible for the Psychosomatic Department. He investigated the matter and found that, without any transition period, the approved analytical method of teaching reading and writing skills had been replaced by the so-called "whole language" approach. The "whole language" approach, which was at that time praised as progressive, relies on memorizing whole word pictures and prevents the understanding of the structure of our writing. For this purpose, the analytic-synthetic method is essential, which matches sounds with signs. It was immediately clear to Professor Seelemann that the change of teaching method was the cause of the abnormal behaviour of so many children. He conferred with the head of the children's psychiatric department of the university hospital. They immediately went to see the authorities responsible for primary schools, presented their suspicions to them and urged the immediate reinstatement of the analytical method of teaching reading and writing. The school officials reacted sensibly to the paediatric authorities' opposition. They changed the teaching method, and in a short time there were no more children with behavioural problems from the respective primary schools. At that time no psychiatric diagnoses were made and no psychotropic drugs were administered. The cause was found in the educational field and was solved right there, where it had come from! Medical diagnosis was still based on a careful anamnesis, according to the principle: The case history is half of the diagnosis.¹ This story should, among other things, teach us a lesson.

Introduction of the set theory – abolition of orthography

In 1975, my daughter attended the first form of primary school in our community. Without notice or explanation the set theory was introduced in mathematics. It was not until the introduction that the parents were informed about the great value and progress the set theory allegedly stood for. In the evening parents often sat with their children trying to understand the set theory and the sense thereof. I could not. I had the feeling that I was busy doing senseless brain-phantom acrobatics. Other parents had the same feeling. We did not hold back with our criticism. We had not been seized by the spirit of the age, but we were oriented towards values.

Some weeks later my daughter's teacher stopped correcting the children's spelling mistakes. We parents got together and invited her to a parents-teacher conference.

We requested the teacher to take set theory off the curriculum and to teach the correct spelling of words. We were very clearly expressing our demands. The teacher promised to talk about it to the headmaster of the school and to inform us about the result. After four weeks we had not yet heard anything. Everything continued as before. As a precaution we had developed a plan to be on the safe side and invited the headmaster to the parents' evening as well as the Hamburg school senator. The headmaster came, but the school senator didn't. We expressed our astonishment at not having received any message from the teacher nor from the headmaster. Moreover we had not received any excuse by the school senator for his not coming. The parents' speaker declared what our demands were: The set theory was to be taken off the curriculum within one week and spelling was to be taught as ever or we parents would take our children off the school, we would engage a teacher of our own and would inform the press. We were ready to take on the legal consequences. We expected from the school – for which we paid our taxes – to instruct our children in such a way that they could train for a good profession later on. Over and out! We were a good collective of indignant and very active parents.

Two weeks later the teacher quietly returned to the conventional methods of calculating. After one year she explained to me that it had turned out that he method was unusable. With some hesitation the teacher started to attach importance to a careful spelling, again. Frequently we parents had to intervene and to give her some warning. Moreover we learned that the teacher had told the children that parents must not correct their children's spelling mistakes at home. That caused a conflict between our daughter and her parents on the one side and the teacher on the other, a conflict that resulted in our daughter's insecurity in learning, of course.²

In other schools these false reforms were pushed to the detriment of the children. Thus, it was not surprising that from the beginning to the mid-eighties of the

"From the personalist view ..."

continued from page 13

past century certain institutions that dealt with delays in infant development and with handicapped children began to label children, whose behaviour gave offence occasionally or who were just too lively, with the diagnosis Minimal Cerebral Dysfunction (MCD) or just Cerebral Dysfunction (CD). Among these children were also children who showed anomalies because of the above-described school reforms. In Switzerland they spoke of a psychorganic syndrome (POS). That the same diagnosis turned up in Switzerland at the same time only with a different name certainly perplexed some paediatricians. In the GDR, however, this syndrome, respectively clinical condition did not exist!

In this case you can learn from history as well.

The children were not particularly conspicuous because of their behaviour, neither would any of the paediatricians have thought of treating them with drugs. A slight tendency towards boys being more concerned than girls was noticed. A group of elderly and very experienced paediatricians were of the opinion that those children just needed some more domestic educational guidance. We also raised the question whether this occasionally conspicuous behaviour might be a consequence of the laissez-faire education in the sixties and seventies. Those who propagated the diagnosis of Minimal Cerebral Dysfunction were above all doctors who were active in German paediatric associations and who were working on classifications of delays in child development. Several of these paediatricians had an own medical practice in Hamburg so that Hamburg was becoming a spearhead of and a stronghold for the changes that I am describing here. (Today Hamburg has the highest Ritalin prescription rate in Germany.) We, the critical paediatricians, were convinced that children with such a diagnosis would have to show anomalies that can be expressed in neurological terms. The inexperienced and improper attribution of minimal cerebral dysfunction (brain-based deviance) suggests this conclusion. A reputed specialist in child neurology working at the Olga Hospital in Stuttgart carried out a big research study to answer this question. He proved conclusively that the children in question were healthy from the point of view of neurology. After that the diagnosis was taken off the scientific agenda, and we felt confirmed. However, our group of critical paediatricians had underestimated the plans pursued by those paediatricians and the general practitioners who were pushing the classification of child behaviour with robust backing by the pharmaceutical industry. At that time we were still lack-

ing the necessary political understanding and foresight.

However, we remained critical, as the sudden appearance of new diagnoses that up to then had been unimaginable had sharpened our ears. The protagonists of the new development did not remain inactive, they started to attribute a multitude of symptoms to a malfunction of the brain. Predominantly they described symptoms in the domain of behaviour. The new superimposed diagnosis was the extremely vague term "perceptual disorder". You can resume a lot of phenomena under this term. A further step forward towards psychiatrization of human behaviour! Speech therapists, physiotherapists and above all the new professional group of occupational therapists and remedial teachers were supposed to help the children in question correct their perception. The reports I demanded from the ergo-therapists did not answer the questions I had asked. To me as an academically trained paediatrician the activity of those occupational therapists seemed very unrealistic, quite different from today. While the new diagnoses attached an excessive importance to the corresponding expensive therapies, education and pedagogy were increasingly devalued. With the slogan "Feely-Feely" the most adventurous "therapies" were offered and outsourced from the medical and pedagogic field.

The above-described events resulted in the creation of the term ADHD, (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) and in its entry into the DSM-III-R (Diagnostic and Statistic Manual of Mental Disorder) in 1987. The DSM is the American Psychiatric Society's classification system.³

Report on the further development of paediatric diagnoses

Parallel to the above described events, a group of parents with very lively children, under the direction of a paediatrician, claimed that the alleged abnormal children who lacked concentration were actually suffering from a Phosphate allergy. The paediatrician put a strip of Litmus in the saliva of the affected children and saw that there was an acidic reaction. This was evidence for the diagnosis Phosphate allergy. In the context of a general surge of allergies, the Phosphate Allergy became very popular. The affected children received the diagnosis "Phosphaties". The paediatrician developed a strict phosphate-free nutrition plan. Many parents in Germany, who believed, their child was affected by the newly discovered allergy, took care that their children were only nourished on a phosphate-free diet. The consumption of Coca-Cola was strictly forbidden. A large part of the children who were fed on this diet surprisingly, to the satisfaction of

their parents, behaved in a calmer way, all of a sudden. This is an example which makes us think, and provides an explanation as well:

Professor *Schulte*, head of the University children's hospital, Hamburg-Eppendorf, conducted workshops which were regularly held on a four week basis. A paediatrician asked the following question: "A child at my practice, which calmed down due to phosphate-free nutrition, became agitated again after the consumption of Coca-Cola. Can you explain this to me?" He directed his question to the Chief Doctor of the psychosomatic department of the University's children's hospital, Professor Dr *Wallis*. Mrs Wallis thought for a moment and with her clear voice, requested that we, the practising paediatricians, should thoroughly reflect with her. The reason for the affect of the Coca-Cola was very simple, she said. As long as the mother had prepared a careful diet she had been in very close interpersonal relationship to her child. When the child drank Coca-Cola again, the mother was obviously busy with other things instead of the preparation of a carefully planned diet.

Mrs Wallis pondered for a few minutes waiting for some resonance from us. After five minutes of silence, a paediatrician stood up and said correspondingly: "You mean, Professor Wallis, the problem is the missing attention of the mother towards her child? Because the behaviour of her child is the consequence of a child-raising problem?" Mrs Wallis said nothing and looked expectantly at everybody around. Because no further questions arose and no discussions occurred, we were required to come up with our own ideas in order to give her an answer.

Professor Schultz, full professor of the chair for paediatrics, also remained silent.

I know that this, such an easy and at the same time such a clear answer, caused some paediatricians to think things over. I was among them.

At that time I started to attend a comprehensive interdisciplinary post-graduate training with an emphasis on psychology, on the view of the human being as a person and the meaning of interpersonal relationships for the development of the child. This profound perspective brought me to decide to take a position against the general psychiatrization of children. I also learned to understand the political background of those who later led a strong campaign against me and was able to defend myself with every means possible.

In the mid-nineties, as the diagnosis *Attention Deficit Syndrome* (ADS) of restless children began to increase, I had a long conversation with Professor Dr. Schulte. He was known throughout the world as an

continued on page 15

"From the personalist view ..."

continued from page 14

expert on the minds of children and was an emeritus professor at the time. I wanted to learn from him what he thought of the appearance and the quickly spreading diagnosis of ADS. He said correspondingly: "The diagnosis is an American invention. They do such things." He had experience since he had worked a long time in America. He further added, the process was to be compared with the fresh cell therapy with brain cells used to treat mongoloid children. He had held a lecture in the US a few years ago at the North American Society for Children's Health. He emphasized that a fresh cell therapy for mongoloid children is useless, it merely costs money, doesn't help and gives the parents false hope. In addition, it is very dangerous. That was what one called fraud.

After the lecture he thought he would be thrown out of the plane on his flight back to Europe. But his lecture had had a great impact. Since his retirement, however, his voice carried not so much weight any more otherwise he would now gladly help to get rid of the ADS diagnosis in two years such as he did with the fresh cell therapy in a few weeks.

He recommended that I write and publish a scientifically researched article. I followed his advice. The *Deutsches Ärzteblatt*, the monthly *Kinderheilkunde* and *Der Kinderarzt*, the traditional publications for German paediatricians, refused publication. Even many paediatricians, authorities in their field, were not prepared to engage themselves in the problem of the psychiatrisation of children's behaviour.

Currently appearing in different publications, in medical- or lay- journals and heavily supported by the Pharmaceutical industry, is the ADS Diagnosis or, when combined with hyperactivity, propagated as ADHD. A "therapy" with an amphetamine such as *Ritalin* for example was portrayed as big progress, as magic solution. The regular prescribing of *Ritalin* became socially acceptable. Today, twenty years later, doctors, teachers, therapists or school psychologists label children with this diagnosis without inhibition. Despite the fact that the discoverer of ADHD admitted, shortly before he died, that he had invented the diagnosis himself.⁴

More and more neuro-mythology and biologism, these "new sciences" of the brain slopped over across the Atlantic from the United States to Europe. These "new sciences" do away with the personalist view of man which corresponds to human nature! Quote: "According to the personalist conception, man is basically a social being. His personality evolves and blossoms in and through community. He

is not simply the product of nature and nurture, but he has a creative and formative self-activity and is capable of reason and ethics. Man is capable of creating culture and setting moral values."⁵ Neurobiologists, however, try to reduce the function of the human brain as well as thought processes and emotional processes, to a biologicistic level (neuro-reductionism). *Felix Hasler* describes this change in his book "Neuromythology" as "more of astrology than science".

Biologism culminates in the allocation of operations in the brain by imaging methods. With imaging techniques such as MRI (*Magnetic Resonance Imaging*) or PET (*Proton Emission Tomography*) there is the attempt to associate specific emotions such as sadness or anger, but also diseases such as depression to certain areas of the brain. For example, diagnostic imaging examinations detected a "conspicuously large volume" of the right amygdala in conservative voters in the United States. Even in the case of the ADH syndrom, a centre in the human brain is said to exist where the "disease" is supposed to be located. This is fraud in science! At the beginning of the Neuroinflation *Bush* sen. said: "I, George Bush, President of the United States of America, hereby declare the decade, beginning on 1 January 1990, the decade of the brain".⁶ What kind of brain is required to say such a thing?

Other psychiatric diagnoses such as Asperger syndrome, autism, selective mutism, social anxiety syndrome and bipolar disorder were gradually established. Nowadays, many young children are labelled with such diagnoses. Evaluations are already conducted in the kindergarten, or at school at the latest. This opens the door to an early education program market. Such programs are introduced onto the market mainly by para-stately operating private foundations. The best-known European foundations are the *Bertelsmann Foundation* (Germany) and the *Jacobs Foundation* (Switzerland).

DSM-5, published in 2013, contains further "diseases".⁷

With the liberalization of economy subsumed under the term "globalization" starting in 1990, people were increasingly looked upon from the perspective of "rate of return". Social reforms corresponded with this perspective, for example in the health and education sectors. The goal of education was no longer to raise a fellow citizen capable of democracy, but the *homo economicus*. This is also the basis of "Curriculum 21", which will lead to a further increase of the mentioned abnormalities in our children. We do not want this. Our children have a right to education. Let us come back to a holistic education and a personalist view of man.⁸

According to a US Classification, however, the nature of man is reinterpreted!

Because of my own history and my pediatrician's work, I was outraged from the very beginning at the fact that lively and sometimes a little nervous but otherwise healthy children, were labelled with the psychiatric "disease" ADHD. For many children a psychiatric diagnosis means heavy burden for their whole life. Psychiatrizing children means a violation of a basic principle of psychology and pedagogy, i.e. human dignity. It means a violation of the child's soul.⁹

I began to look for allies and inform others about the impact of ADHD.

Soon I learned to what extent this issue was politically charged. The *North Elbian Church* and other interested circles started a campaign against myself and the professional psychological association "Verein zur Förderung der Psychologischen Menschenkenntnis, VPM" (Association for the promotion of knowledge about man), of which I was a member and in which I had absolved post-graduate training under the professional direction of Dr *Annemarie Buchholz-Kaiser*. As a result of this campaign I was forced to fight in order to secure my own professional existence for some time. The slander against my person compelled me to build up a new surgery at a new place. An examination of my integrity before a committee of the *Hamburger Ärztekammer* (local medical association) because of my membership with VPM had a positive result for me and the VPM. Also two lawsuits were completed in favour of myself. A young judge passed a sentence in which the VPM's concepts and contents were described as very valuable for the youth. The contents were by no means constricting but on the contrary apt to widen their horizon.

The way was now open for me to go on dealing with the drugs problem and to commit myself to informing about the machinations around the ADH-syndrome.

My friends and colleagues encouraged me in my concern and engagement against preposterous diagnoses and medication aiming at creating globalisation-compatible eunuchs. *Ritalin* results in stagnation of the mental and emotional development, especially during puberty.

At that time teachers used to stay impartial with regard to ADHD, because they had no students with such a diagnosis in their classes. It was difficult for them to imagine the dimension of this problem. Only few hesitantly joined our party. But we were very active. We wrote articles, delivered lectures and conducted interviews. In Bregenz we organized a symposium about the ADH-syndrome.

continued on page 16

"From the personalist view ..."

continued from page 15

We gave an interview to the Hamburg news magazine *Der Spiegel*. Although I had good relations to the *Spiegel's* publisher and some of the editors they could not or did not want to comprehend our arguments. An article in the *Spiegel* which followed our interview did not provide any of our arguments. Still the review was written in a manner that would give some readers food for thought.

The "diagnosis" ADHDs and so on replaced all previous diagnoses. It was based on an increasing number of "symptoms" which mostly must be regarded as normal behaviour of children. For example a distinct sense for justice belongs to the symptoms which are to prove ADHDs today. A solution of the children's problems in the environment in which they had developed – which is the pedagogical one – had been given up. This way questions concerning parental education or school education like too few or low demands, individualization or the effects of such school-reforms as open lessons, a lack of teaching of knowledge, but also questions about the social environment were no longer integrated anamnesticly. Psychological help is declared nearly useless. From now on medical "treatment" became predominant. New "therapy"-methods sprang up like mushrooms and infiltrated the training in all psychological healthcare professions. Based on such professional education some people arrogated to make grave diagnosis themselves. Over and again crying parents saw me in my medical practice. They told me of trespasses into their personal affairs. For example a young mother was told by an ergo-therapist: "Since you had such an authoritative father your relationship to your son will always be disturbed."

In Hamburg an ADHDs-group of paediatricians and psychiatrists was created with the money of the pharmaceutical company *Hoffmann la Roche* in order to establish ADHDs even more and to achieve that the diagnosis was made by solely "experts". A group around the chairman of the pediatric society, Dr *Gritz* from Hamburg

"More and more neuro-mythology and biologism, these 'new sciences' of the brain slopped over across the Atlantic from the United States to Europe. These 'new sciences' do away with the personalist view of man which corresponds to human nature!"

"Felix Hasler describes this change in his book 'Neuromythology' as 'more of astrology than science'."

who was no unknown to me, increasingly became a circle of rigid ADH-syndrome proponents. I received a telephone-call by Mr *Gritz*. The gist of this call was: "Mr Bau, why do you stab in our back? Don't go out on a limb again; otherwise another campaign will be started against you." I answered: "So far it is not forbidden in Germany to express a scientifically based opinion, is it?"

(Today the dosage of Ritalin is calculated by the degree of severity of the so called symptoms!) The prescription rate of this very controversial ADHDs drug is highest in Hamburg. The overall rate in Hamburg is nearly 50 per cent higher than the average of whole Germany.¹⁰

The human reason has more staying power

Increasingly in several European countries, but also in the US – the ADH-syndrome's origin – parents, doctors, pedagogues and psychologists began to peddle the psychiatrization of underage children and the magic bullet Ritalin.

The Italian association "Giu le mani dai bambini" had a great impact.¹¹

The described consequences of the changed pedagogy, paediatrics and psychiatry are that today that opposition obviously origins from many different quarters (for example "Lernmethode Lesen durch Schreiben" [Learning method learning to read by writing], *Spiegel online* from 19 June 2013). The time has come to send these harming diagnostic mistakes back to sender: to its origin, the USA. This master plan à la USA does not make sense for Europe and the rest of the world. After World War Two people in Germany shouted: "Ami go home!" The whole world today could shout the same!

Thanks to a long standing interdisciplinary discussion we are today able to see through these political processes and the paradigm change, to raise our voices in an understandable manner and to cause a reversion. An awareness of European values offers a scientific base for our actions.

¹ cf. "Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger" from 11.6.2013, "Schtrait ums Schraibenlärn"

² cf. „Mengenlehre – das ist Zeitverschwendung.“ *Der Spiegel* 36/1974. "Die phonetische Schreibung als abschreckendes Beispiel." Heike Schmolli in *Current Concerns* 31/32, 31 October 2013

³ see Special Supplement *Zeit-Fragen* from 22 April 2002; *Current Concerns* No 8 from 27.2.2012. Inventor of ADHD Leon Eisenberg: "ADHS ist eine fabrizierte Erkrankung"; M. Nestor, "Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung" 2013

"Neue Zürcher Zeitung" from 30.4.2012, "Gewisse Diagnosen sind Ausdruck des Kulturwechsels" Wikipedia: DSM Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (Diagnostisches und Statistisches Handbuch Psychiatrischer Störungen) „Schweizer Ethikkommission" warns against "Ritalin – gegen den Missbrauch von Psychopharmaka", 26 December 2012

⁴ cf. "Ritalin gegen ADHS – Wo die wilden Kerle wohnten. ADHS, die erfundene Krankheit", in: "Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung" from 16.2.2012

⁵ *Cooperatives – the alternative to the construct of homo oeconomicus*, *Current Concerns* No 17, 13 May 2013

⁶ "Neuromythologie", Felix Hasler, ISBN 978-3-8376-1580-7

⁷ "Normal", Allen Frances, ISBN 978-3-8321-9700-1

⁸ "Die Bildungsreformen und die Psychiatrisierung hängen eng zusammen", cf. *Current Concerns* No 34/35 2013, Special Supplement on Education

⁹ *Basic principles from the perspective of a personalist psychology*, *Current Concerns* No 20/21, 29 June 2013

¹⁰ cf. Infoportal Nordfriesland www.infoportal-nordfriesland.de/index.php/news/aufreger-der-woche

¹¹ *Zeit-Fragen* No 30 from 21.7.2008 Special Supplement *Zeit-Fragen* 22. April 2002 "Schweizer Ethikkommission", Statement: "Ritalin – gegen den Missbrauch von Psychopharmaka", 26 December 2012