

Explanation of 9 November 2024

There is war everywhere and 'we Germans are somebody again' and in the process and in the lead. War for what? When in 1992 the dust of the collapsing wall parts had just settled in Berlin, there was the answer of Federal Minister of War Rühle, whose view to the east was no longer disturbed by NVA barracks:

'For the maintenance of free world trade and unhindered access to markets and raw materials all over the world...'

From that point on, it was clear what had been lurking behind the reinforced concrete of the inner-German border on the West German side for over 40 years, waiting for revenge. And if it wasn't clear then, it certainly was seven years later, when German HARM air-to-ground missiles, fired by German Tornado pilots, were creating craters in Yugoslavian soil. Roughly where, a generation earlier, the thunder of the fascist Wehrmacht had died away over piles of murdered bodies.

At the latest since this first German war of aggression since 1945, anyone who still allowed themselves to be fooled by the image of 'our boys' shovelling sandbags during the Oder flood or the suspension of compulsory military service to create a 'peacekeeping force' was a pitifully stupid dolt. Today, Siemens, Krupp and Deutsche Bank no longer need the fairy tale of peace. The militarisation of society, starting with the promotion of dying among minors, and the open preparation for war, again against the 'enemy in the east', has long been normal, again. As 'normal' as the dark-looking Bundeswehr soldiers on billboards on the streetcar or 'German tanks for the fight against the Russians'. It's going fast and should go even faster, announces Inspector General Carsten Breuer and the *daily news*:

'In five years we have to be ready for war...'

To this end, the largest German rearmament programme since 1945 has been launched. The 'turning point', like the last major rearmament programme that prepared for the Second World War, was justified by the 'threat from the East'. And even if it takes a few more years before we are militarily 'fit for war' again, verbally we have been so for a long time. We have to ruin the 'enemy', commands the German Foreign Minister, and we have to lead Europe militarily, comments a German Minister of War.

Let others speak of their shame, we speak of ours

And everyone is talking about the shame of Russia and its president. According to the *Handelsblatt*, he is a 'fascist' who, as the *FAZ* reports, is waging a 'war of extermination'. The *Spiegel* warns of 'striking similarities to Hitler'. No militaristic bluster in this country that does not go hand in hand with the relativisation and trivialisation of German fascism and its unique crimes. This duality is the overture to the third attempt. We know the sound, it is always the swan song of the German post-war period. War here is always what others do. Our wars, on the other hand, are buried under the outcry of shame from those others. And when the world bows to the liberators every 8th May, mourning the dead of the World Wars and celebrating the victory over German fascism, this Germany remains silent. Unlike in the GDR, for which the 8th May was and is a day of *liberation from German fascism* and a public holiday, in this old new FRG this day remains a 'day of mourning for German defeat'.

To this day, the German government, like all governments of the FRG before it, has nothing and no one to thank for on 8 May. For years, the flag of the state that bore the greatest burden in the fight against fascist Germany, the Soviet Union, has been banned. Fittingly, official representatives of the governments of various states that were once invaded by German fascism are denied participation in the commemorative events at the concentration camp memorials. A shame as big as the moon, only the arrogance and hypocrisy of the German government are even greater.

The Second German World War should be forgotten, and that everything that exists in terms of bestiality against humanity to this day was far exceeded by Nazi Germany. With the Shoa, Germany redefined what is possible in terms of hostility towards human life. To the horror of the civilised world, which did what we Germans, to our shame, were unable to do. It was others, not us, who struck back in the name of freedom and life, making unspeakable sacrifices to crush German fascism. The others were the anti-Hitler coalition, and their action was a liberation.

Sbasibo – Thanks – Merci and Danke!

After the last war

The liberators did not respond in kind. The German people were not shot, beaten, burned, starved or gassed, as the Germans had done to millions. What to do instead was to be discussed. To this end, the heads of government of the four most important states of the anti-Hitler coalition met. And because this happened in Potsdam, on 2 August 1945 to be precise, the result of this consultation was henceforth called the Potsdam Agreement. Its most important resolutions went down in history as the '4 Ds' – and in the East also in history textbooks – and there above all in social life. D for...

1. **Denazification:** Prohibition of the NSDAP and all other Nazi associations, punishment of all war criminals, fascist, racist, anti-Semitic and chauvinistic propaganda punishable by law. 2. **Demilitarisation:** Complete disarmament, dismantling of all military organisations and organisations suitable for maintaining military tradition. 3. **Demilitarisation:** Reorganisation of public life on a democratic basis, abolition of all Nazi laws and decrees, permission for anti-fascist organisations. 4. **Decentralisation:** Destruction of the existing excessive concentration of economic power, represented in particular by cartels, syndicates, trusts and other monopoly associations.

Germany was divided into four occupation zones: three for France, Great Britain and the USA, and one for the Soviet-occupied zone, or SBZ for short. While the SBZ proceeded to implement one D] of the Potsdam Agreement after the other, things remained largely the same in the western occupation zones. And in the commanding heights of the economy, politics, the judiciary and, above all, the military, the old guard was back in charge. The Western powers looked the other way more and more generously and saw red. The snake of German fascism, which they had just been at the throat of, was no longer their main concern. The new bogeyman was called communism.

Forgetting what should never have been forgotten

Never again war and fascism were passé over there. The new calculation of the Western powers was now: 'Every enemy of the Bolsheviks is my friend!' And anyone who could blow the anti-communist horn hard enough got sugar and a Marshall Plan shoved up their arse. Whether from the Wehrmacht or the SS, every fascist pig was good enough for the fight against the Soviet Union. The resolutions jointly adopted with the Soviet Union to prevent a resurgence of German fascism and militarism became a disturbing irrelevance in the Western zone.

Even the Soviet Union's begging and pleading, which insisted on the implementation of the Potsdam resolutions, could not stop the disintegration of the anti-Hitler coalition. The three Western zones became one large 'trizone,' against the Soviet zone. A plan that would soon turn out to be a partition plan. And even before the approaching division of the Trizone and the Soviet occupation zone, the way the Potsdam decisions were handled became a red line between the two.

While in the East, the expropriation and death penalty awaited Hitler's war criminals and financiers, in West Germany they entered the government and built a new army and new corporate empires based on their spoils of war. Where their history, the history of Siemens, Daimler, Deutsche Bank & Co., ended in the GDR with the transfer of ownership to the people, it continued unabated in the FRG. Wherever you looked – the judiciary, science, research and schools, the economy, healthcare – the East was doing things differently, while the West was simply continuing. The FRG relied on the old experts – economically, it paid off. The GDR, on the other hand, tore down every old structure, even if nothing worked at first and it plunged the economy into the red.

A deep rift ran through Germany, not only along the lines of the Potsdam Agreement. For the West, it couldn't go fast or deep enough. There, direction and speed were set: refusal of the agreed reparations to the Soviet Union, final division of the German economic area through a separate currency reform, founding of the separate state of the FRG, integration into the Western military alliance NATO, formation of the Bundeswehr under the leadership of Nazi military leaders. The Soviet occupation zone was left with no choice but to beg for the course taken jointly with the West in 1945 and then to react with facts: the founding of the GDR and the Warsaw Pact, the establishment of the National People's Army, the securing of the GDR's state border.

The truth is always specific

The contradiction that opened the rift between the cardinal points was neither 'freedom' from whatever or whomever. The contradiction was a different one:

Just as the leading personnel of the Nazi Reich fled to the West, the owners of the banks and corporations that had once groomed their caretaker Adolf Hitler for the raid fled there. They were safe beyond the borders of the Soviet occupation zone and the GDR. The implementation of the Potsdam Agreement in the West would have meant their end. Thus, the state power of the FRG, with all that it represented, became the guarantor of the non-implementation of the Potsdam Agreement in West Germany. It became the protecting power of the banks and corporations whose destruction was carried out in the East. It became the protecting power of the Nazi leaders and war criminals whose punishment and expropriation became reality in the East.

Just as the trizone had cemented this status with the founding of the separate state of the FRG, the Soviet zone could only react by founding a state of its own in order to consolidate its position on this front. The German Democratic Republic, with all that it represented, with all that people liked and hated about it, became the guarantor of the implementation of the Potsdam Agreement. It became the guarantor of the implementation of the demands of those invaded by German fascism, at least in part of Germany. The solution of the 'Wall' was, as Kennedy said, *'not a very nice solution, but... damn it, better than war'*.

Even if this border did not make it impossible to leave the GDR and did not force anyone to stay – as the more than 300,000 who applied for an exit visa prove – this border made it difficult for people to just leave. Nevertheless, many left. By the end of the GDR, more than 2 million had left. On the other side, higher wages and an economic miracle, which was anything but surprising, beckoned.

The economic proportions in favour of the West, the untouched gigantic war profits of German companies and banks, together with the massive injection of foreign capital through the Marshall Plan and the well-trained workers streaming out of the GDR, led to a growing economic gap between the FRG and the GDR.

The West also enticed with the calm that existed in the face of the raging conflict with the German past in the Soviet occupation zone and the GDR.

In the GDR, on the other hand, there was nothing to 'lure' people at first, only the promise that everything would be different. In the beginning, there was hard work for food stamps and the presence of those Russians, whom they had learned to hate from the bottom up from Kaiser & Führer in the last decades. A thousand contradictions, a thousand problems and mistakes, and a thousand open questions from people who had been accustomed to running after emperors and leaders for 100 years. The GDR lost this battle. Prosperity, economic miracle and the cosy drawing of a line under history had far more appeal than anti-fascism, anti-militarism and socialism for too many Germans, especially shortly after the war.

This border was lifted so that we could go to war together again

Anti-fascist, anti-militaristic protective wall – who has not made fun of the 'GDR propaganda'? But after well over 200 murder victims of German fascists since 1990 and the entry of their fascist parties into the parliaments, after the attack of the FRG on Yugoslavia with the first German war of aggression since 1945 - 9 years after the end of the GDR, with that terrible militarisation of all areas of society, which has been accelerating ever since the annexation, with the renewed swearing of allegiance to and war training of the population against *the enemy in the east*, with every step towards immeasurable rearmament, with every Bundeswehr mission, more and more people find it hard to keep a straight face.

All of this, every further step in the preparation of new, larger wars by the Federal Republic of Germany for raw materials and markets, with every further gain of ground by German militarism in schools and universities, with every incitement against those who are socially marginalised, with every further blow of the wrecking ball on the ruins of the right to asylum, with the hundreds of thousands of *border deaths* at the bottom of the Mediterranean, for which almost no one here cries a tear, it becomes clearer that this border was lifted so that we could go to war together again.

In 1999, an alliance of peace and left-wing organisations used two heavy-duty cranes to raise a banner and ask whether this border was removed so that we could go to war against other nations again. In 2014, the Unentdecktes e.V. association answers this question with a 50-metre-long banner on Alexanderplatz.

The banner is the same today because the conditions are still the same. But even if so much seems so unchangeable and does not get better. The world is changing after all, no stone remains on the other. Backlash against progress, history is made every day. Coming to terms with German history is the fight against having to repeat world war after world war. It is not a shame to keep the misty incense called 'freedom' at bay, which is used to keep us from it and not only these days to bring tears to our eyes. Keep a cool head and clear eyes, let's finally look around!

Whoever has as many options as possible, that is their freedom. If the worker has as many options as possible, that is the freedom of the worker. If capital has as many options as possible, that is the freedom of the capitalist. Look around you, whoever has as many options as possible, and you know whose freedom it is.

Unentdecktes Land e.V.