



Eckhard Fahlbusch and Silke Koglin

Homo progressivus –
The Energetic Rebellion
or: Saving Earth from Its Most Vexing Virus

Eckhard Fahlbusch Verlag

There are countless non-fiction and specialist books focusing on specific areas. These are, for example, books on love and forgiveness, about humanity and inhumanity, about human dignity and human rights, about religion and atheism, about war, peace and freedom, about greed and unjust distribution, about climate change and energetic renewal, about the need or right to enjoy education, about the difference between man and beast and the significance of human intervention into nature.

What has been missing so far is an all-encompassing and less scientific appraisal that **everyone** understands showing how closely these areas are linked to and dependent on each other.

Therefore we took all good things and all bad things we see in the world in the respective areas, spread them over ten playing fields, and threw them into a lottery pot. In 2016, the lots will be drawn and the game will start. It is up to us if *Homo progressivus* will be globally successful with a first prize, or if *Homo sapiens*, with the blanks in the game of life, will perish in disgrace.

Our space telescope Hubble would say:

"If you people could see what I see, you'd know how lucky you are on your tiny speck of dust. I've been fascinated by my view of the infinity of the universe for 25 years now and have shared it with you. With all I've seen I can assure you, you will not find a more beautiful place within reach than Planet Earth."



The world is out of whack. This is vividly demonstrated by the ten scenarios and developments described on the following page. The numbers, data and facts cited there clearly show the urgent need for an epoch-making change, especially in terms of politics, economics, religion and humanitarian issues. The whole world must be jolted out of its complacency to assure the survival of mankind and the species living with us.

This primer is not a collection of quotations; it is the authors' own idea of how to improve the world. The quoted persons and organizations selected by the authors are helping at the right places to enhance the catchiness and palatability of the primer's messages. The quotes from German-speaking regions were released, updated or newly written specifically for this primer. The 215 quoted persons and organizations are listed at the end of this primer.

This primer is and will continue to be our diary. It is our vehicle of reporting and commenting on what's happening in the world – for better or for worse. We will keep the readers informed and alert, together with surprising companions.

If we carry on as we have been doing, we are in for a rough time:

- In 1850, the population of the Earth was 1.25 billion people. By 1950, it doubled to 2.5 billion. As of 2017, 7.5 billion people populate our planet. By 2050, 10 billion people will overpopulate the Earth. Prognoses for 2100 lie between 11.2 und 26 billion people – depending on the future development of the global birthrate.
- Compared to 1950, we are consuming six times more energy today. By 2050, the global energy requirement will have increased at least tenfold within 100 years.
- In 2015, oil, coal and gas were globally directly subsidized with more than 500 billion U.S. dollars. The subsidies were actually over 5 trillion dollars if damages resulting from burning fossil fuels are included in the calculation.
- Subsidies for renewable energies in 2015 were less than 100 billion U.S. dollars.
- Without a radical turnaround in the energy sector, up to a billion climate refugees, by 2050, will overrun the borders of the industrial countries that are causing the climate change. In addition, there will be wars over drinking water and food.
- In 2016, 8 people owned as much as the poorer half of humanity, currently 3.75 billion people. The great inequalities in wealth are increasing dramatically.
- In 2016, 52 percent of mankind lived in cities. By 2050, the number is projected to be 70 percent, that is seven billion people. Rural depopulation (migration) will become a problem for those who remain, while immense slums will separate the rich and the poor in the big cities.
- We are compelled to find international solutions to mitigate the drawbacks of globalization (loss of jobs in the industrial nations and poor working conditions in transition countries, global risks due to uncontrolled financial flows, increasing competition on the world market, the growing gap between poor and rich countries).
- Digitalization is both a blessing and a curse. The Internet offers us knowledge, education and political information. At the same time, data leeches are sabotaging our security in the network – a nightmare under conditions of fading democracy where Big Brother is watching you.
- We live in a selfish and utterly strife-ridden society in “The disunited nations and religions of the world”, characterized by unbridled brutality and violence.

Wake up, everybody - it's not too late yet!

Eckhard Fahlbusch and Silke Koglin

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The Energetic Rebellion

or: /Saving Earth from Its Most Vexing Virus/

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For our parents
and all who are with us and
all who will come after us.

Eckhard Fahlbusch and Silke Koglin

***Homo progressivus* – The Energetic Rebellion**

or: Saving Earth from Its Most Vexing Virus

A wake-up call, a guide and an invitation to join in

– let's stir up the world –

to vanquish our indifference

and make hell freeze over!

A visionary story featuring characters to fire your imagination and great personalities who have shaped the history of humanity by their example, as well as real-life characters in a game where everyone can leave the field victorious.

With illustrations by Heike Rupprecht

A primer with 10 messages



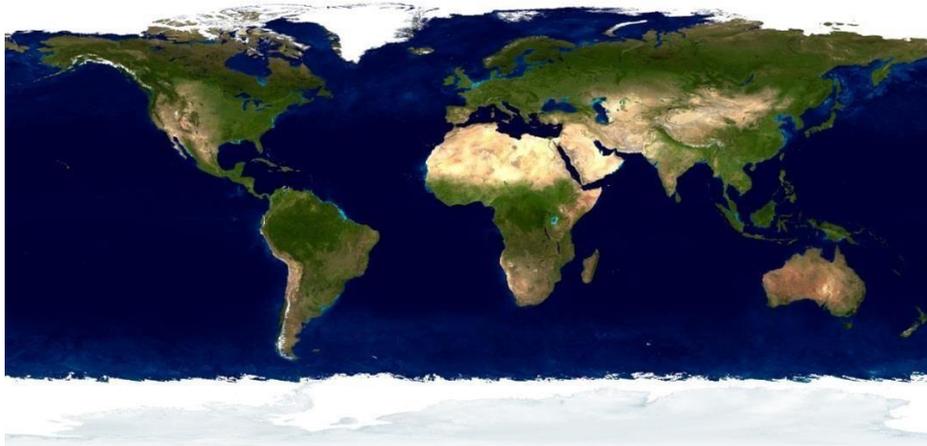
Mahatma Gandhi said:

*"Our greatness as human beings does not lie
in how we can renew the world,
but in how we can renew ourselves.
You have to be the change
you want to see in the world."*

It is a pleasure for us to live according to this example!

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The Game of Life



I. The Game of Life – It's Time to Act

Who, how, what: Anyone can play. The game is new. The game is a gamble, it's poker, it's bowling, and roulette is played, too – even in the Russian version. There are fallen characters and personalities who stand firm, who are real. **The life of *Homo sapiens* is at stake.** The ten messages are aimed at everyone. The first target group includes the main characters

- of the 196 nations of this world that agreed to a new global climate treaty in December 2015 and must ratify this agreement in their legislatures as soon as possible, so that the global agreement can go into effect with productive and measurable national action;
- of the next summit of the G20 countries on July 7 and 8, 2017 in Germany;
- of the next UN General Assembly - September 12-25, 2017 in New York;
- of the World Economic Forum - January 24-27, 2018 in Davos;
- of the next summit of the G7/G8 countries on May 26 and 27, 2017 in Italy;
- of a long-overdue meeting of the world's religious leaders (Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists and Jews); and last but not least
- the 8 wealthiest people on earth, who own as much as the poorer half of humanity, currently 3.75 billion people.

In parallel, the living persons cited in this reader can lead the way **together** before the many ambassadors and mediators proposed here close ranks. Each of us for himself is small and cannot accomplish very much. **Together** we can achieve much more for the **great common cause**. This becomes especially clear when all the **quotes and quoted people** are arrayed. **The citations from the German-speaking area were released, updated or newly written specifically for this primer.**

Imagine the role models cited in this primer who have already passed away were to return to earth once more, all together. They would read us the riot act, free us of the debris in our bodies and souls – and then call for world revolution. Especially because we have been so wasteful with our resources and so cruel to life on this planet – during the past century in particular.

Let's compress the age of our planet from 4.6 billion years into a single calendar year. *Homo sapiens* thus first saw the light of day on New Year's Eve just after 11 p.m. Our world is beautiful and exasperating at the same time because *Homo sapiens* is stuck in the mist of evolution since half an hour and threatening to disappear in an evolutionary blind alley.

Homo sapiens' vital organs are about to cease to function. The human species is languishing in the intensive care unit together with many other species drawn into the wake of this system. Chances for survival are low if we all don't get a move on and start rising up and fighting **together**.



Why: Nuclear and other scientists have pushed the minute hand of the "Doomsday Clock" from five to two and a half minutes to twelve. In this team of scientists, you will not find any nutty prophets of doom or namby-pamby angels of peace, but serious and world-renowned experts, among them no less than **17 Nobel Prize winners**. The main reason for this step are wars and the unrestrained progress of climate change. On the whole, the experts see "**an extraordinary and undeniable threat to the survival of mankind**". We have added three more volatile reasons. On the face of this world clock indicating our doom, we are steering the future of humankind toward an abyss. We have driven away our horologist mostly with atomic and fossil harassing fire without cutting off his connection to the hour hand which is approaching midnight. The reader of this primer will find out how we can win back the horologist and turn back the hand of time.

Proverb:

"If you are up to your neck in water, keep your head high."

We begin with five wonderful opportunities. If we all seize these **together**, we can still win the game of life.

The evils of this world have one common root: the **aberration of *Homo sapiens***. Let us extirpate them **together** and liberate ourselves from these evils **in one go**. If necessary, we will outsmart evolution and *mutate* in a flash. After all, mutation is one of the most important factors of evolution since it provides for new, good distinctive marks in the gene pool of our species. That would be the end of *Homo sapiens* and the birth of an advanced type of human being:

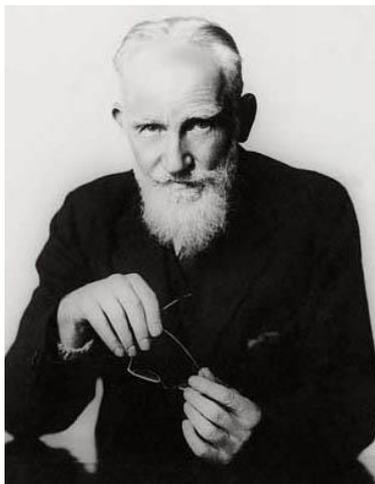
"*Homo progressivus*" who pays with the "Globe."



Global currency!



To brighten up the power from above again!



**You see things; and you say, 'Why?'
But I dream things that never were;
and I say, 'Why not?'**

- George Bernard Shaw

TwistedSifter.com

Beginning the Game



II. Beginning the Game – With the Magic of Change

We now embark upon an adventurous and mysterious trip, not only through the history of our Earth. It is a trip through space and time, through heaven and hell, with light and shadows in which the competitors duel. Readers will be amazed at the idea that sounds so absurd as well as its seemingly impossible realization, and at the end they will be surprised how simple the solution can be and what secret lies behind it.

Bertold Brecht said:

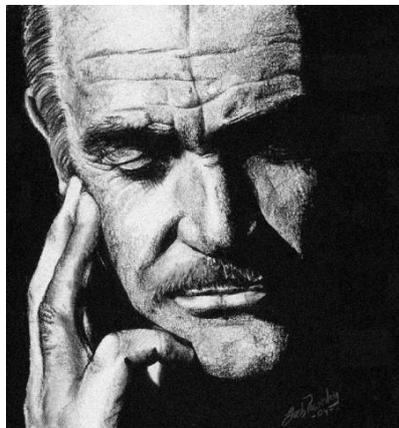
"Truth can only be spread with guile."

"To accomplish something difficult, you have to make it easy for yourself."



Sean Connery says:

*"There's nothing like a challenge
to bring out the best in man."*



This primer will be an enormous challenge for its readers.

Many readers will recognize their knowledge and their deeds. Most readers will come away with new insights. If we jointly learn the lessons from it, we will make significant progress:

Message 1: For a Life on Earth in the "United Peoples of the World"

Message 2: For Love, Forgiveness, Sharing, Peace and Freedom

Message 3: For One Creed

Message 4: For a Fundamental Right to Education

Message 5: For Renewable Energy

Message 6: Against Fossil Energy

Message 7: Against Hunger and Thirst

Message 8: Against the Abuse of Religions

Message 9: Against Greed

Message 10: Against War

Erich Kästner said:

*Whenever mischief happens, not only those are to blame who commit it,
but also those who do not prevent it.*



**Es gibt nichts *gutes*,
ausser man tut es.**
(Erich Kästner)

There is good only if you do good

Mahatma Gandhi said:

"The world of tomorrow will be, must be a society based on non-violence.

That is the first law; out of it all other blessings will flow. It may seem a distant goal, an impractical Utopia. But it is not in the least unobtainable, since it can be worked for here and now. An individual can adopt the lifestyle of the future, the non-violent way, without having to wait for others to do so. And if an individual can do it, cannot whole groups of individuals? Whole nations? People often hesitate to make a beginning because they feel that the objective cannot be achieved in its entirety. This attitude of mind is precisely our greatest obstacle to progress, an obstacle that each person, if they only will it, can clear away."



Queen Elizabeth II said:

"I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service and the service of the great imperial family to which we all belong.

But I shall not have the strength to carry out this resolution alone unless you join in it with me, as I now invite you to do."



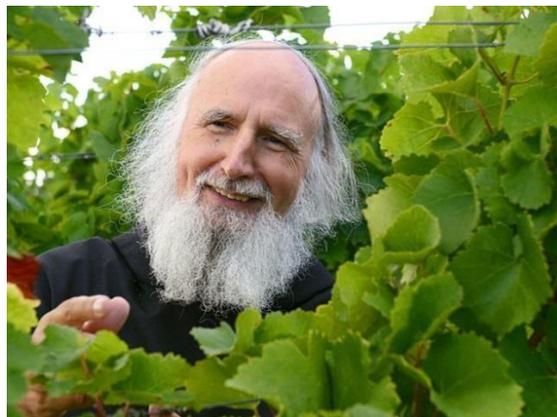
Oscar Wilde said:

*„Wisdom is to have dreams big enough
not to lose sight when we pursue them!“*



Anselm Grün says:

„Every new beginning at first generates fear. It means having to break with what is familiar. And when I make the break, I do not yet know what will happen to me. The unknown creates a feeling of fear in me. A promise is ensconced in the break at the same time, the promise of something new, something that didn't exist before, never seen before. Those who do not continuously make the break, their lives become moribund. When something does not change, it becomes old and stuffy. New chances in life want to sally forth in us. Many people aspire to a life that unfolds without dangers. They believe they have to insure themselves against all dangers so that nothing can go wrong. But the more we protect ourselves, the more insecure we become. And ultimately we don't dare to do anything. Everything has to be insured. Don't risk anything without enough security. That increasingly leads to torpidity, as the political and economic situation today demonstrates clearly enough. We will only get out of this dead end if we risk something, even if we risk making a mistake.“



Hugh Jackman says:

*"I don't want to ever say 'no' to something and then later sit somewhere and think:
I wish I had had the courage to do it."*



Billy Joe Armstrong (Green Day) says:

*"It's better to regret something you have done
than to regret something you haven't done."*



Norbert Lammert says:

*"It is not easy to change the world,
but the attempt is worth it and sometimes overdue."*



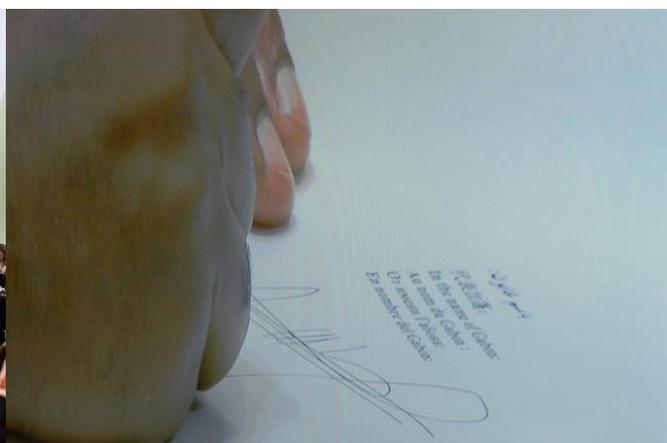
The countless voices crying for peace, freedom and justice demonstrate the necessity of new values and new rules. They challenge us to speak out against outmoded, parochial and self-serving behavior. For us, they are a powerful force and a great incentive for the future, which begins today!

An urgent appeal to all and especially:

To the 196 nations of this world that agreed to a new global climate treaty on December 12, 2015 and which must ratify this agreement in their legislatures as soon as possible so that the global agreement can go into effect with productive and measurable national action



Agreement of December 12, 2015



Signing on April 22, 2016

Obligation to decarbonize our Earth by prohibiting fossil greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 at the latest - analogous to the ban on asbestos and CFCs!

On “Earth Day” on April 22, 2016, representatives of 175 nations signed the world climate agreement at a meeting of the United Nations in New York. The treaty goes into force if “at least 55 nations with a total of more than 55 percent of global emissions” affirm the Paris agreement in their legislatures. Only 15 countries had carried out the ratification up to April 22, 2016. Among them were in particular island states such as the Marshall Islands, Granada, Nauru, Palau and Fiji as well as Palestine and Somalia. The world climate agreement came into force on November 4, 2016. We have no time to waste and we have to increase the speed. After all, there is a major discrepancy between the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 to 2 degrees and the actual climate protection policy of individual states, which is based on voluntary measures. There has to be an end to lip service and appeals to morality. To reach the

goals, neither coal nor gas nor oil can be allowed to be burned from 2050 onward. Countries like Germany can demonstrate that the "Energiewende" (energy turnaround) works, including storage technologies for mobile and stationary applications. Industrial nations must offer developing and transition countries alternative solutions to prevent them from repeating mistakes recognized in retrospect.*

To the participants of the next summit meeting of the 20 most important industrial and transition countries on July 7 and 8, 2017 in Germany (G20: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, France, Great Britain, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United States of America and the European Union as well as the permanent guests: International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank (WB), Financial Stability Board (FSB), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), World Trade Organization (WTO), International Labour Organisation (ILO), the United Nations as well as Spain and the Chairmen of the African Union, NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa's Development) and ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations)



You, too, bear a major responsibility for peace – in a free world without borders! Fulfillment of Messages 1, 5 and 6: Creation of a new world order under the auspices of the “United Peoples of the World.” Decarbonization of the world by 2050 at the latest! We urgently request that the Paris world climate agreement be ratified by the legislative bodies of all the G20 states before the G20 summit in 2017 so that the global agreement can go into effect with productive and measurable national action.

** Change of direction in energy policy, i.e. the substitution of fossil and nuclear fuels for renewable energy and increased energy efficiency.*

**To the UN General Assembly at its next meeting
on September 12-25, 2017 in New York**



***Fulfillment of messages 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 10: The UNO – while maintaining its positive values –
should be replaced by a more assertive, more resolute, and thus more effective
government of the "United Peoples of the World"!***

To the participants of the next World Economic Forum

January 24–27, 2018 in Davos

(more than 2500 top representatives of business and commerce, politics and society)



Obligation to provide for a sustainable economy!

***Fulfillment of Messages 5, 6 and 9: Decarbonization of the world by 2050
at the latest as well as establishment of a new value system for the global
economic and financial world with responsible employers engaged in
long-term planning and showing entrepreneurial spirit
instead of managers who have nothing in mind but
quarterly figures, shareholders, and their own profit!***

To the next G7/G8 summit on May 7 and 8 2017 in Italy



The results of the G7 summit meeting of May 2016 in Japan were rather meager. There were no specific agreements and commitments to solve the global conflicts and crises. Yet the exchange of views among the political decision-makers in this group remains important. Even more important would be the return of the Russian president to the group of seven, which is supposed to happen after the mutually imposed sanctions are lifted. Returning to the G8 is far better - also because Donald Trump is sitting at the round table in Italy.

**To the participants of a long overdue meeting of the religious leaders
(Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Jews etc.)**



Fear leads to anger, anger leads to hatred,
hatred leads to unspeakable suffering.

*Too bad we couldn't find a photo showing all the religious leaders together.
Therefore we recall Yoda, who knows how we can find one another and unite!
Fulfillment of Messages 3 and 8: The positive and common values
of the different religions should be combined to suggest one creed for humankind
and to live accordingly – with kindness and compassion
against inhumanity in an open, civilized world society.
Then it will be up to anyone's discretion to follow their individual faith
or the principle of randomness!*

**To the 8 wealthiest people on earth, who own as much
as the poorer half of humanity, currently 3.75 billion people**



*Please take the lead and convince at least the other 5 to join in!
Fulfillment of Messages 2 and 9: We human beings have to learn to share
amicably and justly. Those who have much must give to those who have little.
The Ethics Commission (yet to be established) of the "United Peoples of the World" must
develop and lay down concrete and binding rules for the donation and sharing of riches.
Angelina Jolie says: "It's a wonderful feeling to be generous and give money to people who
need it far more than a Jaguar dealer."*

For your attention and in the hope of kind consideration
for a better world.

The Power of Consumers

So *what can I do?* The individual reader may ask, often feeling helpless and left alone. A couple of answers can be found in Chapter VI: **Game Without Borders - With the Power of Consumers. 10 tips for things to do by yourself or with others.** Consumer power can also be exercised and expanded through the channels of the World Wide Web. As a multiplier of the good!



Readers will notice that message 2, "For Love, Forgiveness, Sharing, Peace and Freedom," is the key message. By putting it into action, wars and greed as well as hunger and thirst can be vanquished with renewable energy, with educated people and one creed - under the umbrella of the "United Peoples of the World" - while sustaining individual endearing cultures, customs and practices. Knowing this, it is clear that the only way to proceed is united.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe said:

"What's left undone today will not be done tomorrow."



Game Instructions



III. Game Instructions – The Point of It All with Good Intentions

The idea of this primer: We doubtlessly live on one of the most beautiful specks of dust in the universe. At the same time, this speck of dust is hell for so many creatures. We have to and we are able to change that. Admirable traits, exemplary attitudes and ethic values are passed on best by way of positive messages. To get these messages through to people, we need acknowledged personalities as ambassadors and mediators. They in turn take their orientation from role models of the present and past, who unfortunately did not live at the same time and were thus not able to jointly exert their influence.

To communicate these ideas, we welcome ambassadors who all live in our time and are committed to the commonweal. Thanks to the knowledge available today in an increasingly digital world, we can take a common path and smooth it for everyone - **with a set of rules appropriate to our time**. The proposed ambassadors and mediators as well as all our readers can, if they so wish, lend wings to this idea to carry it far and wide.

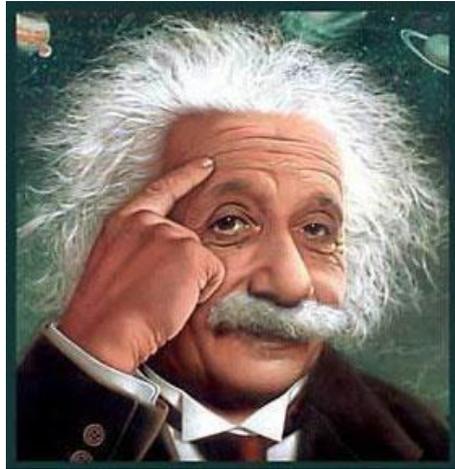
Richard Dehmel said:

“All suffering is loneliness, all happiness is togetherness.”



Albert Einstein said:

"If at first the idea is not absurd, then there is no hope for it."

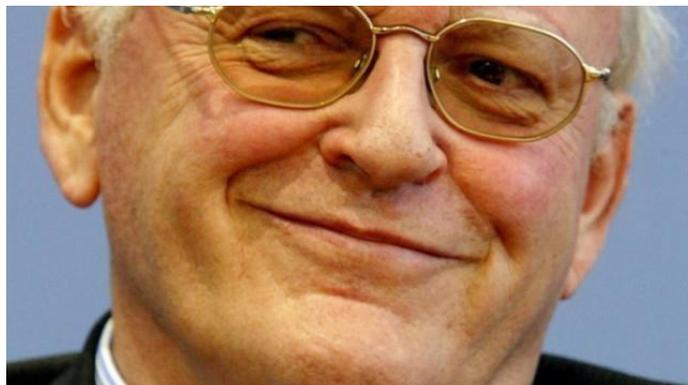


We are absurd and courageous enough to believe we can resolve the conflicts and flashpoints of the world. What we need to do is to tackle the underlying problems – *all of them at once, now, and all of us together*. This can succeed if all who care for our planet and its creatures now come together and stand by each other. Joining in may also help those who are stuck in depression and are suffering.

Roman Herzog said:

"Visions are strategies for action.

That distinguishes them from utopian schemes."



Bobby Dekeyser says (to politicians in a talk-show):

"If I lead my company the way you lead the country, I could close down.

*You don't even talk about visions, trust or common goals –
all you do is continuously attack each other."*



It's about time we changed that – together!

Our vision: a shock wave sweeping the world to rouse it from its slumbers!

"Homo progressivus – the energetic rebellion"

Helmut Markwort says:

*"Ash Wednesday is increasingly being turned into its opposite.**

*The political class has agreed among itself to read the riot act to the others, instead of spreading
ash on their own heads in repentance."*

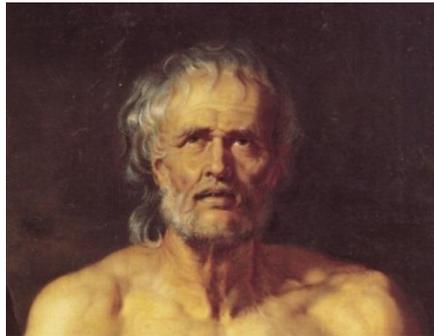


** As a Bavarian specialty, the "political Ash Wednesday" consists in mass rallies held by all political parties. The original intention was for each party to review its own policy. Since national party leaders often speak at these gatherings, they are not merely of local interest.*

The content of this primer: Numbers, data and facts accompany each message in this primer, including a description of their connection to each other, showing the insights that can be derived.

Lucius Annaeus Seneca said:

*"It is not because things are difficult that we do not dare to do them,
it is because we do not dare to do them that they are difficult."*



Circulating this primer: The idea and the content of this reader should be infused with life. This can happen by discussing them face to face, from ear to ear, by mail or via the Internet, YouTube, Google, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter etc. That way, general curiosity can be aroused, triggering a pioneering spirit in many people.

There are lists of proposed ambassadors and mediators at the end of each of the ten messages. These ten lists are open-ended for people who have something to say and who mean well.

Nena says:

"Every obstacle is a springboard."



Photo: Kristian Schuller

The secret of this primer will be revealed when a large number of the people cited here as well as the proposed ambassadors and mediators join together to proclaim:

***"We stand for the "United Peoples of the World,"
united in one faith,
in peace and freedom."***

Who will start? The people quoted in this primer who have already passed away stand by us with what they have bequeathed to us. The persons still living and the organizations cited here can preserve their legacy by carrying the idea with their own quotes and making it come to life - best of all by **jointly standing in front of it and backing it.**

That would be a delightful joint action and a powerful signal at the same time.

Dante Alighieri said:

"Some wait for time to change, others seize the moment and act."



Harry Potter, The Lord of the Rings, the Matrix and Snow White hold us spellbound. We were inspired by many a hymn as well as a president's vision of a world without atomic weapons. Furthermore, there is a force inside us and all around us. We feel that this force is good. We do not know whence it comes, nor why it has chosen us. We do not know exactly how we came upon this idea, and how we could write this primer. We are not clever enough to provide answers to everything. But, with the help of our readers, we will feel wiser and better at the end.

It is not our intention to frighten anyone or spoil their good mood, but to encourage and convey confidence. We want to shake as many people as possible out of their apathy. We want to instigate a revolution of the good.

This joint project could accomplish much more than the many well-meant individual actions, as a glance into the past shows, and as current problems reveal.

Edmund Burke (1729–1797) said:

*"All that is necessary for the triumph of evil
is that good men do nothing."*



It is time to turn the tables!

The daily news presents us a world in which the negative far too often drowns out the positive. Let us cast a realistic glance into the mirror of the world. On one side we see all that is good and beautiful, and on the other the many cruel and ugly things we human beings commit and inflict upon each other.

In a moment of reflection we, the authors, realized: Either

we all unite to change the world as a whole_in one fell swoop ...

or we let things take their course, each of us for himself, and just watch the world go by. But for us, with our knowledge and the corresponding outlook on life, this attitude is strictly for the birds.



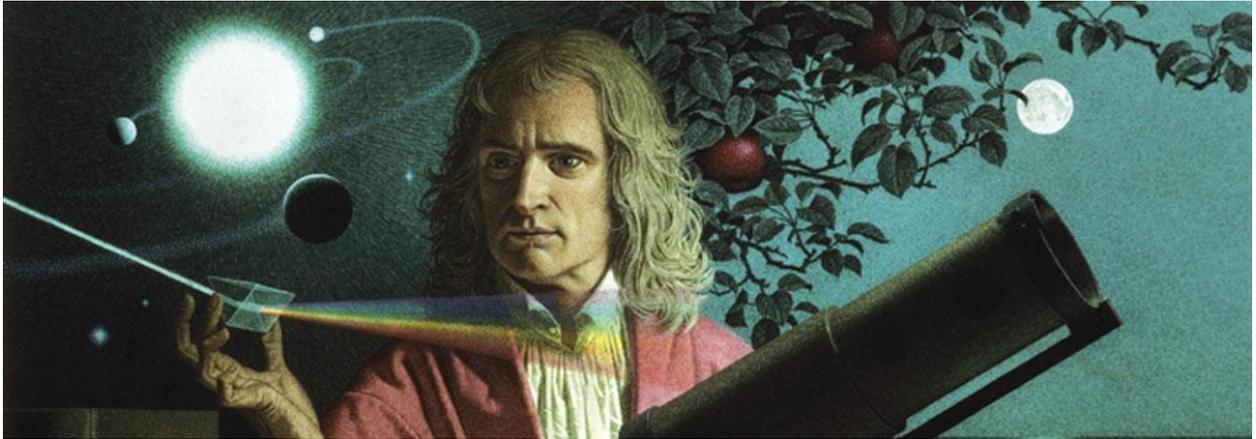
We want to inform and to provoke. We encourage discussions and dialogues, also on an emotional level, that can turn out to be profitable for everyone at the end of the day.

The idea will work if it is put into action. The idea will shine brightly if it is lighted and passed on like a torch, if it is inspiring and addictive for the reader. The idea is meant to electrify the reader and spread around the globe like a benevolent, warming wildfire. The start was successful. We hope we will soon reach our goal together. If the idea lives, it can also become a protective screen for our Earth.



Isaac Newton (1642 – 1727) said:

"What we know is a drop, what we do not know, an ocean."



We think we have become a few drops smarter in the meantime. We firmly believe that every good deed will bestow another drop upon us. Quote from the film *Cloud Atlas*: **"What is an ocean if not a multitude of drops?"**



This is neither a parable nor a story.
It's a wake-up call, a guide, and an invitation to join in.
The time is ripe to set off into a better world in which
Homo progressivus pays with the *Globe!*



Back at the beginning, but not at the end of good intentions: We **know** that our planet is more than a tolerable place to live in. It is a gem in the universe, which is worth preserving – as long as our sun continues to shine and impart its power to us.

The entire net publisher's profit from the sale of this primer will be alternately donated to existing foundations and organizations who serve exclusively charitable purposes.

Playing Fields – With Oversight from Above



IV. Playing Fields – With Oversight from Above and Ten Messages

There are countless non-fiction and specialist books focusing on specific areas. These are, for example, books on love and forgiveness, about humanity and inhumanity, about human dignity and human rights, about religion and atheism, about war, peace and freedom, about greed and unjust distribution, about climate change and energetic renewal, about the need or right to enjoy education, about the difference between man and beast and the significance of human intervention into nature.

What has been missing so far is an all-encompassing and less scientific appraisal that **everyone** understands showing how closely these areas are linked to, and dependent on, each other. Recommendations for action where deficits are observed, are also part of such an appraisal.

Therefore, we took all good things and all bad things we see in the world in the respective areas, spread them over ten playing fields, and threw them into a lottery pot. In the following ten chapters we present positive features, characteristics and situations, deficits and proposals for improvement as well as people who bear responsibility and serve as role models. We want to induce all people to participate in a playful way and according to rules **everyone** understands. There are five major prizes representing the good in this game and five blanks representing the bad. In 2017, the lots will be drawn and the game will start. It is up to us if *Homo progressivus* will be globally successful with a first prize, or if *Homo sapiens*, with the blanks in the game of life, will perish in disgrace.

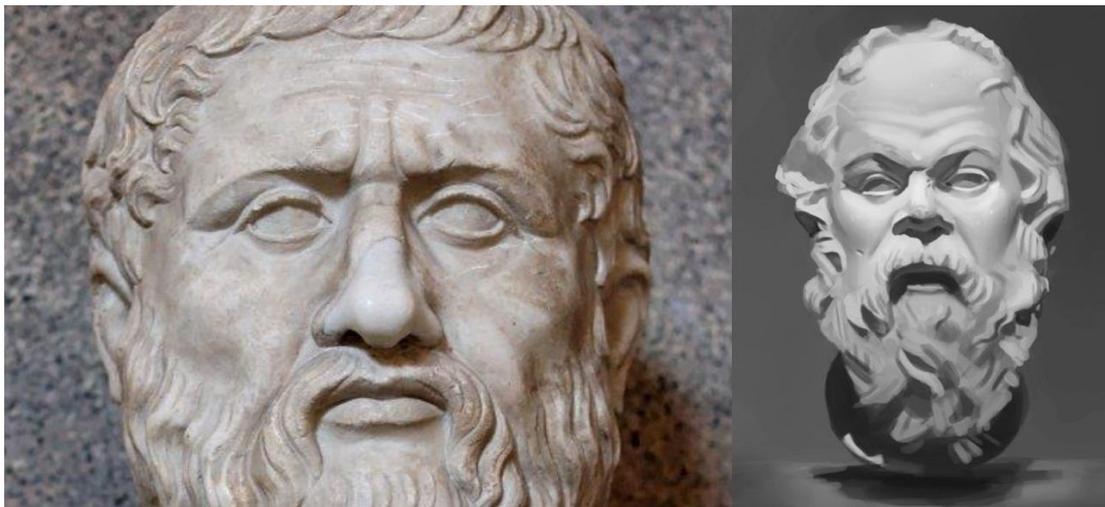


The sun shines from above
upon us and right into us
and comes shining back out of our hearts.
Its energy generates life and accompanies our lives
and may finally lead us upward again.



Socrates (469–399 B.C.) and Plato (427–347 B.C.) both knew:

*The sun is the source of all being and all truth,
the source of all life and all knowledge. The sun exists
in every person - one only needs to make it shine.*



Despite this positive force, our world is increasingly degenerating
into a contaminated garbage dump
where people spread like vermin, catch diseases,
thrash and kill each other like a violent mob, and are
less and less capable of getting along with each other.
This must and can be changed!

Harald Lesch says:

"Progress is the work of the dissatisfied."



We must treat our planet like a raw egg
and not vandalize it with a wrecking ball.



We can make the world a better place by conscientiously exploring and eliminating the causes of war, hatred, and greed, of sorrow and pain, which we must do with love, compassion, tolerance, and a cosmopolitan mindset – peacefully, across all borders and, most importantly: together. The people cited here, the proposed ambassadors and mediators as well as all who feel attracted to our project can contribute and be a factor in deciding whether the messages of this primer will be spread and lived by.



1. For a Life on Earth in the "United Peoples of the World"

We believe that our progeny do not want to live on Mars, but on Earth, the planet so unique to us. It is our obligation to make sure that our globe remains a place worth living in.

Reinhard Mey sings:

*"Newborn baby, this is your planet,
here is your destiny, tiny package.
Friendly bundle, welcome in,
may life here be good to you!"*



(Song text from "Menschenjunges")

Wolfgang Niedecken says:

*"Okay, maybe we can't turn the world into Paradise,
but let's at least make sure it doesn't turn into Hell."*

Bruce Springsteen says:

"Speak about your dreams and try to make them come true."



How much do we really "know" about life in the here and now or an existence in the great Beyond? What and where is the *here and now* and the *Beyond*?

Isaac Newton said: *"What we know is a drop, what we do not know, an ocean."*

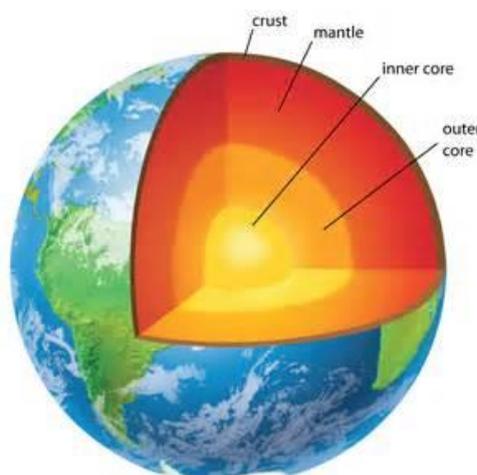
Albert Einstein said: *"Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited to all we now know and understand, while imagination embraces the entire world."*

We say: With knowledge, imagination, creativity and curiosity we are able today to look into the depths of the oceans and beyond the horizon of the world as we know it. With intelligence, we are able to recognize and master existing and impending threats – from wherever and from whomever they may come.

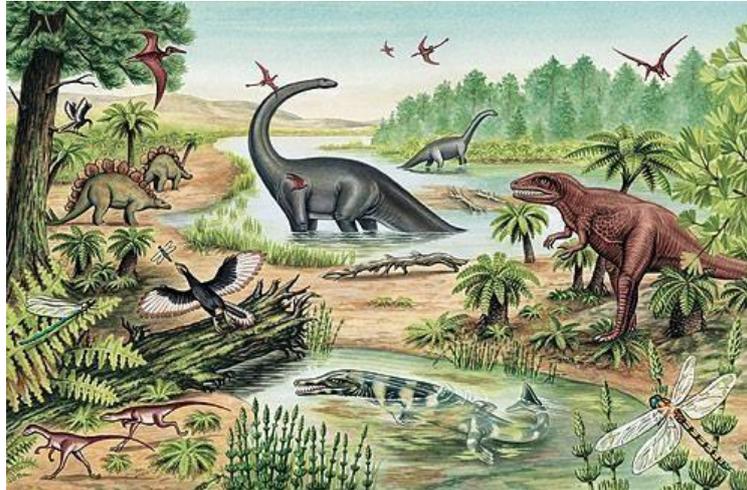
Because of their life expectancy of usually less than 100 years, human beings do not really have a good notion of time, nor of distance and space, as the following examples indicate. **Ten examples linked with ten messages in ten chapters.** This promises to be an exciting journey through history, into the infinitude of the universe, and into the innermost depths of our bodies.

Example 1: In 1815, China and India had a share of 50 percent of the global gross domestic product (GDP). The United States of America, still young at the time, with production in the per-thousand area, played no role. **Messages 2 and 9** discuss the reasons for the shifts in wealth.

Example 2: To better illustrate the Earth's development in time, we shall compress the time span since its origin of 4.6 billion years into a single calendar year – **in remembrance of Hoimar von Ditfurth**. Thus the Earth is born on January 1st. Its core, mantle, and crust form in the first seven weeks of the year.



The first primitive forms of life emerge in water at the end of February. In autumn, the continents and oceans form on the Earth. The first reptiles, living in water and on land, develop on December 7th. The dinosaurs become extinct during the Christmasholidays.

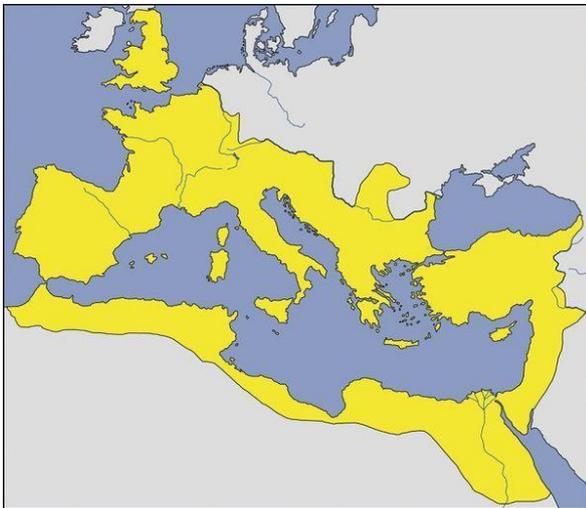


Jesus Christ is born just a few seconds before New Year. Thus two thousand years have raced by in a split second. **Messages 3 and 8** discuss what happened since then.

Example 3: Less than 0.1 second later, that is at the end of the 4th century A.D., the star of the Roman Empire set. Up to then, the immense empire was characterized by mostly prospering regions and an open-minded, affluent society. The decline of Rome was accelerated by the migration of the peoples, mainly the Teutons and Goths, along with a dwindling willingness to integrate the so-called barbarians into the Roman Empire. There were no declarations of war or intentions to make war, only Teutonic and Gothic refugees suddenly appearing at the gates of Rome. They had fled from war, hunger and poverty in their homelands. They wanted to share in the Roman wealth. Instead of providing for the refugees, the Romans reacted with panic and rejection. The “welcoming culture” was abandoned. The refugees could not understand that the borders were open, but the city gates closed. The Romans in turn deemed it sufficient to merely take in the refugees. Basically, everyone had the same desire: to share in the prosperity. With political far-sightedness and openness, it could have succeeded. Instead there were cultural misunderstandings and exclusion which led to unrest, fears, and excesses on both sides. Preachers of hatred and violence took command, and the initial efforts at integration fell by the wayside. At the end there were only losers. Quality of life declined, and the colorful ways of life disappeared. The unity of the Roman Empire dissolved and new borders

emerged. The great variety of peoples and the wealth linked with it gave way to wasteful systems of rule which also contributed to the fall of Rome.

The Roman Empire was the product of conquests and a continuous expansionist policy thanks to its significant military and cultural advantage over its adversaries. At the point of its largest expansion, the empire encompassed the complete Mediterranean region and the Persian Gulf and extended all the way to Britain. It fell nevertheless. Decadence, corruption, uprisings, incursions from the outside and a lack of integrative capacity as well as emerging Christianity were the reasons.



The Roman World Empire



The EU still with 28 member states

And what does all this have to do with us? Today, more than 1,500 years later, we call the streams of refugees migration movements. The European Union (EU) was founded in steps as an inevitable result of two devastating world wars in the 20th century. The initial European Economic Community developed into a confederation of states, now with 28 members and a single currency, which was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2012. At present, the EU is fighting for its very existence, especially because of the current refugee crisis. **Will it stand the test as a community based on solidarity, or will it be torn apart as an egotistical society of profiteers - like the Roman Empire? Answers and possible solutions can be found in Messages 2 and 10.**

Example 4: 150 years ago – just a few split seconds ago in the compressed calendar – slavery was abolished by the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America. The pioneer was **Abraham Lincoln. The man with the internal compass who was prepared for the time into which he was born.** His presidency is considered one of the most important in the history of the USA. Under his government, the country embarked on the path of a centrally governed, modern industrial nation and created the basis for the ascendancy to world power in the 20th century. After winning the civil war and abolishing slavery, he wanted to go to Jerusalem to wander on the paths of David and Solomon. It was not to be. On April 14, 1865, Abraham Lincoln was assassinated. He strove for racial equality, not only in law. **He placed the fate of human dignity in our hands. In Message 10 we find out whether we are prepared for the times into which we were born.**

Abraham Lincoln said:

"Whenever I hear anyone arguing for slavery,

I feel a strong impulse to see it tried on him personally."

"As I would not be a slave, so I would not be a master. This expresses my idea of democracy."



Example 5: 2014 was a year of many anniversaries in Germany. 100 years after the outbreak of World War I, 75 years after the outbreak of World War II, and 25 years after the fall of the Berlin Wall we can be exemplary in what we accomplish and initiate in Germany and from Germany. Besides, due to the dreadful events of the 20th century, we still have something to make up for. In **Messages 2, 5 and 6 as well as in Chapter V** of this primer, we show which positive impulses for the world can come from Germany.

Example 6: It pays to take another look at our compressed calendar year. Around mid-December – that would be about 250 million years ago – the largest extinction of species on our planet occurred, and life was suddenly plunged into its worst crisis. Of all known species, 95 percent became extinct in the seas and 70 percent on land. Geologically speaking, "suddenly" means this extinction – as far as we know today – took over 100,000 years. It was caused by the enormous amounts of greenhouse gases (methane and carbon dioxide) that erupted from volcanoes and the seabed, released in different stages.



In the course of these 100,000 years or more, the average temperature of the Earth rose by approximately 10° C. 100,000 years in our compressed calendar year are a few minutes. Slowly, but steadily it became warmer, and when the balance was upset, the world suddenly turned from an abundant paradise into a desert planet.



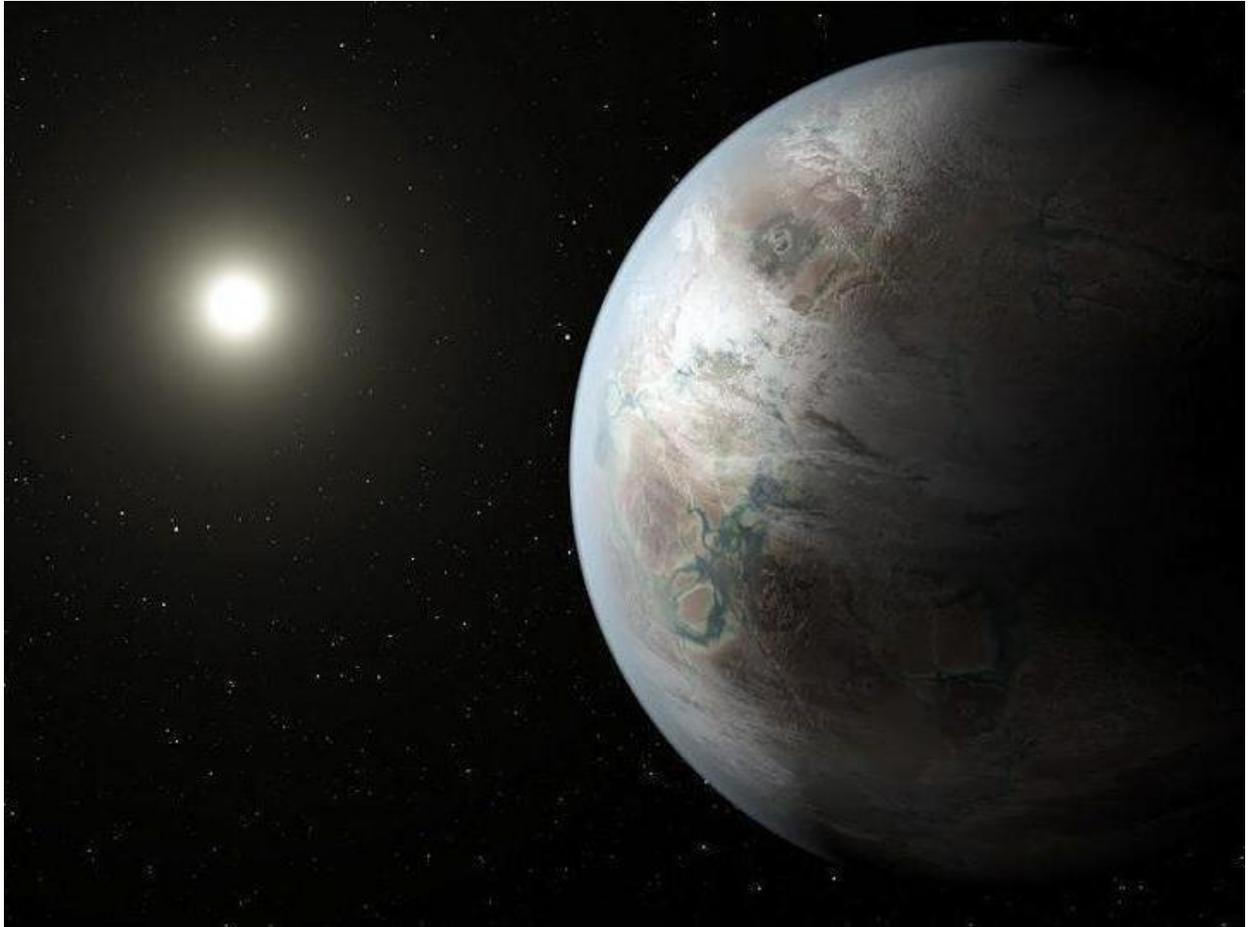
This mass extinction is of vital significance for what is happening today when considering global warming. Here we have a fascinating but also terrifying comparison of figures which nature made us aware of. **From this we can deduce what will happen at worst if climate change proceeds unrestrained – at an unprecedented pace – raising the average temperature of the Earth by 4-5° C in less than 200 fossil years – that is in tenths of a second.**



God preserve us from a new oil-burning age!

We can avoid that by pushing the energy turnaround in an all-embracing way. Decentralized local solutions for production, storage and use of renewable energies must be given preference over centralized power in the greedy hands of companies, cartels and governments. Our detailed recommendations can be found in **Messages 5 and 6** of this primer.

Example 7: Two thousand light years means that it takes 2,000 years for starlight traveling at a speed of **300,000 km/s** to reach us and be seen. So when we see this light, two thousand years have passed on the star, or the star may not even exist anymore.



„Kepler-452b“

In 2015, NASA discovered a planet 1,400 light years away from us and called it "Kepler-452b." It is the planet most similar to Earth discovered to this day. But how do we get there if things get too uncomfortable here? A manned flight to Mars is estimated to take about 250 days. Mars is 225 million kilometers away. In comparison: The planet Kepler-452b is some 13 trillion kilometers away. Even if we could travel at the speed of light, it would take as much time to get there as has passed since the fall of the Roman Empire. That means: We ought to be very careful with our home planet before we set out as *Homo sapiens* to goof up another planet. The **ten messages** and the **ten chapters** of this primer show how this can succeed.

Example 8: As far as we know, our universe emerged some 13.5 billion years ago with the big bang. Meanwhile, it stretches over about **13 billion light years**. We assume that there are more than **100 billion galaxies** in our universe comprising a total of **10 sextillion stars**. An announcement was made on February 11, 2016 that gravitational waves actually exist in the universe and that they propagate at the speed of light. Albert Einstein had already predicted this in 1915. This evidence also proves the existence of black holes and their fusion. A tiny portion of the energy released in the process would be enough to supply all energy required on earth.



The expanse of our home galaxy, the Milky Way, is about **100,000 light years**. There are more than **100 billion suns** in our Milky Way.



It's a good thing we get along with one sun and that there are knowledgeable personalities among us as ambassadors and mediators who can explain all the rest, including the underlying secrets and their logic, in a tangible way – **for example in Messages 1, 4 and 7**.

Example 9: The moon is the first celestial body we set foot on. But how did it come into being and what is its significance for us? The moon was probably formed when a heavenly body of the size and mass of Mars collided with the Earth about 4.5 billion years ago. This heavenly body is also called "Theia". The impact sent off enormous quantities of glowing rock and rock vapor into space, which subsequently formed a disk around the Earth. The moon formed out of this material, most of which came from Theia. Theia's iron core, however, sank into the center of the Earth within a few hours and merged with the Earth's core.



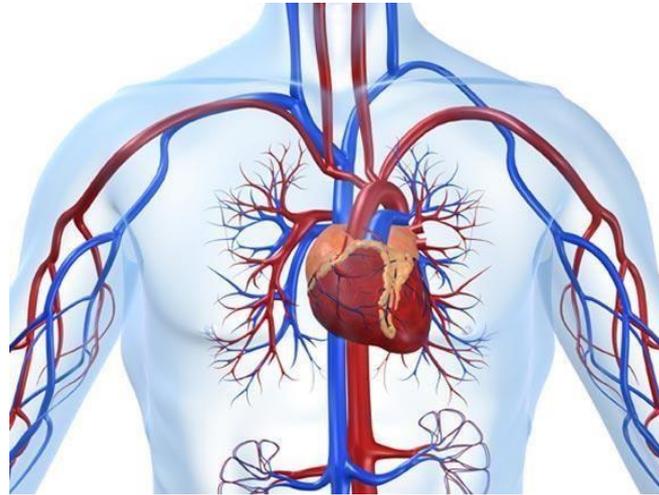
Earth and Theia



Earth and Moon

The moon is 81 times lighter than the Earth and about 4 times smaller. But it has immense importance for and influence on the Earth and its inhabitants. Without the moon, the Earth would turn on its axis three times faster because the moon's gravitation slows down the rotation of the Earth. That means without the moon, a day on Earth would be reduced to eight hours. On a planet that rotates so fast, hurricanes with speeds of 300-500 km/h would sweep the Earth. Without the moon, summer temperatures in central Europe would be about 60 degrees Celsius and winter temperatures minus 50 degrees C. Because of the moon's gravitational pull and the resulting tides, life crawled onto the land about 500 million years ago. That makes the moon crucial also for the emergence of humankind. Human beings created the moon calendar about 30,000 years ago. Moons became months. And human beings understood the cycles of the seasons and adapted to them. Without the moon, Earth's axis would get into precarious positions hostile to life since the gravitational forces of the sun, of Saturn and Jupiter would be dominant. **Our moon shows us what a good companion is worth, how to get along with each other and protect each other. That should serve us as an example!**

Example 10: The trip into our own body is as exciting as looking into the universe. Blood travels through our veins incessantly, the veins forming a gigantic road network in our entire body. All human blood vessels taken together add up to a length of more than **100,000 kilometers**. Driven by the heart, the blood flows through every organ and cell of the body.



Our brain has more than 100 billion nerve cells (neurons) and more than 100 trillion connection points (synapses). The brain is the human being's most important organ. It is indispensable not only as a control center for the human body, but also as the bearer of the human personality. With a better understanding of how the brain functions, we can connect brain activity with our perception, our feelings and thought processes.



If cerebrum, diencephalon, cerebellum and brainstem communicated even better, we would be able to decipher and understand the brain's code. What the flu-virus type A (H3N2) succeeded in doing by mutation, we should be able to accomplish, too – considering the great number of connection points mentioned above.

Quote from *Men in Black* – Tommy Lee Jones says to Will Smith:
*"1500 years ago, you knew that the Earth is the center of the universe.
500 years ago, you knew that the Earth is flat, and 15 minutes ago
you knew that humans are alone on this planet.
Just imagine what you'll know tomorrow."*



We have to decide what to do with the life given to us. Everyone should try to make the world a little bit better. More than seven billion people, considered in the aggregate, could then make the world more beautiful and especially more just.

A proverb from Africa:

*"Many small people in many small places, who do many small things,
will change the face of this world."*

Bob Geldof says:

*"Everything you do, the smallest thing, every gesture, is good.
Daily, a million times over. Time and again. Right from the beginning.
We are not exactly magnificent, we human beings. We are strange creatures.
We could do so much. So why don't we do it?"*



Karl-Heinz Böhm said many years ago:

"There is no first, second or third world! We all live on one and the same planet, for which we jointly bear responsibility."

"There are not five billion people – there is five billion times an individual."

"I can't change the world, but I can change a single person: myself."



In today's global structures, we need a healthy degree of cosmopolitanism, tolerance, solidarity, creative curiosity as well as gender equality everywhere in the world. This protects us against sexual abuse, child pornography, genital mutilation, racism, fear of strangers and xenophobia.

All of this requires a serious ability to resist and to defend oneself!



Don't think in black and white terms – the good must prevail over the evil!

The multiplicity and diversity of nations, people, cultures, religions and values are, in the sum of their positive characteristics, **an enormous enrichment and not a threat**. The task of the ambassadors and mediators proposed in this primer is to communicate this reliably and credibly.

Eminem says:

"I don't care whether you're black, white, hetero, bisexual, gay, lesbian, small, big, fat, thin, rich or poor. If you are nice to me, I'll be nice to you, too. Quite simple."



Mikhail Gorbachev says:

"It is important to understand the concerns and interests of other nations and not to separate one's own security from the security of the neighbor."

"Socialist, liberal, Christian or conservative values exist in every society. Depending on the epoch, one or the other value is emphasized. For the future, the choice is not between capitalism and socialism; what is important, is a synthesis of the experiences we have had."



We think it is highly regrettable that he did not have the time to realize his aims. Not only to religions, but also to political and economic systems we should apply the principle,

"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."

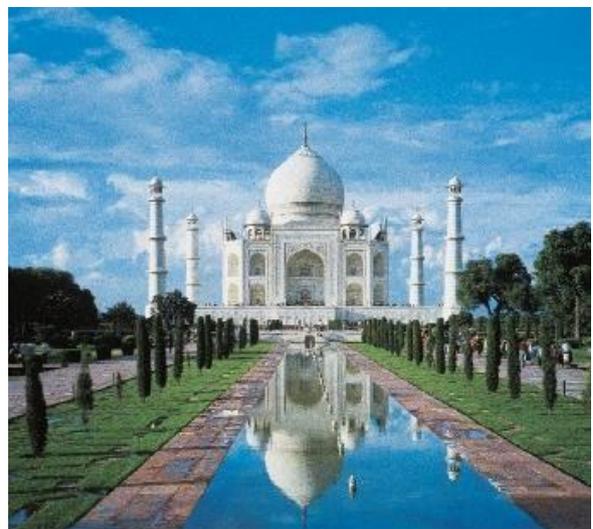
Our proposals are in Chapter IV, Message 9 and in Chapter V of this primer!

Discussions, debates and arguments about free trade areas and free trade agreements – such as TTIP at present – are dispensable in a world without borders, and without intelligence services and spies as well.

Furthermore, we can learn from the abilities of nature, which has repeatedly renewed, transformed and adapted life over billions of years. Here, too, we can harmonize nature and technology (bionics = human intelligence plus the creativity of nature).



We have already copied a great deal from nature – for instance in architecture. Just think of the construction of the pyramids, the Roman and Greek temples, and the magnificent sacred buildings of all religions.



We took a very close look at nature especially when building our aircraft. That enabled us to take to the air more than 100 years ago.



Otto Lilienthal 1895



The E-Fan 2015

Detlef Müller-Wiesner says:

"We are rethinking flying. We want to change the design, the propulsion, but also the production and the entire business model. With the E-Fan we enter the world of electrical flying."

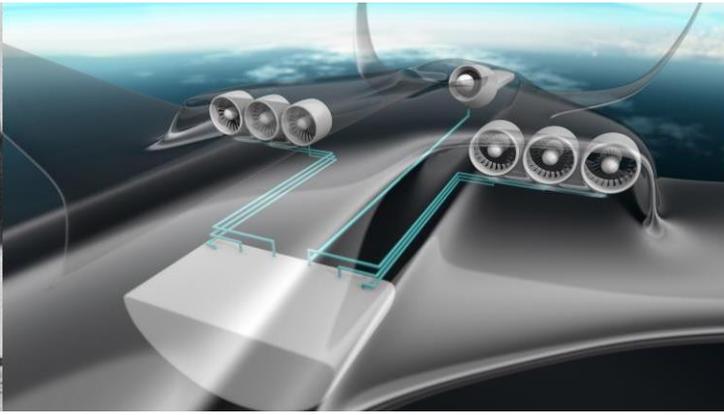
Jean Botti says:

"Our real goal is to develop an aircraft with 70 to 80 seats for regional routes. A third of the energy for the regional jet will come from batteries, two thirds from a fuel-driven range extender. Our hybrid aircraft is intended to take off and land purely electrically in 15 to 20 years. We are not at the end by a long shot, and the next breakthrough will come for sure: taking off and landing around the clock with our super-silent aircraft without noise pollution. Were Monsieur Blériot to see aviation today, he wouldn't believe how it has developed in just 100 years."





Louis Blériot 1909



E-thrust concept

The Fascination of Bionics!

We humans of the species *Homo sapiens* have been arguing for some time over the question whether our technical inventions are separating us more and more from nature. But we are an integral part of nature, one that must justify its existence. As we have learned in this chapter, we have been experimenting for about an hour in the compressed calendar year. Evolution has equipped us with cognitive capacities which we sometimes use more, sometimes less. We have become increasingly arrogant in the age of industrialization, and we have become increasingly detached from nature instead of learning from her. For far too long we have considered animals and plants to be primitive and ourselves to be vastly superior to them thanks to our reason. It is of vital significance for us to maintain, or return to, our down-to-earth quality and understand anew the need of being close to nature. **Without this insight so necessary for survival, we will become victims of our smugness and disappear as a brief aberration in the balance sheet of nature, which has been successfully written for over four billion years.** This balance sheet is a treasure chest that we, who freely move between biology and technology, can draw from, in harmony with nature. Let us exploit nature's lead, which has perfected its masterpieces over millions of years, and let us become bionic scientists. Bionics is concerned with the technical realization of constructions, procedures and developmental processes from the domain of biology. Only after we have understood biology technically, we can apply it to engineering. Bionics allows us to penetrate to the roots of evolutionary development and return richly endowed to the present. If we do it right at this point, we are on the cusp of the age of bionic revolution. Notably the current concerns about energy and raw materials, the life-threatening damages to the environment as well as hunger, overpopulation and wars, urge us to jointly find and apply new solutions.

Werner Nachtigall says:

"As clever as our current technology may appear: In many – at least all fundamental – aspects, it is half-baked, in fact Stone-Age-like incommensurate with the potential stored in our brains. That is why I like to speak of a 'Stone-Age technology,' of a 'technological trough' we must get out of. But that will only work if we replace these technologies (as complex as they may be and as proud as today's technicians are of them) with technologies that are even better, even more intelligent:

The only way out of the technological trough is to employ the highest possible technologies, which include bio-strategy. (Of course, that does not rule out 'low tech' where it makes sense.)

Highest technologies, however, require a three-fold basis: The inventiveness and the research potential of our brains must be coupled with the potentiality of a highly developed industry; the common bond must be political will. We will get nowhere, not even through the current bottleneck, if we oppose industry; we can only succeed together with an industry that puts its entire potential into a technology of environmental compatibility and of humanity. This field also and in particular promises large sales and profits, as the rising sales figures for the developing environmental technologies show. But where political will does not set norms and determine the line to follow, no shift in thinking will be possible; the inevitabilities of the habitual are too strong."



Charles Darwin said: The survivors of a species are those best adapted to their environment. Since the environment changes gradually, the type of survivor also changes, which leads to evolution.

Thomas Reiter says:

"I would like as many people as possible to see – in the not too distant future – with their own eyes, how beautiful our planet is from this perspective.

Considering the many problems we human beings have primarily with each other, this sight will make us realize that we are all in the same boat, in the true sense of the word.

Then, I am absolutely convinced, it will be clear to everyone:

We can only solve our problems down here together."



Even Stephen Hawking asks:

"In a world that is in chaos politically, socially and environmentally, how can the human race sustain another 100 years?"



Tom Vierus says:

"I would wish for a society that moves closer to nature again. A society in which animals are treated as living creatures and not like objects, and in which sustainability ranks higher than profit. With today's technology, virtually nothing is impossible anymore, whether oil drilling in the Arctic, deep-sea fishing or fracking - there are practically no limits. Our planet has fallen prey to overexploitation, without most people noticing. I want to point out problems and bring nature back into everyone's focus. My special concern are the oceans because if the seas die, we human beings will die as well."



Blauer Planet
MEERESSCHUTZ

Von der Quelle bis zum Ozean – Meeresschutz beginnt vor der Haustür

From the source to the ocean – marine protection begins on your doorstep



LIVINGDREAMS.TV

MARINE ECOLOGY - PHOTOGRAPHY - CONSERVATION

Jürgen Fricke said:

“Our Earth is just a tiny grain of sand in the universe. Both are undergoing continuous change.

We can neither completely understand it, nor stop it. But we have no right to destroy our wonderful blue planet by our doings – on the contrary, it is our duty to preserve it so that life on our globe remains worth living for ages to come, a goal to which each one of us must contribute.

This implies a careful use of the available finite resources on the already overpopulated Earth. That is especially true of the production and use of energy and the consumption of raw materials.

We cannot wait and see what kind of political and economical steps are taken or not. Instead, every individual must act, otherwise life on our beautiful globe will become intolerable or even be extinguished in the forms as we know them.”



Fulfillment of Message: In the framework of a new world order under the auspices of the "United Peoples of the World", we must learn how to use our planet's natural resources - jointly and justly distributed - without using them up. That way we can renew these resources and develop them further. In doing so, we need to create a balance between the structurally weak and structurally strong regions of the world, thus giving people a perspective with future opportunities and challenges in their countries of origin. This project should be prepared by the six commissions (yet to be established) of the "United Peoples of the World" and legislated by the latter.

Everyone participating in the decision-making process must absolutely see the documentary films *Home* and *Unsere Erde* ("Our Earth"). **After that, they will know what has to be done – now, together and everywhere in the world.**



Ambassadors and Mediators: for example Stephen Hawking, Alexander Gerst, Thomas Reiter, Ulf Merbold (also because they know what our grain of sand looks like from above), Klaus Schwab, Andreas Kieling (also because he knows the price he pays for his privileged life in nature) as well as Sean Connery, George Lazenby, Timothy Dalton, Pierce Brosnan, Daniel Craig (also because they have saved the world so often in films), Halle Berry, Sophie Marceau, Grace Jones, Kim Basinger, Jane Seymour, Diana Rigg, Claudine Auger, Ursula Andress (also because they helped James Bond save the world), Klaus Maria Brandauer (also because he was so good in Bond and in Mephisto beyond Africa), Matt Damon, Ralf Fiennes, Holly Hunter, Harvey Keitel, Sam Neill, Meg Ryan, Richard Gere, Julia Roberts, Sean Penn, Judi Dench, Clint Eastwood (also for *Invictus* and because he was against the last war against Iraq), Denzel Washington as well as Andy and Lana Wachowski, Keanu Reeves, Carrie-Anne Moss, Laurence Fishburne and Hugo Weaving (who showed in *MATRIX* that it is worthwhile to save the world, and how strong humans can be – with a good leader), Malu Dreyer, Ranga Yogeshwar, Karl-Rudolf Korte, Joachim Gauck, Christian Wulff, Horst Köhler, Walter Scheel, Rita Süßmuth, Christian Lindner, Wolfgang Schäuble, Horst Seehofer, Claudia Roth, Fritz Kuhn, Jürgen Habermas, Richard David Precht, Gerhard Ehninger (also because of his engagement against PEGIDA), Ole von Beust, Henning Scherf, Gregor Gysi, Alfred Biolek, Reinhold Beckmann, Ai Weiwei (also to free him from his chains), Jutta von Dittfurth (also because she preserves her father's legacy) and many more.



2. For Love, Forgiveness, Sharing, Peace and Freedom

First of all, we have to feel comfortable in the body that has been bequeathed to us. It is legitimate for one's own happiness to be the priority. We are only able to experience and share happiness with others if we are happy ourselves. If we are able to enjoy and love our own life, it is easy to love others and to experience our love in the right body – whether homosexual, bisexual or heterosexual.

Julia Roberts says:

"True love doesn't come to you, it has to be inside of you."



Eminem says:

"Love is only a word, but you define it yourself."



Avicii writes in "Wake me up":
*"Wish that I could stay forever this young.
Not afraid to close my eyes.
Life's a game made for everyone.
And love is the prize."*



" ... and love thy neighbor as thyself."



With a lot of courage and great confidence!

Charity, love of one's fellow man, is probably the most humanitarian form of sharing our love. It is reserved for close relatives and friends as well as acquaintances and those in need of help.

Walter Sittler says:

"No one is more important than the other one."



Rita Süßmuth says:

"We need to deal with each other in a way that the individual can be sure of the personal commitment of the other."

Source: <http://www.aphorismen.de/zitat/143469>



Most people find love once or several times in life in their private surroundings or at work, but especially in the family. Most people love their children. That means they will also love their grandchildren, although they are not even born yet. This, in turn, means that preserving a world which is lovable and worth living in is of paramount importance for a large majority of people. Love in all its facets is the greatest and most positive power.

Henning Scherf says:

"To look at what is still possible; to get involved, and especially to bring young and old together, to stimulate, to relieve one another, and to enrich each other's lives."



Madonna says:

"We are here on this Earth to love and to share."



Stevie Wonder says:

"Many things happening just now show that now is the right time to love." "It is so simple. Prefer love to hatred, what is right to what is wrong, friendliness to perfidy and hope to hopelessness."



Rosi Mittermaier says:

"Winning was not that important to me; what was important was a good relationship to the team and to the competitors. I'm not ambitious, I was not even ambitious as a competitive athlete. But I become a strong fighter when the happiness and wellbeing of my family are at stake."



Sean Penn says:

"I believe it is a blessed condition to be happy. And what a person carries in themselves can inspire someone else to aspire to it. You can't give up happiness because you feel guilt. That doesn't help. But we owe it to ourselves to recognize that we have the best of all possible lives. Because if love makes us blind, we get nothing of it. What remains of happiness if your own child is blown to pieces in a café in two, three years? That is why we have to do something now. Everyone. I don't regret anything I have done, not even the things I did wrong. I only try not to be ashamed for the future."



Lady Gaga says:

"It's a traumatizing and emotional time for many people. I dream of the world reflecting on what we can do to change this violence."



Justin Timberlake says:

"I try to make music that hopefully brings joy to people and makes people dance and makes people feel and makes people love. ... Because there's nothing more pure and beautiful than that act - and the fact that that resulted in the largest mass shooting in American history leaves me heartbroken... I hope we can wake up and realize we are all the same. Just humans. One species. Just wanting to be loved."



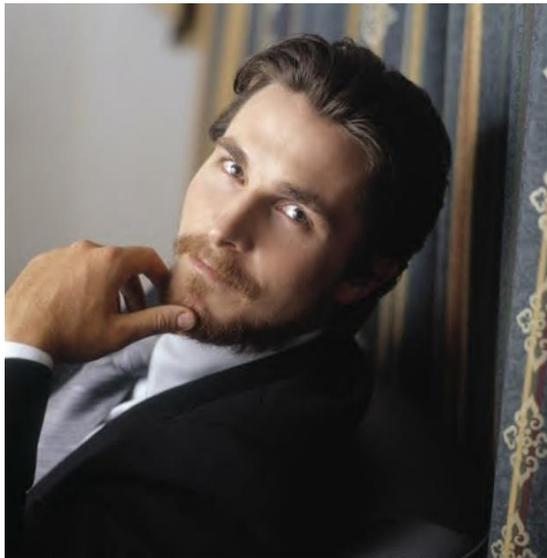
Tom Hanks says:

"People are only driven by constantly worrying about losing something. Dreams wear out when the world laughs about them with its version of reality. What people think about us, how they judge us - we can influence that by always being honest. At the end of the day life is about improving the world."



Christian Bale says:

*“I hope my children think this way: ‘Love all love and hate all hatred’.
Most of all, I hope not so much that my children will be good children,
but that they become good people. Many parents put pressure on their children
to be good children, and that actually forces them to live their lives for their parents,
who may well be rotten people. To be a good person, that is their own choice,
no matter what the parents want.”*



Brad Pitt says:

*“Our life is determined by opportunities. Also by ones we miss. I don’t want to
waste my time anymore, I want to spend it with people I love.
My family is the home I always yearned for.”*



"... and forgive your tormentors."

" ... love your enemies and pray for them which persecute you."

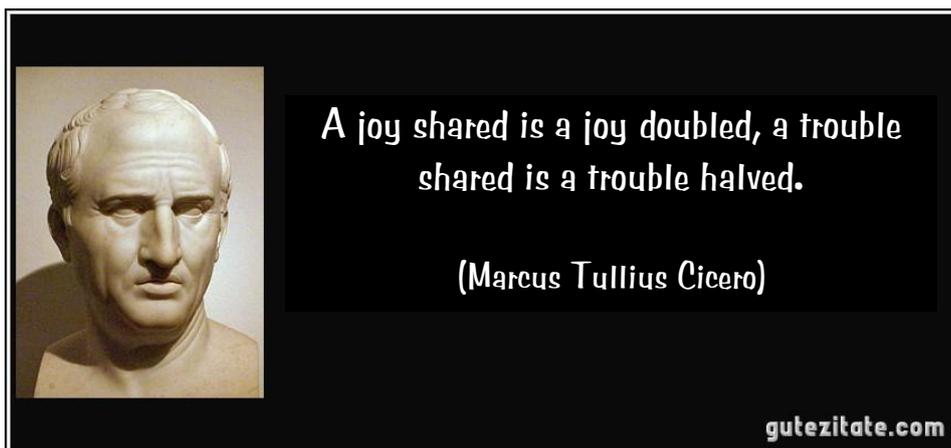
For ages, there has been so much hatred and vindictiveness between religions and nations. We will be able to create a new world order only by forgiving.

Nelson Mandela said:

*"Forgiveness liberates the soul, it takes away the fear,
that is why it is such a powerful weapon."*



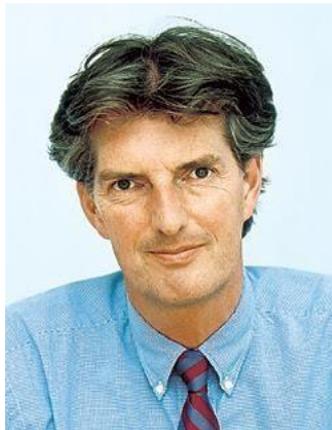
**He surely did not only mean his own fear,
but also the fear of those who are forgiven!**



These are not platitudes, but daily experienced reality and truth. The world is not complete if we cannot share its gifts and receive them between us. **Sharing thus becomes a new form of credit for everyone concerned!**

Andreas Petzold says:

"It is not only to ease their conscience that Germans richly donate to charity campaigns. The comparison of their own living environment with the pictures from devastated regions makes many citizens abruptly realize that we are still living in a tremendously rich country. A country that last had to suffer true deprivation 70 years ago. A country that need not fear tsunamis, earthquakes, drought and erupting volcanoes. Since decades, 'stern' magazine has been launching campaigns time and again to help people in need: It began with the famine relief efforts of 1973 and 1984 in Ethiopia, followed by a project over several years for children suffering from cancer. In 1990, 'stern' collected 138 million Marks to help people afflicted by the severe cold in a radically changing Russia. Whether it was the misery in Bosnia or the great flood of the Elbe River just three years ago, 'stern' readers donated millions to help. When the first photos of emaciated Ethiopian children appeared in the magazine, 'stern' founder Henri Nannen said: 'In some situations it is the journalist's duty not just to report about something, but to do something himself'. We remain true to these words."



Pelé says:

*"In my life, I always treated people with the same respect. I get this respect back.
We are all here in the world to share beautiful experiences!
I travel around the world basically to make new friends."*



orst Wackerbarth says:

„I collect people. I collects fates.

For over a quarter of a century I have been travelling around the world with his red couch, which I place in a variety of peoples' living environments and portrays them on it; young and old, poor and rich, famous and unknown, Nobel laureates and illiterates in the ice deserts of Alaska and the rainforests of South America, in the big cities of Europe and the villages of Siberia.

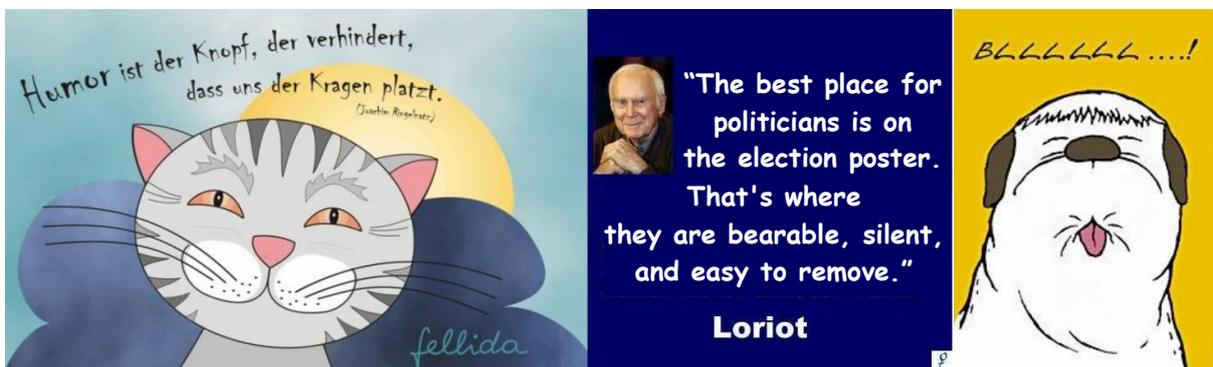
The aim is to create a work of portrays a gallery of humanity. The red couch is a common element, recurrent theme, stage, throne and communication platform all in one.

The red couch puts all people on a par!“



Life should not take place on the right or left margin nor at the top or at the bottom, but rather in the center of our society. That is where we can all feel comfortable.

Despite our fondness for humor, satire and caricatures, we should keep one thing in mind: We should never mortally offend anyone or hurt anyone's feelings. Art and opinion are free and must be tolerated. But we also think that comedians, artists of political cabaret and caricaturists should not aim below the belt. A bit of empathy can prevent the objects of mockery from losing face.



Humor is the hat that prevents you from blowing your top.

Sometimes we are very concerned about how things are covered by the media. The reporters, sensationalist and greedy for the scoop, pounce on everything that smells of scandal and catastrophe, at the cost of significance and reason. Accordingly, negative headlines are paramount on TV-screens and in the printed media, while reporting on the good in the world all too often gets short shrift. The gossip about celebrities spread by dissolute and unscrupulous reporters is contemptible. People targeted in this way must often endure painful humiliation and the violation of their privacy. For the media, whose only interest is to diffuse the very latest and improve their ratings and circulation, things reported, the morning after, are just so much water under the bridge. The ostensible blemish, however, often clings to the persons concerned and the victims for their entire lives. We do not believe that the majority of consumers is interested in this kind of reporting.

We rather believe that in the end, the quality of reporting will make ratings go up. It is up to the media to annul the chicken-and-egg principle.



Michael van Almsick says:

"We are living in a time where most journalists are forced to be news dealers or marketers at the same time. The point is to produce news for which there is the greatest possible demand, which is quoted as often as possible and thus purchased. As a result, news is generated which is inflated at the cost of individual persons. Handling a story with the aim of obtaining maximum presence in the media makes me feel very apprehensive."



Maren Urner and the authors of *Perspective Daily* say:

“We believe that the media should do more than publish scandals, report incoherently about particular events, and compete for attention with sensational headlines. We are in favor of a journalism that not only describes problems, but also discusses solutions. We are in favor of a journalism that shows both negative and positive developments, thus communicating a balanced and realistic view of the world. And we stand for a journalism which conveys background and interrelations, enabling its readers to understand why things are the way they are - and perhaps how they can be improved. That is why we are founding Perspective Daily. Perspective Daily will be the first constructive, solution-oriented online medium for Germany, financed by its members and therefore independent of advertising clients, political parties and organizations.”

Nora Tschirner says:

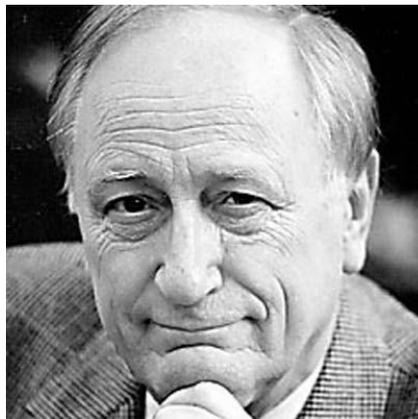
“Perspective Daily is a project that begins with us and is based on the assumption that it is not the responsibility of people in some kind of elite to make anything somehow better. Together we have the chance to break up these mechanisms. This insight is the basis for future-oriented social change. That is incredibly inspiring for me, and it gives me hope. I derive immense power from that to continue to work on social projects.”



Over the past centuries, it has been possible in many parts of the world to overcome the warring particularism of small countries in favor of larger and more peaceful structures. The European Union is one example. After two world wars people have found a way to get it together peacefully. But:

Heinrich August Winkler says:

"Europe needs a community feeling. Europeans have to know what binds them together. That are primarily the Western values. Human rights were first formulated in North America in 1776. We are living a European variant of what I call the normative project of the West: inalienable human rights, the rule of law, separation of powers, sovereignty of the people, representative democracy – that's what keeps Europe together. All members of the EU must be measured by these standards. And the EU for its part must measure its members on that basis."



Udo van Kampen says:

"At the moment we are indeed facing a crucial test which the EU and those politically in charge must endure to sustain European integration. But we must also not forget that viewed from the outside, Europe is in a very good position. Europe is seen as a stronghold of prosperity and security, capable of withstanding crises."



Today we live in a globalized world where information about positive and negative events spreads at lightning speed. A nightmare in the case of an erosion of democracy in a Big Brother state.

Whoever has the data, has the power. On the path we have taken toward global digitalization we therefore need not only a fast, but also a secure network in the proper hands, and not in the hands of organizations like the NSA. **This is also the duty of network providers, search engines such as Google or social networks such as Facebook and Twitter when Internet 3.0 is rolled out around the world. Politicians must draw the lines here to constrain power and facilitate effective control of data-grabbers.**



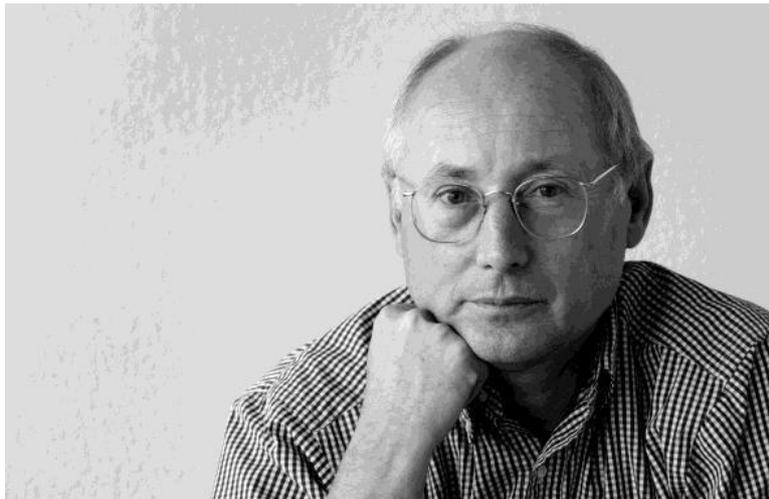
Tim Cook says:

"No one should accept the government or a company obtaining access to all of our private information."



Stefan Aust says:

"If you imagine what is possible today – and we don't all live in democratic countries –, then you have a perfect Big Brother state which George Orwell could not have contrived better. We don't think twice about the data we impart when using these quite practical, modern, wonderful services that enrich our lives and make work so much easier. And we have no idea of the surveillance opportunities we create that way. In the course of my life, I have worked on politics, terrorism and secret services, and I recall the big discussion about the census years ago. Many people thought the population was about to be monitored. At the Constitutional Court they even won their case. If you look back at that time today, at the data that were collected then, it was a joke. It was a big joke compared to what happens now, every day, without our really knowing it. I believe that is truly a big step in the direction of dictatorship. Surveillance, total surveillance of human behavior, is the basis of every dictatorship. We mustn't believe that the democracy we live in today has to remain as it is forever – here or in other countries. That is something we definitely had to learn in our past. I think the first and most important thing people must know is what price they are paying when they accept and use a certain technical service. And when it's free, the price is sometimes especially high. Maybe it would be better to pay a little more for some things, as it is with organic food products. With growing awareness of the problem, I can imagine that people will think twice about which technical service they choose when they want to use one. And maybe a completely new market for digital eco-products will emerge."



Gerhart Baum says:

"One of the most important issues for the future is how the state can protect citizens' data against the interests of companies and foreign states. We're talking about constraining the power of the market and protecting human dignity."

"Civil liberties are the expression of inviolable human dignity, they are not privileges graciously granted by the state which can be abrogated arbitrarily."



Freedom in all of its facets is a precious good. **Those who have been deprived of their freedom know especially well what it really means.** Freedom can also mean independence, which makes the spirit free and lets people become creative. People who have no worries, no hunger and no thirst also feel free. Those, too, are free who are able to love, forgive and share, those not persecuted and tormented by greed and those permitted to live in peace.

Konstantin Wecker says:

"Freedom means not being afraid of anything or anyone."



Photo: Thomas Karsten

Xavier Naidoo and Die Söhne Mannheims sing:

*"Freedom is peace, is life. Freedom means love, freedom means 'give me space',
freedom means faithfulness, freedom is a dream of humanity,
freedom means consideration, freedom means tolerance, freedom means 'help me.'*

What we cannot accomplish alone, we can accomplish together.

We need no weapons, our weapon is our intelligence.

A lot can be changed if we are ready to fight.

I am ready, well-prepared, haven't we tested out nearly all forms of government?

We have to move something, otherwise nothing will move.

It's not only about your life – the question is: Is it a life?

Please don't stop dreaming of a better world. Let's start cleaning up.

Let's build it up the way we like it."



Julius Jamal and *Die Freiheitsliebe* say:

"We founded the 'Freiheitsliebe' ["Love of Freedom"] in 2009 because we wanted to create a place where there are no borders between people. A place where it is possible to communicate, regardless of religion, place of origin, sexual orientation, and gender. For us freedom means not only the right to live one's life without discrimination, but also freedom from exploitation. As the author of this website, I fight for a society in which the majority will no longer have to carry out what merely serves the prosperity of a few."



Refugee situation 2015 and 2016: Causes (war, terror, oppression, ...) and consequences (misery, displacement, flight, smuggling of and trafficking in human beings, death, conflicts, hatred, shame ...) along with necessary measures in the countries of origin, of transit and of arrival (for peace, freedom and justice ...)

Preserving our freedom also means sharing it with those who have lost it and who seek it so desperately by fleeing mainly from war, terror and religious fanaticism – often at the risk of their lives. In a German fairy tale about four animals forced to leave their home town, one of them says, *"We can find something better than death anywhere."* For the refugees, this feeling of helplessness and hopelessness has become a bitter and nightmarish reality in their homelands. The causes of the current flood of refugees toward Europe, in particular from Africa and the Middle East, the pushing back and forth of helpless people as well as the haggling over admission quotas among the member states of the European Union are shameful and scandalous. Instead of recognizing their wrong from the colonial period and accepting

responsibility, most of the EU member states are barricading themselves behind visible and invisible walls like during the Cold War. The message of the retention facilities, barbed-wire fences and political obstacles is in most cases unmistakable: **We don't want you here!**

In Germany, too, voices are getting louder to the effect that absorbing more than one million refugees in 2015 exceeds the existing capacities. Considering the following example, this opinion – also shared by some officials – is a declaration of bankruptcy. Let's recall: From 1945 on, some 12 to 14 million eastern and ethnic Germans fled or were displaced from the former German eastern territories as well as Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary (2 million people lost their lives in the process). More than 10 million refugees and displaced persons from the East were settled in destroyed and distraught post-war Germany. 25 years after reunification, Germany is among the wealthiest countries on earth and ranks at the very top in popularity ratings. **We can and we must allow ourselves to extend a helping hand to people in desperate need and to integrate them into our midst instead of isolating them in ghettos!**

Johannes Rau said:

"Together, let's work toward a situation where no one in Germany has to be afraid, no matter what he looks like, no matter where he comes from, no matter what his creed, no matter how strong or weak, how healthy or sick he is – let's jointly work for a Germany in which it is possible to be different without being afraid."



The refugee tragedies we see anew every day make us speechless and angry. We cannot dodge the issue, we have to see what is happening and help to the extent we can. A joint action of politicians and society is necessary to shake **Germany up, with a message and a signal to the member states of the European Union.** We know that a large number of ambassadors, sponsors and idols from all walks of life as well as the majority of the German citizens are ready to help. More than 90 percent of the German population still say: People who flee from terror, war, and persecution should be taken in and protected in Germany. At the moment the ball is in the politicians' court.

Irresponsible bankers have burned 50 trillion Euros in a brief period of time – with ruinous consequences for the global financial system. Decision-makers in the EU were even quicker to salvage the existentially impaired banking system with five trillion Euros. **But when the bare life of people is at stake, *Homo sapiens'* institutions break down.** The EU now, as an institution of the "United Peoples of Europe," must prove that it is more than a fickle, quarrelling currency club. The EU and its member states are under obligation to channel the flood of refugees, in the framework of a quota agreement, without delay in a just and humane way. Otherwise the EU would be paralyzed by its own egoism and lose its legitimacy. The citizens, whose confidence is already crumbling, would justifiably doubt that this "Union" has any reason to exist.



... which must be solved!

Almost all generations before us lost their homes and property at least once in their lives – usually due to destruction by war, dislocation or flight from war. We, the post-war generations, should never forget how lucky we are to this day. But even in Germany millions of people know the feeling of being unjustly locked in, locked up or locked out by borders, fences, or behind walls. Most of them have thought of fleeing, many of them have fled, risking their lives and often paying for it with their lives.



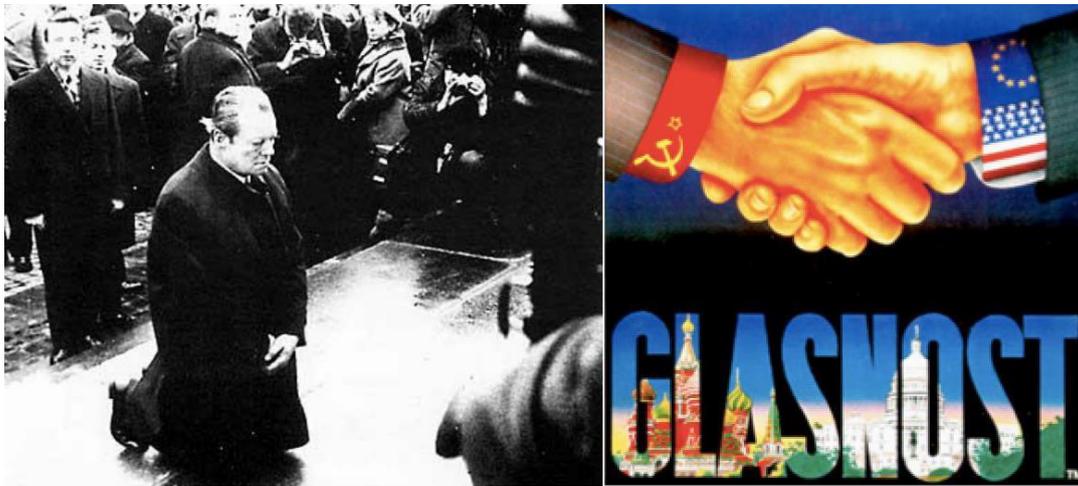
The last to die at the Wall!

On September 30, 1989, Hans Dietrich Genscher spoke from the balcony of the German Embassy in Prague to the refugees from the GDR crowded together in the garden of the embassy: *"We came here to tell you that your departure today (... has become possible)."*



The last words of this sentence were drowned out in the roaring cheers of the refugees, marking the beginning of the "Wende", a political turnaround in Germany, which ultimately led to reunification. The unbridled will to freedom of many citizens of the GDR as well as the skillful diplomacy required for this step contributed to the happy outcome.

Without Mikhail Gorbachev's reform policies, *Glasnost* and *Perestroika*, along with a certain stepping stone, German reunification would still be far away.



The stepping stone!

As it turned out, however, Günter Schabowski made his legendary and unforgettable appearance on November 9, 1989, in which he promulgated the new GDR law allowing citizens of East Germany to travel freely. Answering a journalist's question about when the new law would go into force, Günter Schabowski said, ***"As far as I know... immediately, right away."*** The Berlin Wall opened some hours later. The inner-German border was overcome without a shot being fired. A wonderful gift which time and again sends shivers down our spines!



Whether Günter Schabowski really knew what he was saying, is hardly relevant today. The important thing was and is that it was an essential cornerstone on the way to German reunification, which was formalized on October 3, 1990.

In November 1989, Hans Dietrich Genscher thanked Gyula Horn for his efforts which made a crucial contribution to the end of the Cold War. On July 27, 1989, the Iron Curtain between the East and the West began to crack. Gyula Horn, later to become prime minister of the second freely elected government of Hungary (1994-1998), was Hungarian foreign minister at the time. Together with his Austrian colleague, Alois Mock, he cut the barbed wire at the Austrian-Hungarian border near Sopron. That was the beginning of the end of the Iron Curtain. Contrary to expectations, Hungary never demanded material compensation.



In September 2015, the current head of the Hungarian government, Viktor Orbán, ordered the construction of a border fence, 175 km in length, between Hungary and Serbia. The flow of refugees is to be stopped with barbed wire. This border fence is supposedly needed to protect Europe's borders from the refugees. **It is up to us whether this and further fences-to-be will go down in history as a new Iron Curtain!**



With Victor Orbán's inhumane policy, backed by the Hungarian population, Hungary is undermining the ethical, moral and social principles of the EU and calling into question its own continued membership in the EU. Victor Orbán, self-appointed "Border-Protection Captain", wants to *defend* the frontiers of the EU against refugees in need of help, **"if necessary, with military force."**

Orbán, capriciously perverting democracy, is supported by the head of the Bavarian government, Horst Seehofer. Seehofer's and Orbán's closing of ranks was turned into a provocative show at an internal conference of the CSU (Christian Social Union) in September 2015. Seehofer thus sides with Orbán and demonstratively positions himself against German Chancellor Angela Merkel, for whom, nonetheless, mastering the refugee crisis – in an orderly way – represents a challenge and an opportunity for Germany and Europe. The shabby show was not a clumsy slip Seehofer made on the diplomatic stage, it was a staged move on the chessboard demonstrating bad taste and leaving such in the mouth. Once more he outs himself as a domineering Bavarian who will ultimately trip over his own airs and self-opinionatedness. History will remember him – also as a stubborn, petty-minded know-it-all and phrasemonger who already had to backtrack more than once – and will say about him that in the end, he lacked *renewable energy*; that he laid the noose around the neck of his party with his own hands; that he ran aground with the "kitchen bonus" for women and the car toll; that he threatened to file a complaint of unconstitutionality and that he had the southern border of Bavaria guarded by Hungary – in "self-defense." Horst, the advocate of upper limits for refugees, who sucks up to Moscow letting his friend Edmund Stoiber pull the strings, also wants to work as a bouncer and border guard from 2016 on if more than 200,000 refugees per year *threaten* us. The fact that in his eyes, German refugee policy is "the rule of injustice", speaks volumes. No matter how many contortions pig-headed Horst may go through, as such he will be remembered in our primer.



Together, 45 Bavarian religious superiors have sharply criticized Seehofer's refugee policy. In an open letter of November 11, 2015, the day commemorating St. Martin, they made an appeal to rethink the rhetoric concerning refugees and to view them as sisters and brothers in great distress and despair:

"Dear Mr. Ministerpräsident,

Nothing at present moves the hearts of the people in our country more than the situation of the many refugees seeking shelter with us. They have come here because they fled war, persecution and hunger. In this country, they hope to be respected, regardless of their religion, their nation of origin, their political-democratic conviction, and whether they are poor or sick. Since they have no prospect of being able to feed their families in their homeland, they want to earn their daily bread with honest work here in our country.

As religious superiors, we not only know and support many refugees. We also feel the urge to speak up for those who, due to the traumatic experiences during their flight and in view of the increasingly alarming climate of public opinion here and elsewhere, lack the strength to speak for themselves.

As religious superiors we see with fervent concern how in our country, too, right-wing nationalist forces and views are considered to be socially acceptable again, creating an atmosphere of fear and intimidation and stirring up hatred against refugees and people of a different creed who now even become victims of physical assault.

As (high-ranking) religious superiors whose communities are composed of people of many nations, we not only know how impossible life has become in many countries of our world. We are also ashamed of the fact that our wealth was largely generated at the expense of people in Africa, Asia and the Near East.

Knowing that you, dear Mr. Ministerpräsident, take public opinion seriously, we turn to you today – knowing that many people are devoting all their energies to helping the refugees.

- We urgently appeal to you to abstain from a rhetoric which discredits refugees. Instead, we plead the case for regarding refugees – in political debates and decisions – first and foremost as fellow human beings who have come to us as sisters and brothers and need our solidarity.*
- We appeal to you to refrain from establishing transit zones and reception camps. We advocate examining the applications for political asylum of refugees from so-called “safe countries of origin” on an individual basis and with sympathy for the fates of these people. For only a case-by-case assessment complies with the basic idea of our German asylum law.*
- We appeal to you to ensure that the resolution declaring the western Balkan States, i.e. Bosnia, Serbia, Macedonia, Albania, Kosovo and Montenegro, to be so-called “safe countries of origin”, is rescinded. Instead, we argue for taking corruption, despotism and the oppression of minorities seriously, all of which still prevail in these countries, compelling people to live in fear and to flee, and for suspending the status of “safe country of origin” until democratic progress in these countries is more evident than it has been so far.*
- We appeal to you to put an end to the often inhuman conditions of housing for refugees and to stop the controls of the refugees established in some of these housing areas. Instead, we plead the case for finding arrangements at all levels of politics and society – in the context of schools, universities, trade associations, etc. – which permit refugees to shape a dignified future for themselves and our country as quickly as possible.*

As human beings, it is our duty to help others. As Christians, we advocate a culture of sharing. As religious superiors, we show our solidarity with the refugees by engaging in manifold activities, relief efforts, and specific initiatives. Thus we stand side by side with the many people of good will who are so impressively committed to helping refugees in our country. This readiness to help, this often voluntary engagement which does not shirk extraordinary effort, is in our view a treasure we ought to make the most of to shape society.

Therefore, dear Mr. Ministerpräsident, we urgently request of you to strengthen those forces in our society who take the current situation as an obligation to act and as an opportunity to establish a standard of humanity based on solidarity and commitment to the disadvantaged. This can be exemplary not only for people today, but also for coming generations. In our view, it can form the foundation for a peaceful society based on solidarity and the integration of the disadvantaged.

As (high-ranking) religious superiors whose communities are active in pedagogical, pastoral, nursing and low-income fields of work, we know that the values of Europe must be judged by how we deal with people in need. Isolation, borders and limits are not a solution for us. Creativity, good will and a mentality that believes more in sharing than in caring only for one's own wellbeing, are the path of the future to which we are committed.

In hope of your support, we remain with sincere wishes....”



Let us set a good example and jointly ensure that the other 27 member states of the European Union will show their solidarity. We should not blush in anger; we should shine red with love, courage and confidence.

In many areas of Africa red is the color of life!

Just what is going on in Bavaria? Crowds of people welcome refugees at the main train station in Munich. Others, especially the wannabe *Ministerpräsident* Markus Söder, want to build fences at the Bavarian border and change the right of asylum in the German constitution to keep refugees away.

People who unscrupulously trample on human rights, who create obstacles and put up barriers instead of facing the need and misery on the spot, are not capable of leading us. If they abuse their political power to suck up to minorities, they must be deprived of that power. Voters have the moral responsibility to bring this about as fast as possible for the sake of the common good.

It's a good thing most German citizens are liberal-minded and humane. The positive gestures and deeds with which the grateful, suffering refugees are welcomed at German train stations are heart-warming and impressive.

There's no point in denouncing the fact that the large number of refugees and the resources needed to care for them were not recognized in time. We need more decision-makers who, like Angela Merkel, say "welcome" to the refugees and **"We can do it"** to the citizens. Apart from provoked swings of mood, a great majority of Germans are ready to implement a humanitarian and constructive integration policy which at the end will also enrich the national economy from a demographic point of view. **The important thing is that people in Germany know what to expect. Then excitement and voluntary help will supersede fear and insecurity. We should not let pessimists who want to set limits intimidate us. Not to mention populists and charlatans who warn against foreign influences permeating our culture.**

Encouraged by the activities of Seehofer, Söder and other political agitators, the xenophobic Pegida movement ("Patriotic Europeans Against the Islamization of the West") again managed to bring thousands of followers onto the streets of Dresden in October 2015. These people are still sticking with Pegida founder Lutz Bachmann who in the fall of 2014 called foreigners "swine", "trash" and "filth." **Even on November 9, 2015, the 77th anniversary of the Crystal Night, they were marching on the Theaterplatz which was formerly called Adolf-Hitler-Platz and used for large Nazi rallies. We are utterly ashamed and shocked that something like this is happening again in Germany.**



YOU ARE NOT THE PEOPLE!!!

Dresden, oh Dresden. You are famous for your cathedral, the *Frauenkirche*, which was able to be reconstructed thanks to people from all over the world who donated 100 million Euros for the project. On October 30, 2005, the "memorial against war" became a "symbol of reconciliation." Against the background of history, the citizens of Dresden are exhorted, obligated and called upon to chase Pegida out of their city, also because pluralism, tolerance, humanity and human dignity can no longer be tolerated to hang from the gallows. People who applaud Pegida should ask themselves what the real reasons for their fears of loss are. Keep away so you won't fall prey – to demagogues of the right-wing neo-Nazi fringe. **Light your candles to shed light again, not only in Dresden. Candles for peace, freedom and justice, whose light shines far and wide and is constantly seen**

The demagogues of the AfD ("Alternative for Germany") like Björn Höcke are not any better. With the publication of his nationalist ideas wrapped in NS terminology, he has positioned the AfD in the right-wing populist corner once and for all. The former high-school teacher of history and sports speaks in Thuringia about "*Finis Germaniae*" and dreams at AfD conventions of a new political elite with "Prussian ethos of duty" who must embody an "indestructible, honest, pure love of their fatherland." The scaremonger and agitator from Erfurt recently told his AfD supporters in Berlin, "*This cuckoo chancellor who is doing away with Germany has got to go.*" The AfD party leaders around their chairwoman Frauke Petry want to prosecute the chancellor and filed a criminal charge against her in October 2015. A deputy chairman said in Berlin, "*Mrs. Merkel has engaged in smuggling activities.*" Such inflammatory nonsense is hard to bear. Our answer: **Keep the AfD out of parliament – yes, we can do it!**

A party that wants to stop refugees – women and children included – from crossing the border by force of arms, has no business being in the German parliament or in the 16 parliaments of the German federal states. Such statements as were made by Frauke Petry and her deputy chairwoman in January 2016 are appalling and highly dangerous. The two right-wing populists reveal their true cast of mind and thirst for action in what they first said and not in what they qualified after the public reacted with outrage. A party whose leaders would reintroduce the order to shoot at German borders disqualifies itself from being elected. That is something the forlorn, misguided people who want to vote for the AfD ought to think about.

At the end of December 2015, Wolfgang Schäuble (German minister of finance) said: „*The best way of ensuring that the AfD is not elected into parliament is to take the citizens' concerns seriously instead of trying to drown out the slogans of the dimwits.*“

Forsa manager Manfred Güllner writes in his election trend in *stern* magazine of October 22, 2015: "*Radical minority AfD: Locally, citizens are not so upset yet about the refugee issue that the AfD could profit from it. This was shown in the election to the office of mayor in Cologne: Out of nearly 810,000 people registered to vote, only 12,934 voted for the AfD candidate. If there was a solid front across the country against this xenophobic party, their vote would drop to 7 percent. The AfD does not come from mainstream society; it is a right-wing radical minority from which we must dissociate ourselves and which deserves to be ostracized.*"

Reiner Hoffmann, the DGB (Federation of German Trade Unions) and the "Alliance for Cosmopolitan Attitude" say:

“What the right-wing populists are demanding has nothing, absolutely nothing to do with social cohesion, nothing with social justice, nothing with a fair globalization, and certainly nothing with solidarity. Behind these alternatives lies something incredibly simple, vague and contradictory. The AfD is in favor of a tax and social policy which is not in the interest of working people. The AfD’s policy is a pure cut in social services. The party is attempting to drive the wedge even deeper into society. In addition, it is inciting hatred against refugees. Our society is threatening to lose its cohesion. Our motto for this year’s May Day was ‘Time for more solidarity’. Workshops, factories and offices, too, are places of encounter. Here we can see everyday that cooperation between people of different cultures and origin works well and without a hitch. Learning from these experiences can show us the way to successful integration – far beyond the place of work. People who tackle something together and get to know each other, are no longer strangers.”



Reducing the AfD to insignificance will be possible if all those responsible in government contribute to making integration succeed and if parts of the cabinets both at the national as well as federal-state level stop making the population feel insecure.

* Article 1 of the German constitution

In 2015 and 2016, more than 1000 assaults on refugee accommodations were registered in Germany. In 2014, the number was 199. The spirits that they summoned up....* We cannot allow this spirit to creep into our heads again and proliferate throughout the country. **"Germany, wake up,"** we read in a poem by Kurt Tucholsky from the year 1930!

In his 2015 Christmas address Germany's president Joachim Gauck said: *"Violence and hatred are not legitimate means of dispute. Arson and attacks on defenseless people deserve our contempt and deserve to be punished."*

At the end of December 2015, German foreign minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said, *"The drastic increase of right-wing violence is also a result of mental arson."*

In September 2015, following the denigration of the "culture of welcome" by right-wing radicals, Angela Merkel said: *"If we have to start apologizing now for showing a friendly face in response to emergency situations, then this is no longer my country".* **Let's all work together to make her feel at home again in this country. We will learn and find out that we can share our homeland without giving it up or losing it. Only that way we will become truly rich – by showing empathy, compassion and commitment without being afraid of losing something.**



* *The spirits that I summoned up, I now can't rid myself of (Johann Wolfgang von Goethe)*

The pleading letter by 34 CDU politicians to Angela Merkel of October 2015 is – in view of the exigency – obviously inappropriate as a solution. Politicians who hide behind the claim that the currently practiced "policy of open borders" is in breach of established European and German law should be ashamed of blaming red tape for their cowardice. You sissies! Take your cue from the Minister of the Interior of the Saarland. Without further ado, he moved his office to a refugee home. For three weeks, he experienced the problems and challenges at close quarters, and he is still on Merkel's side. In order to overcome the present dramatic situation and to mitigate the suffering of so many people, special regulations must apply until established law can be adapted in a humanitarian way. Anything else would disgrace Germany and Europe in the eyes of the world. The 34 CDU politicians should know from their own experience that such actions always support the radical camp and weaken one's own side. Not least because of the lacking support from the chancellor's own ranks (CDU/CSU) for her refugee policy, the AfD reached seven percent in the voting trends in October 2015. That was two points more than in the previous week **and three percent less than in mid-February 2016!**

In another urgent letter of January 2016, 44 overchallenged CDU/CSU parliamentarians also demanded a return to the strict application of established law, including the Dublin Regulation. Julia Klöckner's comment was, *"How about shutting up and going to work?"*

Fortunately, there is also internal party support for Angela Merkel's refugee policy. In a joint letter of October 2015 to the chancellor, 26 mayors and 10 heads of district from southwestern Germany wrote: *"It is our humanitarian duty to help. Many of our ancestors suffered from wars and poverty, also in Europe, and very often had to leave their beloved home countries. Only in the past decades, after World War II which was such a disaster for Europe, those in positions of political responsibility managed to secure peace on our continent, to build up economically sound systems, and to guarantee social security. Civil rights and liberties were established in tough negotiations, and we have come to take them for granted, especially here in Germany. We support your clear position and your stamina in granting the right of asylum to the refugees."*

German society, too, has split up in the past several months. On the one hand, readiness to help and empathy, on the other fear, anger and hatred. The insecurity that has arisen is also reflected in the results of the three federal-state elections of March 2016, where the AfD won over 10 % of the votes right off the bat. After this debacle, **German artists are called upon to prevent the AfD from entering parliament with joint actions.**



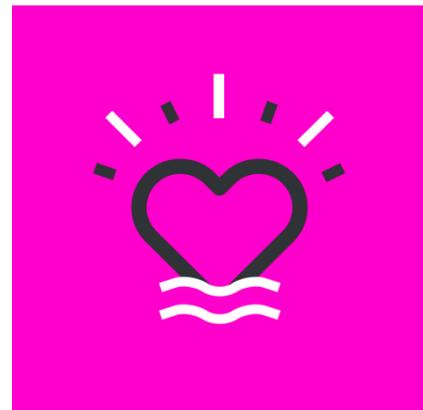
German artists – against the right-wing neo-Nazi fringe!

All artists who mean well and feel inclined should take part in the joint actions. We are convinced that the majority of AfD voters are only unsettled, confused and angry people, not right-wing radicals. We must do everything to win them back. For people opposed to the AfD it is imperative to go to the polls when the national election comes up.

In a referendum of February 2016 demanded by the right-wing populist SVP party, the Swiss rejected a tightening of asylum law by a clear majority of 58.9 percent. The question of whether foreigners should be automatically expelled even for minor offences shook up the Swiss as no political debate has in the past 25 years. The success of the poll which had been initiated by the SVP seemed certain for quite some time. Only a broad social alliance managed to bring about a change in public opinion during the last weeks. The figurehead of this alliance is Flavia Kleiner, Co-President of *Operation Libero*.

Flavia Kleiner and *Operation Libero* say:

“An amazing jolt went through society. It defied a destructive populism and manifested great self-healing power. We are committed to a Switzerland which provides opportunities and protects freedom. A Switzerland that recognizes immigration as a valuable addition and which extols its humanitarian tradition. A Switzerland that knows it is a successful country because and not in spite of its openness. We want a cosmopolitan, liberal, modern and internationally interconnected Switzerland. We do not recognize ourselves in a Switzerland which blames what is foreign for all evil and which sees a threat in every change. We do not yearn for an ostensibly golden past which never existed. Switzerland is not an open-air museum. We are alive. We are moving ahead. So let us grasp the opportunity a changing world offers. If we shape the future, the best still lies ahead of us.”



The Swiss have shown us how an entire country can be jolted out of its inertness if a broad social alliance demonstrating cohesion and humanity is organized.

Jacob Emmanuel Mabe says:

“In the current world situation, most people, including representatives of politics and church, act less according to their own moral convictions than according to opinions propagated by the media. The refugee problem is not a matter of conscience. What political decision-makers need in this specific case is moral guidance by an intellectual elite consisting of politically mature citizens who are not members of any party and not in any way prejudiced, who constantly call for restraint and modesty with their critical, even painful opinions. In brief: We must listen to these elites if we want to find a lasting solution for the refugee crisis.”



Frank-Jürgen Weise, chief executive of the Federal Agency for Labor and head of the Federal Agency for Migration and Refugees, believes that in view of the age structure of the population and the labor market, Germany has a lot to gain from the refugees. In October 2015, he said: *“For this year, we expect 800,000 refugees of which about 40 percent will remain in Germany. Of these, 70 percent are fit for employment. This will be a lively society. I strongly dissent from those who consider the successful handling of the refugee influx the task of a century. It is always said that this will be the greatest burden since the founding of the Federal Republic of Germany. I do not see it that way. The risk of war during that period was many times greater and more dangerous than the situation caused by the flow of refugees.”*



In November 2015, the so-called *Fünf Weisen*, a panel of five experts advising government on economic policy, declared: *The challenges of the refugee crisis are manageable. Germany can economically profit from immigration.* The economists expect one million refugees in 2015. In 2016, about 750,000 are expected. After that, the number will drop significantly each year. At best, there will be a positive effect of up to 500,000 employed people from the ranks of registered refugees by 2020. At worst, there will be only half as many. On the other hand, there will be some 300,000 to 350,000 unemployed persons from the ranks of registered refugees by the year 2020, according to the chairman of the *Fünf Weisen*.

The discussion about transit zones was completely superfluous since less than 10 percent of those seeking asylum from “safe countries of origin” would be affected. Following the agreement of November 2015 between the leaders of the governing parties, the task now is to make sure that Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Turkey (as a transit country) are not classified as safe countries of origin. It's a good thing the issue of transit zones is no longer on the agenda. These are, more or less, "human-rights vacuums" and not suitable for reducing the crush of refugees at the German borders. While some people think transit zones would bring significant relief, there are major reservations. The German Minister of Justice, Heiko Maas, said in October 2015: *"Those who want to apply the transit procedures of airports to borders between countries will create refugee camps in no man's land. Rapid registration of applicants for asylum is surely necessary. But to arrest tens of thousands of refugees at the border creates more problems than it solves. The proposal is impracticable. To have people who fled from war and persecution in their home countries arrested the moment they get here, is a fatal signal."*

(Source: <http://www.sueddeutsche.de/news/politik/migration-transitzonen-plaene-fuer-spd-undurchfuehrbar-dpa.urn-newsml-dpa-com-20090101-151012-99-10963>).

We side with Heiko Maas, also because we remember a film on this subject. In the motion picture *Terminal* a passenger (Tom Hanks) experienced a long stay in the transit area of an airport. The story is partly based on real events. As a stateless person, the Iranian Mehran Karimi Nasseri who could not prove his identity lived in Terminal 1 of the Paris airport *Charles de Gaulle* for 18 years.

Original Motion Picture Soundtrack
The Terminal
Music Composed and Conducted by
John Williams

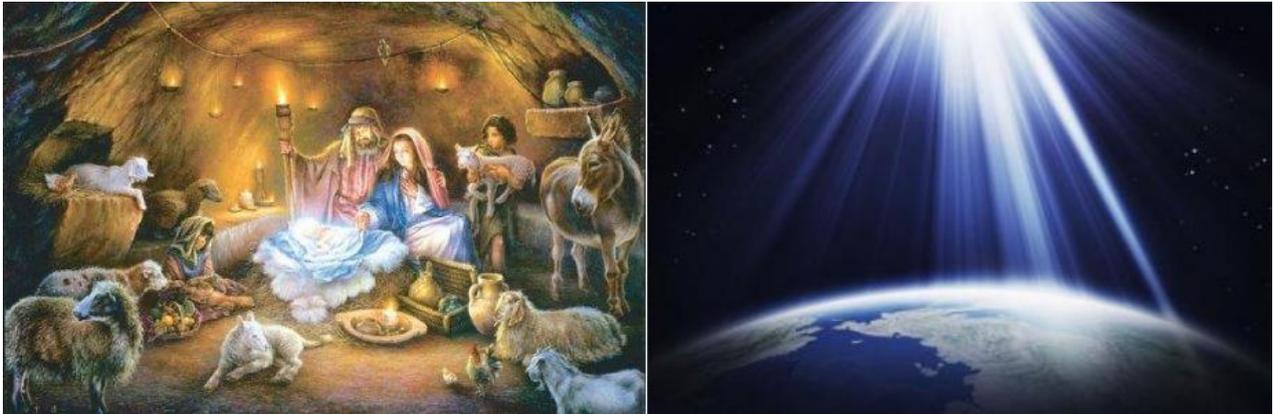


Christian Krug says:

*"We all have the images of refugees crowded into sinking boats in the Mediterranean in our minds. We say: Save them! We demand: Something has to be done! And something has been done. More and more of them manage to safely reach dry land. **And now they are here with us**, the people for whose lives we just trembled. Now it is up to us to take care of them, to offer them a new home, perhaps only temporarily, where they need not fear despair and deprivation. The way we handle this challenge, will reveal Germany's true colors. Will we show an ugly, inhuman face or a broad cosmopolitan smile? It is up to us to shape our image."*



More than two thousand years ago, there was a family looking for an inn,



...and they found shelter at night in a stall!

Today we look back upon that night which has become holy for so many people: a gift that blesses and comforts us to this day. Tradition has it that even the family of Jesus fled from fear and terror. **Let's give the refugees the feeling that we do not fear them, but that we are willing and able to take away the fear from which they fled!**

Rainer Maria Woelki preached on May 26, 2016:

“We do not know how many people have perished in boats like this. The people who chose to cross the sea in exactly this one here were found and rescued - a stroke of luck, a blessing. This boat has become an altar for us. Those who let people drown in the Mediterranean, let God drown - every day, thousandfold. Those who torture people to death in camps, torture God - a thousand times over, times without number. Every death is a death of God. But God is a God of life. 80 to 100 people rowed for their lives in this boat. They started out in Libya to flee from war and terror. Remember the campaign of the 23,000 tolls with which we commemorated the men, women and children who have died since 2000 while fleeing across the Mediterranean Sea. According to reports of the U.N. Refugee Agency, 3327 more of them are dead now, murdered, poor souls whose hopes and dreams, whose pain and grief, whose relatives and whose life histories God alone knows. Closed eyes – no way! Deaf ears and shut mouths –no way! See distress and act, these are the Lord's instructions. The sublimity of the golden monstrance should not make us blind to the true meaning of the Feast of Corpus Christi. Crucified Jesus is carried through the streets in the form of bread; in Jesus, the poor, the unaccompanied refugee children, the incurably ill, the traumatized children from of civil war zones, their desperate mothers and their abducted fathers, are all present. Their cry for justice, their cry for dignity and peace, is God's cry. We cannot celebrate Corpus Christi without making every effort to fight the injustice and misery of this world.”



Wielant Machleidt says:

“We resisted adopting a responsible ‘parents position’ toward immigrants for a long time. At the beginning, i.e. in the sixties, our comment on immigrant workers was: They’ll go back anyway. We don’t have to worry about integrating them. And we competed with them for work and housing. What is new about the welcoming culture is the different quality in dealing with immigrants on the part of politicians, volunteer helpers and broad sections of the population. Now we can take on the position of responsible parents. That includes offering guidance and setting limits. I hope that the Germans are ready to accept this role. A successful integration process is jeopardized by depreciating the country of origin and glorifying the accepting society. That leads to psychological conflicts. Or vice versa, someone who cannot break away from his country of origin, might find it difficult to adapt to the realities and requirements of the new cultural context. Finding a migrant community from their homeland in the host country has a stabilizing effect on the psychic health of immigrants. Migrants need places where they can hook up. They need people with experience who tell them, in Germany it’s best to do it this way. Such communities or residential quarters are temporary protective spaces that have a special importance for psychic health because they reduce the stress of migration and offer guidance. In that sense they have a psycho-hygienic function. Those who, in the course of their integration, no longer need such protected spaces, will often move into residential areas with a higher percentage of locals.”

Source: Excerpts from an interview, printed in the

Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung on February 28, 2016.

Title: „We must be like parents for them“. Author: Lucia Schmidt.

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Arthur Benz says:

“First of all, it is important for people to learn, when they are registered, that they are in a state under the rule of law. Second: Refugees must have contact with locals as soon as possible and get out of the collective accommodations. Third: The refugees must be integrated into the labor market so that they can organize their own lives. That is probably the most difficult task. Speaking German is very important. Those who want to participate in political and social life, who want to be integrated as citizens, must master the language of the country they live in. The key criterion for successful integration is that people live together peacefully and individuals are not excluded. If people are excluded or exclude themselves, integration has failed. Integration must begin in the preliminary reception centers where people who come to us need to be treated with respect. That is the first fundamental step. Integration requires mutual acceptance. Volunteer helpers are extremely important. They assist the refugees, they communicate with them, they are the first to teach them German. Since they are on the spot, they are acquainted with the problems of foreigners and are often very creative in solving them. This cannot be too highly esteemed.”



The idea should not be to bring in only the people we need to stabilize our economy. The most important task now is to let in those who have lost everything and are fighting for their survival. With our world-famous "German efficiency and sense of order" we will jointly succeed in managing integration in a way that is both socio-economically possible as well as necessary from a humanitarian standpoint. If we succeed, together with all who organize, finance and politically support this project, **then we, the authors, can be proud of Germany for the first time.** Because we will have made our contribution, together with the vast majority of the population.

Refugees need fans! Everyone who can should take in a refugee or a refugee family or refugee children who have no families. And we, the authors, will set a good example.



In her New Year's address of December 31, 2015 Angela Merkel said: *"It goes without saying that we will help and take in people seeking refuge with us. We can manage that because Germany is a strong country. Countries have always profited from successful integration, economically and socially. Germany has been confronted with major challenges several times, and we have always mastered them and grown with them. If we do it right, today's great task of immigration and integration will be the opportunity of tomorrow. I thank all the volunteers and official helpers for their warm-heartedness and the commitment with which they have welcomed those who have fled to Germany. They are performing extraordinary work, much more than their duty requires. This overwhelming and moving wave of spontaneous commitment will always be associated with the year 2015."*

Axel Börsch-Supan says:

“The events in Cologne on New Year’s Eve were horrible - and a harbinger of what can go wrong. But they are no reason to become generally pessimistic. No matter how things go on with the wave of immigrants: Some hundreds of thousands of refugees will stay in the country for sure. Whether integration is successful also depends on us. In the short run the refugees cost us a lot of money, in the long term we will benefit from their coming. It's up to us to give the overall balance a positive twist. Some of our legislation is complete nonsense and blocks integration. We don't even allow the people to work. I can't understand that. If intelligent people just sit around for three months, that's a bummer to begin with. More than half of the refugees are younger than 25. That means they will be paying contributions for another 40 years – covering exactly the period in which the baby boomers will retire and become a major burden on the pension fund. It would also be of benefit to the health and nursing care insurance schemes. If we wanted to counterbalance demographic decline exclusively by way of immigration, 1.5 million people would have to come to us every year on a permanent basis. The refugees will be helpful, but they will not solve the entire problem of demographic change. We are making a terrible mistake by not pursuing a purposive immigration policy. At the moment we are extremely generous with applicants for asylum, but we close the doors to economic refugees. I think that is wrong. People who come to Germany for economic reasons, who integrate themselves into the labor market and earn good money, contribute to the gross national product. That is why we should let them come in. Provided they find a job and have everything needed for a successful integration.”

Source: Excerpts from an interview, printed in the
Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung on January 24, 2016.

Title: “Over the long run the refugees will help us.” Author: Ralph Bollmann.

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Hamdi Ulukaya says:

*“The tide of refugees is the greatest challenge of humanity.
People who have left their homes are willing to work like horses.
If you open the door to them, they are eternally grateful.
The moment you have a job, you cease being a refugee.
Then you begin building up a new life for yourself.”*



Refugees with “subsidiary protection”, that is people who cannot return to their countries of origin because they are threatened with torture or some other inhuman treatment, should continue to have the right to be united with their families. This complies with international law as well as our constitution which places great value on the protection of the family. Family members who cannot come legally and safely are the first targets for smuggler gangs and smuggler boats. The possibility of uniting separated families is not only a humanitarian imperative, it is also a great opportunity, especially for integrating children. Children are the fastest to learn the German language and the values of our constitution, and they have an enormous potential as mediators and later on for the labor market.

Necessity is the mother of invention. That is not only a German proverb. What we need now are optimists with courage, ideas and intelligence as well as an **integration plan which also includes legal rights and duties**. We must remove bureaucratic obstacles to make integration easier in life, housing and work. At the same time we have to be and remain realistic. We should not promise refugees instant prosperity in our country, but must make them understand that it is first and foremost up to them to integrate themselves into German society – **under the umbrella of our constitution. The values, rights and responsibilities established there**

have proven themselves and are the indispensable foundations for living together peacefully.

The religious preachers of hatred and those among the refugees who flout or even violate the basic rights, such as religious freedom and equal rights, are not welcome, neither in the refugee homes nor in the municipalities and cities all over Germany. Such individuals must be expelled from Germany as fast as possible to preserve peace and protect freedom.

Volker Jung says:

“Utterly unacceptable things happened in Cologne. But they must not be used to generally view Muslims with suspicion. The vast majority of Muslims refuse to be lumped together with the culprits of Cologne. I personally would not want to be associated with what Christians do all over the world either. If a horde of drunken men harass women during a public festivity, is their religious orientation the only thing you would worry about? One thing is clear: Muslims, like everyone else in Germany, must respect the values of the constitution. We should by no means, however, depreciate young Muslims who live here, maybe already in the third generation, by subjecting them to a generalized suspicion. That would drive many into a new search for identity, which may well end in them falling prey to Salafists or other agitators.”



Language is the key to successful integration. It opens all doors. **Learning the German language should be a compulsory as well as a voluntary program** because it is the precondition for communication and exchange. That way we get to know each other's different cultures, customs and traditions, and then we learn how these multicultural aspects can enrich our daily lives.

Do we have to take in a million refugees in Germany every year? No! We cannot and we need not do that. If we eliminate the causes of the flow of refugees in their respective countries, many of them will gladly return to their home countries.

What we need now is time to breathe and concentrate on what is essential. First of all, we have to take care of the refugees who are already in Germany. Those who have a legitimate claim to political asylum should be integrated much faster into society and the labor market. With united forces we must demonstrate that asylum procedures can be accelerated in order to reduce the paperwork piled-up in local administrations. We succeeded in doing this – in hundreds of thousands of cases – at the end of the 1990s when dealing with the refugees from the Balkan states. Most of them returned to their home countries after the end of the Balkan conflicts at the beginning of the 21st century.

Germany's ability to act in the refugee situation is maintained best if the other EU countries agree to take in those entitled to asylum on a controlled basis with fixed quotas. This is a moral and political responsibility and serves to strengthen the cohesion of the EU.

We are practiced in conveying confidence and successful in fulfilling Herculean tasks. The integration of refugees after World War II, the economic miracle in the '50s and '60s and the reunification - we just celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2015 - have demonstrated what we were capable of doing in the past, and give a hint of what we will be capable of doing in the future. **When it comes to the crunch, we people in Germany hang together – as Germans, as Europeans and as citizens of the world in an open and diverse society.**

Soccer plays an important role in Germany and regularly yields positive results that often benefit the whole of society. As a team in sports competition displaying fighting spirit, passion and the will to win, the world champions in soccer of 1954 gave us such a splendidly powerful kick on our way toward the economic miracle after World War II. The victory of the 1990 Soccer World Cup came at the right time on the way to reunification. Germany showed itself at its best during the home World Cup in 2006, also referred to as the "magic summer". The world was our guest and was amazed at the cheerfulness and high spirits, thoroughly enjoying the weeks of colorful festivity. Germany became world champion again in 2014. Many immigrant soccer players were on the field in Brazil, largely contributing to the success of the German team. The team demonstrated how to achieve a common goal – **all together** – as distant as it may seem! Now people in Germany can show how to form a team, led by a strong captain, to become world champions in integration. Such a team could be a candidate for the 2016 Nobel Peace Award .

Yona Yahaw says:

"You must succeed. The whole world is watching you. Good political leadership is crucial. With Angela Merkel you have an outstanding political leader. She must assemble the best experts, put them together in a room and have them draw up a plan. Germany has the chance to correct its history. That Angela Merkel let the refugees come from Hungary was acclaimed throughout the world. You quickly taught the Greeks to change their mentality. Now you, too, should decide to change and become a multicultural nation. If it is a success, wonderful. If not – God help us."



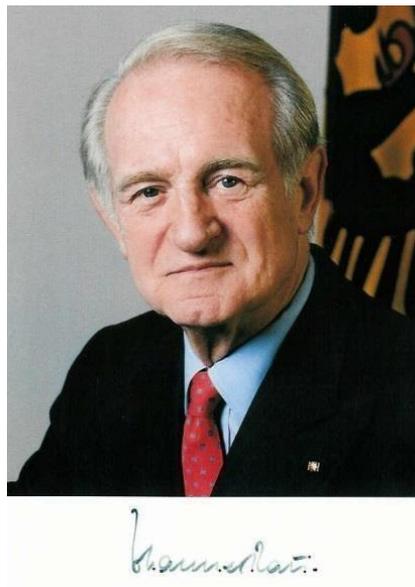
The Mayor of Haifa, Israel's third largest city

By setting a good example, the member states of the European Union can be convinced to agree to a just quota system for the distribution of the refugees. These countries cannot be allowed to claim the advantages of EU-membership and balk at fulfilling their international and moral responsibilities. **Agreement on elementary issues is more important than the number of member states of the European Union! Europe must speak with one voice. A coalition of the unwilling would be fatal. Instead, we plead the case for "the voice of Europe in the World Security Council"!**

In 2012, the European Union was justifiably awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize** for its engagement for peace, reconciliation, democracy and human rights in Europe. Today, the EU falls short of these aspirations as never before. We therefore remind the readers of a European who, with the following quote, urgently called upon the quarreling EU member states to agree to a common and humane solution and implement it.

Johannes Rau said:

"Europe is a community of values based on the principles of freedom, democracy, respect for human and civil rights and the rule of law. That is what the Treaty of Amsterdam states. Europe will not allow this to be called into question by one of its member states. We will not allow xenophobia, racism and nationalism to gain ground again in Europe."



Referring to Germany's role and the situation in Europe, the chairman of the Munich Security Conference, Wolfgang Ischinger, said in January 2016:

"We should not just use our moral, political, financial, economic and also military potentialities, evolved over time, to further enhance Germany's status as a leading power. That only causes feelings of resentment. We should use it instead to strengthen the power, the credibility and the efficiency of the European Union and its institutions. This, Germany's historical task, is all the more urgent in a period in which the British want to withdraw from the EU and centrifugal forces are pressing upon Hungary, Poland, Greece and other nations. I am optimistic that the British will stay. Behind the scenes the problems the British will have with their withdrawal are becoming increasingly clearer to them. For example: Scotland absolutely wants to stay in the EU. If the United Kingdom leaves the EU, it could be in danger of disintegrating. Or: The USA considers London as the bridge to the EU. If it is no longer in this position, Great Britain's importance for the USA would be drastically reduced. Many other things can be added to make it clear: A withdrawal would be foolish for the British themselves. Negotiations will hopefully lead to the EU being better organized and the British staying in the end. The lurch to the right in Hungary, Poland, in Scandinavia and other countries worries me, of course. That is definitely the wrong track. There is not a single important issue that Hungary could solve by itself. The same goes for Poland as for all other EU members. The world will ignore us and regard us as museum pieces if we do not find a common line of action."

(Source: http://www.allgemeine-zeitung.de/vermischtes/vermischtes/ein-puzzle-fuer-die-besten-diplomaten_16519883.htm)



The knot that ties and holds Europe together!

Nevertheless, the countries of the European Union keep on drifting apart. In April, 2016, the Netherlands voted against the EU Association Agreement with the Ukraine, and the British are about to hold a referendum on exiting the EU.

Christoph Cuntz says:

“The ‘no’ of the Dutch is a foreshock announcing far worse tremors to shake the foundations of the European Union. That could happen on June 23 when the British go to the polls. Their ‘yes’ to a ‘Brexit’ would be a boost to centrifugal forces in the EU. The next doubtful cases are the Dutch, and with them the Italians who are worried about becoming completely dominated by the Germans if Great Britain is not in. An anti-Brussels mood is spreading wherever the populists are trying to score with anti-European reflexes in domestic policy. The issue for the Netherlands was not so much the agreement with the Ukraine, in which few people are actually interested. The issue was to give ‘those in Brussels’ a good warning – a disastrous attitude because Europe is strong only if it is united. Each country on its own is too insignificant to be taken seriously in global competition. And: The autocrats on the periphery of the EU, for whom all facets of freedom for which Europe stands are a thorn in their sides, see themselves strengthened by a weakening of the European Community. Those in the Netherlands who voted against the agreement with the Ukraine probably did so in the conviction that they were voting against the Brussels bureaucracy which they think is indifferent to the concerns of the citizens. Actually, though, they opposed an idea which not only brought Europe prosperity, but also peace.”



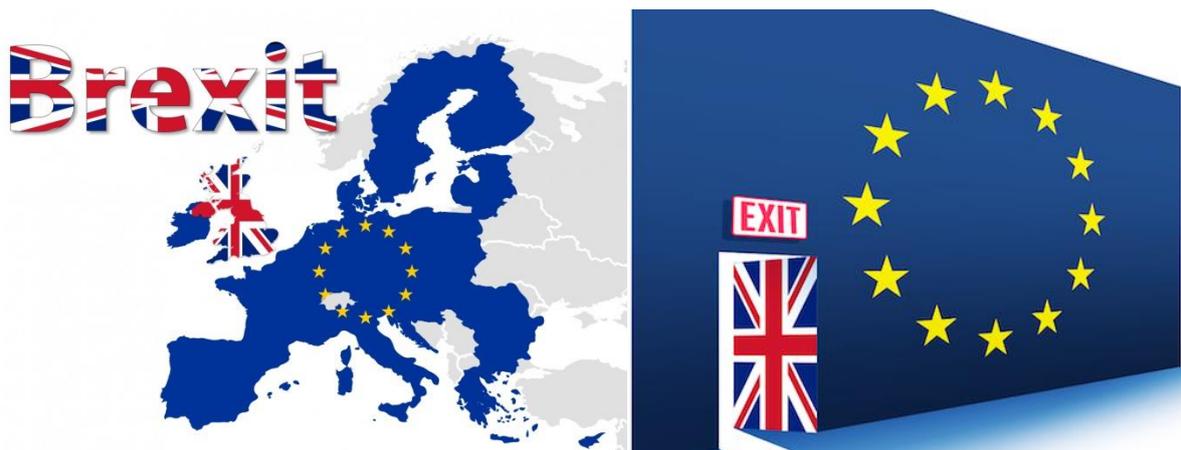
That's what Europe would look like without the EU – everything would become more expensive, more complicated, and more insecure. It's about time Europe's citizens woke up to recognize, and get a feeling for, the values of the EU. Imagine the USA would fall apart!

And here it is now, the actual Brexit - like a bolt from the blue...

... with a thunder clap whose echo will go on reverberating a long while - far beyond the borders of the –still – United Kingdom. The UK is reeling, society is divided. On June 23, 2016, the older generations outvoted the younger ones as to their common future. 73 percent of the 18 to 24-year-olds voted against the Brexit. In the 25 to 34 age group, EU proponents had a majority of 62 percent, among the 35 to 44-year-olds it was still 52 percent. The 65+ portion of the population was the one to most clearly reject the EU. 60 percent of them voted for the Brexit.

Those who organized the Brexit have dazzled the majority of British voters merely with nationalist slogans and deliberate lies without mentioning the social and economic consequences. The United Kingdom, divided into four parts – England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales –, is in the doldrums following the referendum. People are beginning to realize that the former world power and seafaring nation, on its own in a globalized world, has no sound basis. As a political and economic organization, the Commonwealth of Nations that emerged from the British Empire is irrelevant from a realistic point of view.

Now that the Brits have ditched the EU, the Scots in particular are mad since 62 percent of them voted for staying in the EU. The only flag waving in Scotland in the near future may be the St. Andrew's cross and no longer the Union Jack.



Escape route, emergency exit or the entrance for Scotland into the EU?

J. K. Rowling says:

„Goodbye UK. Scotland will now strive for independence.”



Richard Branson says:

“To leave the EU is a very sad decision that will do great damage to Britain's prosperity and Europe's stability.”



Isolating the kingdom could cost the British economy more than 300 billion Euro by the year 2030. On June 24, 2016, five trillion dollars of stock market value were lost globally. Right-wing populist Nigel Farage gloated, “The EU is a failure, the EU is dying.” And right-wing populists in other EU countries are crowing, particularly in France, Austria, Poland, Finland, Denmark, Sweden, the Netherlands and Hungary. In view of the existing centrifugal forces in other EU countries, it is now absolutely imperative to prevent a domino effect. Best of all with the USE (United States of Europe).

Winston Churchill said:

“... We must build a kind of United States of Europe. In this way only will hundreds of millions of toilers be able to regain the simple joys and hopes which make life worth living. The process is simple. All that is needed is the resolve of hundreds of millions of men and women to do right instead of wrong and to gain as their reward blessing instead of cursing. ... And why should there not be a European group which could give a sense of enlarged patriotism and common citizenship to the distracted peoples of this turbulent and mighty continent? And why should it not take its rightful place with other great groupings and help to shape the onward destinies of men? In order that this should be accomplished there must be an act of faith in which millions of families speaking many languages must consciously take part. ... The structure of the United States of Europe, if well and truly built, will be such as to make the material strength of a single state less important. Small nations will count as much as large ones and gain their honour by their contribution to the common cause. ... If we are to form the United States of Europe, or whatever name it may take, we must begin now.”

Source: Excerpts from the speech by Winston Churchill in Zurich on September 19, 1946

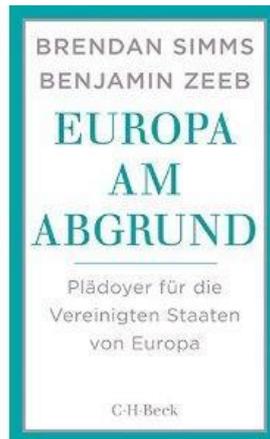


Seventy years after this visionary speech, it is time to put into practice Winston Churchill's idea of European unity - envisaging the **United States of Europe**. That is the only way to find common solutions to master the current crises together - also as a model for unification processes in other parts of the world.

Brendan Simms and Benjamin Zeeb say:

“We urgently need the United States of Europe because otherwise Europe will be well on the way to eliminating itself. We have to stop believing that a European political union can be set up peu à peu in a series of small steps. The leaders of the euro zone have not quite understood that successful unions of states, contrary to the tradition and culture of the EU, did not emerge by gradual processes of convergence under relatively favorable circumstances, but rather by ruptures in times of extreme crisis. As Anglo-American examples show, a union of states does not result from evolution, but from a ‘big bang.’ Once there is a democratically legitimized European state, the various problems which threaten to tear European cohesion apart will be solved in a sense automatically, namely under the institutionalized compulsion to reach a compromise solution. Within a union constituted as a state, the best way to implement a healthy economic and budgetary policy would be negotiated. The United States of Europe could adopt from the Anglo-Scottish union the principle that national identities and the nation-state can be overcome by a political union without losing the cultural heritage. The United States of America could be a model in showing how the needs of the central structure and those of the regions can be harmonized in a union of many states of different sizes, with dissimilar economic power and different strategic interests. We should try to make Europeans in all parts of the continent, who live under very different conditions, aware of the numerous advantages a new Europe would bring them. The solution is to move from the current cacophony of mutual recriminations to a symphony of messages which show Europeans that a united Europe is a benefit for all. At the same time, the fears of the European population should be taken seriously. It must be made clear that a fully developed federal union does not deprive people of their national identities, but rather complements them and contributes to maintaining our diversity. European enterprises already operating across national borders can be motivated to defend the advantages Europe has provided them. An economic union without a political union is doomed to fail, but this correlation must be made much clearer to the management of large corporations. The campaign to implement the federalization of Europe must first address those organizations and persons in Germany, Scandinavia, the Netherlands, Ireland, the USA and Great Britain who have the most to lose in the event of a catastrophic failure of the EU. The effort to gain the population's support should start in southern Europe whose youth, shattered by the crisis, is yearning for change, participation and opportunities.”

The two strands of the campaign will move from these different points of departure, which ultimately cross at the Alps and then reach the southern European elites as well as the voters of northern Europe. If the movement presses ahead in both directions, from the top to the bottom and the bottom to the top, from the north to the south and from the south to the north, it will finally reach the Scandinavian voters and the Greek money at the same time. Germany and France will be the first two countries in which the target groups are addressed simultaneously. The most convincing arguments and reasons for creating a Democratic Union will ultimately be provided by the events themselves. In the end, only a combination of intellectual clarity, resoluteness, strategic thinking, the events themselves, and a bit of luck will create the impetus necessary to successfully complete a Democratic Union of Europe. If we don't grab the chance now to prevent our continent from plunging into a political abyss, we will not have another chance."



On April, 25, 2016, Barack Obama said in Hannover:

“It is to remember that the trajectory of our history over the last 50, 100 years has been remarkable. And we can't take that for granted and we should take confidence in our ability to be able to shape our own destiny. Now, that doesn't mean that we can be complacent because today dangerous forces do threaten to pull the world backward. ... As they have elsewhere, barbaric terrorists have slaughtered innocent people in Paris and Brussels, and Istanbul and San Bernardino, California. ... Our vision of a Europe that is whole, free and at peace. And all these persistent challenges have led some to question whether European integration can long endure; whether you might be better off separating off, redrawing some of the barriers and the laws between nations that existed in the 20th century. So I've come here today, to the heart of Europe, to say that the United States, and the entire world, needs a strong and prosperous and democratic and united Europe. European unity was a dream of a few. It became a hope for [the] many. You can't take that for granted. And today, more than ever, a strong, united Europe remains, as Adenauer said, a necessity for all of us. It's a necessity for the United States, because Europe's security and prosperity is inherently indivisible from our own. ... We need a strong Europe to bear its share of the burden, working with us on behalf of our collective security. ... We must not allow borders to be redrawn by brute force in the 21st century. ... But to do that, we have to work together. ... A set of principles; truths that we held to be self-evident: that all men were created equal. And now, as Europe confronts questions of immigration and religion and assimilation, I want you to remember that our countries are stronger, they are more secure and more successful when we welcome and integrate people of all backgrounds and faith, and make them feel as one. And that includes our fellow citizens who are Muslim. And I know the politics of immigration and refugees is hard. It's hard everywhere, in every country. And just as a handful of neighborhoods shouldn't bear all the burden of refugee resettlement, neither should any one nation. All of us have to step up, all of us have to share this responsibility. ... We have to uphold our values, not just when it's easy, but when it's hard.”

In Germany, more than anywhere else, we learned that what the world needs is not more walls. We can't define ourselves by the barriers we build to keep people out or to keep people in. You are Europe - united in diversity. Guided by the ideals that have lit the world, and stronger when you stand as one. As you go forward, you can be confident that your greatest ally and friend, the United States of America, stands with you, shoulder-to-shoulder, now and forever. Because a united Europe - once the dream of a few - remains the hope of the many and a necessity for us all."



A visionary and a vision!

THE UNITED STATES OF EUROPE

Brendan Simms, Benjamin Zeeb and Barack Obama point out that change is easier to achieve if the crises to be mastered are major ones. So it ought to be possible for us to jointly overcome particularism in favor of the United States of Europe in order to solve the immense crises of our time. It is still a normal practice in the EU that the individual member states defend, above all, their own interests, but do not advance the common cause. A common European government, on the other hand, would facilitate rapid and coordinated reactions. Moreover, the action of this government would be under parliamentary control - quite different from the rescue measures the political leaders of the EU have negotiated at crisis summit meetings. The United States of Europe should be developed so as to serve, with its positive values, as a possible role model for a "New World Order", – with more influence on a global level and more push in the struggle against future crises.

We would then be spared the setbacks described on the following page.

With its eight kilometers, the Öresund Bridge is the longest bridge of its kind and connects Denmark and Sweden since the year 2000. It has also become symbolic of countries growing together in Europe without border controls. Sweden and Denmark already agreed to abolish passport controls in 1954. That put them far ahead of the rest of Europe. Since the beginning of 2016, the Öresund citizens have become Danes and Swedes again who not only control refugees and foreigners, but also each another. The Scandinavian model, i.e. the welfare state, equal rights, environmental protection and prosperity for all, is getting cracks and threatening to crumble. The *Open-your-hearts* message of the former head of the Swedish government, Frederik Reinfeldt, no longer holds. Instead the country is shielding itself by means of border controls which the crude “Sweden-Democrats” had drummed up support for. The success of right-wing populist parties in Sweden, Denmark and many other EU member states is owed to the lack of a joint commitment to justly distribute the refugees within the EU.

Thomas Hammarberg says:

“We should have sent out a group of credible experts a year ago to campaign for the right to asylum and the positive sides of migration in all EU countries. And we should have taken the lead in finding a common solution for the problem at the United Nations.

Now everything depends on whether the EU will find a common solution in 2016.

If it doesn't, it will fall apart.”



Let's all together make sure this will become an exemplary connecting bridge again.

For the benefit of us all!

In February 2016, *Doctors Without Frontiers (Médecins Sans Frontières)* said about the situation on the Balkan Route:

“We have denounced the humanitarian consequences of a domino effect of restrictions time and again, but European governments continue to invent new and arbitrary criteria to reduce the number of refugees at any cost. They completely disregard humanitarian needs. The failure of European governments to find collective and humane answers is only producing chaos, arbitrariness and discrimination. The situation is already unsustainable and will only become worse in the coming days. People are being sent back and forth between borders and have no information whatsoever about their rights or what will happen next. Since the beginning of 2016, more than 94,000 people have arrived on the Greek islands. More than 320 have drowned trying to cross the Aegean Sea. An average of 2,000 people per day continue to risk their lives to get to Greece, where they rarely find aid and protection.”



An Afghani boy touches the barbed wire fence at the Idomeni border crossing

Klaus Vogel says:

“ I just couldn't stand by and watch so many people dying any longer. Whoever sees people in distress at sea has to help. When the Italian Mare Nostrum rescue program ended in 2014 because of lack of support from EU countries, we founded SOS Mediterranee in May 2015, together with supporters from all over Europe. It seemed as if everyone had accepted it as a fact that these people would not be rescued. I could not accept that. It took a few months after the founding of the association until we found a suitable 77 meter fishery protection vessel, the Aquarius, and were also able to finance it. Our association needs 11,000 Euros per day for the ship. Together with ships from partner organizations such as Doctors Without Borders and other civilian social initiatives, Sea Watch and Sea Eye, the Aquarius cruises in front of the coast of Libya and receives information on refugee boats from the rescue center in Rome. The organization Médecins Sans Frontières has been providing the medical staff on board the Aquarius since May 2016. This eight-person team provides medical care for the rescued people. We are very happy about this new partnership! More than 1300 people, fleeing from political persecution and poverty, have already drowned in the Mediterranean Sea in 2016. With the Aquarius we have rescued more than 1000 people in distress since the beginning of our rescue missions in late February 2016. In the meantime, we have become a crucial component of Mediterranean Sea rescue operations as a European organization. This is our answer, the answer of European civil society to the issues of our time.”



**SOS
MEDITERRANEE**



Photo credits: Patrick Bar/ SOS MEDITERRANEE

About the closure of the Balkan Route in February 2016, Christian Matz says:

“What the closing of frontiers, fixed upper limits and similar ideas are good for in the refugee crisis, can be currently observed in Greece, and in particular at the border to Macedonia: nothing, absolutely nothing. Pure theory, politics made with a slide rule, which in practice leads to people being stranded at the walls of Europe. The Austrians are sealing off the border, the next countries on the Balkan Route are following their example, and at the end of the EU food chain the Greeks are supposed to see for themselves how they can cope with the problem - whatever the cost. At worst, the price of this policy will be paid in human lives. Europe is overburdened by the flow of refugees? No, the rich continent of Europe could deal with it very well, but doesn't want to because individual countries shirk their responsibilities in a mixture of egoism, historical amnesia and failure as states, and point their fingers instead at the German chancellor who allegedly provoked the wave of refugees - knowing quite well that war, displacement and economic need are the real causes. During a visit to the island of Lampedusa in 2014, Pope Francis already warned that we must prevent the Mediterranean Sea from becoming a huge graveyard. And what happened? Absolutely nothing. Whereas the principle of ‘out of sight, out of mind’ worked extremely well for quite a while: The desperate plight of the refugees – that was far, far away. Now that people have an impression of it, they prefer to suppress it, and here in Germany the supposedly Christian CSU is blithely in on the act in lieu of supporting the chancellor in her efforts to find a European solution. That is irresponsible.”



After closing ranks with Angela Merkel in September 2015, the Austrian chancellor Werner Faymann went astray on the Balkan Route with his troops in February 2016. We hope Jean-Claude Juncker is cast in a different mould and will carry the spirit of his following speech to the EU summit in March 2016:

Excerpt from the speech of Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the EU Commission, to the EU Parliament in Strasbourg on September 9, 2015:

“It is time to speak frankly about the big issues facing the European Union, because our European Union is not in a good condition. There is not enough Europe in this Union. And there is not enough union in this Union.

We have to change this – and we have to change this now.

We Europeans should remember well that Europe is a continent where nearly everyone has at one time been a refugee. Our common history is marked by millions of Europeans fleeing from religious or political persecution, from war, dictatorship, or oppression.

We Europeans should know and should never forget why giving refuge and complying with the fundamental right to asylum is so important.

I have said in the past that we are too seldom proud of our European heritage and our European project. Yes, in spite of our fragility, our self-perceived weaknesses, today it is Europe that is sought as a place of refuge and exile.

It is Europe today that represents a beacon of hope, a haven of stability in the eyes of women and men in the Middle East and in Africa.

This is something to be proud of and not something to fear.

Europe today, in spite of many differences amongst its Member States, is by far the wealthiest and most stable continent in the world. We have the means to help those fleeing from war, terror and oppression.

There is certainly an important and unprecedented number of refugees coming to Europe at the moment. However, they still represent just 0.11% of the total EU population. In Lebanon, by comparison, refugees represent 25% of the population – and this in a country where people have only one fifth of the wealth we enjoy in the European Union.

We can build walls, we can build fences. But imagine for a second it were you, your child in your arms, the world you knew torn apart around you. There is no price you would not pay, there is no wall you would not climb, no sea you would not sail, no border you would not cross if it is war or the barbarism of the so-called Islamic State that you are fleeing.

It is high time to act to manage the refugee crisis. There is no alternative to this. We need more Europe in our asylum policy. We need more Union in our refugee policy.

A truly united, European migration policy also means that we need to look into opening legal channels for migration. To this end, the Commission will come forward with a well-designed legal migration package in early 2016.

Let us also be clear and honest with our often worried citizens: As long as there is war in Syria and terror in Libya, the refugee crisis will not simply resolve itself. A lasting solution will only come if we address the root causes, the reasons why we are faced with this refugee crisis now. Our European foreign policy must be more assertive. We can no longer afford to be ignorant or disunited with regard to war or instability right in our neighborhood. I would also like to point out that we are entering the fifth year of the Syrian crisis with no end in sight. So far, the international community has failed the Syrian people. Europe has failed the Syrian people.

Today I call for a European diplomatic offensive to address the crises in Syria and in Libya. We need a stronger Europe when it comes to foreign policy.

I do not want to create any illusions that the refugee crisis will be over any time soon. But pushing back boats from piers, setting fire to refugee camps, or turning a blind eye to poor and helpless people: That is not Europe.

Europe is the baker in Kos who gives away his bread to hungry and weary souls. Europe is the students in Munich and in Passau who bring clothes for the new arrivals at the train station. Europe is the policeman in Austria who welcomes exhausted refugees upon crossing the border.”



In parallel with the concerted action of distributing the streams of refugees we must massively expand development aid in the countries affected, helping people on the spot to help themselves. Sufficient money is available if the donor countries fulfill their promises, corrupt structures are eradicated, an end is put to religious insanity, and arms are no longer exported to crisis areas. **Together with a forceful peace policy, these disastrous conditions on the African continent can be eliminated as soon as decision-making power is established under the auspices of the "United Peoples of the World".**



World government of the United Earth!

Harald Krassnitzer says:

“Suddenly on the 8th of May, 1945, everything was quiet and it was over, and for the first time people recognized the dimension of insanity which had swept over Europe for 5 years and 9 months. Millions and millions of people dead, millions of war-disabled, millions of refugees, destruction, desperation, misery and poverty, and in this situation of shock 11 politicians from all over Europe meet and agree: ‘Something like this must never happen again.’

On May 9th, 1950, one of this group, the French foreign minister, Robert Schuman, made an ingenious proposal in his famous Schuman Declaration: to merge the French and German coal and steel production so that neither of the two countries could ever again make weapons to destroy one another. And he generated a series of incredible ideas around this proposal. I would like to quote one of them for you because it is very timely and has still not been fulfilled: , ‘When this merger has taken place, Europe will be able to pursue the realization of one of its most essential tasks with increased means: the development of the African continent.’ This was said in 1950. From 70 years ago down to today, we have not really come very far with that idea, but this was the basic substance for the foundation of the European community. And since the signing of the Treaty of Rome in 1952, we have witnessed an incredible story of success. A project for peace for which the entire world envies us. We received the Nobel Peace Prize for that in 2012, but now I ask you: What is this peace project and this Nobel Peace Prize worth when Europe is among the largest arms exporters in the world? What is this peace project and the Nobel Peace Prize worth when Europe defends its interests by fighting in Afghanistan, in Iraq, in Libya, in Syria or somewhere in Africa thus accepting the destruction of the population's living spaces? What is this peace project worth when Europe has no trouble at all raising a trillion Euros in only a few days to salvage bad credits and ailing banks, but sees an insurmountable problem in providing a dignified existence and protection for a few thousand refugees? And prefers to let these people perish in the Mediterranean Sea? If this European peace project is to have any value at all, the Dublin Procedure must be abolished immediately. Then we need a standardized, humane European asylum policy based on solidarity as well as an immigration policy. Then we must finally fight the causes of flight with political instead of military means. Cooperation in development aid must finally turn into a partnership among equals, and then politicians, and we, too, must finally realize that these people who now seek shelter with us are not a threat to us.

They are an incredible opportunity. For they remind us of our history, of our May 8th, 1945, our dead, our refugees, our disabled, but also of our power – to reinvent ourselves in Europe time and time again. I bow to all of those who have helped over the past weeks at the train stations, the border stations, the reception centers, in the cities, towns, in the whole country. You have given back a human face to Austria. You are the true Europeans, you are the true patriots. You have begun something which is long overdue, and I quote Heribert Prantl: It is time to end the globalization of indifference!”

Source: Excerpts from the speech by actor Harald Krassnitzer
at the Solidarity Concert for a Human Europe on October 3, 2015 in Vienna



Lars Hennemann says:

"The Mediterranean Sea is a mass grave. We fly over it on the way to our vacation, our cruise ships cross the routes of the death traps on which refugees fear for their lives. To remedy this tragedy, this outrage against humanity, it is useless to deploy more rescue teams, however many. Durable solutions can only be found in the countries of origin and in the transit countries."



This is in line with the remark of Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier of April 2015: *"For a long-term solution, we must tackle the root of the problem, i.e. the causes of flight."*

(Source:http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/DE/Infoservice/Presse/Meldungen/2015/150420_BM_Unglueck_Mittelmeer.html?n=358416).

Until then we need a just and legal regulation for the admission of refugees!

Gregor Gysi says:

"We live at the expense of the Third World and are surprised when misery knocks at our door."



Peter Neher says:

"It is important to have respect for the fates of the people who come to us. That also includes providing for faster asylum procedures. People should quickly know whether they have a chance of staying in Germany. We must make greater efforts to improve housing for refugees. This should be accompanied by social measures such as treatment for trauma. The many parishes involved in helping need more support. We need more financial help from the Federal Government for the Länder and municipalities. With 800,000 expected refugees, the numbers have now reached a dimension that was previously unimaginable. Germany is a rich country. We can afford it, we must afford it. But the reasons for flight also have to be named: At present there is, unfortunately, no prospect of peace any time soon in Syria and Iraq. German asylum law, of course, is no solution for the economic problems and the poverty in the Balkan states! What we need is an immigration law with clear rules for access to the labor market. I think it is intolerable that European countries are not able to develop common strategies in the refugee crisis. When looking at the situation in the Mediterranean region, one can indeed speak of failure. It is unacceptable that some countries show no willingness to admit refugees."



Excerpt from the inaugural speech of Malu Dreyer, head of government of Rhineland Palatinate, in September 2015: "Solidarity and Perspectives - Taking in Refugees in Rhineland Palatinate"

"Dear Colleagues,

We should have no illusions about the scope of the challenge. There will be setbacks, and not every effort is popular with all people. But from our own experience we can say: It is worthwhile for everyone to be open to the world. Solidarity and perspective go together. We are practicing solidarity and we are working on new perspectives for our country at the same time. I have expounded to you today according to which values we are acting and which concrete measures we are taking.

We are facing a great challenge, but we are not overchallenged – because we are working together with commitment and we see ourselves in solidarity with the population. And since it is a special situation, I would like to address myself not only to parliament today, but directly to the people in our Land.

Dear citizens,

These days we all see more refugees than we have seen in decades come to our country to escape from terror and persecution. The authorities of the Land are doing everything humanly possible to meet the organizational challenge of providing housing, food and assistance and of ensuring security. We will only be successful if everyone helps; if you, too, support openness in your personal surroundings and practice openness and solidarity yourself – in clubs and associations, in your neighborhood and in your daily life; and if we all protest clearly wherever resentment or even hatred is displayed. The government of our Land is committed to always keeping the whole of society in view. People with a low income, people trying to get access to the labor market, as well as the disadvantaged need our help, and it is the responsibility of the Land to help them. Solidarity for people in need is, after all, indivisible. That is why we will not allow one group to be played off against another. Taking in refugees is an issue we will be dealing with for years. Many of those who come to us will stay, and we can definitely use them. That will only work if, in addition to the initial care, we open the path to integration from the beginning, and both sides must contribute to that. This path needs clear-cut rules, and we will make sure they are adhered to. A path of reliability and new opportunities, but above

all a path of humanitarian responsibility, in the best sense of charity. We will continue to work vigorously to improve the living conditions of all people in our Land. Because solidarity will succeed all the more if our society as a whole remains strong. And if the European idea stands the test of time, especially right now. I hope very much this will succeed. That is our path. Let us take this path together. And on the way, let us keep the history of our own country in mind. A history that was difficult time and again, particularly at the beginning, after fascism, war and destruction – but also a history that became a success story. Because we have continuously learned, because we have come to be liberal-minded. And because we tackled it together. Thank you."



Michael Ebling says:

"What does it say about us when the silent suffering of millions of people fleeing merges into the loud screams of people drowning in the Mediterranean Sea? What does it say about us and our country when in Freital, a town in one of the richest countries in the world, people who are well off threaten to do violence to people who are badly off and thought they had just escaped violence? What does it say about us and our continent when parties who stir up public opinion – not against war, not against terror, not against poverty, not against violence, but against people – win elections everywhere in Europe? Against people whose only wish it is to flee misery, terror and persecution? These are stories about all of us, about our cities, our country, our continent. Ultimately, the question will not be, 'What do we think about these stories?' Are they met with compassion or with indifference? The question will be, 'What does history think about us?' What will future generations think about our time? A time where people in Germany demonstrate against human beings? Will some day the story be told of a country where taking concerns seriously was increasingly confused with fomenting fears? Will the story be told of one of the richest nations on earth complaining of being 'overburdened', although, when considering the number of refugees taken in on a per capita basis, it only ranks as medium, whereas countries like Lebanon take in more than a million refugees? Will the story be told of the 'shame of Europe', as the journalist Markus Preiss put it in a much-regarded commentary after the ship disaster in the Mediterranean, in which 700 people drowned? Will the story be told of European ministers of the interior who were incapable of getting a sea-rescue program worthy of the name under way – and of entire nations in humanistic Europe that openly work up feelings against refugees? Yes, these stories will probably be told if we let it happen. If we leave the field to the populists. If we permit racism to be trivialized and almost any atrocity to be uttered unchallenged. If we, as convinced democrats and humanists, do not stand firmly and united against such rabble-rousing propaganda. We need to build bridges and not walls, or there will be hardly anything positive to say about us later. That doesn't mean we can heal all the suffering of the world or solve every problem here in Germany or in Europe.

But it certainly shouldn't serve us as an alibi for ultimately helping far too few. Germany and Europe are undoubtedly facing immense challenges. One of the main challenges remains taking all necessary action to avoid potential social conflicts in the cities from the outset: by providing for a sound and practically oriented social policy, a refugee policy based on solidarity, and a commensurate financing of municipalities.

But also by offensively communicating our social motivations and intensively involving citizens in the actions of public authorities. Therefore a different, a pleasant story can already be told today: your story. A story of people who have understood that each and every one of us decides for themselves what kind of country they want to live in, and that the words of Horace, 'History is about you', meant as an admonishment to us, at the same time give us hope. Because we are the ones who decide which story will be told in the future about our time, our town, our country and our continent – to become history."



Julia Klöckner says about the refugee dramas in the Mediterranean:

"From a Christian standpoint, you just have to be there and help.

Anything else would be shameful."



If pictures can help, we may, indeed we *must* use them. The two pictures below are representative of many thousand that demonstrate the daily injustice, the cruelty and the suffering on our planet. They are capable of moving us, even in the remotest corners of the globe. They seep into us, they compel us to empathize with the suffering and to reflect upon the causes. They make us rise up in protest – *together*, all over the world.



Mediterranean Sea, September 2015



Vietnam, June 1972

The left photo shows a three-year-old refugee child washed up in front of our eyes by the Mediterranean Sea as a severe warning. The right photo depicts the horror of the Vietnam War. We must show these photos, and we must look at them. That is the only way to shake us up, the only way we will come to our senses and achieve change. The right photo hastened the end of the Vietnam War. The left photo was meant to open the eyes of Europe and the world – and to touch the hearts. We must jointly ensure safe transportation routes for those in need and find rapid solutions for the hot spots in the countries concerned. It would be a consolation for the father to know that his child as well as the other members of his family did not die in vain in the waters of the Mediterranean.

The British Prime Minister, David Cameron, known for his uncompromising position, said he was willing to accept several thousand refugees directly from the refugee camps at the Syrian border **after he was severely criticized in his own country and came under pressure because of the photo of the drowned child.**

Vladimir Putin said (on September 4, 2015):

"We want to establish an international coalition in the battle against terrorism and extremism."



The USA and Russia must join forces and lead the way. That would be a long overdue signal for maintaining world peace. Both sides must realize that the Middle East, in the age of a decentralized energy turnaround, will soon have had its day as the indispensable supplier of energy. Striving for supremacy, which created the conflicts of the 20th century, is thus increasingly losing its significance on both sides. There has not been a better chance to bring peace to this crisis-ridden region for a very long time. Another point is to jointly save and reap the harvest of the Arab Spring - also in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria as well as in Israel. It fits the picture perfectly that the **Nobel Peace Prize 2015 was awarded to the Tunisian Quartet for National Dialogue**. It was awarded for the efforts to establish a pluralistic democracy in the north African country during the Arab Spring - a wonderful act of recognition and encouragement for the Tunisian people and a strengthening of democracy and civil society in Tunisia. This development can serve as a model for the democratic movements in the Arab world. It also gives refugees a prospect of returning safely to their countries of origin some day.

We take the Russian President at his word regarding his wish to form a broad alliance, especially to fight the terror militia Islamic State (ISIS) in Syria and Iraq. This anti-terror alliance, as suggested by Russia, should have a mandate of the U.N. Security Council. The mission can succeed if the five veto powers of the United Nations, the USA, Russia, China, Great Britain and France, pull together **and do not wear themselves out in independent military actions**

provoking new spirals of escalation. Let us think another two steps ahead: Chances to solve the current highly explosive Mideast conflict on the whole are far greater if the countries concerned, in particular Turkey, Iran, Saudi-Arabia, Egypt, Jordan and Israel, are integrated into the alliance and agree to it. In a second step, a successful completion of this **joint** mission could also set the course for an easing of tensions between the East and the West, which is of utmost importance. That would also make it much easier to solve the conflict in the Ukraine.

We need the highest degree of diplomatic skill to defuse the three powder kegs mentioned above (refugee drama, Mideast conflict and East-West crisis) all at once. The U.N. General Assembly of September 2015 offered chief diplomats the opportunity to prove themselves to be worthy representatives of humanity. But, as so often, there was much debate but little common ground. Not to mention passing a binding mandate to solve these crises. The self-display of political leaders at the podium yielded more recriminations than conciliatory gestures and concrete proposals. The bilateral talks between the American and Russian presidents on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly were very disappointing. While all these speeches were flowing in New York, Russia began its bombings in Syria, also to support the indefensible Syrian President, Bashar al-Assad. At least the American and Russian generals exchanged information to avoid "unwanted incidents" should the fighter planes of the two countries get in each other's way.



We call upon the President of China: Please mediate in the struggle against the causes of the refugee crisis, particularly in Syria and Afghanistan. Take greater international responsibility and exert influence on Russia, Iran and Saudi Arabia, without which a common political peace movement is not possible. That is the best way to live up to your own words in the following quote:

Xi Jinping says:

"Peace, like air and sunshine, is hardly noticed as long as the people can enjoy it.

But none of us can live without it.

Without peace there is no development."



Gerhard Trabert says:

"Kilis is directly on the Turkish-Syrian border, only some 60 kilometers away from the crisis area around the city of Aleppo. You can hear the aircraft and the muffled impact of the bombs. Ambulances and hearses are constantly rushing by. Just imagine: The people in the region of Aleppo are sandwiched between Assad's troops on one side and ISIS on the other. They flee to the Turkish border to save themselves, and here they are threatened, too. People, entire families, many children, must go hungry and thirsty, are suffering from diseases and injuries – and, on top of that they come under fire. I also have the feeling that reporters are being hindered in their work; human rights activists are not allowed to take photos. What's going on here is a tragedy. The border simply must be opened! Here in Kilis in February 2016 I am clearly witnessing the darkest side of European refugee policy. We are dealing with a domino effect. Our policy is becoming increasingly repressive; representatives of the xenophobic AfD party openly speak of shooting at refugees – and that's exactly what's happening here at the Turkish-Syrian border.

These are the actual effects of our policy. Turkey has already taken in two and a half million refugees from Syria, and now even more are coming. The Europeans are putting pressure on the Turkish government not to let the wave of people through, but how is that supposed to work? What we see here in Kilis is not only the failure of Europe, but the failure of the entire world. A society, a policy that saves banks but not people is a sick society."



Five years of war in Syria, leaving nearly 300,000 dead and 12 million homeless. And the United Nations stands more or less idly by. They fail the Syrian people because they lack real decision-making power to intervene effectively. The United Nations has failed before, fundamentally and disastrously. That was 20 years ago during the **genocide in Rwanda**. From April 6 to mid-July 1994, between 800,000 and 1,000,000 people were brutally slaughtered. In 100 days, members of the Hutu majority killed about 75 percent of the Tutsi minority as well as moderate Hutus who did not participate in the bloodshed or who actively opposed it. The genocide in Rwanda could have been prevented with 5500 U.N. soldiers ready for combat and a clear U.N. mandate.

Roméo Dallaire, blue-helmet general at the time, today says: *"I have the feeling we were a red herring, even that we had to play the role of sacrificial lambs so the statesmen could say the world was doing something to stop the killing. In fact, we were nothing but a fig leaf."* **The truth is that no U.N. nation wanted to be involved in this genocide.**



On April 8, 1994, international military observers were forced to watch a massacre in a church. Roméo Dallaire describes it like this: *"First the police drove the Tutsi inside the church, then they collected the identification papers of the adults and burned them, then they called in the numerous civilian militiamen, armed with machetes, and handed the victims over to their murderers. Boasting and laughing, the militiamen went methodically from pew to pew hewing and hacking away at the people. Some died immediately, others, who were already horribly wounded, begged for their lives or for the lives of their children. No one was spared. Children cried out for mercy but met with the same fate as their parents."*



The former Secretary General of the United Nations, Kofi Anan, who led the U.N. peace missions in 1994, writes in his memoirs: *"It was one of the most shattering experiences of my entire career, and it remains with me to this day."*

The United Nations was founded after World War II, primarily to prevent further genocides. It is high time it fulfills its mandate and implements it – **without the right of veto. It is up to the United Nations and its executive capacity to determine whether the Syrian people will be saved or sacrificed.**

A sign of hope:

The attacks and massacres of Paris and Beirut shortly before the second Syria Conference of mid-November 2015 in Vienna increased the urgency to reach an agreement. There was a lot of pressure on the representatives of twenty nations to finally find a long overdue political solution for the war raging in Syria since five years and at the same time to better coordinate their military actions against the ISIS terror militia. A timetable was agreed upon in a very constructive atmosphere. According to this schedule, a ceasefire is to be negotiated as soon as possible between the Assad regime and the moderate rebel groups. By the middle of 2016, a transitional government of regime and opposition is to be formed under the auspices of the United Nations. **New elections are to follow by mid-2017, in which the millions of refugees can also participate.** The battle against ISIS and the radical Al-Nusra-Front is to be continued. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said: "Paris boosts our joint determination to strike back." Russian Foreign Minister Sergej Lavrov made a similar statement; for fear of ISIS attacks, planes of Egypt Air have not been allowed to land on Russian soil since November 2015. **The Syrian people are to decide themselves now on the fate of their country. "That also applies to the future of President Bashar al-Assad," Sergej Lavrov added.** The peace plan negotiated in Vienna was resolved by the U.N. Security Council in December 2015.



Besides the U.N. and the EU, 17 countries took part in the Vienna negotiations: Iran, Russia, Austria, the USA, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Germany, the UK, France, Italy, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

But then: The peace talks, which had begun in late January 2016 at the United Nations in Geneva, were suspended after only a few days because of the military offensive near Aleppo and the unwillingness of the Assad regime to allow humanitarian access to the cities and villages under siege. U.N. special envoy Staffan de Mistura postponed the issue to the 52nd Munich Security Conference, which was held February 12-14, 2016.

Before the 52nd Munich Security Conference: On the eve of the conference a three-part action plan was presented for ending the five-year civil war. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, his Russian colleague Sergej Lavrov and the International Syria Support Group of 17 countries agreed in Munich to immediately begin supplying humanitarian aid to the besieged cities. A cease-fire should be implemented within one week and then the Syria negotiations in Geneva are to resume. Not included in the ceasefire are attacks against ISIS militias and the Nusra Front, sympathetic to al-Qaeda.

During the 52nd Munich Security Conference: NATO Secretary General Stoltenberg deemed it appropriate to point out that *“Our deterrence also has a nuclear component.”* On the second day, Vladimir Putin replied in the person of his prime minister Dmitri Medvedev: *“Terrifying scenarios of Russia beginning a nuclear war are being drawn up. Sometimes I wonder if we are living in the year 2016 or in 1962. The security of the past decades was built on the ruins of the Second World War. Do we need a third world shock in order to understand that we need cooperation and not confrontation?”* Just before the Munich Security Conference Medvedev had warned of the danger of a “third world war” as a consequence of continued support for ISIS and other terror groups by foreign powers. It's a good thing Barack Obama and Vladimir Putin talked on the phone on the evening of February 13, 2016 after all the saber rattling. We will see if it helps.

After the 52nd Munich Security Conference: The aid convoys are ready and waiting, but instead of less shooting, there is more. Russia’s air force is still bombing Aleppo so that the Assad regime’s troops can continue to advance. Everyone is trying to secure as many strategic advantages for themselves as possible. The issue of the conference, however, was to combat the causes of flight, to tackle the root of Islamic terrorism, and to give the suffering people a prospect for the future. And again world politics fails. Hope turns into disappointment, good will into frustration, and visions yield to cynicism. The aid agreement of February 11, 2016 was obviously not worth the ink it was written with – which was evidenced by new air raids on February 15, killing 50 civilians. The bombs hit five medical facilities and two schools in Aleppo and Idlib. U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki Moon condemned the attacks as “blatant violations of international law.” This shows once again how helpless the United Nations is and how little its agreements are worth for the people on the spot.



The peace plan of February 11, 2016



War against hospitals on Feb. 15, 2016

The American and the Russian presidents are now at the top of the list of those responsible. They are obligated, together with the responsible authorities of the concerned countries, to make sure that the suffering of so many people is brought to an end with the agreed cessation of hostilities and the promised humanitarian aid, and that the peace plan resolved by the U.N. Security Council in December 2015 is actually implemented. Awarding the Nobel Peace Prize to Barack Obama in 2009 was a praise given in advance, which he has not entirely earned yet. Vladimir Putin could be a candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize in the coming years if he fulfills his humanitarian promises, gives up his plans for territorial expansion and stops his inappropriate geostrategic power games.

That's the way: On February 14, 2016, Barack Obama and Vladimir Putin talked on the telephone and agreed on the ceasefire that was basically already settled. It went into force on February 27, 2016. Since then, violence has in fact been reduced. For two weeks there has been a bit of hope that the five-years civil war could still be ended diplomatically after all. Now everything depends on whether the U.N. peace talks in Geneva continue and which results they yield. Crucial for successful negotiations is whether Russia really wants a lasting peace in Syria.

Better than nothing: The peace plan of the U.N. Security Council was achieved also thanks to the Russian approval. The ceasefire, which is holding for the most part, was negotiated between the Russian and the American presidents - Bashar al-Assad would surely have preferred to continue the bombing. Russia indicated that it will hold onto its strategic interests in Syria, but not really to Assad as a person. We are convinced that even Russia knows that there can be no peace in Syria with Assad at the head.

The United Nations has postponed the next round of peace talks for Syria which are now to be continued in March 2016.



Border fence in Kilis

Real peace in Syria is still far away. Eight rockets fired from Syria and killing a woman and an infant in the Turkish-Syrian border town of Kilis in March 2016, show how fragile the ceasefire is. Ever since Turkey closed the border to Syria for refugees in February 2016, the desperate people, especially in Aleppo and Kilis, are hoping that the white smoke of peace may rise at the United Nations in Geneva starting from March 14, 2016.

Abeer Pamuk said in March 2016:

"I lived in Aleppo and experienced the war at close quarters as a member of the emergency relief team 'SOS Children's Villages'. The bombs and the grenades are not the worst thing. You get used to them. But the lack of water, electricity, medicine and many other things we basically take for granted, is something you can't forget. The war has an impact on every detail of our lives. War is when your house or your apartment becomes a dark, cold place. You are sitting in the same room with your family, but you can't see their faces. You only see shadows. War is when you need a candle to eat or study. War is when you start the day thinking: Where will I get water to drink today? And when you go to sleep in the evening and can see your own breath because it is so cold inside. At the beginning of the ceasefire it was strange, especially in Aleppo, a badly destroyed city. You woke up and the permanent background noise of explosions and shooting or ambulance sirens was gone. Suddenly we could hear the birds singing again! The ceasefire is a chance for us Syrians to raise our heads out of the water and take a short deep breath.

And we hope the ceasefire is a step toward real peace."



SOS child care facility in Aleppo

But then: On April 27, 2016, an aerial attack destroyed a hospital in Aleppo supported by *Médecins Sans Frontières*. At least 30 people were killed, including the last pediatrician in the city. It was the most important reference hospital for pediatrics in the region.



According to the U.N. special envoy for Syria, Staffan de Mistura, there is a risk that the ceasefire may end at any time. In the past 48 hours, one person was killed every 25 minutes and one injured every 13 minutes. De Mistura called for a “revival” of the ceasefire in Syria before the next round of peace talks starts in May 2016 in Geneva. He addressed himself especially to the USA and Russia, who in his view must call for a new joint peace initiative “at the highest level” so that the ceasefire implemented chiefly thanks to Washington and Moscow, does not fizzle out. De Mistura said a new date for continuing the Syria talks in Geneva could only be set if the continuing attacks in Aleppo and other places stopped. On April 29, 2016, however, the Syrian army announced a new ceasefire for parts of the war-torn country. But it is only to be temporary and does not include the city of Aleppo which has been fiercely fought over most recently. **How long will Obama and Putin let Bashar al-Assad pull wool over their eyes? The urgency of a lasting peaceful solution to eliminate the causes of flight is illustrated by the situation in the EU described below.**

Before the EU summit of February 2016: The outcome is more than meager, and distributing refugees according to quotas does not work. The relocation of 160,000 refugees, settled long ago, has failed miserably. Other countries have taken in less than 600 of these refugees so far. What is progressing is the construction of new border fences in Eastern Europe to seal the countries off.



World press photo 2015, taken on August 28, 2015.

With a baby at Hungary's border fence

During the EU summit of February 2016: After a suicide bomb attack by a member of the Kurdish terror group TAK on February 17, 2016 in Ankara claiming 28 lives, Turkey cancelled its participation in the EU summit. That puts the EU-Turkey action plan to protect the external borders of the EU and end illegal immigration, on ice. The final declaration says that the Schengen border codex is to be applied, i.e. the Dublin procedure, which would send refugees back to the country where they first set foot on EU territory.

After the EU summit of February 2016: The postponed special meeting with Turkey took place in March. At this meeting the Turkish head of government, Ahmed Davutoglu, surprised many of the political leaders of the 28 EU member states. According to the Turkish offer, the EU can send all immigrants who arrived illegally from the Greek islands back to Turkey. In return, just as many refugees from Turkey should be legally admitted to the EU. Davutoglu simultaneously demanded that the EU funds be doubled to six billion euros to provide for the 2.7 million refugees already living in Turkey as well as for those to come once the Turkish offer is accepted and implemented. Victor Orbán declared that he rejects the plan to take refugees

from Turkey. This just a few days after Horst Seehofer had courted him in Hungary. EU countries refusing to take in refugees should pay in exchange, for example the six billion euros to Turkey. Mario Draghi, chief of the European Central Bank, announced in March 2016: As of April 2016, 80 billion euros will be pumped into the market at a benchmark interest rate of zero percent. The aim is to further stimulate the markets facilitating lending and borrowing of money - to increase the inflation rate and to boost the EU economy. So it should be no problem to come up with the six billion euros for the needy refugees in Turkey.

Before the EU summit of March 2016:

With the shutting of the borders in Slovenia, Croatia and Serbia, the Balkan Route was also blocked since March 9, 2016. According to one smuggler: *“If you cut off the migration routes, we will find new ones. You are raising the walls around the fortress Europe? We will raise the prices.”* Will we witness a revival of the Adriatic Route on which in the 1990s tens of thousands of Albanians came over the Adriatic Sea?



The Balkan Route 2016



The Adriatic Route in the 1990s

Or will we live to see a sound decision at the March summit in favor of an orderly admission and just distribution of refugees? Until then, many desperate refugees will slip through the border fences of EU countries. People will flee as long as war rages in Syria. In addition, there are the people driven out of African countries by drought and hunger – drought, hunger and thirst, which will increase due to climate change.

Results of the EU summit of March 2016: The results of the summit can be viewed positively as well as negatively.

Positive view: A failure of the EU was averted. Chancellor Angela Merkel freed herself from her apparent isolation. The EU-Turkey refugee solution she had striven for since the fall of 2015 was unanimously accepted. This made it possible to re-establish orderly proceedings at the outer borders of the EU. The President of the EU-Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, who supported her, had already said in mid-February 2016: *“History will prove Angela Merkel right.”* In Germany, the breather can contribute to a successful integration of refugees and to a general easing of the situation.



The two with the Herculean tasks

Negative view: The 28 EU countries are willing to accept 72,000 refugees at a total population of over 500 million. In Turkey there are more than 2.7 million refugees compared to 80 million inhabitants. In Lebanon there are 1.2 million refugees against a population of five million. This shows: Most EU politicians have lost their moral compass and are out of touch with reality. The Hungarian Prime Minister, Viktor Orbán, spoke of a political victory in Brussels. Donald Tusk, President of the European Council, told refugees, *“Don’t come to Europe.”* The Balkan route was closed under the direction of Austrian Chancellor Werner Faymann.



Egoism and indifference instead of solidarity, empathy and support!

After the European-Turkish refugee pact of March 18, 2016: Rescue action off the coast of Lesbos was basically well organized, including housing for refugees on the island. But the refugee pact turned everything upside down when it became effective on March 20, 2016. The following applies to refugees stranded in Greece since that day: As of April 4, 2016, refugees shall be forcibly returned to Turkey. Every refugee is entitled to have his claim to asylum examined on a case-by-case basis prior to deportation. In Germany, it takes several months before a decision is made on the right to asylum. In Greece, this is supposed to happen within days. That, too, shows that the refugee pact is far from reality and doomed to fail.

The measure falls short of acting as the expected deterrent anyway. Example: On the morning of March 20, ten fully loaded inflatable dinghies landed off the east coast of the Greek island of Lesbos. During the night, many more refugees were rescued on the open sea.

Spyros Galinos says:

“I recapitulate: We continue to let people cross the sea and then send them back again? And the smugglers continue to line their pockets? After a year of trying to find a solution in the EU, they suddenly say, okay, we've found it, and from Sunday on, you implement it. What do you mean, Sunday? Are they kidding?! With the various reception centers, we have the situation here completely under control. We have deliberately chosen separate accommodations for Syrian and Afghan citizens. And now everything is getting muddled up. They sent us Frontex, they sent us NATO, and now they have a refugee pact. But people fleeing from bombs will continue to try to get to Europe.”



The Mayor of Lesbos



Refugees on Lesbos

In a study of March 29, 2016, the relief organization Oxfam appealed to wealthy nations to offer at least ten percent of the refugees from Syria a new home quickly. This was about 480,000 people at the time. According to Oxfam, only four wealthy nations have exceeded their fair share of humanitarian aid. These were Germany, Australia, Canada and Norway. Far behind, among others, were the Netherlands, France, and the USA.

Marion Lieser and Oxfam Germany say:

“Two thirds of the original population of Syria depend on relief aid, and the number is growing steadily. More than 4.8 million people have fled, mainly to neighboring countries. 500,000 people live in besieged areas which are largely cut off from supplies of food, medication and other essential goods. In view of the sluggishly progressing international aid and the increasing sealing off of borders by some neighboring countries, the situation is becoming more and more precarious for many refugees. In addition, the indigenous population of these countries, too, is increasingly suffering from the consequences of the crisis. Wealthy and influential countries in Europe and worldwide must do more to protect the people in need, namely: expand their aid contributions, accept more Syrian refugees, stop supplying weapons to the parties to the conflict, and intensify their diplomatic efforts to peacefully end the civil war.”



At the U.N. Syria conference of March 30, 2016, only few countries accepted to take in Syrian refugees. Instead of the envisioned relocation of 480,000 refugees from the countries neighboring Syria, a long-term acceptance of a total of 6000 refugees was decided. So the number of Syrian refugees promised to be taken in has merely increased from 179,000 to 185,000. The U.N. wanted to facilitate organized resettlements which included reuniting separated families and offering medical care. The U.N. member states were also called upon to facilitate access to their country by offering grants for university studies or training programs. These refugees generally would not need to go through an "asylum procedure"*. Organized relocation was also meant to prevent refugees from falling into the clutches of refugee smuggling rings.



Pictures could not be more contradictory: on the left the symbol of the U.N. World Health Organization and on the right the refugees who, left to the mercy of the smugglers, often get into distress and drown – as seen in the tragedies of April 2015 and 2016!

U.N. member states have betrayed their own organization once again for egotistical reasons, thus demonstrating that the world community is currently incapable of achieving solutions even at a purely humanitarian level. What could help would be a model from which everyone would profit: The refugees themselves as well as the host countries and the countries of origin. Margit Osterloh and Bruno S. Frey have made a remarkable proposal in this connection:

* *Court hearing to determine a person's right to political asylum*

Margit Osterloh and Bruno S. Frey say:

“The practice of securing the EU outer borders to fend off refugees is disgraceful. Up to now we have abandoned the refugees to unscrupulous smugglers. The Balkan Route is currently impracticable. This will force up smugglers' prices and make the trip even more dangerous for the refugees. The present strategy of making it as hard as possible to get to Europe is inhuman and has proven to be a complete failure. Is there a way out? We suggest collecting an admission fee from all migrants, similar to the fees that must be paid when joining a cooperative. It is a compensation for participating in the common property of a community - schools, hospitals, functioning infrastructure or social security - which the previous and current members have created to this day. The fees would flow to the host country and not to the smugglers. In return, the migrants could travel to us safely and work here. Appropriate places for registering and payment could be set up at every airport and in larger refugee camps at a fraction of the cost of today's border protection. Those who are accorded asylum or war-refugee status after their arrival will have the money returned. Everyone else must make major efforts to be able to enter the country. Migration can be regulated by the amount of the charge, and at the same time we can be spared the fate of becoming a 'gated community' enclosed by barbed wire. Such an approach would not only have advantages for the host countries, but also for the migrants and their countries of origin. A humanitarian and a monetary win-win situation could emerge. The smugglers would be left out in the cold. First, host countries would receive funds to finance the stay and integration of migrants. Second, integration into the labor market and a relief of our social systems would ensue soon instead of after the lengthy procedure of registration, case examination and processing of objections, etc. Third, immense costs for securing the borders could be saved. Furthermore, we could dispense with the costs as well as the psychological strain involved with the deportation of non-recognized refugees, along with the general costs for society caused by rejected refugees going underground. A pricing system will reduce the danger of overburdening our social systems. People in search of a social hammock would be thwarted from the outset. Those who are not discouraged have a strong motivation to integrate themselves. Migration research shows that putting higher demands on migrants promotes their integration into the labor market and a swifter learning of the language. This in turn leads to greater acceptance by the local population, which is not surprising. A better and faster integration of migrants and their children will also enable them much sooner to compensate for the shortage of specialists and skilled workers and to contribute to the financing of our pension

system. That, too, increases the favorable reception by the local population. So much for the advantages of our cooperative model for host countries like Germany. For migrants, the first and most important advantage is that they can enter the country without risking their lives and without traumatizing experiences. Secondly, they would be treated as sovereign agents who are themselves responsible for their fates. We – and not the smugglers – would set the basic conditions for this. Thirdly, by implementing our model, we take away the agonizing uncertainty from migrants about whether they will be accepted or not, besides being condemned to idleness and to the position of supplicants. They are more quickly assimilated into the labor market and their residential environment. That, too, increases their acceptance by the local population. Finally, the refugees' countries of origin also have advantages. Emigration reduces the social pressure there especially by relieving the labor market - even if this will not reduce poverty over the long run because those emigrating belong to the fairly well-educated middle classes. More importantly: People have a calculable perspective. They will make every effort to be able to afford the admission fee, for example by improving their education. The countries of origin will profit from remittances, i.e. payments to those who remain behind. These add up to more than twice the amount of development aid worldwide and are probably much more effective. Finally, porous borders facilitate a return and thus a temporary migration. About half of the refugees would return to their home countries after a certain period of time if the borders were open. This counteracts 'brain drain', the long-term exodus of highly qualified people from their homelands, while favoring 'brain circulation', one of the most efficient forms of development aid. There are, of course, also objections to our model. But they can be refuted. The first objection is probably that in our model only those people can immigrate who can afford the integration fee. But even today, only those who have enough money to pay the smugglers can afford to flee. Moreover, immigrants could take out a loan which they would pay back from an income substantially higher than what they would earn in their home countries. Such a credit market would probably emerge easily. It could be patterned on the microcredits developed by Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus. Another possibility would be to let private donors or humanitarian organizations pay the integration fee for the destitute, as well as companies looking for employees and trainees. This would create a direct relationship to the immigrants, which additionally promotes integration. Recognized asylum seekers and war refugees would be entirely refunded. And those who leave our country again would get a part of the fee back - as starting capital for life in their old home, in addition to the knowledge gained and their

experience of a functioning social system. The amount of the integration and regulation fee must be assessed judiciously. It should not by any means be calculated according to orthodox economic criteria, but must take account of psychological and sociological factors. Many details still need to be clarified. We are convinced, however, that everyone would benefit from our model: the migrants themselves, the host countries and the countries of origin.”

Source: Excerpts from a proposal published in the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung* on March 27, 2016.



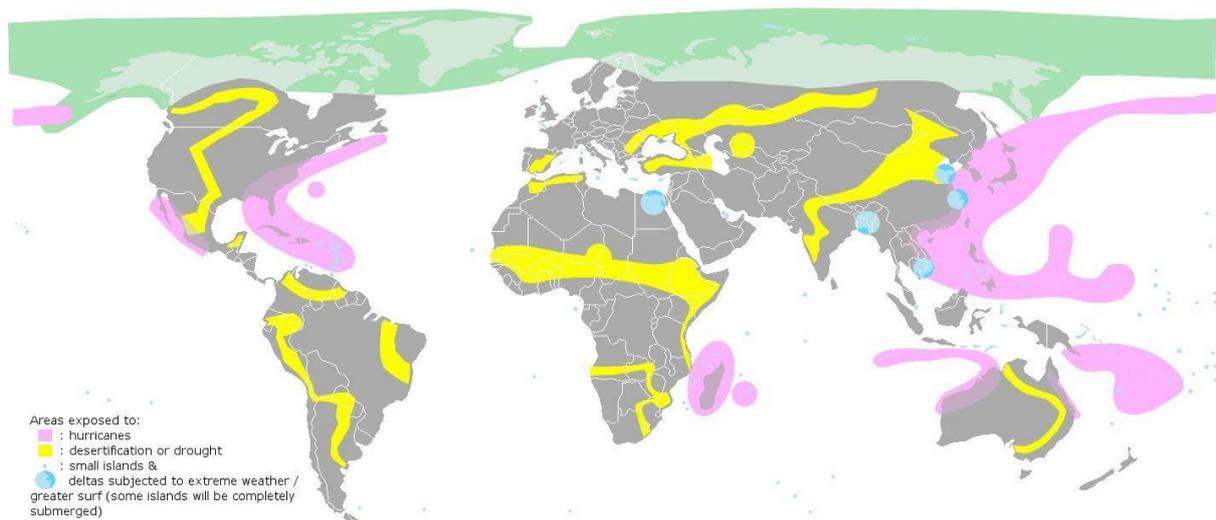
Closing the borders and hiding or suppressing the problems behind fences and walls is no solution. The miserable situation in April 2016, for instance in the camp Moria on Lesbos and at the border fence in Idomeni, along with the unwillingness to take in refugees on the part of EU and U.N. member states in March, are an outrage. What we urgently need in the months ahead are political decision-makers with enough courage to credibly communicate to their peoples that a humanitarian and focused admission of refugees in need can lead to a win-win situation if all parties pull together.

The political decision-makers should try to gain people's confidence in their own countries and overcome their fear of being punished by their voters for integrating refugees into the national economy. Accordingly, good use should be made of the time until the next UN General Assembly, which begins September 20, 2016 on Children's Day.



The money for smugglers would be better invested in the refugees: for their safe arrival, their just distribution, and their targeted integration into the national economies of wealthy U.N. countries!

The current refugee situation is only the beginning of a larger avalanche. The **climate refugees** will be the next to come. And again, we will be dealing with people, mostly from Africa and Asia, **who have nothing to do with the causes of their flight**. In their desperation they will overrun the borders hoping to be saved, which they rightly demand. After all, these are the borders of the industrial nations causing the climate change.



The map of the world shows areas in which, due to climate change, local environmental changes may lead to climate exodus

The book *Spielball Erde – Machtkämpfe im Klimawandel* ["Plaything Earth - Power Struggles in Climate Change"] by Claus Kleber and Cleo Paskal impressively describes what is looming over us and why.

The book explains that the glaciers of the Himalayas are the largest fresh water reservoirs on earth, following the Arctic and Antarctic. Tens of thousands of them have regulated the water supply since time immemorial. In the dry, warm months they release water that was stored in the winter. The icy reserves were always sufficient for balancing the differences between rainy years and dry years. Without any doubt, this rhythm has been disrupted. In the last 30 years, the majority of glaciers have shrunk rapidly. And this process will continue to accelerate. A conflict over water, the basis of life, would spark an explosion with unforeseeable consequences according to Claus Kleber, who also describes his encounter with Air Marshall Ak Singh, retired commander in chief of the Indian Air Force.

Ak Singh told Claus Kleber:

"Twelve of the largest rivers in the world have their source on the Tibetan plateau; they supply billions of people with water – and eleven nations. If something changes here, conflicts will arise. Wars always start for the same reasons. If they are not about freedom and self-determination, they are about material things. The worst of these are poverty, hunger and thirst. For a time, it may be possible to live with compromises. But ultimately there will be an explosion. And then we will see that there is no military solution for these problems. There's something brewing. For our country and the whole earth."



We cannot say we were not warned. *The March* is a visionary film from 1990 and was produced by BBC, although against reservations of Spanish and Italian broadcasters for whom the idea of an “ecological migration” of Africans to their countries seemed too close to reality. The setting of the film is an indeterminate future in which, due to climate change, large parts of Africa have become uninhabitable and racial tensions have increased in Europe. It was broadcasted in May 1990 as a highlight of the European media initiative “One World for All.”



Have a good think about the global future!

In the 1990 movie *The March*, Juliet Stevenson,
as EU Development Commissioner Claire Fitzgerald, says:

*“We need you, just as you need us. We cannot carry on as we have been doing. You can help us
stop the destruction we cause. But we are not ready for you, you have to give us more time. We
are not ready for you. Maybe later. Maybe someday.*

What kind of world would that be otherwise.”



***How much time do we need, or rather, how much time do we have left
to stop the destruction we are causing?***

The horrifying but also encouraging details on climate change and climate protection are specifically described in Messages 5 and 6 of this primer. We still have the chance to decide whether we will survive unscathed or whether we will perish together, as victims and perpetrators, in the chaos of catastrophes.



Reality in the 20th century!



Hope in the 21st century!

In his sermon of December 31, 2015, Cardinal Lehmann said: *“The globalized world is no longer static, far away from us, some abstract matter. Disadvantaged and suffering people are on the move and trying for themselves to improve their chances in life. In view of the increasing hardship, even long distances including the dangers they face on their way are apparently no reason for them to turn back. Globalization is showing its impact not only in faraway countries; the affected people carry it with them into our countries, even into our homes. Many of us are desperately seeking accommodations for them. I am firmly convinced that this will affect our view of the world in a fundamental way. In many respects, we will have to rethink our standards for what it means to have a gratifying life. Instead of focusing only on ourselves, we will have to share our chances in life with these ‘foreigners’. It is a big step which will hardly succeed without a biblical ‘turning back’.”*

We cannot have enough of freedom, as the following contributions demonstrate:

Erhard Eppler says:

"Quality of life means freedom, freedom for self-development and self-realization, freedom from material need and, as far as possible among human beings, also freedom from fear. Quality of life means security through human solidarity, proving one's potential at work, participation in the culture, but also in an intact nature, the optimal chance for psychic and physical health."



Wolfgang Schäuble says:

"The history of Western democracies is the history of limiting state power to secure the freedom of the individual."



Morgan Freeman says:

"It is everyone's responsibility who lives in freedom to express their opinion. Always!"

"I know that dreams can only be fulfilled if you do something for them yourself."

"Nelson Mandela was a hero for everyone who values independence, freedom and human dignity. If we now recall his triumphs, we should not only reflect upon how far we have come, but also on how far we still have to go. Madiba may no longer be among us, but his journey goes on - with me and with all of us."



Freedom also means: Each of us can decide for himself whether he believes or not. No one must be condemned, persecuted, threatened or disadvantaged in any way for being religious or living by the principle of randomness. That is what the idea of *freedom of faith* stands for. The term *religious freedom* becomes superfluous once the *creed* which Message 3 focuses on has been generally – and peacefully – accepted.



I'm an atheist and I thank
God for it.

George Bernard Shaw

These facets of freedom mean true richness and liberate us from striving for the greatest possible material wealth.

About real values, Adele says:

"I don't want to be super-thin at any cost. These are just superficialities, not real values. Ultimately I want to convince my audience with my voice and my talent. I don't need bleached teeth or a breast enlargement for that."



Hello, it's me!

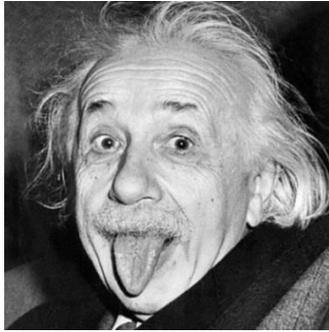
Let's all say goodbye to the questionable and sometimes dangerous concepts of ideal beauty. Nobody, not even the models, needs a fashion industry that will have us believe thin and scrawny people are worth admiring or even emulating. Our sympathy for the beanpoles and bags of bones who nearly starve themselves to death to please unscrupulous designers and collect fat salaries, is rather limited!



Mr. Lagerfeld, please liberate us and the lady from this martyrdom!

Albert Einstein said:

*“Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity;
but I'm not so sure about the universe.”*



**Let's prove the contrary -
here, now and everywhere in the world!**

Let's again compress the age of our planet from 4.6 billion years into a single calendar year. *Homo sapiens* thus first saw the light of day on New Year's Eve just after 11 p.m. Our world is beautiful and frustrating at the same time because *Homo sapiens* is stuck in the fog of evolution since half an hour and threatening to disappear into an evolutionary blind alley.

Let's use our intelligence and act with vision, wisdom and imagination to ensure that *Homo sapiens* is not just a pretty damn short episode in the history of our planet. **May the species threatened with extinction or becoming extinct thanks to our doings breathe a sigh of relief – not because the human species is moribund, but because we humans, at last, distinguish ourselves by humaneness and by commitment to the protection of the species.**



Eberhard Brandes and WWF say:

"An increasing number of animal and plant species are becoming potential 'death-candidates' on the 'Red List', and human beings are mainly to blame. Man is causing the largest mass-extinction since the disappearance of the dinosaurs. An increasing number of species are threatened. They are afflicted by the destruction of their habitat, poaching and climate change.

Many species are therefore living in ever smaller areas and are endangered for that reason. Many animals and plants will be extinct before they are even discovered. Up to now, only some two million of a total of 10 million suspected species worldwide have been scientifically described. And of these two million, only a small portion is actually included on the Red List. The Red List contains, as of the 2015 updating, some 77,000 species of which 22,800 are greatly endangered. Among the 'death candidates' whose risk of extinction is classified as high or very high, there are such charismatic representatives as the African elephant ('endangered'), the tiger ('highly endangered') or the black rhinoceros ('threatened with extinction'). The West African lion is new on the list – not quite 200 adult animals are still living among this population in danger of extinction. Understanding the protection of species and nature conservancy as a task for society as a whole is a key for successfully reversing the trend. Systematic educational work is needed to anchor the importance of biological diversity for us and our life on this planet in people's consciousness. It begins with experience-oriented environmental education in kindergarten and continues through university studies. Biodiversity must finally be anchored in the various disciplines, from engineering to economics."



It is up to *us* whether the second generation of *Homo sapiens* will be born, one smarter, wiser and fairer than the first generation which has been living in its own shadow for such a long time searching for light in the darkness.

Confucius said:

"It is better to ignite a single small light than to curse the darkness."

"I shall forget what you tell me. What you show me, that is what I will remember.

What you let me do, that is what I will understand."



The "Crown of Creation" we have carried around for so long still has to be earned before it can be placed upon our head!!!



Yuval Noah Harari says about *Homo sapiens*:

"Crown of creation or horror of the ecosystem? 100,000 years ago, Homo sapiens was still an insignificant animal living inconspicuously in a remote corner of the African continent. Our ancestors shared the planet with at least five other human species, and the role they played in the ecosystem was not greater than that of gorillas, dragonflies or jellyfish. Then some 70,000 years ago, with Homo sapiens there came a mysterious and rapid shift. The configuration of his brain, his language, and his unique capability to cooperate made him the ruler of and a threat to the planet. This predominance has continuously increased to this day. The human being has the capacity for creative and destructive processes like no other living creature. And humankind has now reached the point where it must decide which path it wants to take from here onward."



Yuval Noah Harari's book *Sapiens – A Brief History of Humankind* is a literary gem and a scientific and cultural treasure of immeasurable value. This book ought to be in every bookcase.

In an inimitable and incomparable way, Yuval Noah Harari describes the three milestones in the development of *Homo sapiens* down to this day. The beginning was the cognitive revolution 70,000 years ago, then came the agricultural revolution 12,000 years ago, and finally the scientific revolution 500 years ago. The book is a very comprehensible description of the consequences of these three revolutions, with all of the gains and losses. If we do it right at this point, the next revolution could become the beginning of something completely new. We have to reshuffle the cards the three revolutions have dealt us and, if necessary, exchange them. The cards in the game of our life are fictions, illusions, lies, greed, envy, power and control as well as the human predominance with which *Homo sapiens* has subjugated all other species. The discovery of language, trade and money as well as the creation of empires and religions have contributed to building walls in our minds and hearts, which hold us captive and must be torn down. It is high time that we also cast off the chains the agricultural revolution laid upon us.

These chains have led us to domesticate all the species living with us, culminating in today's intensive livestock farming. Before the agricultural revolution, when *Homo sapiens* was a hunter and gatherer, he was smarter than we are today. The majority of modern humans have lost their natural instincts and are therefore no longer capable of following the natural rules of evolution. We often sit mindlessly in front of the TV, expose ourselves listlessly to a constant stream of pictures or get all worked up by whatever or whomever, stuffing ourselves with food, not caring where it comes from nor how it was produced. Yuval Noah Harari phrased it aptly in his book: Agriculture is a luxury and time trap which *Homo sapiens* walked right into, and the trap has snapped shut. An example in numbers from Harari: Compared to the year 1500, there are 14 times more people today who produce 240 times more, consuming 115 times more energy in the process. Another example: If all the people on our planet were placed on a large set of scales, they would weigh about 300 million tons. The weight of our domesticated livestock (such as cows, sheep, pigs and chickens) would be about 700 million tons. **In contrast, the combined mass of wild animals – from porcupines and penguins to elephants and whales – would weigh in at less than 100 million tons.**

Yuval Noah Harari continues: *Our children's books, our iconography and our television TV screens are still full of giraffes, wolves and chimpanzees, but the real world has very few of them left. There are still about 80,000 giraffes in the world, compared to 1.5 billion cattle; 200,000 wolves compared to 400 million domesticated dogs; 50 million penguins compared with 50 billion chickens; 250,000 chimpanzees in– in contrast to billions of humans. Humankind really has taken over the world.*

The wild giraffes and penguins have no reason to be jealous of the domesticated cows and chickens, though. From a narrow evolutionary perspective, domesticated species are an amazing success story. They are the most widespread animals in the world. Unfortunately, this evolutionary perspective fails to take into account individual suffering. Domesticated cows and chickens may well be an evolutionary success story, but they are also among the most miserable creatures that ever lived. This discrepancy between evolutionary success and individual suffering is one of the most important lessons of history.

We will be most successful in unshackling ourselves and liberating ourselves from our errors if we see the globalization of our planet as an opportunity and not as a burden. As far as we know, *Homo sapiens* is the only species which can reinvent itself in order to secure itself – as *Homo progressivus* – an existence alongside the many other species on our beautiful planet. That could occur as follows:

- The flaws and injustices evident in globalized trade and data exchange must be rectified.
- The next step is the establishment of a common world currency, the "Globe" (see also Message 5).
- Then comes the dissolution of imperialism in favor of a global empire with just rules for all, under the auspices of the "United Peoples of the World".
- In parallel, the religions, clashing with each other time after time, will be brought together with their positive precepts in one global faith. It is up to anyone's discretion to follow the faith or the principle of randomness (see also Messages 3 and 7).



One currency!



One empire!



One creed!

Thomas Jefferson (1743–1826) said:

*"We are created to cooperate, like hands, like feet,
like the lower and upper row of teeth."*



In this respect, we have more or less been sleeping for 200 years.

André Heller says:

*"God thinks in the geniuses, dreams in the poets, and sleeps in the
rest of humankind. Ladies and gentlemen – good night!"*



Man, it's time to wake up!

George Bernanos (1888–1948) wrote:

"If, some day, the increasing efficiency for the technique of destruction finally causes our species to disappear from the Earth, it will not be cruelty that will be responsible for our extinction and still less, of course, the indignation that cruelty awakens and the reprisals and vengeance that it brings upon itself, but the docility, the lack of responsibility of the modern man, his base subservient acceptance of every common decree. The horrors that we have seen, the still greater horrors we shall presently see, are not signs that rebels, insubordinate, untamable men are increasing in number throughout the world, but rather that there is a constant increase in the number of obedient, docile men."



Homo sapiens has not changed to this day!

In the spring of 2015, we had a conversation with the artist Heike Rupprecht who designed the ten illustrations of the chapter headings in this primer. She pointed out that the title we had originally chosen for the primer, "*Homo Progressio ...*", should be "*Homo progressivus ...*" in correct Latin. After researching on the Internet, we came across two congenial spirits: the French Jesuit and scientist Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, who lived from 1881 to 1955, and the physician Ludwig Ebersberger, who preserves the legacy of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin. When we came upon the following quotes from these two men, we discovered that we, too, had found two kindred souls and decided to use the term coined by Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, *Homo progressivus*. It is a pity that a media dialogue between Yuval Noah Harari, Anselm Grün, George Bernanos, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, Ludwig Ebersberger and Franz-Josef Radermacher - in this combination - is no longer possible.

In his essay *The Planetization of Mankind* Pierre Teilhard de Chardin wrote:

*"A new element of supreme importance has appeared in the community of human beings. **We might call it 'Homo progressivus', that is to say a person to whom the future matters more than the present. The first representatives of this type of human being are already living among us.** Some apparent attraction draws these scattered elements together and causes them to unite among themselves. No racial, social or religious barrier seems to be effective against this force of attraction. I myself have experienced this a hundred times, and anyone who chooses can do the same: Regardless of the country, creed or social status of the person I approach, provided the same flame of expectation burns in us both, there is a profound, definitive and total contact instantly established between us. It matters nothing that differences of education or training cause us to express our hopes in different ways. We feel that we are of the same kind, and we find that our very differences are a common armor. as though there were a new dimension of life between us, from heart to heart. I see no other explanation for this phenomenon than that, accelerated by the successive intellectual and social upheavals that have shaken the world during the past century and a half, a radical process of differentiation and segregation is taking place within the human mass. There is a spontaneous individualization of everything that moves forward, an irresistible multiplication and unification of forces giving rise to the spirit of the future. **These are the real forces for the unification of the world.***

They will tomorrow constitute the human race."



60 years after his death, it is high time we put his legacy into action by developing into *Homo progressivus*!

Ludwig Ebersberger says:

"We are witnessing the prodigious and unique moment in history where humankind is beginning to become aware that from now on, irrevocably and until the end of time, it will be under the compulsion to unify.

In constant succession, the explosion in human knowledge and the technological progress associated with it are leading to increasingly precarious critical situations and global threats connected with completely new ethical problems, and their resolution is possible only consensually and in steadily growing global cooperation. They compel people to take paths that may require them very soon to mobilize all their power, challenging them in their totality, and thus – perhaps especially – in their religiosity. This calls for reorientations of a fundamental nature, both in theology, which, if it is to recognize the religious dimension of this pressure to unify at all, must liberate itself from the thought constraints of the 16th century, as well as in the natural sciences, which persist in the prejudices of the mechanistic world view in issues of orientation to the world and to existence, and in philosophy, which should finally pass from the question, 'How is cognition possible?' to the question, 'How is future possible?'"



Fulfillment of the Message: The attentive reader will have noticed that everything in this primer is cohesive and unfolds in three dimensions: *SPACE*, *TIME* and *ENERGY*. We can add our *KNOWLEDGE* as a fourth dimension and apply it everywhere in a humanitarian way. "For Love, Forgiveness, Sharing, Peace and Freedom" is the central message. This is how wars and greed as well as hunger and thirst can be subdued – with renewable energy, with educated people and one creed – **under the umbrella of the "United Peoples of the World," while sustaining the endearing cultures, customs and practices, which are indispensable as essential**

roots. The implementation should be prepared by the six commissions (yet to be established) of the “United Peoples of the World” and passed by the latter.

Willy Brandt said:

"The best way to predict the future is to shape it."

John F. Kennedy said:

"When, if not now? Where, if not here? Who, if not we?"

"Let us never negotiate out of fear. But let us never fear negotiating."



With our planet in view, Barack Obama says:

"We are one nation, we are one people, and our time for change has come."

"Change does not happen if we wait for some other person or some other time.

We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change we seek."

Jimmy Carter says:

"The government must be as good as the people want to be."

"We should live our lives as though Christ was coming this afternoon."

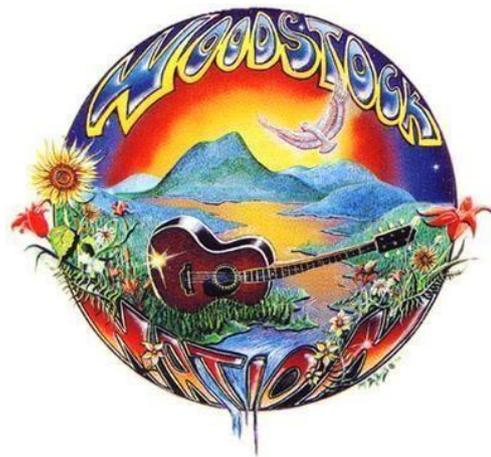


Ambassadors and Mediators: e.g. Herbert Grönemeyer, Amal Alamuddin (because she married George Clooney and they can inspire each other and many others),



Malala Yousafzai and Jimmy Carter (also because they are Nobel Peace Prize winners and can jointly reach all age groups and layers of society), as well as socially-minded actors like Anthony Hopkins, Michael Caine, Jack Nicholson, Dianne Keaton, Scarlett Johansson, Jeremy Irons, Kevin Spacey, Al Pacino, Edward Norton, Nicole Kidman, Russell Crowe, Christoph Waltz, Robert de Niro, Tobey Maguire, Jeff Bridges and Chris Cooper (also because in *Seabiscuit* they showed how strong supposed outsiders can be, combined with one of the most beautiful quotes in film history: **"You don't throw an entire life away just because it's a bit damaged."**), Michael und Kirk Douglas, Susan Sarandon, Juliette Binoche, Catherine Deneuve, Jean-Paul Belmondo, Brigitte Bardot, Alain Delon, Claudia Cardinale, Jack Nicholson (also because he flew over the cuckoo's nest), Colin Firth und Geoffrey Rush (also because they showed us how a speechless king can manage to be heard), Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe and Rupert Grint (especially because they showed us how enchanting our world can be), Erika Berger, Erika Pluhar, Ingrid van Bergen, André Heller, Hannelore Elsner, Dominik Elstner, Iris Berben, Oliver Berben, Michael Ballhaus, Nina Hoss, Hinnerk Schönemann, Ben und Meret Becker, Devid Striesow, Senta Berger, Michael Verhoeven, Mario Adorf, Barbara Auer, Sophie von Kessel, Heino Ferch, Henry Hübchen, Christina Do Rego, Herbert Herrmann, Dietmar Bär, Manfred Krug, Jan Fedder, Wotan Wilke Möhring, Nadja Tiller, Götz Alsmann, Christine Westermann, Katharina Wackernagel, Kai Pflaume, Oliver Mommsen, Til Schweiger, Mariele Millowitsch, Anja Kling, Ina Müller, Walter Sittler, as well as comedians like Hape Kerkeling, Bastian Pastewka, Jürgen von

der Lippe, cabaret artists like Thomas Freitag, Dieter Nuhr, Werner Schneyder, and musicians like Lang Lang, Anna Netrebko, David Garrett, Plácido Domingo and José Carreras (also to help as a duo), Eric Clapton, The Dire Straits (Brothers in Arms), The Who, Pink Floyd, Led Zeppelin (Stairway to Heaven), Bruce Springsteen's E-Street Band, The Rolling Stones, Deep Purple (Child in Time in April), Roger Waters, Harry Belafonte, Seal, Patti Smith, Gianna Nannini, Adele, Amy McDonalds, Madonna, Björk, Justin Bieber, Beyoncé Knowles, Lena Meyer-Landrut, Lina Arndt, Andrei Vesa, Charley Ann Schmutzler, Marion Campbell, Lionel Richie as well as Peter Maffay, Jan Josef Liefers and Anna Loos, Cro, alligatoah, Andreas Bourani, Mark Forster, Ed Sheeran, Taylor Swift, Green Day, Wiz Khalifa, Kid Unk, Eminem, Linkin Park, Robin Schulze, Avicii, David Guetta, Zedd, Wolfgang Niedecken, Campino and his Tote Hosen, Nena, Samu Haber, Rea Garvey, Boss Hoss, Xavier Naidoo, Die Fantastischen Vier, Silbermond, Nina Hagen, Ina Deter, Inga Rumpf and many others.



**Also because all together, you can revive legendary concerts –
for a good purpose!**

Top models such as Gisèle Bündchen, Kate Moss, Heidi Klum, Claudia Schiffer, Carla Bruni etc.:



**Because it's your job to make the world more beautiful,
not only by the way you look!**

The German world champions in soccer 2014:



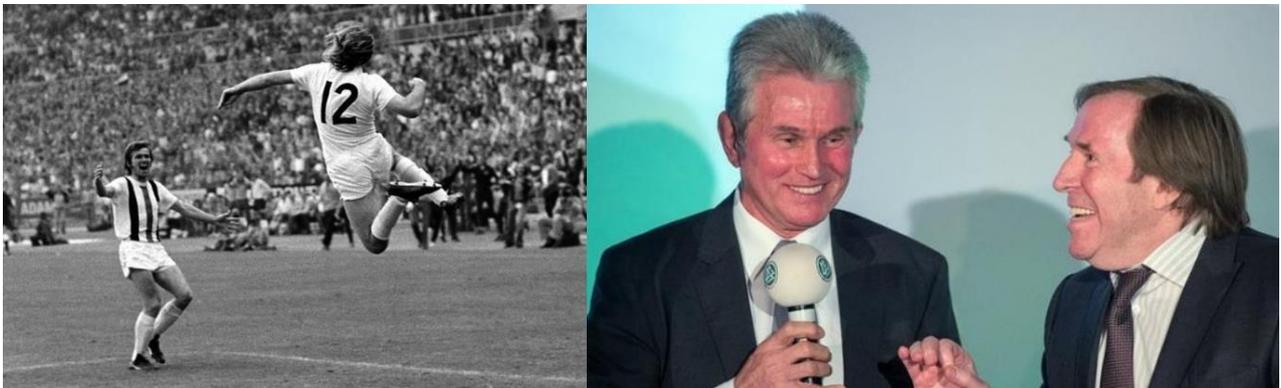
**Because you showed us how to achieve a common goal,
however distant it may seem!**

Jupp Heynckes said to Günter Netzer before the German Cup final in 1973:

"Even if the coach doesn't need you – the team does."

Günter Netzer said to Jupp Heynckes on his 70th birthday:

"Outstanding players are often not outstanding coaches. You are the best evidence to the contrary. You worked your way up from nothing to the top and became a legendary coach. That is owed to your straightforwardness, honesty, motivation and discipline. The best thing I can say today is: You haven't changed in all these years."



**There are paths to success which show that in the end,
humanity and justice come out on top!**

Marko Reus, Mats Hummels, Horst Eckel, Franz Beckenbauer, Zinedine Zidane, Luis Figo, Pelé, Diego Maradona, Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo, David Beckham, Paul Breitner, Jupp Heynckes, Günter Netzer, Jürgen Klopp, Uwe Seeler, Wolfgang Overath, Reiner Bonhof, Jogi Löw, Andy Köpke, Oliver Bierhoff, Jürgen Klinsmann, Dieter Kürten, Rudi Völler, Reiner Calmund, Thomas Bach, Tiger Woods, Bernhard Langer, Dirk Nowitzki, Boris Becker, Steffi Graf and Andre Agassi, Niki Lauda, Mika Häkkinen, Sebastian Vettel, Fernando Alonso, Kimi Räikkönen, Louis Hamilton, Michael Schumacher, Henry Maske, Jochen Behle (because they are role models for many people and because they can show that they are not only modern gladiators and that the world means more than bread and circuses) as well as

Claudia Pechstein:



**Because she knows what it means to fight for one's innocence
in sports and one's happiness in life – and win them back!**

Miriam Welte and Kristina Vogel:



Also because they are already enormous ambassadors!

Angelique Kerber:



**Because she has shown what is possible with an irrepressible will
and faith in one's strengths!**

The German handball players who won the European championship 2016



Because they played in a team in which each one gave everything for the other. A success – thanks to passion, fight and team spirit – that seemed inconceivable!

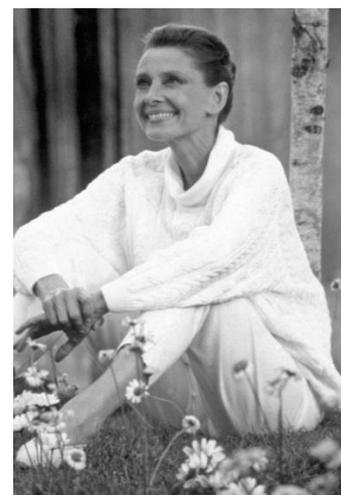
Audrey Hepburn said:

"What the world needs is modesty, dignity and decency in the souls of the young."

"Remember, if you ever need a helping hand, it's at the end of your arm."

And as you get older, remember you also have another hand:

the first is to help yourself, the second to help others."



Leo says:

"I am one of many unwanted, castaway dogs that have found a new family thanks to Christian and Karin. We are real lucky dogs here because we get to live in groups and in outdoor compounds where we can run free instead of being locked away all alone in small kennels. We are accepted the way we are, we are encouraged and can show our mettle, and everybody here gets their chance. Many dogs are here because humans don't understand them, were only interested in the dog's outward appearance, or used the dog as an object on which to vent their doggone frustration and aggression. Here we are understood, loved, cared for and can learn to trust again. Those for which a suitable home cannot be found, can stay, and they are welcome with all their problems and illnesses. The two are our hope of finding a better life and new confidence in the good in people."



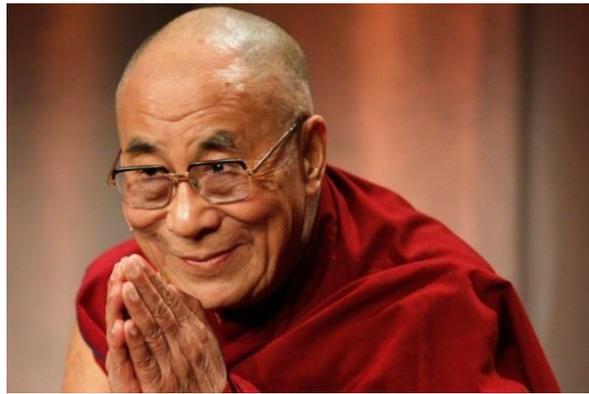
I am Leo!

The Dalai Lama says:

"We all share this little planet Earth and must learn to live in harmony and peace with each other and with nature. This is not just a dream, but a necessity. Without the basic human values of love and kindness, we cannot survive. Peace will not be created by God; that's up to us human beings.

What we really need today is the feeling of unity of all seven billion people. In the end human resoluteness and truth will be victorious over violence and repression.

In the end peace, reason and freedom will get the upper hand."



Roland Koch says about the Dalai Lama:

"I think people are impressed by the peaceable nature, the gentleness, the seriousness, but also by the special kind of humor and the cheerfulness of this man.

I don't know anyone who can resist the infectiousness of his laughter."

Desmond Tutu says:

"Forgiving is actually the best form of selfishness."



Prince Charles says:

"The world is out of joint. For a life in harmony with nature, we must radically rethink in order to save our Earth and creation. We have become deaf to our inner voice, our intuition, which would preserve us from inflicting damage upon the environment. We need a new view of the world, a vision that takes the challenges of the 21st century into account. We should consider that our children and grandchildren will not ask what our generation thought and said, but what it did."



Bob Marley said:

*"So much was said, so little done. Open your eyes, look within.
Are you satisfied with the life you're living? Get up, stand up.
Stand up for your rights. Get up, stand up. Don't give up the fight.
Let justice cover the world the way the water covers the seas.
It is time for the world to unite as one human race."*



In 1944, Anne Frank wrote:

*"Why are millions spent on the war each day and not a penny for medical science, for the artists, for the poor? Why do people have to starve when mountains of food are rotting away in other parts of the world? Oh, why are people so crazy? I don't believe that war is only the work of the big men, the politicians and the capitalists. Oh no, the common man is just as guilty, otherwise the peoples of the world would have risen in revolt long ago! There's simply a destructive urge in people, an urge to rage, murder and kill, and until all mankind, **without exception, undergoes a metamorphosis**, wars will continue to be waged, and everything that has been carefully built up, cultivated and grown will be cut down and destroyed, only to start all over again."*

– Diary entry May 3rd, 1944

"To be honest, I can't really imagine how anyone can say, 'I'm weak,' and then stay weak. If you know that about yourself, why don't you do something about it, why not develop your character? The answer was:

Because it's much easier that way." – Diary entry, version A, July 6th, 1944

"Oh yes, I do not want to have lived in vain like most people. I want to be useful and bring enjoyment to all people around me, even those I've never met. I want to go on living, even after my death." – Diary entry, version A, April 5th, 1944



Anne Frank managed to live on through her diary. We should do her and ourselves the favor of finally undergoing the metamorphosis together.

By enhancing our individual self-esteem – supported by the collective urge to improve – we can transform ourselves from *Homo sapiens* to *Homo progressivus*!

In *Miracle on 34th Street*, Santa Claus, his lawyer and his judge say:
*"You must understand, I am not only a strange figure wearing a cute costume
and busying myself with a joyful demeanor, I am a symbol
of the human capacity which makes it possible to free oneself
from selfishness and hateful tendencies that determine most of our lives.
And if you don't recognize anything on the basis of faith alone,
you are condemned to live a life ruled by doubts."
"And then I ask the court to decide what is worse:
a truth that elicits a tear – or a fairy tale that raises a smile?"
"Case dismissed! Santa Claus wins!"*



**Most people believe in a supernatural force.
Then it will surely help if we adults, too, believe in the values of Santa Claus
and other good symbols again. We would thus be able to overcome the true evils.
We have invented so many things already. So why don't we let
fairy tales and dreams come true that make us smile?!**

Penélope Cruz says:

“With our ideas, we contribute to shaping our future.

The key is not to stop dreaming.

If you catch yourself no longer dreaming as you did

when you were ten or fifteen, it's time to sound the alarm:

Watch out! We ought to begin now to dream of what we want to be.”



Gandalf says:

"I think it is the small things, the daily deeds by normal people which keep darkness at a distance. Simple deeds done out of goodness and love."

Bilbo says:

"I often think of Beutelsand. I miss my books. And my easy chair. My garden. That's where I belong. That's home. And that's why I came back, because you don't have any. Your home was taken from you, and I want to help you get it back."

Aragorn says:

"Today does not belong to any single man, but to us all. Let us rebuild this world together, so that we can share it in times of peace."

Frodo says:

"Now not only the day will be loved, but also the night will become beautiful and blessed, and all of their fears will pass."



The Magician

The Hobbit

The King

The Ring Bearer

They dispersed the dark clouds over Middle-earth.

Let us also disperse them from our minds, from our hearts and from our Earth, and let fairy tales and dreams come true!

3. For one Creed

At the beginning, human beings were hunters and gatherers who banded together into hordes that traveled far and wide. Settled organizations formed long afterwards, attended by the ability to communicate in language, growing knowledge and the discovery of fire. Groups with social values, their own customs and traditions as well as their own culture and religion, lived within borders which were for the most part continuously shifted by armed conflicts. These include, for example, the cultures that emerged among the Chinese, Egyptians, Greeks, Romans and Jews. On the other side of the globe, we have the Maya, Inka and Aztecs along with Indian tribes such as the Apaches and Sioux who lived in towns with houses or in tents. These, too, had a social and national form of organization, as well as a religion. The tribes we know from Europe, the Celts, Teutons and Vikings, had harsh customs and traditions. All of them held fast to religions for orientation, probably to feel protected by the gods or a god.



Today we live spread over five continents in countries which, over the course of the centuries, have more or less gotten along with each other and which have united generally to their advantage, such as the United States of America and the European Union, although the relatively young EU still has a lot of homework to do. On the basis of these good experiences, it would be a correct and logical step to unite on other continents as well, for example as the "United nation-states of Africa" or the "United nation-states of Asia."



The united nation-states of the continents!

An important first step on the way to the "United Peoples of the World"!

There is no contradiction between maintaining nation-states on a temporary basis and preserving the respective endearing cultures, mores and customs while doing away with the borders in our lives and in our minds!

In most countries we have a separation of State and Church. Both influence each other nevertheless, primarily through positive cooperation, especially with respect to humanitarian efforts. **We can conclude from this that a unification of nation-states of the continents on the way to the "United Peoples of the World" would act as a signal to also unite the religions – toward one faith.**

We live in villages, towns or big cities and increasingly in megacities with several million residents.



The world today is closely networked. Information in digital form flies around the globe in a split second, spreading good and bad news.



The bad news doubtlessly concerns the violent conflicts on account of territorial claims and the resources beneath the surface of these territories, but also the basically incomprehensible and deadly conflicts between people of different religions, who have been misguided by their leaders.

Eugen Drewermann says:

*"If the entire existence of a person consists only of fear,
all the structures of his creative existence turn
from a blessing into a curse, from salvation into doom,
from happiness into unhappiness."*

"What we fear most, is quite often that which we most hope for."



All in all it is apparent that in the world of today, with its opportunities, challenges, strengths and threats, we must firmly stand and hold together, mutually "granting" ourselves a good life.



For the followers of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, Abraham is the first human being who believed in one single God. The God more than four billion people today worship and respect.

Three great religions, but only one God. The Jews call him Jahwe, in Islam his name is Allah, for the Christians it is God. Each religion has its own somewhat different regulations and rules for how to worship and how humans should behave on Earth. But the three great religions also have a lot in common. This God promises eternal life after death, he tolerates no other God alongside himself, he sent prophets to earth who told the people about him. And all three religions refer to a common forefather, Abraham.



The Buddhists tolerate all other religions as it is. And the Hindus have learned to get along with the Muslims, and vice versa. *Mahatma Gandhi would be very happy about that.*

The basic rules of behavior in the different religions, such as

- the Bible and its "Ten Commandments" for Christians and Jews
- die Islamic 5 pillars and "six principles of faith" in the Koran
- Buddhism with its "five Silas"
- Hinduism with its "ten disciplines"

incorporate many comparable positive attitudes to life, values, and codes of behavior which ought to be domiciled in *one* house as soon as possible, *with the world as the roof.*

Francis modestly says:

"Oh, how much I would like to have a poor church and a church for the poor."

*"Let us pray for peace! Let us attempt to work for peace,
beginning with ourselves at home."*

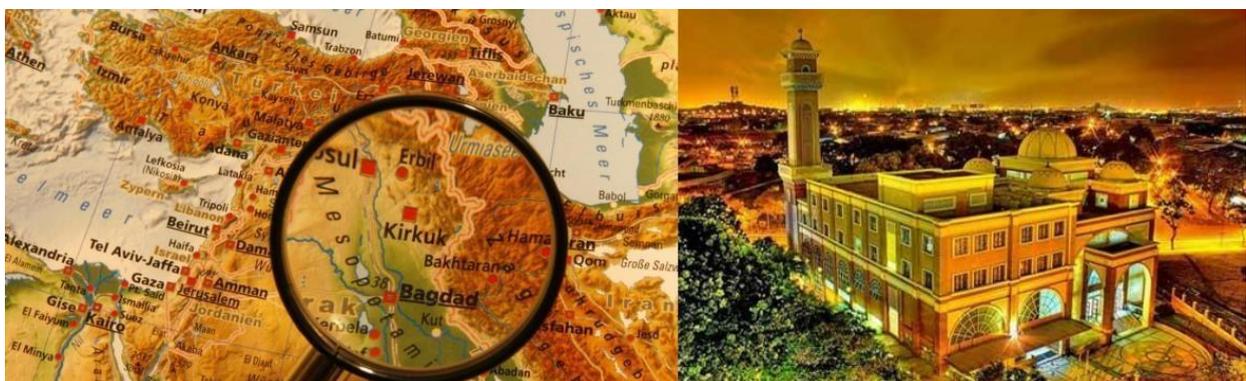


The common bond existing for more than 1,400 years between the three monotheistic world religions (Christians, Jews and Muslims)

At the beginning of the 7th century, in the year 610, a new monotheistic religion was born, Islam. The founder was the prophet Mohammed, 40 years old at the time, to whom the archangel Gabriel had appeared before. According to tradition, Gabriel first brought Mohammed the revelation that Allah is the one God, later ever new messages from Allah. The messages were an appeal to believe only in the one God, to do good things in life and to

keep away from evil things. Mohammed passed on all the messages to humankind. Since that time many Muslims attempt to live by them, unfortunately not all of them. Within a century, the new religion brought a territory from Persia to Spain under its influence, claiming religious and worldly power. Jews and Christians were given the status of a "dhimmi," which was sometimes more, sometimes less disadvantageous to them, depending on place and epoch. But they were free to exercise their religion. Despite their restricted legal status, "Dhimmis" were protected by the state. Islam and Christianity have their roots in the Judaism founded by Moses. In 636, biblical and Jewish personalities were accepted into Islamic faith (e.g. Abraham, Moses, David, Salomon). Jesus, too, is recognized in the Koran, although not as the son of God, but as one of the great prophets like Abraham, Moses and Noah.

Muslim power grew all around the Mediterranean up to the 15th century. The last Moorish kingdom (Granada) was not reconquered until 1492, the year Columbus discovered America. In an area stretching from India to the Mediterranean region, Islam became the predominant religion in the Middle Ages and at the beginning of modern age. Jews and Christians constituted two minorities in these regions, both pursuing the same goal. They wanted to acquire the best possible status within the empire. This led to a cultural exchange, to which the **"House of Wisdom"** in Baghdad testifies. **Christians, Jews and Muslims worked together in this golden age for more than 400 years and jointly achieved scientific successes.** Religion and science were closely interconnected. Institutions based on the model of the House of Wisdom in Baghdad were later established in Córdoba, Seville and Cairo. They can be seen as the forerunners of today's universities.





The two scholars and friends, Maimonides and Averroës, also lived in this period, both born in Córdoba, one a Jew, the other an Arab. Maimonides was perhaps the greatest Jewish thinker and physician as well as the rabbinical authority of the Middle Ages and lived from 1135 to 1204. Averroës was an eminent philosopher and physician and went down in history also for his commentaries on Aristotle. In Averroës' eyes, the only chance for humans to become happy is in logic. Two things were necessary for the scholar: intellectual acumen and faultlessness in faith combined with moral virtues acquired by benevolent behavior.



Maimonides

Averroës

Toledo with its translation center for Arabic writings, and Granada with the Alhambra as outstanding work of architecture, were important cities in this period of cultural openness and tolerance. **This – for the most part – glorious epoch can teach us for the present and the future that we stand to gain a lot when different cultures communicate with each other, learn from one another and live together with shared values.**

The golden rule for the social life of humankind is charity. That is what is written in the Koran, in the Bible and in the Thora. The main concern of all three books is to minimize the antagonisms between people and prevent them from resorting to violence.

The relationship between Jews, Christians and Muslims in the Ottoman Empire between 1300 and 1922 can largely be described as religious coexistence. There are hardly any indications of a deeply rooted animosity against Jews comparable to the anti-Semitism of the Christian world. On the whole, the Muslim attitude toward non-Muslims is not characterized by hate, fear or envy. Religion is by no means the only determining factor for the coexistence of Christians, Jews and Muslims in the Ottoman Empire. Assessment of the coexistence in the political constellations of the different epochs of the Ottoman Empire is mostly positive, although it cannot be compared with the regime of civil rights and minority rights in the modern nation-state.



Despite this coexistence of the religions, however, there were repeated instances of armed conflicts and oppression. The ones to suffer were not only the Christians or Muslims, but also the Jews, depending on the situation. Even in the 14th century, at the time of the black plague that wiped out nearly half of the European population, the Jews were made the scapegoats and persecuted. For hundreds of years, mainly the popes and the self-proclaimed caliphs decided on war and peace, driven by their personal whims as well as by vindictiveness and greed. The 9th message of this primer, "Against the abuse of religions," discusses this in detail.

The rise of Europe began with the growing strength of the middle classes at the end of the 18th century. The Jews came to enjoy more civil liberties, and they were granted individual equality. Nevertheless, they became victims of violent oppression, forcing many Jews to emigrate to the Near East. Europe was the scene of world history: The middle classes began to emancipate themselves, the French Revolution erupted to oppose the monarchy's claim to absolute power. Citizens attempted to gain political codetermination in the nation-state movements that were developing, and they sought to replace the authoritarian state with a liberal model legitimated by a parliament.

At the same time, European Jews, who by now had obtained civil liberties, became the target of an increasingly concrete anti-Semitism. They succeeded nevertheless in rising into the national elites. Their social advancement was accompanied by a growing interest in the fate of their fellow Jews in the Muslim world as whose protectors they considered themselves. Torn between Zionism and Arab nationalism, Palestine became a pawn of religious and political interests.

In the '30s and '40s of the 20th century, the world was confronted with the horror of the concentration and extermination camps that cost the majority of European Jews their lives and did not end until the allies defeated Germany. Many Jews had fled from the Nazis to Palestine. Here, a permanent national home state for the Jews was to emerge under British mandate. **Jews from New York to Tel Aviv rejoiced and cheered when the state of Israel was founded in 1948, but Arabs and Muslims were angry and embittered.** More than 700,000 Palestinians were displaced or fled, hoping to return someday. At the same time, the great majority of Jews in the Muslim world had to leave their homes, voluntarily or under compulsion, in Iraq, Egypt, Iran, Syria, Morocco, Tunisia and other countries. There were repeated armed conflicts between the state of Israel and the neighboring Arab countries, in particular the Palestine War (1948/49), the Suez Crisis (1956), the Six Days War (1967), and the Yom Kippur War (1973). And Jerusalem became a divided city.



And yet the three religions are so close to each other exactly on this spot because it is equally sacred to Jews, Christians and Muslims. Jahwe's Temple, the Jewish place of worship, was in Jerusalem. Jerusalem is sacred to Christians because Jesus was crucified there. And for Muslims Jerusalem is a holy city because from the cliffs of the Temple Mount, Mohammed ascended into heaven.

The bond between the three monotheistic religions held to a considerable degree for 1,400 years. It is only since about one hundred years that parts of the Muslim and Jewish worlds consider each other as arch enemies and want to annihilate each other. It is high time to stop the warmongers on both sides, also in memory of Anwar el-Sadat und Yitzchak Rabin.

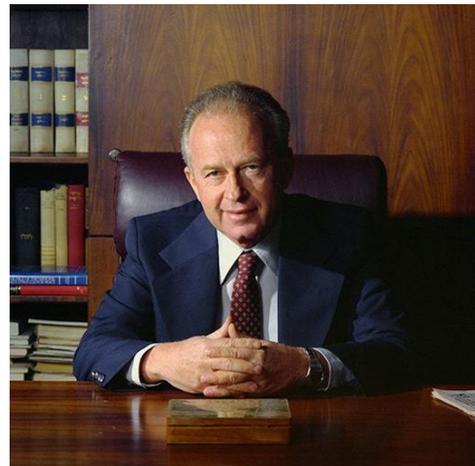
In 1977, Anwar el-Sadat addressed the Egyptian parliament and said:

"I am ready to go to the end of the world for peace."

The end of the world for Sadat meant the Knesset, the Israeli parliament. Sadat spoke before the Knesset on November 20th, 1977 – a world sensation.

On September 28th, 1995, Yitzchak Rabin said in Washington:

"After a long series of official solemn declarations, look at this podium. The King of Jordan, the President of Egypt, Chairman Arafat and us, the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Israel, on one platform. Please, take a good hard look. The sight you see before you was impossible, was unthinkable just three years ago. Only poets dreamt of it, and to our great pain soldiers and civilians went to their deaths to make this moment possible. Here we stand before you, men whom fate and history have sent on a peace mission to end once and for all one hundred years of bloodshed. We all love the same children, weep the same tears, hate the same enmity, and pray for reconciliation. Peace has no borders."



In the Koran Mohammed treated all three scripture religions with great respect. All have the same prophets, with two exceptions: The Torah does not know the Christian son of God and Islamic prophet Jesus, and the Bible does not know the Islamic prophet Mohammed. But nearly all the others appear in the three holy scriptures. All three monotheistic religions profess that we are all children of Abraham, who also receives the commandments. People must be made aware of this again. **We all have the same roots. So it must be possible for us to live in peace with each other.** Provided that we truly understand what "tolerance" means and live accordingly.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe said:

*"Tolerance should be a temporary attitude only.
It must lead to recognition. To tolerate means to insult."*



Iris Berben says:

„Shalom, Jerusalem.

This city leaves no one unmoved. Almost 4,000 years of eventful history on so few square kilometers, all the fates and myths. Time and again the people set off into a new future, with the heavy burden of history, always with new courage, new hopes. Jerusalem is a wondrous city in which we reflect on the origin of humanity, on religion, on our roots. If the numbers are correct, some 670,000 Jews, 320,000 Muslims and 14,000 Christians live in Jerusalem today - there are 1,204 synagogues, 158 churches, 73 mosques, uncounted Torah schools, Jewish colleges where women are not allowed to study. The city is sacred to all three: Jews, Muslims and Christians.

This is where the Jews saw their Temple of David destroyed, this is where for the Muslims Mohammed's journey to heaven began, and this is where Jesus died for the salvation of the Christians. People who have never been to Jerusalem cannot imagine it: how a space can be so full of spirituality. It is as if the air shimmers with so much devotion and absorption in prayer pursued with seriousness and dignity. With the hustle and bustle in the streets and bazaars, you would think all of humanity was on the move - for me Jerusalem is the cradle of religion, just as Africa is the cradle of humanity. Jewish, Islamic and Christian faith. The belief in one God who created the world and steers it, who guides us on life's journey, be the name Jahwe, Allah or God. Jerusalem is a mysterious cosmos of history and reminiscence. I have not managed to entirely understand the city even after so many years. But Jerusalem calls upon us to shape the world together, to improve our cooperation, and to understand life as a gift to which everyone has a right.

'Shalom' means integrity, salvation, peace, liberation from all calamity and misfortune, also health, security and calm, it is closely related to the Arabic 'Salam.'

Shalom, my Jerusalem."



Let us imagine that Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Mohammed and the many other prophets were to return once again upon the earth. With their task and their gifts they would certainly unify the power of above here below. That is what they lived for, and that is what they died for.

Since this, unfortunately, will not happen, we wish God also has a daughter who will be sent to us as sister and cousin of Jesus and Mohammed and the many other prophets, bearing a message we will understand and with which we will succeed in amicably and peacefully agreeing on one faith and one God.



Fulfillment of the Message: The positive and common values of the different religions should be combined to suggest one creed for humankind and to live according to it – with benevolence and compassion against "inhumanity" in an open, civilized world society. This should be developed by the "Commission on Faith" (yet to be established) under the auspices of the "United Peoples of the World" and passed by the latter. **After that, it is up to anyone's discretion to follow their faith or the principle of randomness.**



On that day Hell would freeze over!



Ambassadors and Mediators: for example Pope Francis, Andreas Englisch, Franz-Peter Tebartz van Elst, Karl Lehmann, Nikolaus Schneider, Wolfgang Beinert, Roland Koch and the Dalai Lama, as well as religious leaders and scholars of Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists and Christians, Eugen Drewermann, Hans Küng, Anselm Grün, Kathrin Göring-Eckhardt, Philippe Lechermeier and Rebecca Dautremer (because they dressed up the Bible so beautifully and thus inspired us) as well as Anne-Sophie Mutter, Friede Springer, Reinhold Messner, Dieter Mann, Wim Wenders, Christiane Nüsslein-Volhard, Peter Sandmeyer and Bettina Flitner, and many others.

Mit *G*laube With Faith
wird alles möglich... all becomes possible...

Mit *L*iebe With Love
wird alles einfach... all becomes easy...

Mit *H*offnung With Hope
wird alles gut... all becomes well...



Udo Jürgens sang, and we still hear him singing:

*"I believe - that the field we plow,
belongs to us only a short while.*

*I believe - no longer in the old lies
that it's worth not more than one human life.*

*I believe - that food for the hungry
is more important than counsel ever so wise.*

*I believe - being human and proving it
is more useful than any heroic feat.*

*I believe - this world should be big enough,
wide enough, rich enough for us all.*

*I believe - life is beautiful enough,
colorful enough, reason enough to take joy in it.*

*I believe - those should be asked first
with whose blood and money wars are waged.*

*I believe - that we would know nothing of war
if those who want it had to feel it's force most.*

*I believe - neither skin nor its color
will ever determine a person's value.*

*I believe - no one would need to starve
if those, too, would give who today only take!*

*I believe - this world should be big enough,
wide enough, rich enough for us all.*

*I believe - life is beautiful enough,
colorful enough, reason enough to take joy in it."*



4. For a Fundamental Right to Education

We, and probably most people, are convinced: Books are treasures for people from their youngest days.



Astrid Lindgren said:

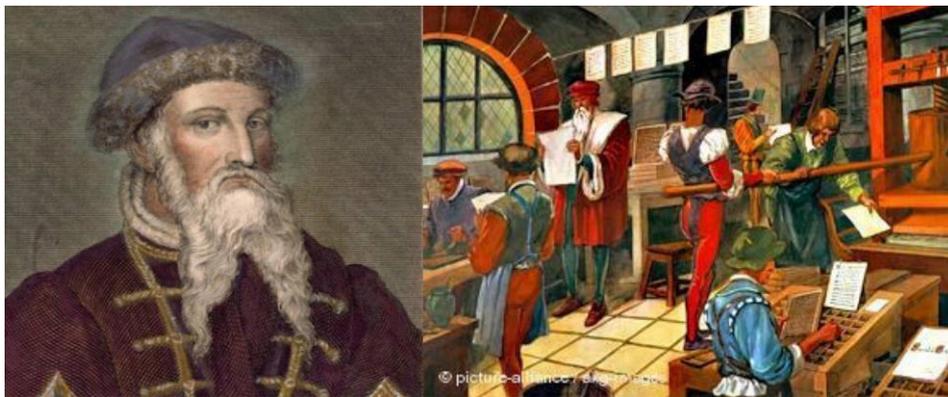
"You cannot thrash anything into children, but you can caress a lot out of them. Reading is an infinite adventure of childhood. What the world of tomorrow will look like, depends to a high degree on the imagination of those who are now just learning to read.

If Pippi Langstrumpf served any purpose at all other than to entertain, it was to demonstrate that it's possible to have power and not abuse it. And that is probably the most difficult thing there is in life."



Books were so valuable some 550 years ago that only very rich people could afford to have a bookshelf full of them. Every book was copied by hand and often skillfully illustrated, an activity which above all monks had specialized in. Someone who ordered an illuminated manuscript often had to wait several years before it was finished.

Around 1450, Johannes Gutenberg from Mainz invented the printing press thus contributing to the removal of these obstacles. Soon not only religious and scientific texts in Latin, but also flyers and stories in the vernacular were printed. More and more people learned to read. For us today, the invention of movable letters along with the discovery of America in 1492 marked the end of the Middle Ages and the beginning of modern age. The idea of the Enlightenment that knowledge should belong to everyone was only realizable through Gutenberg's invention.

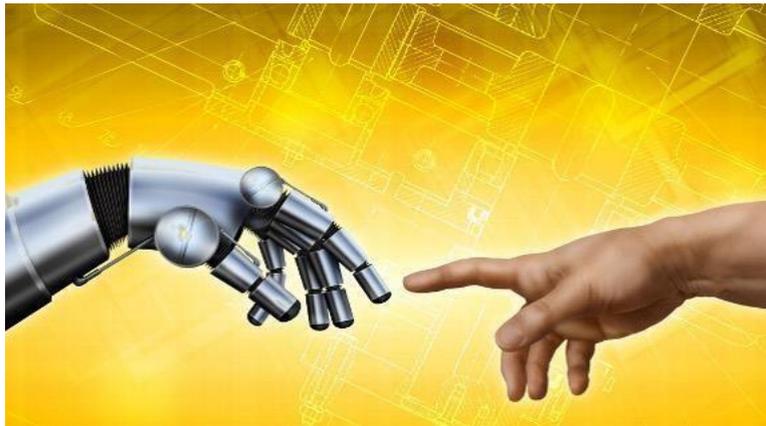


The invention of book printing is a milestone in the history of education. Knowledge and ideas could now be spread at will – the basic prerequisite for the emergence, 500 years later, of the Internet as well as professional and social platforms such as Google and Facebook.

Following industrialization in the 19th and 20th centuries with its monotonous conveyor-belt work and heavy physical stress, we now need a new educational system for the 21st century. In the future, much greater emphasis will be placed on intellectual work for the development, production and application of new, sustainable technologies and products. **In our view, one of the most important activities is the training and education of children, youths and adults.** To this end, we need a suitable educational system with advanced curricula which promote and reward individual abilities and the passions of teachers and students. **Teachers have to vividly explain to students why they are supposed to learn this** or that curricular material and what

it is good for in their personal lives. That way, talents can be better recognized and encouraged, and teachers and students will be more enthusiastic.

The globalized economy is already in the fourth industrial revolution. "Industry 4.0" describes the path toward a networked factory whose future production systems will be controlled by using digital technologies. The coupling of digital computer power and mechanical processes aims to assist human beings in complex work processes.



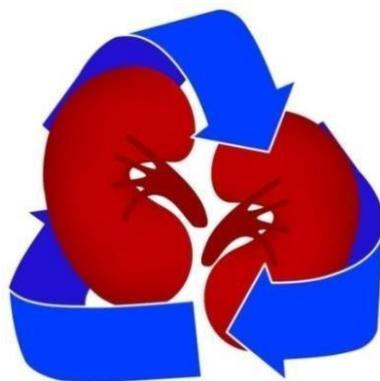
To make this succeed, an even closer cooperation between schools, universities and companies (also in the SME area) is indispensable to provide practical training for the needed skilled staff, specialists and engineers.

The curricula of all schools must include the importance of a integral energy turnaround with its positive impact, which can contribute to improving our educational system on the whole.

Increasing education, combined with the deployment of sufficient funds for research and development in health care, can also be instrumental in eradicating widespread diseases on our Earth faster. This also applies to brain, muscular and nerve diseases such as Alzheimer, multiple sclerosis and Parkinson's as well as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and blood diseases such as leukemia. Moreover, we could learn to do without animal experiments and to allow ourselves a decent care system for old age, making it worth living.

Ebola must also be obliterated as soon as possible before this deadly disease becomes endemic. That also applies to Aids. 37 million people live with HIV worldwide. In 2014, two million people were newly infected with HIV. A total of over 40 million people have died up to 2014 as a result of Aids. 70% of the people with HIV, i.e. 25.8 million, live in sub-Saharan Africa. The number of new infections here continues to increase.

Confidence in organ donation must also be reestablished. **In Germany, for example, there were 864 organ donors in 2014. That amounted to 10.7 donors per million inhabitants.**



People who during their lifetime decide to donate their organs after their death, know that their organs will continue to live in other people. Helping other people and relieving their suffering: We like that idea much better than being eaten by worms and maggots within a short period of time.

Sufficient funds would be available if we stopped the senseless and inhuman production and hellish use of weapons of mass destruction. For years, military expenses worldwide have been about 1.7 trillion dollars per year. Germany ranks fourth in worldwide weapons exports after the USA, Russia and China. Germany is still the largest supplier of submarines and, following Russia, the second largest exporter of tanks. According to a study of the GIZ (Society for International Cooperation) of August 2015, "ostensible German pacifism and simultaneously Germany's worldwide arms deliveries" are not compatible.

Another scourge waiting to be eradicated is the exploitation of workers in Second and Third-World countries, who produce consumer goods for wealthy nations at shamefully low wages. Education can make its contribution here, too, and lead to higher-quality work at minimum wages that the employers and consumers must bear.

What is education? Where does it happen and at what age? Does every person have access to education? Education as we understand it is enlightenment and imparting of knowledge, values, creativity, curiosity and imagination as well as of cosmopolitanism, tolerance, solidarity, empathy, kindness and respect for all forms of life and the treasures of nature.



Education begins in the family. Then come the day-care centers, for example, the nursery schools, schools providing an all-round education, vocational schools, technical colleges and universities. Everyday work follows these adventures. People who extend their knowledge, for instance in adult education centers, evening classes or community colleges, and who stay curious all their lives have an advantage.

Günther Jauch says:

"It is through one's personality that knowledge becomes education.

Education involves learning. That is time-consuming and nerve-racking – but you know what?

Education can make you very happy, calm and collected!"



Werner Biberacher says:

"As a financial services provider and lecturer I also want to support young people to get training in the financial area, to get informed and to see the profession in a favorable light. The young people come from school, they know Pythagoras, hypotenuses and everything connected to mathematics. But they cannot explain loans, investment funds and liability insurance. In this field they actually don't know anything. Then someone sells them an unimportant or an expensive product, and a couple of years later there is a rude awakening. That is what we want to deal with. We want to help young people find their bearings early so they have a firm foothold in matters of finance later on. I am a fan of innovations that help us preserve the world for our descendants."



As already discussed in Message 2, most generations before us lost all their belongings at least once in their lives as a result of wars, displacement, flight or natural catastrophes. In large parts of the world, the last two generations have been born into a collective affluence in which they also grew up. This was possible because they lived in more or less *peaceful* times. So far, these young people have been spared collective suffering. But from their childhood, they must learn that over the long run, they have to work for a lasting prosperous life themselves and must not make excessive demands on the social security net. **To this end they need role models within and outside the family. Good teachers – inside and outside the schools – along with the appropriate subject matter, could assure that**

- young people do not end up on the street or go astray,
- standards are set for young people and they are given a framework of rules which can also keep them away from violence,
- young people are freed from the feeling of despondence, meaninglessness and worthlessness which consume them before their valuable life has even begun,
- young people receive a plan for a self-determined life beyond drugs, fanaticism, radicalism and terrorism, and that
- young people also experience sports and cultural values as something to be treasured and enjoy them.

Gregor Gysi says:

"Education may be expensive, but detention centers are much more expensive."

"Chin up - not the hands."

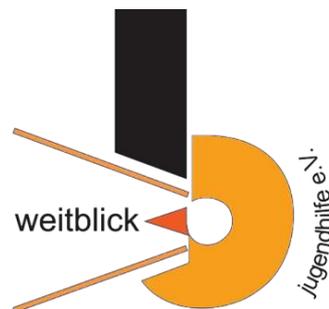


Carlos Benede says:

"Live the way you are, take heart. Once you have dared to do it, being true to yourself and to your decisions is sometimes the simplest thing in the world. Seize opportunities, encourage talents, compensate for deficits: We work according to this principle in our association, Weitblick-Jugendhilfe ['Vision Youth Assistance'], and give children and young people the chances they were denied because of their past, especially their typical background of having been brought up in homes. The young people learn new action strategies in a relaxed environment and get a real chance for a fulfilled life with future prospects."



Father and son

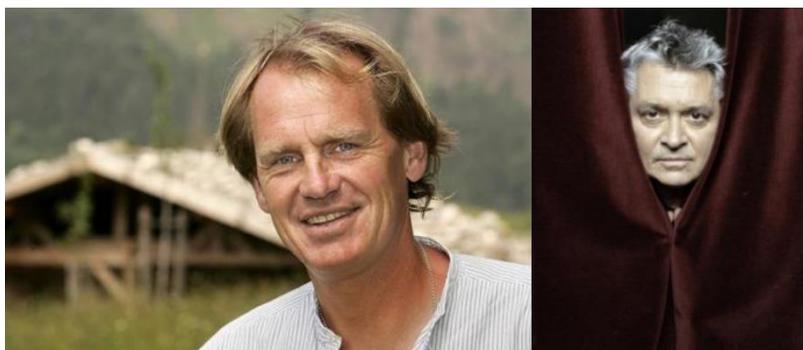


Markus Wasmeier says:

"There's no real physical education any more, that's all twaddle. The kids are overweight and the teachers don't know that sports can be a school for life."

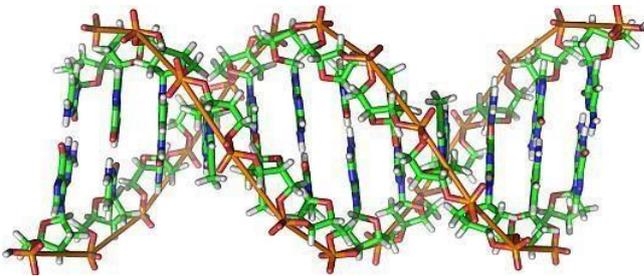
Henry Hübchen says about culture "as a national objective" in the constitution:

*"Of course. Because culture is what constitutes our life and our sociability.
And because education and culture belong together."*



Probably the greatest challenge in the field of education since time immemorial

Attitudes toward life and living conditions can generally be improved if young people and those young at heart are allowed to have their fling by coming up with new ideas as well as creative, visionary and revolutionizing thoughts. Then it remains to be seen what will catch on in real life. For all who feel young and competent it should be a challenge to find out how big the difference in DNA is between *Homo sapiens* und *Homo progressivus*. We will approach the issue carefully and leave it to experts like Axel Meyer to show us the way so that we can take the decisive step together.



It is often said that the human genome has already been decoded. That is not entirely correct. The genome has only been "sequenced," which means we know the sequence of the chemical modules (bases) in the DNA. But we do not yet know what all these sequences are good for. Most of the DNA is still in the dark waiting to be decoded. After all, the human genome has about 3.4 billion base pairs.

There is only approximately 0.1 percent difference in the DNA of two randomly selected human beings. The correspondence of DNA between human beings and chimpanzees is 98.5 percent. Genetically speaking, Neanderthals resemble us by 99.5 percent. Since *Homo sapiens* and the Neanderthals lived side by side for about 30,000 years, a mixture is quite probable. This is confirmed by recent research findings. These findings show that there is about 1 to 3 percent Neanderthal DNA in the genomes of humans living today. In Message 2 of this primer, we found out from Pierre Teilhard de Chardin that the first representatives of the *Homo progressivus* human type are already living among us. The numbers, facts and recommendations in this reader clearly demonstrate that we urgently need a **rapid** interbreeding between *Homo sapiens* and *Homo progressivus*.

***Homo progressivus* with a *Homo-sapiens* DNA of 1 to 3 percent would have a good chance of survival!**

Homo sapiens, biologically speaking, is not yet finished. Mutations that extend the way our brain functions in a lasting way arise in the genes through chemical randomness. Looking back on the human types that have died out, *Homo sapiens* seems to be a real winner who no longer needs to change. Reading this primer, we find out that this is a fallacy. Where do we go from here? What does it mean if the number of mutations increases in an immense world population? What opportunities does the gene pool of the world population offer with respect to positive changes? Can we, or should we, replace the natural evolution of humankind with a directed evolution?

Our reason tells us that our DNA is yearning for an upgrade with which we can liberate ourselves from the evils that have poisoned our minds for so long!

We dare to think of everything. We categorically reject thought-censorship and taboos so that time does not just roll over us. In our view, the human being is not yet completed. The process of anthropogenesis is not yet concluded. Man is capable of developing himself further. Changing our world view can have profound and far-reaching consequences. It affects the entire human being in the way he perceives himself and the world. **The most important evolutionary leap of the future is likely to be a cultural one.** *Homo sapiens* would turn into *Homo progressivus* who develops a collective awareness of himself as a species, casting aside his narrow-minded habit of always thinking first of his own nation, religion or race.



Axel Meyer says:

*"I have been involved in biological research for decades. I want to find out how new forms of life develop, how the species adapt themselves and how they secure their survival by changing their genetics. What can most influence the evolution of humankind in the future are **cultural** changes. The fact is probably important that people who would never have met before now globally mix, due to migration and tourism. Positive stimuli may also be derived from new methods in genetics, medicine and reproductive biology – provided they are fruitfully applied to the further development of our species."*



Michael Jungblut says:

"There are many good ideas for solving problems. They only need to be implemented. And the successful solutions must be publicized so that others who also want to make a contribution won't have to 'always reinvent the wheel'. Every year, for example, companies, clubs and public initiatives, schools and private persons are awarded the Deichmann Prize for Integration for special merits in the struggle against youth unemployment. They support young people from immigrant families or socially disadvantaged groups, or young people who are mentally or physically handicapped. Numerous examples show: With purposive support, even 'hopeless cases' can graduate from school and find suitable training positions. The initiators often do not receive additional funding. This proves that ideas, initiative and good will are more important than money."



And who cares about the children and young people in the Third World?

Malala Yousafzai says:

„A child, a teacher, a book and a pen can change the world."



Mario Götze says:

"Children need fans! Everyone who can should sponsor a child in a poor country. Girls especially need more help. Education gives them a chance for a better future. Here, too, the principle applies: Don't hand out alms, but provide help to promote self-help for the needy where they live."



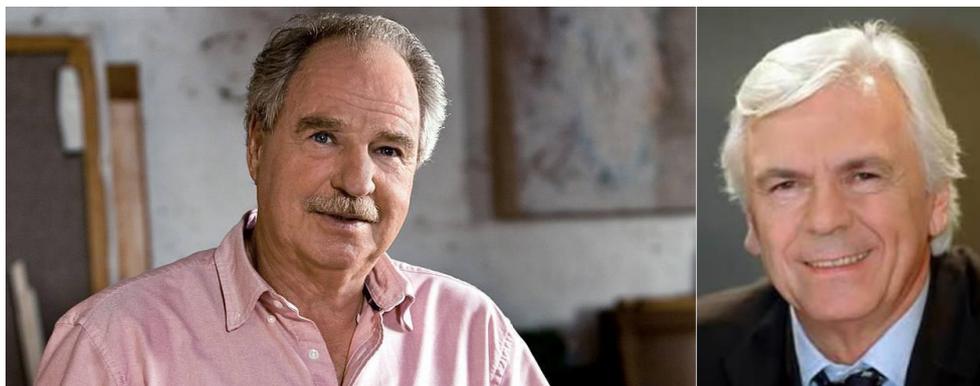
obs/Plan International Deutschland e.V.

Friedrich von Thun says:

"A sponsorship can only be a small contribution against injustice in the world. Offering a child in a developing country a small chance and trying to improve the child's life can be a first step toward vanquishing this injustice."

Dieter Kürten says:

"I think it is necessary to give children an adequate education and training. Regular correspondence with my godchildren is especially important to me. That way I learn the most important things about their development and fate. For my godchildren's sake, I hope they receive the support they need to build up a dignified life with a promising future."



Anja Kling says:

"The future of our societies all over the world lies in the hands of the children! It must be of particular concern to us that they can adequately learn, acquiring not only comprehensive knowledge, but also nobleness of heart. Education is the first step into a life of freedom and independence. I am grateful for what I have been able to achieve in life, and I am glad I can assure my own children that the process of growing up is care-free. Happiness must be shared! Happiness shared is happiness doubled."



The German Doctors say:

"Our name is our program: We are a globally operating non-governmental organization which sends volunteer doctors to projects in the Philippines, India, Bangladesh, Kenya and Sierra Leone. In our areas of operation we do all we can to secure a dignified life for disadvantaged people, and we provide health care and training for them. With prophylactic measures such as concomitant nutrition programs or hygienic training we also aspire to improve the health of our patients in the long term. Our physicians work for us during their annual vacations or after retirement for a period of six weeks, and they do it for free. About 6,800 missions have been carried out since 1983 with more than 3,000 doctors. In 2015 alone we sent in doctors 296 times in the eight projects we currently have - some of the doctors were called in several times during that year. It was clear to us from the outset that we can reach people only in cooperation with the locals."

That is why we soon began to train an increasing number of health workers from the different regions - also with the aim of putting medical care entirely into the hands of local personal.

We call it: Help that remains!"



Nora Weisbrod and aktion tagwerk say:

"The idea of 'Your Day for Africa' is quite simple: Instead of going to school, school children work for one day per term and donate their earnings to educational projects in six African countries.

That way, children and teenagers in Germany actively support their peers in Africa.

They decide for themselves how and when a school takes part."



Photos: Bernd Weisbrod

Claudia Michelsen says:

“Child poverty is a problem many people are not aware of. Even I didn't know what was happening next door until a few years ago when I came across 'Die Arche' (The Ark). There are plenty of cities in Germany where an alarming number of children go to school without breakfast and a break-time snack. The Ark is a Christian children's welfare organization that supports up to 4000 children every day and gives them time, love, attention and a warm meal – and all of that merely with the help of donations. What the collaborators of The Ark daily accomplish for this country, without any state support, is simply wonderful. Poverty is not always visible.”

Bernd Siggelkow says:

“Many young people today grow up in emotional poverty. Many of them do not have the feeling that there is anyone who believes in them, who appreciates them and supports them. Children need someone who recognizes their potential and talents. Someone who motivates them. Their homes and the school play a major role. Unfortunately, parents and teachers much too seldom say : “You do that very well, keep it up!” Or: “Don't hide your head in the sand!” We try to communicate that to the children in the Ark. The Ark encourages children to discover their strengths and capabilities, to develop them further with determination, and to believe in themselves. We consider it our responsibility to publicly point out social anomalies and to campaign on a broad front for permanently improving the living conditions of disadvantaged children and families in our country.”



Uschi Glas and brotZeit e.V. say:

“brotZeit was prompted by a terrifying discovery: Every third primary-school pupil is hungry during classes. Our help for these children began in the fall of 2008 as a private initiative, and then in February 2009 as a registered charitable society. The name of the society reflects our holistic concept: Give bread and give time - brotZeit. Children get a balanced breakfast and start the day motivated. Meals are prepared and attended by senior citizens who also help with homework in the free periods and after school, find constructive ways of spending the free time, and give extra tuition coordinated with the teachers. brotZeit combines childcare with active encouragement of seniors in a unique way. The organization has developed rapidly since its founding. We are now supporting 165 schools in eight regions. 7,500 children receive a balanced breakfast every morning. As of December 31, 2015, a total of more than 3.1 million meals have been served. In 2016, it will be 4.4 million at 183 schools. The work of brotZeit is scientifically evaluated by studying the development of the grades and by interviewing the teachers. These evaluations show that brotZeit children from difficult social backgrounds do better in all subjects than children who do not participate. The same is true for learning and working behavior. Concentration and social behavior are also improved.”



Herman van Veen and Hans-Werner Neske say:

“We established our foundation in 2003 to support children and teenagers in need of help due to their physical, mental or emotional condition. We help them to attain more mobility and quality of life by promoting their talents and capabilities with well-directed measures.

*At the same time we are particularly concerned about the recognition
and implementation of children’s rights because*

children have rights, but adults have responsibilities!

*So many children in the world must suffer because adults
frequently neglect their established responsibilities*.”*



Foto: Horst Wackerbarth

Herman van Veen

* When 181 nations signed the Children’s Rights Convention in New York on September 29, 1990, Herman van Veen and Sir Peter Ustinov planted the “Tree of Life” in the garden of the United Nations for the development and observance of children's rights worldwide.

There is only one thing in the long run more expensive than education: no education.

John F. Kennedy



Fulfillment of the Message: The most important criterion is to guarantee and preserve equal opportunities for all people. In order to ensure this, we need education as a basic right in the constitution of the "United Peoples of the World." There is so much knowledge and there are so many educated people who can share their knowledge, more simply than ever before. To this end, everyone must have access to this knowledge, in schools and professional contexts of all kinds, as well as through access to the World Wide Web and to reliable social platforms. The implementation should be prepared by the Educational Commission (yet to be established) of the "United Peoples of the World" and passed by the latter.

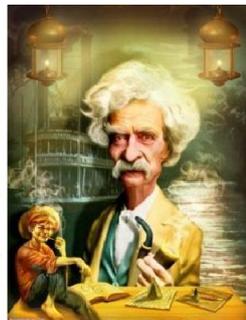
Ambassadors and Mediators: for example Franziska Giffey, Christine Hauskeller, Klaus Kornwachs, Peter Sloterdijk, Gerald Hüther, Thomas Brüsemeister, Klaus-Dieter Eubel, Julian Nida-Rümelin, Gesine Schwan, Michael Bordt, Elke Heydenreich, Rudolf Tippelt and Hartmut Ditton (with their colleagues), Günther Oettinger (via Internet), Klaus Buschkowsky, Peter Frey and Fritz Frey, Wolfgang Thierse, Karl Lagerfeld as well as all the philosophers, pedagogues, school directors, university presidents, who feel attracted to the idea and who have something to say, and many others.

Mark Twain said:

"Education is what is left after the last dollar is gone."



With our education, we will win the "Globe"!



Global currency!

5. For renewable energy

Renewable energy is of increasing existential importance for our technology-based world and for life on Earth, especially for us human beings.

We therefore must act sensibly and with far-sightedness, backed by the immediate power of the sun, to which we owe our existence in the first place. The sun is our elixir of life. Without the sun, we would not even exist. Without our sun, the Earth would probably be a naked, cold piece of rock in the universe. We should directly obtain, store and use its inexhaustible energy in the form of sunlight, wind energy, water power, geothermal heat and biomass (from waste material). As soon as possible, we must stop burning fossil fuels which were formed over millions of years within the bowels of our Earth.

The world's hunger for energy can be satisfied 2,850 times with the energy the sun provides directly and **always anew**. Wind energy can do it 200 times, energy from biomass 20 times, geothermal energy five times and energy from hydropower three times.



Renewable energy is inexhaustible. For the products in our technology-based world, energy is as important as food and drinking water are for us human beings. We rightly take the liberty of subsidizing agriculture to have a secured supply of food. Since supplying consumers from regenerative energy sources is increasingly becoming a crucial issue of life, **temporary subsidization of these sources makes sense and is necessary.**

Sufficient funds would be available for the production and application of intelligent products if we stopped the destruction of astronomical sums of money and the questionable contracting of national debt.

- According to a study by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in 2009, 50 trillion dollars have disappeared or were destroyed in the recent financial crises.
- According to the quarterly statement of the Bank of International Settlements (BIS) of March 9th, 2014, the national debt of all countries in the world has increased by 43 trillion dollars since mid-2007, especially to salvage the banking system.
- According to the report "Better Growth Better Climate" compiled by the Global Economic and Climate Commission in September 2014, about 90 trillion dollars will be invested in infrastructure in the next 15 years. *This money should be spent sensibly and in the consciousness of better climate protection – the experts demand – for example on the public transportation systems of cities. That would reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. Investments should also be made in renewable energies. Then subsidies for fossil fuels could also be cut back.*

By increasingly switching to renewable energies, risks as well as polluting emissions and fine particle matter resulting from production and distribution as well as stationary and mobile combustion of fossil energy sources can be reduced. These still cause considerable environmental pollution - especially in large metropolitan areas. **The switch can help to improve human health and reduce costs in health care.**

The documentary film *Under the Dome* by environmental activist Chai Jing could have a profound effect on China's environmental policy. Chai Jing has been grappling with the consequences of environmental pollution in China for many years. Smog is an omnipresent problem in China. Now, with her documentary film, Chai Jing has succeeded in shaking people up by dealing with the subject from a personal perspective and speaking openly about her fears.

Chai Jing says:

*"From the moment that I heard the heartbeat of my daughter,
I wished for nothing more than her health."*



But now she is wondering what kind of world her daughter was born into. On 175 days of the year 2014 she could not let her child go outside because of the high level of air pollution in her native city, Peking. Her daughter had to spend almost half of the year at home, locked in "like a prisoner." In 2015, it wasn't any better. There is a desperate need for change—that is the journalist's message. **And the Chinese hear her** - the high viewing figures prove it. They are pushing the Chinese government to act. The Minister of the Environment, Chen Jining, has already announced that the implementation of new environmental laws is the top objective for the next years.

The sums of money mentioned above which are either irrecoverable or which have led to additional enormous indebtedness, are astronomical. Irresponsible bankers acting as financial jugglers gambled with the hard-earned money of honest, industrious people and squandered it. They gambled, knowing that all the cards they held were junk. They lied to us and cheated us and burned our money.



The banks which make a profit out of money laundering, tax evasion and financing of terrorism are not a jot better. And all the while, the banking supervisors are either asleep or are sitting in the same lurching boat. We must also clamp down on the big multinationals when they unscrupulously keep hunting for the lowest possible tax rates.

Louka Katseli says:

"There's plenty of money where tax evasion and the black economy are flourishing, where smuggling and illegal trade are rampant, where there are smaller and larger pockets of corruption. All you have to do is find the money and then use it for the right things."



Like investing in the generation of energy under the Greek sun, for instance!

Short-sighted politicians now will have us believe that we must "*economize our way to soundness*" instead of investing in real values, with solid and clean credits.

We shall not be taken for a ride when someone tells us that there is no money to promote development, production and application of new, good and sustainable products.

Gerd Salomon says:

"It cost us trillions of dollars to save and support the global banking system and the still questionable branch of investment banking, and yet it all helps only a small segment of mankind.

Promoting the energy turnaround ought to be worth at least that much!

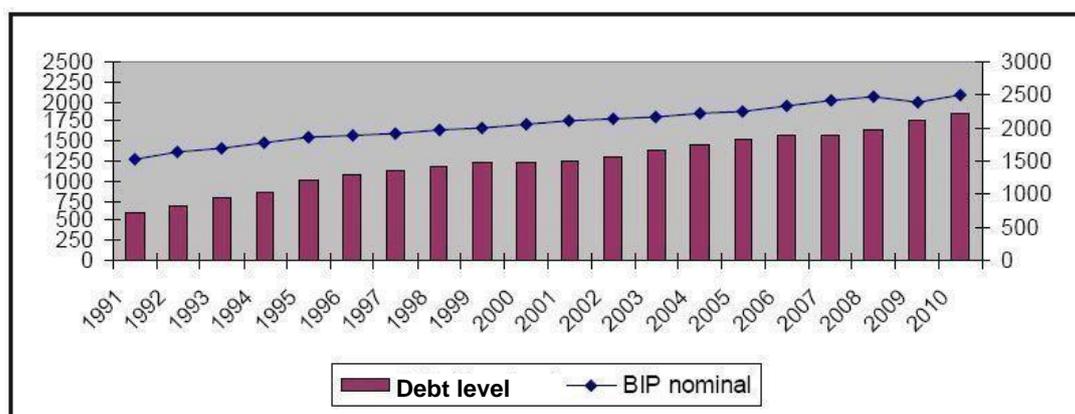
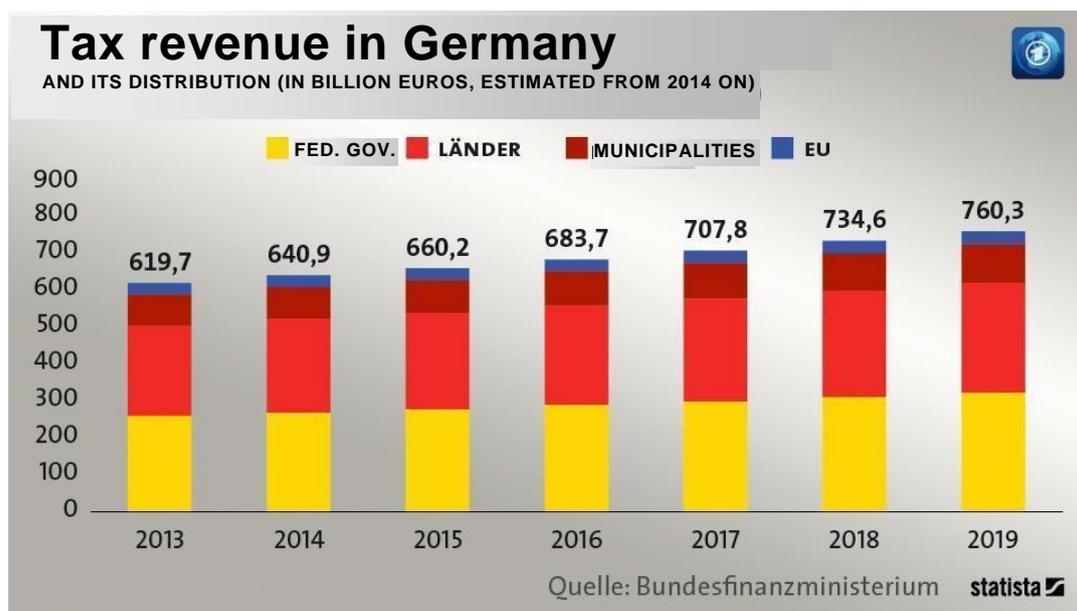
*That will be a big step for **ALL** of humanity."*



Germany can and must afford the investments in a comprehensively integrated energy turnaround – as a pioneer as well as for climatic and economic reasons! The idea of the *Energiewende* in Germany is excellent, its implementation, however, is poor. There are too many decision-makers who believe we cannot afford the energy turnaround in Germany. Others are falling back into the age of the coal-barons under the pretext of preserving jobs – a short-term and short-sighted solution. These views are often colored by the defense of egotistic individual interests, especially of certain sectors of industry and/or federal states.

What is missing is an effective regulating and control body at the federal level as well as the courage to face the challenges and to exploit the enormous opportunities in a way that is compatible with the common good.

Is the debt burden in Germany really so great that we will soon be bankrupt? France was bankrupt in 1714 under the Sun King Louis XIV. **Public debt at the time was 30 times higher than the tax revenue.** In comparison, despite high public debt, Germany today is not that bad off. Actually the situation looks fairly good in Germany if we put the relevant figures (tax revenue, level of debt and nominal gross domestic product [GDP]) in their proper perspective. It would look best in 20 to 30 years if we could save the average costs of **90 billion euros per year** for importing fossil fuels. What an incredible gain for the balance sheet of the German value chain that would be!



The level of monetary wealth in the personal sector, which reached a new record in 2015, shows that Germany is a rich country. In the first quarter of 2015, the financial assets of private households rose by 140 billion euros compared to the previous quarter and have now reached 5.212 trillion euros according to the statistics of the German Central Bank. At the end of 2014, there were 16.8 trillion euros in gross fixed capital at replacement price present in the German economy. Gross fixed assets on a price-adjusted basis grew by 52.7 percent from 1991 to 2014. Net fixed assets of the national economy, including research and development, have a current value of 9.5 trillion euros (including housing). Private households owned consumer durables (vehicles, furniture and other household furnishings) valued at almost one trillion euros (replacement value nearly two trillion euros). The relationship between gross fixed capital formation and gainfully employed population is also important. Per employed person – on economic average – there were investment goods with a replacement value of about 392,700 euros in 2014. Use of capital per employed person grew on a price-adjusted basis from 1991 to 2014 by 38.7 percent. In 2015, private consumers' expenditures amounted to 1.63 trillion euros. The German gross domestic product (GDP) in 2015 amounted to 3.03 trillion euros. Assuming that we purposively invest 50 billion euros per year in the energy turnaround over a period of twenty years, this would mean contracting new debts – by borrowing at low interest rates – of little more than 600 euros per year and per capita. Compared to the current per-capita public debt of over 25,000 euros and the financial risks triggered by the still smoldering financial crisis, this seems to be a calculable and sensible investment, especially with respect to the potential savings on imported fossil fuels.



The values of our world cannot be bought for money alone. DOLLAR, DIRHAM, BAHT, EURO, FRANC LIRA, YEN, KRONE, PESO, POUND, RAND, REMIMBI, YUAN, RIYAL, RINGIT, RUBLE, RUPEE, SHEKEL etc.:



As the “United Peoples of the World”, let us set off into a future with a common currency where *Homo progressivus* pays with the “GLOBE.” Thanks to the profits accruing from the disappearance of **currency exchange losses** we will be able to treat ourselves to something good, for example to get to know our globe really well and discover and maintain its true treasures.



From time immemorial human beings have borne and suffered the sometimes destructive power of the forces of nature. It is not only high time, it is long overdue that we use the energy of natural resources in a positive sense.

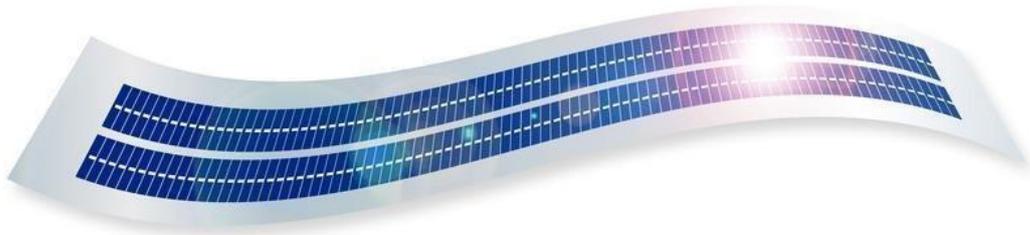


The combined power of the elements *fire, water, earth and air* yields the greatest usable energy, or, to put it differently:



The fifth element!

In our view, the sight of photovoltaic and solar thermal collectors and panels as well as wind mills is not a disfigurement of the landscape, but the visualization of natural energy production – **provided these items are positioned to be environmentally compatible and efficient** and built with inorganic as well as organic materials.



Organic photovoltaics!

The light and flexible organic solar films can bring solar energy everywhere where it is needed.



Andreas Löschel says:

"In the energy turnaround, we have to play our trump card which is to come up with innovations and not with low prices."



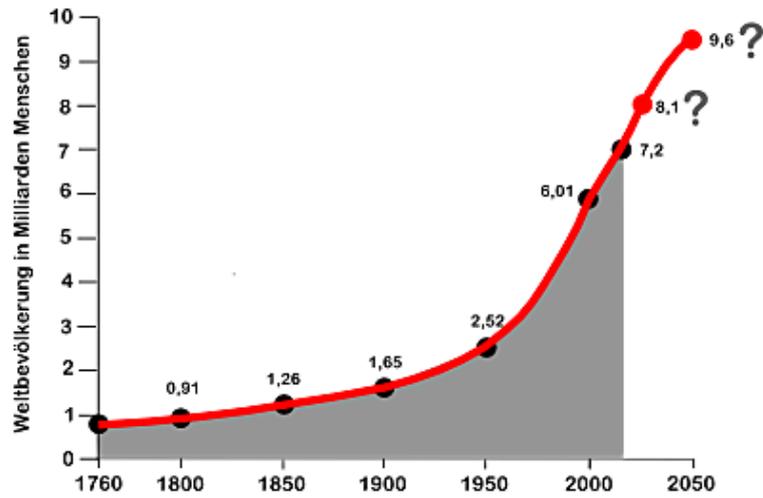
These innovations include being able to use the immense energy potential of high-altitude winds. Some 70 research institutes and companies are currently working on such problems (among others, Google). The presentation of mature and marketable systems from 2018 onward has already been announced. The technicians are developing different approaches to implementation. It is easy to imagine using helium rings with a turbine in the center, in addition to kites, skysails or gliders to produce energy.

At high altitudes, the energy density of the wind is five to eight times higher than at ground level. Moreover, the wind at altitudes between 300 and 600 meters is far more reliable. About 5,000 full load hours would be achievable.

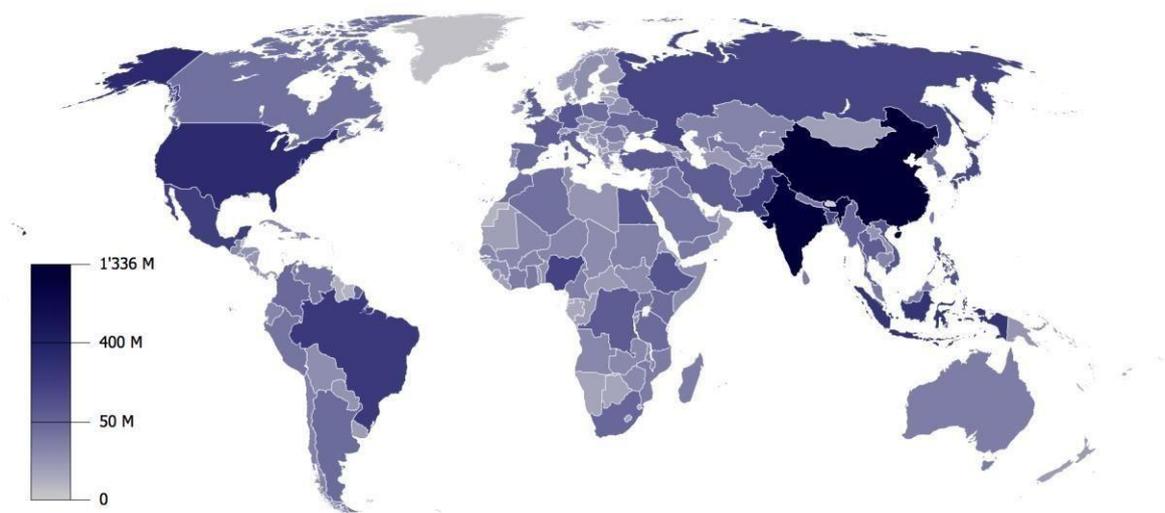


There are still some challenges to be mastered. Computer and control technology must be optimized to effectively support the technologies. The aim is to produce as much energy as possible at comparatively low operating cost. Since the logistics are simple, the systems mentioned above can also be employed in remote areas.

Humankind has more than tripled in numbers since 1950, from 2.3 billion to 7.3 billion today. 7.3 billion people consume 1.5 times as much as the Earth can provide. It will be more than twice as much by 2050 when nearly 10 billion are expected to populate the planet.



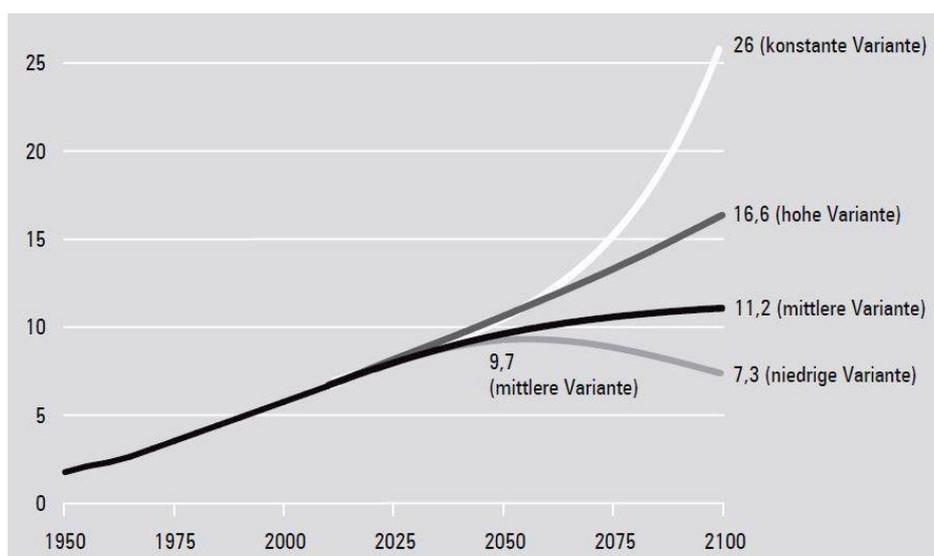
Considering this population growth and the consumption of resources involved in connection with the industrial development in industrial and transition countries, we cannot continue to generate growth by using primarily fossil and conventional energy sources. Without the development, optimization and application of new technologies, we would then put our technology-based future at risk, at the latest when fossil and conventional energy resources are no longer sufficient or are exhausted.



Overview of the countries of the world and their population density

Once more, back to demographic development: In 1850, the population of the Earth was 1.25 billion people. By 1950, the population doubled to 2.5 billion people. As of 2015, 7.3 billion people populate our planet. By 2050, 10 billion people will overpopulate the Earth at today's standard of living. Prognoses for 2100 lie between 11.2 und 26 billion people - depending on the future global and regional birth rate development. The growth of the world population is not a natural event we cannot influence; we are creating it ourselves. The parameters which influence it are especially interesting, along with how the world's population will be distributed in the future. On this point the "German Foundation for World Population" reports: *"The several variants of demographic projections differ primarily in the assumptions about the future development of birth rates on which they are based. For the median variant the U.N. assumes that the average number of children per woman will drop from today's 2.5 children globally to 2 children by 2100. The world population would accordingly increase to 11.2 billion people by the end of the century. If the average number of children per woman were half a child higher, the world population would swell to 16.6 billion people by 2100 (the high variant); if it were half a child less, only 7.3 billion people would live on the Earth in 2100 (low variant). Assuming that the number of children per woman remains constant at today's level in each country in the world up to 2100, the global population would increase to 26 billion people by the turn of the century.*

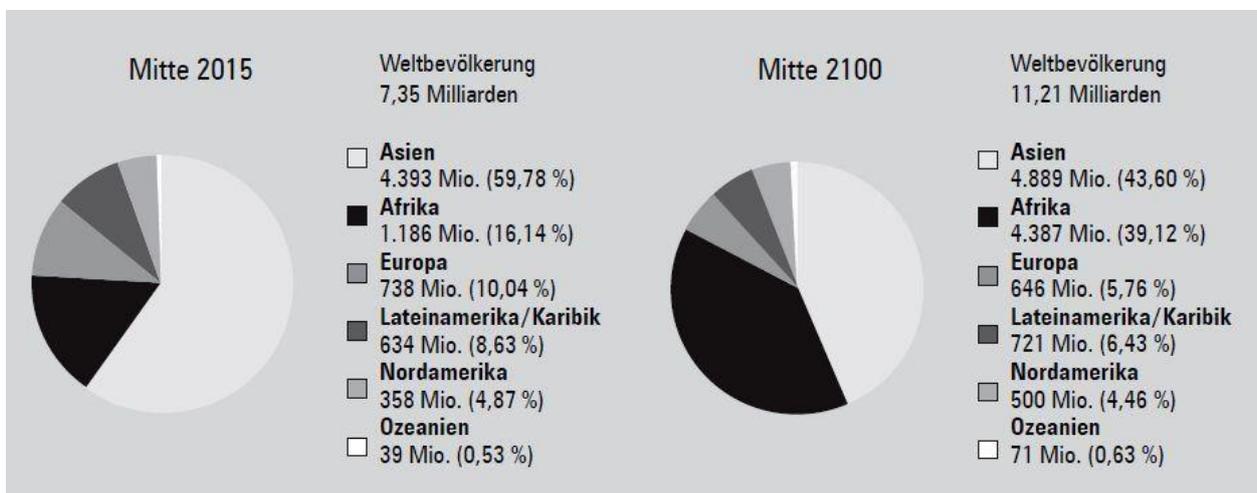
World population projections up to 2100 in billions



Source: Graph Stiftung Weltbevölkerung, data from the U.N.: World Population Prospects 2015

Asia will continue to be the most populous region of the world also in the future. But the Asian share of the global population will decrease: While considerably more than half of the world's population today lives in Asia, this share is projected to be only 44 percent in 2100. The largest rates of growth will occur in Africa. The population on the continent will almost quadruple from today's 1.2 billion people to 4.4 billion by 2100. The population in Europe will decrease over the same time period. Since the numbers of children per woman are very low in several European countries, the European share of the global population is projected to shrink from about ten percent today to about six percent in 2100."

Regional distribution of the global population 2015 und 2100 (median variant)



Source: Graph Stiftung Weltbevölkerung, data from the U.N.: World Population Prospects 2015

Demographic growth in the transition and developing countries is due, inter alia, to unplanned pregnancies. There is a lack of information and education for reasonable family planning. Moreover, people in the poorest countries increasingly suffer from the unbridled consumption of resources and exacerbating climate change. The consequences are chiefly lack of water, famine, and slashing and burning of the rain forest. It is high time that the industrial countries used the scarce resources in a responsible and exemplary way and at the same time massively reduced greenhouse gases. If we do not stop the emerging negative effects of climate change especially in Africa and Asia, all hope for moderate family planning on these continents will remain an illusion. Then global population growth will surely not be limited to 11.2 billion people in 2100.

Sascha Maské says:

*"The energy turnaround can only be achieved with all people together,
and not only with a few who make capital out of it.*

*That means concepts, programs and technologies have to be created
which enable everyone to share in the energy turnaround."*



At this point, we take the liberty of repeating something already said above: Priority must be given to decentralized solutions for production, storage and usage of renewable energies over the centralized power in the greedy hands of companies, cartels and governments.

Bastian Becker says:

"Every time a photovoltaic system is put into operation, I am filled with a feeling of joy and the certainty of having come another little step closer to the energy turnaround. Every kilowatt hour generated prevents a conventionally produced kilowatt hour and the resulting CO₂ emissions or radioactive waste. So I can get up every morning anticipating the joy of putting into operation the next system. This technology is too brilliant to be stopped. The sun has more staying power!"



Energy storage plays the key role in decentralized solutions. It is indispensable to balance out the volatility of solar and wind energy. It provides for the desired range of electric vehicles and creates independence from the conventional power grid. For the owners' use in municipal settings, suitable energy storage systems are the pumped storage power plants, compressed air storage, fuel cells, hydrogen and power-to-gas plants. For the owners' use in private, commercial and municipal contexts, batteries are suitable as an interim storage for solar and wind power.

Hilmar-Andreas Holland says:

"In the field of decentralized energy production, fuel-cell technology is unbeatable as far as today's technical standard is concerned, and in times of rising electricity and heating costs a good alternative, both for companies and private persons. This technology offers many advantages and opportunities, which is why it does not deserve to be forgotten. In the fuel cell, there is no transformation into heat and power. The energy stored in the fuel is directly transformed into electricity. Fuel cells primarily serve to generate electricity. But they can also be connected to the heating grid for buildings and to hot water tanks.

With an electrical efficiency of nearly 60 percent and a thermal efficiency of 24 percent, the overall efficiency of a fuel cell is an unbeatable 84 percent."



Dieter Weber says:

“Our aim should be to support coming generations on this planet, which means our children, and to broaden their horizons by fostering their culture, their education and especially their consciousness of our energetic choices. Children are unique - children observe ants while adults step on them. We are currently treating our Earth and the issue of energy in the same way. So, as a supporting column of the energy turnaround, let's produce and provide electricity where and when it is needed. That is why we need a well-conceived integrated energy concept in combination with long-life, reliable storage solutions for direct power consumption, system stability and supply security as essential components, as well as key technologies for an efficient energy turnaround. The result is the clever solution - energy management and intelligent interlinking of electricity, heat and mobility - at home and at work. We owe it to ourselves, our children and coming generations. Start changing the way you live and the way you think. Don't be afraid of failure. Failure is not even getting started!”



Eicke R. Weber says:

"The lower the grid expansion, the more storage is needed, and vice versa. Ultimately, a stable energy storage market in Germany can also serve as a model for further markets in Europe and worldwide and thus become an important economic factor."



Arndt Kirchhoff says:

"We have to create the 'triad' in the energy turnaround: clean, safe and affordable. If we have cleaner, more ecological and more efficient processes and products, then we will also have products in the future that we can sell successfully on the world market."



We would be very happy if the importance of a comprehensive energy turnaround were communicated to TV viewers more often and with greater insistence in prime time. Public broadcasters could live up to their mission as key media and opinion leaders and keep the subject on the screens in a positive way. "Energy without Borders," on the public broadcasting channels - alternately and complementarily - true to the motto: "Quality yields ratings." At ZDF a recently opened gap could be closed and filled with new formats. These should be high-quality programs that are also fun, possibly in the form of a show or quiz with prominent ambassadors and sponsors. Filming should not only take place in the studio, but at different locations with contributions from the areas of science and practical experience, arts and culture and with music, creating excitement through competition in a playful atmosphere. "Competitors" of different categories would play against each other. Whether private individuals, experts, celebrities, municipalities, cities, states or nations: These game ideas offer space for multifaceted variations of competition with intelligent content. The results can be evaluated via the Internet, by telephone and also by the audience. Simply put: "Energy without Borders."



Renate Schmidt says:

"Let our children vote. The generation that will be affected longest by the decisions we make today should have a stronger say."



Sven Plöger says:

"We are more than 7 billion people on this planet. We are currently consuming the renewable resources of 1.4 Earths and emit annually 36 billion tons of carbon dioxide into our atmosphere. This is anything but sustainable and is increasingly changing our climate. We have to overcome the impenetrable diversity of opinions and particular interests and free our vision for the opportunities that are opening up for us. That way we will successfully achieve an energy turnaround – and imagine China copies it...."



In his speech in Leipzig on freedom and the future of the media, ZDF Director Thomas Bellut said in October 2014: *"There is no political freedom without freedom of the media. The public broadcasters have a program mandate: Their broadcasting freedom as a 'serving freedom', is explicitly bound to the social mandate to ensure a basic media supply with information, education, entertainment and culture. Oriented to an overall picture of German reality and keeping in view reunification as a long-term objective, ARD and ZDF, over the years and decades, made no small contribution to the peaceful revolution. Without overestimating ourselves or indulging in complacency, it can be said that reunification was a historic program success for the public broadcasters. It cannot be measured by viewer ratings and the popularity of the program, only by its social relevance."*

(Source: [http://www.newsroom.de/news/detail/\\$IWDPDNKSJPMQ/](http://www.newsroom.de/news/detail/$IWDPDNKSJPMQ/)).

Decision-makers from all sectors are agreed that the energy turnaround has a social relevance, too. The reunification of Germany cost a lot of money. After 25 years we can say that the investment of more than 1.5 trillion euros was worth it, in financial, cultural, social and also human terms. Anyone who views and judges Germans and Germany from the outside says the same thing. The energy turnaround has a similar dimension, in particular with respect

to the time frame of several decades and the investments required over this period of time. To be able to master this Herculean task successfully, ARD and ZDF can now attend to their social mandate in this area, too, with greater effort. That way we will remain loyal viewers of public broadcasting TV - preferably during prime time!



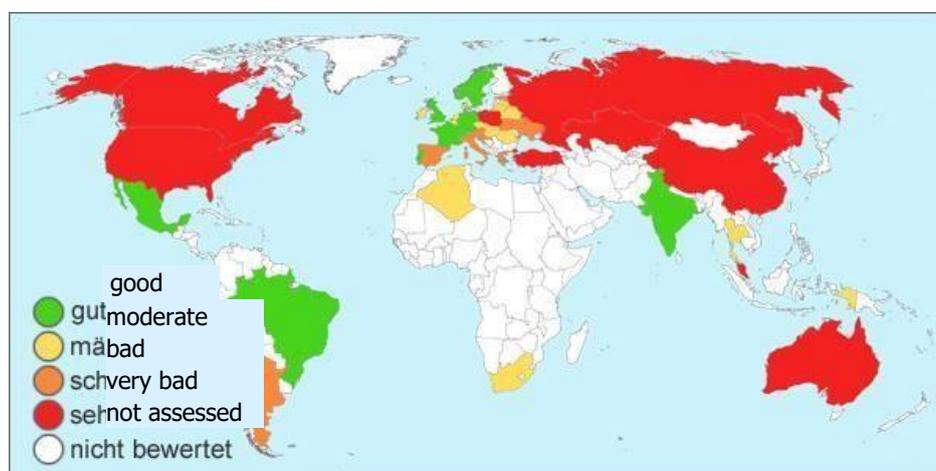
Dieter Dörr says:

"The public broadcasting system is not only a pillar of democracy, but also a vehicle of culture. In the digital world, it is an indispensable component of the electronic media in the interest of informational diversity and thus of a functioning democracy. It needs to have an appropriate share in the new channels or types of transmission because that's the only way it can continue to reach the population. Especially in the information age, independent, decentralized and non-profit public broadcasting is more valuable than ever."



It is so simple if we make proper use of the natural and technological advantages in the different regions of the world, as the following examples demonstrate:

- In Norway, nearly the entire power requirement is met with domestic hydropower plants.
- Iceland covers its electrical power demand 100% from renewable resources using geothermal energy and hydropower. Costa Rica is also striving for this goal, focusing mainly on water power and solar energy.
- Samsö in Denmark has succeeded in turning into "Green-energy Island" with a combination of solar and wind energy for stationary and mobile applications.
- Thanks to sun radiation, many regions including Australia, Africa, India, Southern Europe, the Middle East and large parts of South America and the United States, are perfectly suited for the use of photovoltaics and solar thermal systems.
- All around the world, there are regions exposed to the wind at the coasts and in high altitudes, ideal places for the efficient deployment of wind power plants.
- Germany along with North America and many countries in Asia, with their technological diversity and high product quality, can deploy a balanced mix in production, storage and use of renewable energies.
- Russia as well as other European countries should face up to the fact that the age of fossil fuels is ending and push the transformation of the economy as rapidly as possible with improved value-adding activities in the technological area.
- The manifold energy storage systems for mobile and stationary applications can be employed in nearly all regions and fields. Energy storage is an essential component of the integrated energy turnaround – in particular for decentralized solutions.



Climate Protection Index - the need for action is huge!

Kaoru Kobayashi says:

“Nearly 80 % of the Japanese want to phase out nuclear energy in the long term. We involve our citizens in local energy projects and thus make ourselves independent of the large power suppliers. We want to become a pioneering city for renewable energies. The city of Fukushima is situated between hills and is well positioned for hydroelectric power. Ten such plants are already in operation, more are planned. One tourist attraction are the hot springs whose heat we are now also using, in a pilot project, to generate electricity. In cooperation with an energy supply company we have built a solar park on a large open space and are now drawing up a wind map for the city area. In addition we are well networked with model regions for green electricity - with the city of Freiburg, for example. The city is promoting many small photovoltaic units on residential buildings with 240 euros per installed kilowatt - in addition to the feed-in tariff paid by the state. People who do not own a house can participate as citizens in local energy projects. I have considered nuclear power as hazardous for a long time. Power suppliers argue that nuclear accidents are more seldom than plane crashes. But as we know now, such an accident is also far more dramatic than an air crash. When the government pointed out how cheap nuclear power is, I could not believe their calculations because the costs for uranium production and the disposal of the fuel rods were not included.”



The Mayor of Fukushima

The energy turnaround can also become a driving force for growth and jobs, attracting well-trained foreign specialists. This could be an argument in favor of immigration since the negative consequences of demographic development especially in Germany, can be alleviated that way.

Clemens Hoffmann says:

"The energy turnaround is a major, global business opportunity, and a successful German 'Energiewende' project can give an enormous boost worldwide to the battle against climate change."



The German President, Joachim Gauck, said at the opening of the 50th Munich Security Conference in January 2014 that Germany must take on more responsibility. This is best done in a peaceful mission, proceeding from Germany. An exemplary, lived energy turnaround in Germany can accomplish much more than might appear at first glance. **If we succeed in progressively curbing the climate change caused by humans, along with the resulting negative effects, increasing streams of climate refugees as well as wars to obtain food and drinking water can be prevented.**

John Kerry says:

"The current drama about refugees and immigrants in Europe will someday soon seem harmless when climate refugees get on the move because of an absence of water and food or one tribe fighting against another for mere survival. Climate change is a 'seismic challenge', here and today, not in some indeterminate future."



The energy turnaround in the industrial nations can be a model for people in the poorer countries and lead to a change in lifestyle on the whole, which includes

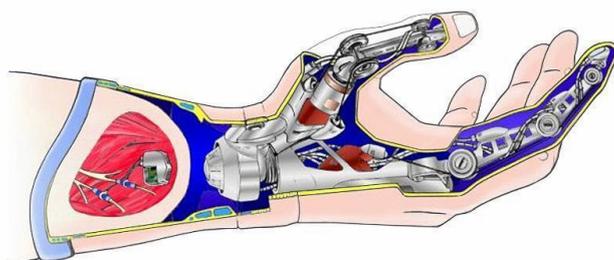
- a growing generosity of wealthy people,
- reducing envy and greed,
- a better access to education,
- reducing the lopsided production of wealth and
- a sustainable and more just supply of food and drinking water.



Perhaps *Homo progressivus* will some day succeed in tapping and storing the energy of lightning – instead of getting stuck in the quicksand of nuclear fission like *Homo sapiens*, desperately seeking nuclear fusion – but in vain. According to the experimental findings published in December 2015 and the official launch of the “Wendelstein 7-X” project in February 2016, we can hope that maybe in 35 years nuclear fusion reactors will become base-load power plants. But we mustn't sit back and take it easy waiting for it to happen.



A lightning bolt has the power of about one gigawatt. The energy released would, if it could be stored, in fact be enough for a city. The problem is that the average duration of a lightning bolt is only **0.07 seconds**. This has been an insoluble problem for *Homo sapiens* up to now. But who would have foreseen 50 years ago – i.e. **about 0.1 seconds ago in the compressed calendar year** – the technology that today determines our lives and with which we surf around the globe day and night?



Fulfillment of the Message: Renewable energy is inexhaustible and not harmful to the environment. We need a binding global energy and climate protection fund. After the 2015 Paris climate summit, this should be resolved in 2016. The required funds should be measured according to the respective per capita emission of industrial green-house gases and be provided by the "United Peoples of the World" and by wealthy people. The message is simple: The nations provide promotion funding so that companies can invest with planning security and citizens can buy energy and energy-efficient products at reasonable prices. So we are talking about a funded **investment and consumption program** aimed at a sustainable future. **New and good against old, harmful and inefficient with exchange premiums.** The promotion will be kept in place until the energy-turnaround products are competitive. Prices will drop once market breakthrough is achieved, as has happened with digital cameras, flat screen televisions and mobile phones. The implementation of these steps can be developed as a component of a new global climate treaty by the Climate Protection and Energy Commission (yet to be established) of the "United Peoples of the World" and **bindingly** passed by the latter.

Heike Müller, Andreas Pfaff and Manfred Scherer say:

"Resources should serve the needs of the current generation without endangering the opportunities of future generations. Many of the globally formulated environmental goals can only be filled with content on a regional level. That means that the practical formulation of climate-protection goals, concepts and projects as well as their implementation are a central task of national, regional and especially local players with preferably decentralized solutions. 'Think globally, act locally' is the premise with which we want to turn our associated municipality Sprendlingen-Gensingen into a zero-emissions community."



Ban Ki Moon says:

"We will be able to transform the current crisis into the sustainable growth of tomorrow only if we invest a part of the new financial instruments in a green economy."

Al Gore says:

"We have the resources to overcome the climate crisis, what we lack is the willingness to act."



Ambassadors and Mediators: for example Al Gore, Jeremy Rifkin, IPCC Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, International Energy Agency, Prince Charles, Hans Joachim Schellnhuber, Paul Crutzen, Mojib Latif, Dieter Walch, Jörg Kachelmann, Claudia Kleinert, Sven Plöger, Karsten Schwanke, Donald Bäcker, Gunter Tiersch, Inge Niedeck and Sanaz Saleh-Ebrahimi, Uwe Wesp, Elon Musk, Tim Cook, Harald Krüger, Dieter Zetsche, Matthias Müller, Karl-Thomas Neumann and Matthias Wissmann (the last five with an increasing amount of electricity and hydrogen in their blood – Tesla, Google and Apple will otherwise leave you behind), Giovanni Di Lorenzo, Sandra Maischberger, Maybrit Illner, Anne Will, Barbara Schöneberger, Hubertus Meyer-Burckhardt, Jörg Pilawa, Günther Jauch, Thomas Gottschalk, Thomas Bellut, Lutz Marmor, Tom Buhrow, Thomas Roth, Maria Furtwängler and Hubert Burda (**also because they could host the first broadcast of the new show, "Energy without Borders" together**), Ekkehard Schulz, Heinrich von Pierer, Ulrich Grillo, Klaus Mittelbach, Martin Winterkorn, Hans-Olaf Henkel, Rene Obermann, Matthias Willenbacher, Udo Möhrstedt, Gerhard Knies, Kurt Sigl, Michael Hofmann, Christian Hinsch, Christian Heep, Burkhard Duttlinger, Markus Schächter and Dieter Stolte and many others.

6. Against fossil energy

The insight is growing only slowly that we have been on the wrong track with oil, coal, gas and uranium for over 100 years.

Bertold Brecht said:

*"And they sawed the branches on which they sat and called out to each other
what they had learned, how one could saw in a better way.
And they plummeted horribly to the ground, and those who watched them
shook their heads and continued to saw with ever increasing vigor."*



The combustion of fossil energy is the cause of unabated climate change at an unprecedented pace. The consequences are catastrophic. Geologically speaking, we are in the process of killing ourselves.



Mojib Latif says:

"We must show that it is possible to master climate change with the help of clean energies. The climate problem is ultimately an energy problem - and we can solve it with clean energy. Germany has the best engineers worldwide and can make an important contribution here. And if we succeed, everyone else will copy us."



The way fossil fuels are logistically distributed around the globe by the coal, gas, uranium and oil barons before they reach their destination, is evidence enough that we really are barking up the wrong tree.

Example: Anthracite coal is mined in Columbia, brought up to the surface and then loaded onto trucks. The trucks drive to the export harbors where the coal is loaded from the trucks onto ships. Then the ships head out for their ports of destination, for example in Europe. Here the coal is again loaded from the ship onto trucks and trains. Now the trucks and trains transport the coal to the coal power plants where the coal is ultimately burned.



Not only logistically devious! Are we out of our minds?

Christoph Bautz and Campact say:

"Using coal to produce electrical power is a relic from the last century. The future does not belong to a Stone-Age technology. The future is renewable, sun and wind are our future! What is happening at present is a crime! A crime against our landscape, against the climate of our planet and against future generations. We say: Stop this coal madness. Close down open-cast mining and the coal piles as soon as possible. If we want to prevent climate warming from becoming unmanageable, if we want to prevent a mass extinction of species, if we want to prevent nations from falling apart under droughts and storms and even larger flows of refugees from arising, if we want to prevent untold suffering – then we must act very, very fast and very, very consistently. Together we have a message for the big companies: The times are over when you could make profits at the cost of the climate - now you will encounter our resistance everywhere around the globe! It is up to us to create a powerful climate movement in all its diversity also in Germany."



campact!
DEMOKRATIE IN AKTION **de**

The logistics of oil from the place of production to the place of combustion is principally the same:



Platform, tanker, whipping boy, refinery, pipeline, oil depot, tank truck, gasoline station, combustors - do we still have all our marbles?

Let us dwell on oil for a moment. In 1973, before the first oil crisis, a barrel of oil (149 liters) cost less than 5 dollars. The oil sheiks at that time were already filthy rich. In 2014, the barrel of oil cost up to 115 dollars on the world market before it collapsed to below 40 dollars at the beginning of 2015. The main reasons were the fracking boom, especially in the USA, and maintaining the OPEC supply quota, driven by Saudi Arabia. The production costs for U.S. fracking are on average 60 dollars per barrel. The cost of production in the Saudi Arabian desert are in some places below 5 dollars up to a maximum of 15 dollars.

That means that the oil sheiks can easily withstand further price reductions until the fracking companies are bankrupt. Then OPEC will slowly raise the prices again to new, record levels. That, at least, is what people are hoping for, especially in Russia, Venezuela and Iran. These countries need an oil price at about 100 dollars per barrel to feed their state budgets and keep people happy. In mid-January 2016, when the price of oil was below 30 dollars per barrel, Venezuela declared an “economic emergency.” From mid-2014 to the end of 2015 oil-producing countries have lost more than a trillion dollars at the markets. That is approximately as much as the market capitalization of all German DAX-30 companies in January 2016. The advantages for the USA and Saudi Arabia at the moment, and the enormous disadvantages for Russia, Venezuela and Iran on the other hand, generate new areas of tension. Additional powder-kegs could arise in the world at the same time due to the already tense relationship between these countries. The accompanying inflation and recessions would then be but a lesser evil. And we take the liberty to repeat ourselves here as well: God preserve us from a new oil war!



But it might turn out quite differently: If the signals of the Paris World Climate Treaty of December 2015 are interpreted correctly, then those will have an advantage who today increasingly move away from coal, oil and gas. The oil price could subsequently drop even further because the large oil reserves still existing are devalued by the climate treaty. This might be the reason why important OPEC countries keep oil production levels high: to sell as much as possible of the "black gold" as fast as possible. From that point of view, we see the

harbinger of a new era with more renewable energies. That would mean we have not too little, but too much oil. Then we only have to make sure that panic among the oil stock holders does not make the financial system totter. That can be prevented if the large companies reposition themselves strategically, as is currently happening at E.On.

E.On is divesting itself of coal, gas and atomic power, i.e. the company's former core businesses. Whatever the motivation of the largest German energy provider may be, the conclusion is: It is no longer possible to earn money with fossil power plants. On March 10, 2016, the E.On share price was 8 euros. Two months before it had been 148 euros. E.On wants to concentrate on business with renewable energies in the future. In November 2014, E.On's chairman of the board, Johannes Teyssen, said: *"The drastic change in global energy markets requires courage for a new beginning."*

(Source: <http://www.n-tv.de/wirtschaft/Eon-spaltet-Kohle-und-Atomstrom-ab-article14064751.html>)

The old E.ON was named "Uniper". Shareholders call this spin-off company for coal, gas and atomic power plants a "bad bank" – a kind of deposit for junk – because it is entering the energy world of tomorrow with the technology of yesterday. "Uniper" now must grapple with the unprofitable huge power plants and, above all, deal with the nuclear phase-out.



RWE, too, began to spin off its fossil and nuclear business branches in 2015. For good reason: In 2015, RWE had to write off about 2.1 billion euros because of the worsening outlook for business with the coal, nuclear and gas power plants. Then RWE cancelled the dividend for shareholders. Their stock-exchange price dropped 12.42 percent to 10.55 euros on February 17, 2016. In January 2008 it had been up to 100 euros. Power production from renewable energy is intended to be a pillar of their growth strategy. At the RWE semi-annual press conference, Peter Terium said in August 2015: *“The world of energy is becoming more electrical, more decentralized and therefore more complex. It will be more closely interlinked via networks and products, and with the development of renewable energies it will become more sustainable.”*

(Source:<http://www.rwe.com/web/cms/mediablob/de/2847058/data/2847158/4/rwe/investor-relations/Rede-zur-Pressetelefonkonferenz.pdf> (page 11)).

In August 2015, RWE put a pilot plant for storing wind and solar energy into operation. The plant uses electricity to produce hydrogen. The hydrogen is stored and can be transformed back to electricity in a block-type thermal power station. It is said to be the most efficient power-to-gas plant in Germany, with an efficiency of 75%.

Garrelt Duin says:

“Such plants can play a key role in the energy turnaround. Switching to renewable energies can only be successful if we can also store this energy. ‘Power-to-gas’ is one such option. Renewable energies, gas network and district heating - that is a real pilot project. Now we can get to work on making the power-to-gas process economical.”



The penultimate summit of the G7 countries took place in June 2015 in Germany.



Prior to this summit meeting, we had asked Chancellor Angela Merkel to launch the following initiative, also as the host of the summit:

The greenhouse gases resulting from the combustion of fossil energy sources should be banned as soon as possible, at the latest by the year 2050. Just as we banned CFCs because of their destructive effect on ozone and asbestos because of its carcinogenic effects.

We interpret the results of the G7 summit regarding climate protection as follows: **Recommendation and/or announcement to phase out once and for all the production and combustion of fossil fuels in favor of a global energy turnaround by producing, storing and using renewable energies in the course of the 21st century. Use of coal and petroleum for energy production should be dramatically cut back by 2050. Greenhouse gases should be reduced by up to 70 percent by 2050 in comparison with 2010.** This logically entails a step-by-step prohibition of greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the combustion of fossil fuels. We can no longer afford to embark on a different approach, in the direction of compensation, e.g. by storing carbon dioxide in caverns, because that would create an unjustifiable burden for future generations. Likewise, reforestation or fertilizing the oceans cannot be eligible to compensate for fossil greenhouse gas emissions.

Instead of blowing CO₂ into the air or injecting it into the ground, we ought to instead use CO₂ as a raw material, which we are trying to do, for example, in the **Carbon2Chem** project.

Robert Schlögl says:

“With Carbon2Chem I want to make a contribution to doing something about the energy transition instead of only talking about it. I take a quote from Max Planck to heart, ‘Understanding must precede application’, and one from Albert Einstein: ‘Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler.’ Carbon2Chem, a major project at the Max-Planck Institute, Fraunhofer Institute and 16 industrial partners, processes smelter gases and biomass on a large scale using green electricity and hydrogen (Power-to-Gas) generated by renewable energies, to synthetic natural gas (Methane), fuel fluids (Methanol or Oxymethylenether). We need to pursue research and development in this area of energy transformation, which previously seemed to be unattractive, in order both to improve efficiency over the short term as well as long term improvements. And we have to move closer to a recycling economy - for nature, there is no such thing as waste. In pursuing this new approach, research has to be aware that its work is not only a matter of science - economic, social and ecological consequences are becoming increasingly important and they have to be taken into account. For science itself, that means that it has more responsibility than it had before: More than ever, it has to communicate the consequences of scientific knowledge to political, economic and social agents. Everyone involved has to work to fill in the trenches of incomprehension between science and research, on the one hand, and political, social and economic agents, on the other hand.”



The U.N. General Assembly in September 2015 in New York was awaited with suspense. 193 U.N. countries passed a resolution on 17 objectives to improve the world. They go into effect on January 1st, 2016. Climate protection and the development of renewable energies are among them. Implementation – as so often – **is not mandatory**. Each member nation should contribute as well as it can to the implementation, deciding for itself what it wants to do to achieve the goals. The G20 summit in Turkey in November 2015 showed how seriously the industrial countries take their goals and responsibilities. The final declaration states very briefly, "We support forceful and effective actions to deal with climate change." We had hoped for a major effort to convince especially China, India and Russia to support the climate protection recommendations of the G7 summit to decarbonize the world in the course of the 21st century. Since this did not happen, it was foreseeable that there would be no breakthrough in this direction in December 2015 either, when the world climate protection agreement was concluded in Paris. The recommendations of the G7 summit and the U.N. General Assembly must be transformed into a **binding and measurable instrument** to become effective and be implemented as fast as possible. In order to achieve this objective, those responsible would have had to send out a signal prior to the **G20** summit, setting the course from G7 back to **G8** in 2016. That Vladimir Putin left the G20 summit early without attending the dinner, speaks volumes. With what we know today, we can foresee that the self-induced climate change will show us one or the other yellow or red card in the coming years and decades and force us to shorten the playing time. The die-hards will then have to leave the playing field. We place our hope in those responsible in governments who, forewarned, remain in the game as central figures so that we can all leave the field victorious in the end. The G20 leaders in particular are obligated to thwart the intentions of the coal, oil and gas barons as they are shown, for instance, in the documentation, *Das Blut der Welt - Kampf um Öl* ["The Blood of the World - The Battle for Oil"] - **now, while they are still living!**



Elisabeth Kolbert says:

"Life will go on. But it will not be the world we human beings want. Many things are going to happen, regardless of what efforts we make. But there is a difference between bad and disastrous. Our last chance now is to prevent the utter catastrophe. Broad political action must be initiated – worldwide and with all countries. We have to completely convert this immense economic motor based on fossil fuels into one that is not. There are a few flickers of hope at the moment, but no more than that. The announcements of the G7 countries in June 2015 to decarbonize the world in this century are empty promises because not one of the G7 leaders will still be alive at the end of this century. Far more important is what the governments actually undertake. Germany is doing a lot, but is it not nearly enough. Germans, too, love driving cars and flying. With the energy turnaround, Germany is showing what is possible. This is a strong signal that might go down in history. If we don't come to our senses soon, we might turn out to be nothing but a crazy accident of evolution incompatible with life on Earth. I believe the Earth would be happy to get rid of us in our current condition. For the Earth it would be good solution if humans lived on Mars, but not for us human beings. Honestly, I don't understand the whole Mars project. Why should we move from a planet with oxygen to one without oxygen? Actually, it's a ridiculous idea. It would be better to take the billions and use them to save the Earth. I see two extreme scenarios: Either we will generate a mass extinction which we will not survive ourselves, or we will escape the catastrophe thanks to the inventive genius inherent in us."



About the book *The Sixth Extinction* Reiner Klingholz says:

"We hairy bipeds are behaving like a new asteroid and are orchestrating a mass extinction of dimensions that will go down in geological history. Elisabeth Kolbert's description of how the current carbon dioxide emissions slowly but surely acidify the oceans sends chills down our spines. In only 100 years, we have blown more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere than would occur under natural conditions in hundreds of thousands of years. In 50 years we have caused an acidification of the oceans as it has not existed for probably 50 million years. So much has been written on this subject which is fantastically presented in Elisabeth Kolbert's book – a subject we should take very seriously because the disappearance of animal and plant species goes hand in hand with a fundamental change in the basic conditions of human life. We ought to give up the romantic notion of conservation of nature and urgently devote ourselves to conserving humankind. Even if we tear more holes into biodiversity, the complete disappearance of the Homo-sapiens family is not to be expected for the time being. But there is great danger that we will have to adapt to extreme and unpleasant living conditions. The question is not whether we will die out or not, but what we can do to minimize the damage to the environment in our own interest."



And now for the so-called civilian and peaceful use of nuclear energy and handling of radioactive nuclear waste: On April 26, 1986, Block 4 of the nuclear power plant at Chernobyl exploded. Some 5 million people were affected, and an area of 145,000 square kilometers was contaminated. The 30 kilometer zone around the reactor is still uninhabitable. The economic loss alone is estimated to be 180 billion U.S. dollars. Officially, Chernobyl claimed 4,000 lives. However, physicians suspect that 1.4 million people died as a result of the catastrophe. The accident at the nuclear power plant at Fukushima on March 11, 2011 caused the greatest economic damage to date. Estimated damages are in the range of 250 to 260 billion dollars.

When a nuclear power plant is decommissioned, the fuel rods are the first thing to be removed and stored somewhere. That removes 99% of the radioactivity from the reactor. **To control and decontaminate the last 1% of radioactivity, the dismantling of a decommissioned reactor takes 20 years or more.** It will probably also take 20 years before we know how many billions of euros are actually going down the drain in the process. Hopefully the reserves of the nuclear plant operators will be sufficient for decommissioning the reactors. The reserves for final storage of atomic waste will definitely not be sufficient. **And they need not be because the taxpayer will pay the bill.** That, in any case, is the proposal the European Commission made in April 2016 for financing nuclear power phase-out. According to this proposal, the operators are supposed to pay a good 23 billion euros into a controlled fund. In spite of their initial refusal, it is unlikely that the four large energy suppliers in Germany will ultimately reject the compromise presented by the Commission. The offer is too attractive, and even the representatives of the trade unions and the Green Party agreed to it. The so-called *Atom-Deal* has one clear winner: the nuclear industry, which can shirk its responsibility and buy itself out of its obligation to dispose of the waste. The taxpayer is stuck with the risk, and that could get really expensive. One expert commission expects cost increases of 50 to 70 billion euros in the coming decades. By 2099, the costs for dismantling nuclear power plants and storing the fuel rods are projected to pile up to 170 billion euros. The 19 members of the expert group of the Commission apparently also saw the danger that the power supply companies, already in the red, would throw in the towel and declare insolvency if their costs were higher. Then the taxpayer would bear the entire risk.



In German legislation on waste management, industry is obligated to avoid waste, to recycle it without causing damage, or to properly dispose of it. This fundamental obligation does not apply to radioactive waste material – a case of faulty birth assistance or of a severe birth defect when the political project of nuclear power use was born some 50 years ago. Globally, nuclear power plants generate 12,000 tons of the most hazardous waste, and Germany accounts for 450 tons of that volume. In addition to plutonium, highly radioactive waste contains a number of extremely long-lasting, newly formed half-life elements. The half-lives lie between 13,000 and over a million years. Presently there is not a single final disposal site worldwide for highly radioactive waste. Investigations into the storage possibilities such as dumping the waste into the oceans, sending it into space or melting it into the ice sheet of the Arctic, testifies to the helplessness of those who are responsible. Atomic power is neither cheap nor clean, it is much too expensive and far too dangerous. Experts agree: The permanent disposal of German nuclear waste will take more time and will not be completed before 2170. **The economic damages arising from the civilian use of nuclear energy are more than a trillion dollars on the whole, and that makes it a disaster.**



Nuclear energy? No thanks



Sebastian Pflugbeil says:

“After Fukushima we have the same situation today: International institutions are raising the same questions again, publishing the same skeptical statements as it happened after Chernobyl, when no one would admit to knowing anything about damages to health.

Because that would have jeopardized the continued use of atomic power.

After Chernobyl, Hans Blix, head of the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency), said, ‘In view of the major importance of nuclear energy for humanity, I would think it is acceptable if an accident of the dimension of Chernobyl happened every year.’ After Fukushima, a colleague asked him during a talk show in Vienna, ‘What you said after Chernobyl, would you still say the same thing now?’ He replied, ‘Yes, of course.’ Even today people think there were about 30 deaths after Chernobyl and a few children with thyroid cancer which can be treated. But if you make the effort and travel to Belarus or the Ukraine, you will find proof that this is a lie. I read a report at the beginning of the 90s about compensation payments for families whose fathers had died following their deployment in the contaminated area: 19,000 in the Ukraine alone. But the liquidators came from the entire Soviet Union. And if you add the stillborn children, the embryos - then we are talking about millions. It is not surprising that politicians don't tell you the truth. But that scientists are willing to spread lies in public, that is grim. And we are witnessing the same thing again in Fukushima.”



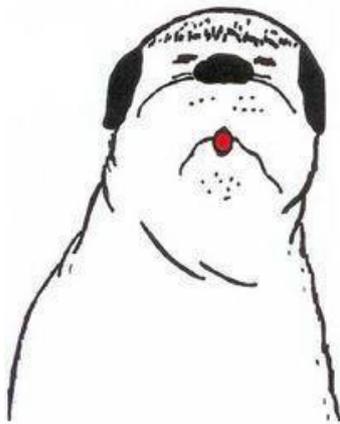
Eveline Lemke says:

"Atomic energy and fossil fuels have no future, in fact they endanger the future. 'Shape to improve' means forcing the development of renewable energies to limit the effects of climate change. Climate protection is one of the major challenges of our time. The advancing climate change has grave consequences and represents an existential threat to our lives. That is why climate protection is species protection in a fundamental sense."



Bello says:

"Herr Otto Mohl does not feel very wohl under the ozone hole at the North Pole."



... and rejoices with the polar bear because the oil barons will not be drilling for oil under the polar caps - if the protective ice shield holds and the price of oil stays so low. The British-Dutch oil company Shell has stopped its controversial drilling off the coast of Alaska. The reasons Shell cited at the end of September 2015 were lack of success and excessively high costs.

In 2011, more than 60 million new vehicles were sold worldwide. In 2015, the number was already 76 million. By 2020, it is projected to increase to 100 million and to over 200 million by 2050. That would mean: About three billion vehicles will be driving on the world's roads in the year 2050, most of them for less than an hour per day. These figures illustrate how imperative sustainable mobility is for the future, in which oil-based propulsion and individual driving will lose their current dominance, especially in our large cities and the future megacities.

Hellmuth Karasek said:

*"The automobile promised people freedom,
but its monstrous proliferation limited that freedom again."
"All people are equal before God, all cars (are equal) before the traffic jam."*



Elon Musk says about the complete release of all Tesla patents:

"It would be shortsighted to keep all of that to ourselves."



**Instead of blocking his competitors,
he wants to encourage them to jump on the E-bandwagon!**

Even Apple is working on developing electric cars. Such plans by big IT companies will probably put the car industry under pressure because the sector's future business is assumed to consist in electric drives and the networking of the vehicles. Apple is currently building an immense solar plant in California and investing 850 million dollars to provide green electricity to "fill up" the electric cars. The solar-cell field covering over five square kilometers should produce enough electricity to also supply Apple's central office complex in Cupertino.

Tim Cook says:

"We are doing that because it is the right thing to do. We at Apple know that climate change is reality. The time for talking is over, now we have to act."



Udo Möhrstedt says:

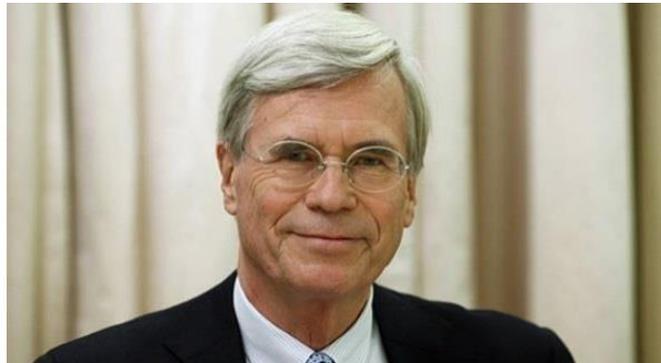
"We are committed to a sustainable and environment-friendly production of electricity, and have been since 1982 because it was clear to us when the company was founded: We need a new type of energy production, independent of fossil fuels and nuclear fission. We demonstrate social responsibility: In addition to economic factors, we always take into account public interest, the environment and social concerns when shaping our strategy."



Michael Otto says:

"Our environmental technology in Germany has made us world leaders and has also become an export hit.

This is one of the few areas of innovation we have."



Kurt Sigl says:

"Electromobility is much more than a topic for four wheels. We are talking about maintaining mobility as the precondition and motor of our prosperity. This requires an efficient use of available resources, infrastructure and spaces while reducing harmful emissions at the same time. About 20 percent of the German greenhouse gas emissions are owed to increasing transportation of people and freight, a large part of it road traffic, especially passenger vehicles. If we want more climate protection and less dependence on imported petroleum, we must employ more renewable energies also in the transportation sector."



Nineteen-year-old Lukas Horn says:

"In my first television appearance for the driving-school project of EnORM e.V. in the summer of 2013, something became clear to me: Everyone who tests an electric vehicle is excited. – no matter whether it is a bicycle, a scooter or a car, in spite of, or maybe even because of, the lack of a motor noise. In any case, people have to be introduced to electromobility in a practical way. That is true also and especially for the next generation of car drivers. More than 13,000 driving schools in Germany annually train more than a million student drivers to participate in road traffic. Here we have an ideal multiplier and guide to transport the concept of electromobility into the minds and hearts of future drivers, provided that the automotive industry and the driving schools play along. In order for that to happen, we need suitable electric vehicles and training content. Companies like Audi, BMW, Daimler, Opel and Volkswagen should take the lead and provide electrically powered vehicles to the driving schools as fast as possible. The driving schools are just waiting for that to happen. After all, the learners of today are the drivers and consumers of tomorrow. Intelligent purchase-incentive systems are also extremely important. They ought to be developed and implemented by the car manufacturers and political decision-makers. That would really set electromobility rolling."



Wolfgang Bühring says:

“90 percent of the wind and solar energy is fed into the regional distribution grids of the public utilities. These grids, therefore, have to be made efficient.”



Marc Zoellner says:

“The increasing use of regenerative energies and shifting to zero-emission drives increases the importance of rechargeable energy storage systems. We are developing marketable concepts and thus making a significant contribution to meeting the social challenges resulting from the implementation of global climate protection goals.”



Herbert Schein says:

"The most important answer to climate change is clean energy. We are working on innovative storage systems and their intelligent management to make sure it is available, any time and anywhere. That helps the world's climate – as well as the German economy."



Renzo Sciuлло says:

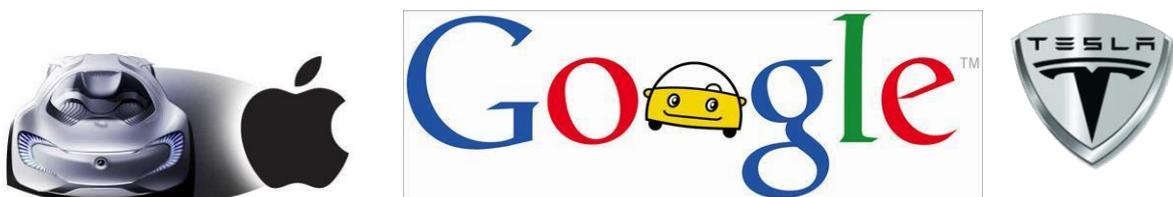
"The worldwide increase in vehicle registrations in the recent decades and the resulting predictions into the year 2050 are an impressive indication that mass motorization could reach dimensions with drastic consequences for humans and the climate, unless the level of average CO₂ emissions of vehicles is significantly and continuously reduced. If the extent of motorization of the world population develops toward the level currently observed just for the EU, on average about 45 percent, the stock of vehicles worldwide would grow to 4.185 billion. In terms of the targets set by the EU for 2050, the emissions values would have to lie between 20 and 30 g CO₂/km, provided the driven distances remain the same."



The German automotive industry communicated the following via its association VDA in 2015: *The German automotive industry has made a major commitment to promoting electromobility because climate protection, fuel resources that are becoming scarcer and increased need for mobility due to increasing population figures require new solutions and alternative drives. Electrified vehicles can make a crucial contribution to protecting the environment and reducing emissions. They are therefore an important element of the multi-faceted strategy of German manufacturers. Germany has now reached a new milestone in 2015: Electromobility is ready for the market. A young though still small market is dynamically forming step by step. Customers in no other country have such a broad cross-segment choice of different vehicles. The electrification of vehicles of the future is becoming increasingly important and supports the development of the overall system of electromobility. In this overall system electric vehicles ranging from plug-in hybrids and range-extended vehicles all the way to battery-driven electric vehicles and fuel-cell vehicles will be linked with the energy and the traffic system, thus complementing the mobility concept of the future.*



In 2015, the chairmen of the boards of the German car manufacturers confirmed, in the context of their respective product spectrum, their association's optimistic position on the issue of electromobility. They announced to promote electromobility with a veritable fireworks of products and were accordingly quoted in the media. **But in the market there is no trace of it.** The innovative competitors are on their toes and have enormous potential in terms of market value (capitalization in billion euros on March 3, 2017: Apple 693.06; Google 511.59; Toyota 176.01; Tesla 38.28; VW 73.45; Daimler 74.81; BMW 56.47; GM 53.37).



There are already media reports about a possible cooperation between German car manufacturers (in particular BMW and Daimler) and Apple. Here the crucial question is what the conventional car makers' lead in vehicles with internal combustion motors and their construction is worth. After all, with electromobility and autonomous driving, the cards are being reshuffled. This concerns production technology as well as data availability and data linking. We expect that, following Tesla, Apple and Google will also spread out into the market segments of the established automobile manufacturers. In the end, the classical automotive industry will function – at best – merely as the extended workbench of the digital sector. Whoever has the data.... Those who are late, will be punished by life.

Joschka Fischer says:

"The internal combustion engine will come under pressure, which I think is a good thing. We cannot afford to miss the electromobility bus. The German vehicle manufacturers have to find the right solution for this issue. The future lies first and foremost on the Asian continent, which means China. The Chinese population is striving to achieve a Western standard of living, also and especially in the field of mobility. Zero-emissions mobility paired with renewable energies is one of the greatest social challenges altogether, especially in the megacities arising around the world. The home market is just as important, and that is the entire EU region. If it begins to disintegrate, there will be negative repercussions on exports. Without innovations, one is easily overtaken by others. The German electronics and battery industry also used to be the world leader, before these important industrial sectors were almost completely outsourced to Asia."



Lars Thomsen says:

"We will experience a radical shift in various areas in the coming decades, for example in the area of mobility, energy and communication. Artificial intelligence, technical progress in the regenerative production of energy, as well as energy storage technologies and new materials will play the key roles. I can only advise companies as well as investors to get ready for these changes in time. I expect that by 2017, there will no longer be any economic or qualitative reason to buy a new vehicle with an internal combustion engine. This is true for fleet vehicles as well as buses, delivery vehicles and taxis as well as for private passenger vehicles. E-vehicles are not only better for the climate and environment, but also zippier, more comfortable and cheaper than comparable concepts with internal combustion engines. Then the market will reach the tipping point, and from 2020 on, internal combustion engines will seem as old to us as typewriters do today compared to computers. With its Model S, the EV pioneer Tesla Motors is leading the sales lists in several markets in the luxury segment and is now selling more vehicles than any of the German premium manufacturers. This development will also spill over into the mass market. Prices for storage batteries and electric drives will drop sharply thanks to the economies of scale. With DC quick-charge stations, even long distances are no problem anymore – the Tesla Model S has a daily range of more than 2,200 kilometers. As history shows, radical changes in technologies and industries do not come ambling along, but burst in forcefully when the 'tipping point' is reached."



The foreseeable consequences of the Volkswagen fiasco in the diesel emissions scandal that broke in September 2015 show how dramatically these changes can speed up. The illegal emission tests and punishable offenses will inevitably lead to a tightening of legal requirements for emission tests worldwide. The emissions of diesel and gasoline vehicles indicated in the glossy brochures of car manufacturers must demonstrably correspond to the emissions discharged during operation on the road. **The emissions from the exhaust pipe are relevant**

and not the numbers the board computer spews out or the test bench indicates while the engine is idling. No wonder the fine-particle standards are not met in many cities. There must be an end to the practice of whitewashing, cheating and manipulating when stating consumption and emission values – and this goes for the automobile industry worldwide. The pressure on car manufacturers will be even greater when the CO₂ emissions from real-world operation are measured in the future. **Example European Union:** By 2021, a limit of 95 g carbon dioxide per kilometer must be achieved. This limit can only be reached **in practice** (as a fleet average) by broadly employing alternative drive technologies. That makes the rolling out of electromobility (increasingly with green electricity) over the entire range of vehicles consisting of plug-in hybrids, range extenders and all-electric vehicles a major challenge and a great opportunity for the automobile industry. Thus the wish becomes reality – for proactive car manufacturers, drivers and increasingly also for our environment. Now it is up to the legislators – and the car manufacturers – to make the mobility of the future sustainable and to promote it. For all parties, it is both a realistic and ambitious goal to establish a limit for CO₂ emissions of 60 g per kilometer from 2025 on. This corresponds to a consumption of 2.5 liters of gasoline or 2.3 liters of diesel fuel per 100 kilometer (on fleet average). At that point it will not take long before the combustion of gasoline and diesel will be relegated to automotive history. It can happen much faster than we assume, especially if competition and consumption are supported by specific promotion programs.

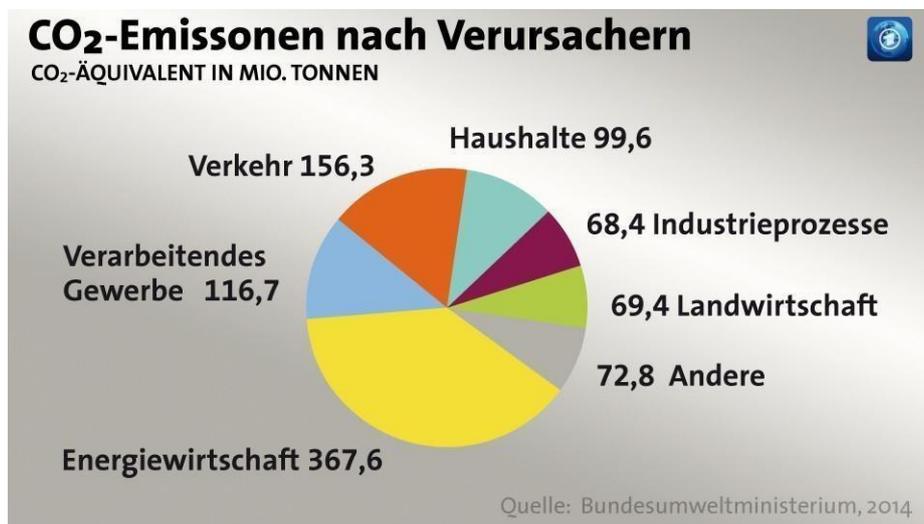


We developed a promotion program and sent it, in November 2015, to the German Chancellor, to the competent ministers as well as to decision-makers in the industry. Our proposal penalizes those who cause CO₂ and favors sustainable mobility.

The political perspective at the 2015 G7 summit in Germany, which envisioned abandoning the carbon dioxide industry (coal, oil and natural gas) in the course of the 21st century, gives reason to hope for further efforts surpassing the symbolic World Climate Treaty of December 2015. "Decarbonization" must not remain an empty cliché. The action must now be suited to the word. By implementing our promotion program, Germany could give an additional impetus with global impact. This promotion program takes account of the following aspects and contains the guiding parameters listed below:

- A majority of those responsible in the automobile industry and in the Federal Government support a suitable promotion program with purchase incentives.
- Depending on the electrical range, the buyers' premium should be up to 5,000 euros per vehicle.
- To reduce federal budget outlays, the promotion program should be 50 percent financed by a new CO₂ tax up to 2020.
- The CO₂ tax should be paid by all CO₂ polluters **in the economy** – which includes stationary polluters since they buy electricity at the exchange in off-market OTC trade much cheaper than private citizens. In July 2015, a megawatt hour (MWh) cost about 40 euros in OTC trade. That amounts to 4 cents per kWh. The median price of current at the exchange in May 2015 dropped to its lowest level in twelve years. In Germany, the average exchange price for one kWh base load electricity cost 2.54 cents in May 2015. **Most final customers, of course, have not benefited from that so far.** The price of electricity for private consumers at the beginning of 2015 was on average 28.81 cents per kWh (including the renewable energy surcharge).

- The graph below shows the CO₂ emissions by polluter in 2013 in Germany.



- On the basis of this distribution and the arguments above, we assume that (with the exception of private consumers and energy-intensive companies or companies whose existence is threatened) 80 percent of the polluters can be included in the CO₂ taxation. Considering the emission rate of 912 million tons of CO₂ in 2014, a levy of 5 euros per ton of CO₂ would yield about 3.65 billion euros as a regulatory ecological tax to promote sustainable automotive mobility. If another 3.65 billion euros come from the federal budget, the promotion program will rest on the broad shoulders of German policy and the German economy to the benefit of the German consumers.
- A levy of 5 euros per ton of CO₂ is comparatively low. In Switzerland, the CO₂ levy was raised on January 1st, 2016, from 60 to 84 Swiss francs per ton of CO₂ and applies to fuels such as heating oil and natural gas, the prices for which will increase accordingly.
- Thanks to the oil price which is expected to remain low in the foreseeable future, the CO₂ levy is also generally affordable and compatible with the public good.
- The promotion program has a double effect: It "punishes" CO₂ emissions and "rewards" sustainable automobility. This will produce positive impulses in both directions.

- The buyer's premium for electric vehicles is intended to help electromobility achieve market breakthrough. The idea is not to profit from a windfall effect as was the case for the cash-for-clunkers program in 2009. Instead, the price reductions resulting from increased production are meant to make E-cars affordable for anyone who wants to buy a new vehicle.
- In the end everyone will be happy – the politicians, industry and especially consumers.

According to a poll conducted by the opinion research institute Allensbach in March 2016, only 32 percent of those asked were against a purchase incentive for electric vehicles.* The increase of CO₂ emissions in Germany from 902 to 908 million tons in 2015, thanks primarily to increased fuel consumption by cars as a result of the low prices for gasoline and diesel, also shows that the time is ripe for such incentives.

The more we speed up the energy turnaround, the faster import costs for fossil fuels will drop, and the promotion program proposed here will pay off very well.

Rudolf Diesel today would surely say:

I condemn those in the automobile industry who are responsible for manipulating my invention in a criminal way. Had I known how our Earth would develop, especially in view of the billions of people and vehicles and the resulting air pollution and climate change, I would have much preferred to invent electromobility and get it under way.



* Source: *Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung* of March 20, 2016, page 21

Petra Pinzler favors a buyer's premium for electric cars:

“Germany and Saudi Arabia are not that different: Both countries depend on an outmoded industry, which is incidentally also ruining the climate. Saudi Arabia exports oil. Germany sells the matching cars. But many governments are pushing for the end of the automobile as we know it. They are promoting cycling, local public transport, and are providing the infrastructure needed for electric vehicles. They are paying buyers’ premiums to the customers. Norway is doing it, so are California, China, Japan, the Netherlands and even Portugal. It is easy for them to promote what is new because they don't have a traditional automobile industry. Or because a new market is emerging there, as in the case of California. That is where Apple is investing massively in electromobility. For Germany that is dangerous. Does anyone still remember typewriters? They were produced here in Germany; then they suddenly disappeared from the scene, and there were only computers – built by others. We are more dependent on the car industry than we ever were on the typewriter manufacturers. It is high time that Germany gave a signal: We will be the lab for the automobiles of tomorrow. Here it makes sense to develop battery technology, Apps for networked driving and concepts. We call it the traffic turnaround. As we know, half of good economic policy is psychology. So why not attract customers with buyers’ premiums? It increases demand, the automobiles become mass commodities, and the necessary infrastructure is built. The whole thing may look like a present for a pampered industrial sector. But the government could counter the reproach by canceling tax privileges for diesels. And by pushing through the stricter CO₂ limits in Brussels for the fleets of the big companies instead of acting as a lobby for old-time limousines. By the way, Saudi Arabia is now investing in solar power plants.”

(Source: DIE ZEIT, edition 6/2016, article “Should the State pay a premium for purchasing electric cars?”)



Susanne Weiß says:

"It is rather worrying that we human beings, according to the 'Living Planet' study of the World Wildlife Fund, consume 50 percent more resources every year than the Earth can renew in that period of time and which can thus be available on a sustainable basis. Resources such as coal, oil and natural gas were 'produced' by our planet 100-350 million years ago. All the more gratifying that more and more people, individually and together with others, are becoming aware of how things are linked to each other in the big picture and feel called upon to act. Here I also see a strengthening of female energy – both in women and men: sensing that we are driving the very foundations of our life into a 'planetary burnout'; the urgent desire for counteraction and preservation, thereby relying on integration and teamwork. In my view, this female cooperative power is also at work when discussing the electric vehicle not merely as an isolated matter of drive. And when, in the process of switching to electromobility, we see boundaries between industrial sectors fall and completely new combinations arise in the context of energy production, storage and use."



Stephan Weil says:

“As far as electromobility is concerned, we haven't really come off the starting blocks yet. It is encouraged almost everywhere in the world. And, of all countries, the number one automobile nation thinks it can do without it – a fatal error, I believe. It might happen for the first time that fundamental technological developments in the automobile sector take place outside Germany. We need incentives. One option would be for the state to partially compensate the higher costs of electric vehicles by paying a purchase premium. It would be a real boost if half of the additional sales tax (VAT) were returned to the customer who purchases an electric vehicle. Another option would be to increasingly tax vehicles on the basis of their level of pollution.”

(Source: stern, edition No. 52, December 17, 2015, page 108)



Bernd Osterloh says:

“We are facing immense future tasks. It is not only the diesel scandal that endangers jobs. The predicted increase in electric vehicles or digitalization also require changes in products and thus in our factories. If we don't move and set the course now, we, the workers and employees, will get to feel the full force of not having the right products in three, four or five years. That is why we want to take the path forward. Our jobs are secure only with the right products. Presently, we are not adapting to the new developments fast enough. Brand management is indeed calling for more productivity, but not making any specific promises as to future products or future technologies. Jobs will be secure only if we are successful as an enterprise. We have repeatedly demanded more dynamic force and changes. With the brand management's handling of things so far, we will only continue to lose valuable time. And since verbal promises are currently worthless, we want contracts.”



Oliver Blume says:

“Electromobility is of top priority for us. The Mission E is accordingly very important for us. Together with the Volkswagen Group we are talking both with the Federal Government and other manufacturers as to the infrastructure required for quick charging. The government wants to promote electromobility and will therefore have to make investments in the infrastructure. But as a manufacturer, we are also interested in a speedy development of the charging network. I do not want to exclude the possibility that we will invest in charging infrastructure ourselves. The important thing is that such a network is installed quickly, not only in Germany, but also in other countries. For us, the priority is a rapid-charging network with wide-area coverage and an output of more than 150 kW per charging station. By the end of the decade, we will have a quick-charging network for electric vehicles in the major world markets. I think that is also the main reason for customers to switch to an electric car. And since not only we at Porsche are interested in a functioning infrastructure, but actually all manufacturers and countries, I believe we will succeed.”



Gerd Landsberg says:

“Conveniences such as free parking in downtown areas, special privileges like access to certain streets or bus lanes, can only be single components of an overall strategy to promote electromobility, and there is still a lot to improve in promoting infrastructure. The primary issue is an accelerated development of a comprehensive charging infrastructure in municipalities. People won’t buy a car if they can’t charge it. Another point of focus should be the vehicle fleets of public authorities. Those who help us in rigorously switching to E-mobility are supporting the role-model function for citizens and are making an important contribution to reducing fine-particle pollution in the cities. It would also make sense to provide much more support for craftsmen and small logistics companies. They often do a lot of short-distance driving in the cities and would be able to significantly contribute to a better climate in the city if they switched to electromobility. On the whole, it is good to further E-mobility and digital networking because they are the crucial factors for Germany’s success as an industrial site of mobility. A nationwide breakthrough for E-mobility can only be achieved when the range is significantly increased and purchase prices are reduced. This is a challenge the German automotive industry must take much more seriously if it is to sustain its leading role.”



Winfried Hermann says:

“As far as promoting electric vehicles is concerned, we have been demanding special depreciation allowance for commercially used vehicles for six months now. I don’t understand the Federal Government's wavering. All in all, the loss in taxes is low, while the benefit is substantial. The operational advantage for commercial fleets is larger than for private users who do not drive that much. A special depreciation allowance in the first years would automatically generate a used car market for private users. I am also convinced that the only way to reach the goal of a million electric vehicles on German roads by 2020 is to make considerable headway this year with a charging infrastructure providing overall coverage.”



Michael Bolle und Thorsten Ochs say:

“Our battery experts are doing the groundwork for a breakthrough of electromobility. By 2020, our batteries should be able to store twice as much energy and at considerably lower cost. Our aim is to house 50 kilowatt hours in 190 kilograms. In addition, researchers want to significantly reduce the time a vehicle needs to recharge. We want our new batteries to be rechargeable up to 75 percent in less than 15 minutes. We now have substantial know-how in the implementation of a new type of solid-state batteries. These have yet another crucial advantage: They do not need fluid electrolytes which are contained in lithium-ion batteries and can lead to safety problems under unfavorable conditions.”



Karl-Thomas Neumann says:

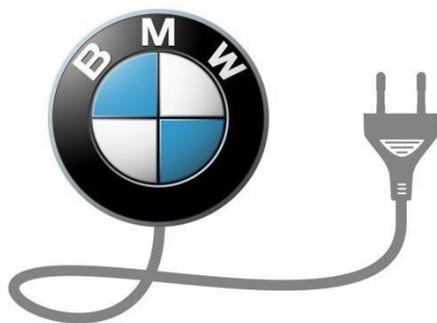
"Electromobility is and remains an important option for the future. We were a pioneer in Germany with the Ampera. But the technology has its high price and low range to contend with. These are the problems we have to solve. Opel will introduce a new E-car to the market, and it will be significantly lower in price. Car sharing will play an important role for Opel, too. The concept was put into practice in 2015. It differs from what we know from other manufacturers. It is doubtlessly a good solution for customers who only use a car sporadically or who don't want or can't afford to buy a car."



The definition of objectives at BMW, Daimler and Volkswagen seems to be changing under the impact of the emissions scandal and more stringent limits in the future, so that electromobility could gradually pick up steam in 2016. Especially if the following statements made by the chairmen of the boards are really put into action:

- Harald Krüger said in December 2015: *“The time will come when it will be uneconomical to keep on adapting the diesel drive to the increasingly demanding legislation. Then electromobility will play the key role. We are currently making a new push for electrically driven vehicles. We need clear impulses from political decision-makers; in Germany we are arguing for support in the form of buyer's premiums, tax relief and help in developing charging infrastructure for electric vehicles. Otherwise, we will not reach the goal of a million electric cars by 2020.”*

(Source: <http://www.manager-magazin.de/unternehmen/autoindustrie/bmw-plant-neues-i-modell-und-i8-als-cabrio-e-auto-offensive-a-1065380.html>.)



The statement made by the Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy, Sigmar Gabriel, in January 2016 fits in here: *“We have to make up our mind: Do we want to adhere to the goal of one million electric vehicles by 2020? Then we need to employ a market-incentive scheme such as purchase premiums or tax incentives. If we don't do that, then we ought to be honest with ourselves and give up the goal.”*

(Source: <http://www.merkur.de/wirtschaft/gabriel-kaufpraemien-fuer-e-autos-oder-eine-million-ziel-beerdigen-zr-6070572.html>.)

- In January 2011 and in September 2015, Dieter Zetsche said: *“When I see the growing degree of prosperity in China with the expected outlook of more than 30 million new car registrations annually, it is clear that this is not possible with the current type of vehicle. We have neither enough oil, nor can we live with the emissions. So the automobile’s success is its biggest problem. That is why we simply must succeed in switching to electromobility. I don’t believe we can afford a timeline for the electric car like in the days of Carl Benz. We have to make faster progress, decide more quickly, and set the right signals. In many countries such as China, the USA, France and other markets, purchasing electric cars is promoted with a premium. I emphasize: We are talking about a temporary solution for a limited time to kick-start the technology. The automotive industry has 29 different electric vehicles in its product range, thus making its contribution. Nevertheless: Under the current conditions the million-goal is not achievable. If politicians want to reach this number by 2020, they have to change the conditions. If the Federal Government aspires to a model function for Germany, it won’t be able to avoid direct purchase incentives.”*

(Sources: <http://www.handelsblatt.com/unternehmen/industrie/dieter-zetsche-es-fehlt-ein-marktanreiz-fuers-elektroauto-seite-2/3818198-2.html>;

<http://www.automobil-produktion.de/2015/09/daimler-zetsche-keiner-verdient-an-e-autos-auch-tesla-nicht/>)



- In December 2015, Matthias Müller replied to the question of whether the new VWs would be electric cars: *“Of course. In a few years we will have a new generation of batteries with improved performance. They will be lighter and cheaper. Legislative requirements will become more challenging at the same time. And that will make internal combustion engines increasingly expensive. At some point the curves will cross. That is when the bulk of the population will say: Now there's no any reason anymore not to buy electrical. The range will be more than 500 km, the battery will be rechargeable in 15 minutes. At first I was skeptical, but in the foreseeable future it will be possible. The future is electrical.”*

(Source: *stern*, edition No. 50 of December 3, 2015, page 48).

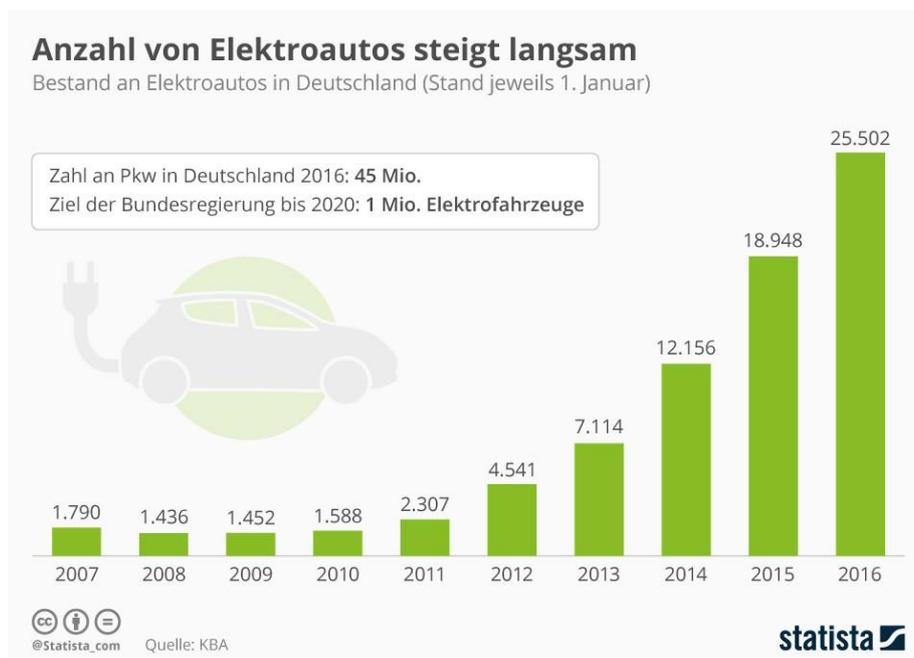


We offered the chairmen of the boards of BMW, Daimler and Volkswagen to actively participate in our primer with their quotes, as the heads of Opel and Porsche have done. We are looking forward to their reactions and replies. Since we did not want to wait with the printing of our primer, we will only be able to report the results of our inquiries in the second edition.

At the latest following April 23, 2016, which will go down in history as black Friday of the German automotive industry, the car manufacturers should leave the twilight zone into which they have maneuvered themselves with their manipulated exhaust technology and unrealistic emission tests on gasoline and diesel vehicles. It was not only Volkswagen; nearly the entire automotive industry faked the emission tests. The Minister of Transportation has obligated almost all German car manufacturers to recall 630,000 diesel vehicles for check testing. The car manufacturers are under observation. Now they should step on the gas – backed by the government – to get electromobility going by reducing the costs, increasing the range, improving recharging infrastructure and introducing a buyer's premium.

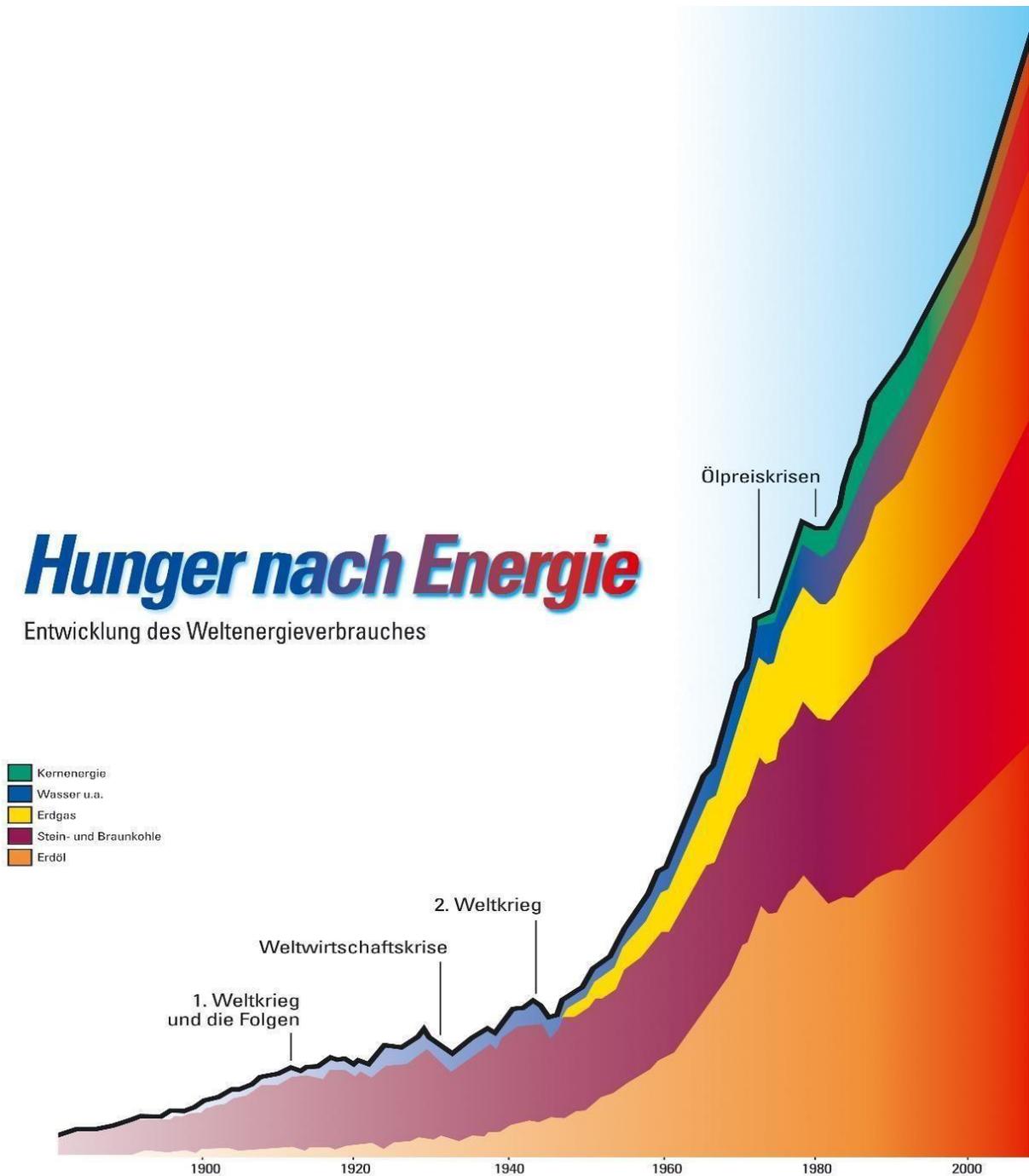
Well, how about that! Announcement of a buyer's premium for electric vehicles in April 2016

It was a tough nut to crack, and it took a long time to crack it. But at the end the insight won out that necessary, pioneering products must be promoted to achieve market breakthrough. As proposed by *EnORM e.V.* in November 2015, the buyer's premium is financed by industry and government at 50 percent each. Private and commercial customers receive an allowance of 4,000 euros when they buy an all-electric car as of summer 2016 (following cabinet decision and approval by the European Commission). This premium also applies to fuel-cell vehicles. Plug-in-hybrid and range-extended vehicles are subsidized at 3,000 euros. These buyer's premiums relate to vehicles that cost a maximum of 60,000 euros. The entire budget for the buyer's premiums is limited to 1.2 billion euros and expires in 2019 at the latest. To increase consumer confidence, an additional 200 million euros are to be spent on quick-charging infrastructure and 100 million euros for normal AC charging. The following graph shows the situation before an agreement on the buyer's premium was reached.



These promotional measures, far too late, are not the big hit, and the government now states a target of only 500,000 electric vehicles for 2020 instead of the original one million. After the long wait, potential buyers at least know what to expect now and will no longer postpone their decision to purchase. **We will venture a prognosis:** The number of one million electric vehicles by 2020 will be clearly exceeded because the government's definition of electric vehicles includes plug-in-hybrids and range-extended vehicles, and **from 2021 on, a CO₂ limit of 95 g/km will** apply.

The following graph demonstrates the exponential increase in energy consumption worldwide in the last century and at the beginning of this century, and the alarming dependence on finite fossil energy sources.



In 2015 and 2016, BP said that we will consume a third more energy in 2035 than we do today. In 2015, Goldman Sachs said that, at an oil price of less than 70 dollars per barrel, only a third of all investments in new oil fields are profitable. Almost a trillion dollars are "zombie investments" that don't pay off.

Klaus Töpfer says:

"We industrial countries created these problems, so we are mainly responsible for solving them. We cannot sit around and watch how the consequences of our economic prosperity steamroller us.

We must convince people of the efficiency of modern environmental technology."



The future is electrical – at home, at work and when traveling!



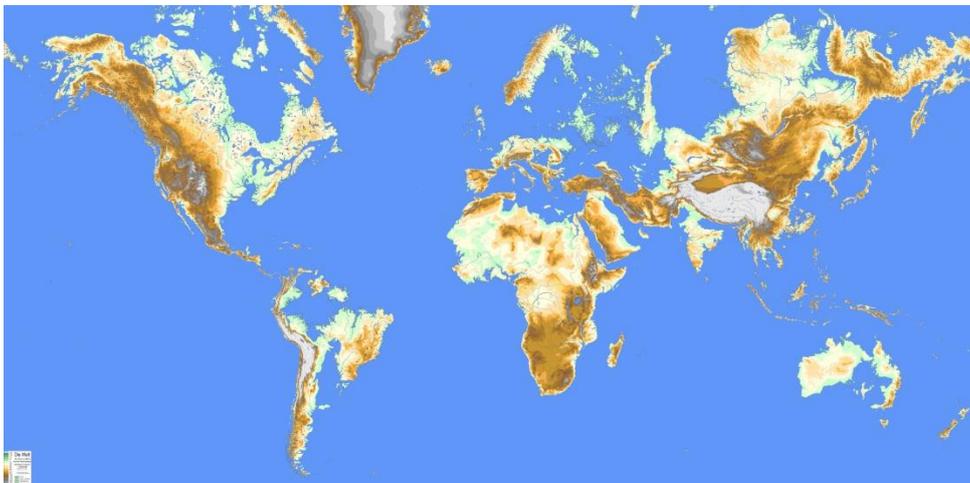
We must push for energy from renewable sources for stationary and mobile supply with electricity and heating/cooling instead of fossil energy and nuclear power. That will make the production of hydrogen and the operation of CO₂-free vehicles sustainable.

The need to get away from conventional energy supply is obvious. International climate researchers and meteorologists have demonstrated:

Human influence

- on the warming of the atmosphere and the warming, acidification and poisoning of the oceans,
- on the changes of the global water cycle,
- on the decrease in snow and ice,
- on the rise of the median global sea level and
- on the increase of extreme weather and climate events

is proven and proceeding at an unprecedented pace. **Those who doubted the relevant facts, data and figures have virtually fallen silent.**



If we carry on like this, coming generations will rightly accuse us of having slid into the catastrophe with eyes wide open – out of indolence and ignorance!

Shocking subsidies of more than 5 trillion dollars per year for fossil energy

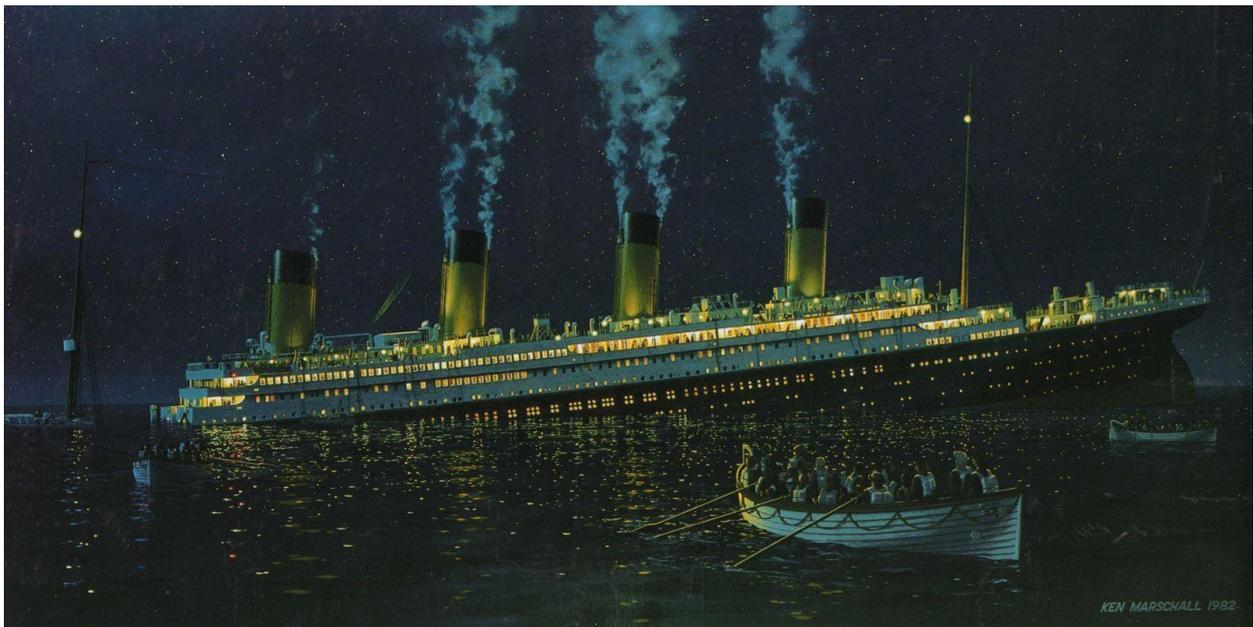
The International Energy Agency (IEA) in Paris has been pushing for ending subsidies for fossil energies for years. The agency recently cited a sum of more than 500 billion dollars applied annually to artificially reduce the price of coal, oil and gas. That is six times more money than was invested in 2015 to promote renewable energies. The sum of more than 500 billion dollars cited by the IEA is 10 times lower than that determined by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) because the IEA only counts direct financial support.

According to an IMF study of May 2015, global subsidies for fossil energies are higher than the expenditures of all governments of the world on health care. The total volume of these subsidies was estimated to be 5.3 trillion dollars for 2015. That means 10 million dollars are spent on promoting fossil energies every minute of the year. The IMF compares the price for fossil energy sources with the “true costs” incurred by pumping, distributing and consuming coal, gas and oil. These costs include environmental and health damages and global warming. The new calculation of the subsidies now takes into account updated figures for these “external costs” of fossil energies. Reference is made, for instance, to reports of the World Health Organization, according to which in China alone one million people per year die before their time as a consequence of air pollution. The IMF estimates local damages only, which are not reflected in the fuel prices, to be 2.7 trillion dollars. The costs of global warming, which should actually be added to the prices of gasoline and coal, are estimated to be about 1.3 trillion dollars. Direct state subsidies to depress prices below the costs of production are reported to be 333 billion dollars.

The lion’s share of the subsidies flows into coal. 59 percent of the 5.3 trillion dollars are pumped into energy production from hard coal or brown coal. 28 percent go to the oil sector, and 10 percent of the subsidies flow into the natural gas sector. Fossil energies are especially promoted in Russia, Japan, China, India and some countries in north Africa, so that these subsidies account for more than eight percent of the gross domestic product of the respective countries. In the U.S. the share ranges from four to eight percent, while the share in West European countries is for the most part less than two percent. According to the IMF, German subsidies in 2015 amounted to 55.6 billion dollars, the bulk of which (40.8 billion) goes to coal. In comparison: Renewable energies were promoted in Germany via the EEG (Renewable Energies Act) with about 23.2 billion dollars (after currency conversion) - just about half of what flows into coal.

Claiming that coal, oil and gas are safe and cheap sources of energy, has proven to be a fairy tale after these figures were published by the IMF, if not before. Instead of promoting energy sources that have no future and thus hampering renewable energies, the absurd subsidies for ecologically harmful fuels must be cut down as soon as possible. The money saved can serve nations to ease the burden on their budgets and to protect the health of their citizens as well the climate. All in all, the revenue would increase by 2.8 trillion dollars. That means taxes could be reduced, the debt burden could be lowered, and investments in production, storage and use of renewable energies could be made.

Before the Paris World Climate Summit in December 2015, the IEA and IMF made an urgent appeal to end subsidies for fossil fuels. On April 22, 2016, the 196 nations of this world were called upon to follow the experts and ratify the World Climate Treaty. What really happened that day, is described at the end of this message.



**It's up to us: to go under with smoking chimneys
or jump into the lifeboats with renewable energies!**

In November 2015, the WMO (World Meteorological Organization) reported:

“The concentration of greenhouse gases in the earth's atmosphere has reached a new high. The main cause is the continuing strong emission of carbon dioxide (CO₂). Between 1990 and 2014 alone, greenhouse gases have increased by 36 percent. Among other sources, the gases come from industry, agriculture and automobile traffic. The most significant contribution is made by CO₂ emissions. The main cause is the consumption of fossil fuels such as coal, gas and oil.

WMO Secretary General Michel Jarraud says:

“Year after year we report a new record high in the concentration of greenhouse gases.

We will soon experience a global average of 400 ppm as a permanent reality.

Every year, we warn the public that time is running out. If we don't want to ruin our chances of keeping the rise in temperature on earth within tolerable limits, then we must act now to constrain greenhouse gas emissions.”



A CO₂ concentration of 400 ppm is considered to be a "significant milestone" toward a dangerous change in climate. The Paris World Climate Treaty must urgently be revised because time will otherwise run out. Once a CO₂ concentration of 450 ppm is reached, the global surface temperature will increase by two degrees on average. After that, global warming will become self-propelled. We cannot discuss all elements here that lead to a tipping point of the climate, so we will focus on the Arctic and the permafrost in Siberia and North America. Beneath the permafrost there are untold billions of cubic meters of methane. If this gas is released, climate change will be dramatically exacerbated. **The greenhouse effect of methane is 21 times greater than that of carbon dioxide. We are already fiddling around with matches at the fuse of this ticking time bomb.**

In the Arctic the winter ice has been shrinking for decades. But in 2016, the frozen surface was smaller than ever before. On March 24, the day of the largest expansion, the ice in the Arctic Ocean covered only 14.52 million square kilometers. Satellites have been measuring the frozen surface for 37 years. The last 13 years bring up the rear. The air temperature in the winter 2015/2016 was up to 6 degrees higher than the average for the Arctic.

The phenomenon is relevant to the climate because the stronger and earlier retreat of the ice in the summer means less reflection of solar radiation back into space and thus more warming up of free water. This leads to more energy being stored in the earth's climate system so that the surrounding land masses also continue to warm up. In Siberia and North America, the permafrost line has been observed, for years now, to increasingly retreat towards the pole. The feared consequences are the release of additional greenhouse gases (especially methane) from the forming swamps, still rising sea levels – because Greenland is losing more ice due to the warming – as well as far-reaching changes in the weather particularly in North America and Europe. The Arctic ice influences the climate of the earth significantly because it reflects solar light and heat which would otherwise be absorbed by the water. That is why the northern hemisphere remained cooler. But now the ice is shrinking, which accelerates global warming because the dark surfaces of the sea absorb much more heat than the light surface of the ice. This feedback is expected to further accelerate the melting of the ice in the region as well as the already extreme temperature increases in the coming years. **The greedy oil companies are already waiting ready to pounce!**

The habitat of many unique wild animals such as the polar bear and various marine mammals is severely threatened by the reduced frozen surface.



One must go! Another is coming - hungry for oil beneath the melting ice!

Wolf Dieter Blümel says:

“Remarkable changes have occurred in the central Arctic: The average thickness of the summer ice cap has diminished from 3.1 to 1.8 meters. The volume in the Arctic decreased by 72 percent in 2012 compared with the mean since 1979. Ice echo-sounding measurements carried out from submarines in the years 1958-1976 and 1993-1997 substantiate a decrease in the ice thickness of 43 percent in the central Arctic Ocean. The accelerated reduction in surface of the Arctic marine ice-cap is especially noteworthy because of its multiple effects on the climate. Around 1900, its summertime mean comprised some 8.5 million square kilometers. The condition remained stable until 1950; from 1978 on, a downward trend is manifest. The 'Netzwerk Klimakampus Hamburg' reported that in 2012, only 3.37 million square kilometers were still covered with ice – compared to an average of 7.5 million square kilometers in the period 1979–2000. That means the ice coverage has decreased by more than half. Greenland, with a surface of 1.74 million square kilometers, has the largest continental ice desert in the Arctic. The volume of the ice amounts to three million cubic kilometers, which corresponds to a third of the Arctic ice sheet. It covers about 81 percent of the island and would cause the sea level to rise by seven meters if it melted completely. The surprisingly rapid decrease in thickness of the Arctic sea ice and the dramatically accelerated melting process of the Greenland ice sheet constitute not only a severe threat to coastal areas and lowlands, but in future also a new role of the ice deserts and polar oceans as a control instrument of the global climate. It is urgently necessary to counteract the induced processes of change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and by developing pragmatic adaptation strategies for global society.”



Ulf von Rauchhaupt says:

"Human intervention in nature is so far-reaching today that the consequences will remain evident over entire geological periods. Interference in biological and geochemical cycles is more drastic than problems with garbage and concrete. Today 38 percent of net vegetation growth of the biosphere is allotted to usage by human beings. The rate at which animal and plant species are dying out is a hundred to a thousand times higher than the geological average. The release of carbon dioxide from fossil fuels has raised the acidity of sea water to values that were last reached presumably 300 million years ago."



Paul Crutzen says:

"It seems appropriate to me to designate the current epoch shaped by humans as Anthropocene. Man has become the greatest elemental force and the powerhouse of the destruction of the Earth."

Hans Joachim Schellnhuber says:

"We are plundering both the past and the future for the affluence of the present – that is the dictatorship of the Now."



Gerhard Hofmann says:

“Since March 2012, ‘SOLARIFY - Energy for the Future’ is the name of an independent information portal for renewable energies, climate change and the energy turnaround, established by ‘Agentur Zukunft’ and the ‘Max-Planck-Gesellschaft’. The initial idea came from the insight of Sir Nicholas Stern in his ‘Global Deal’ that we have two major global problems: hunger and poverty on the one hand, and climate change on the other. The issue of energy plays a crucial role in both: Where poverty, hunger and underdevelopment prevail, there is a lack of capital as well as energy. Where the latter, however, is obtained the ‘wrong’ (fossil) way, we are threatened with CO₂-emissions in excess, atmospheric warming, surpassing the 2-degree limit, or, in brief: climate change with all its negative consequences for many millions of people. Therefore, we need everyone’s effort and contribution to decarbonize the power-supply industry worldwide, in other words: to make the energy turnaround a success. But the best energy turnaround will remain patchwork if we don’t succeed in protecting our common properties better by driving back externalization, by resolutely moving toward a recycling-based economy - so here my brief summary:



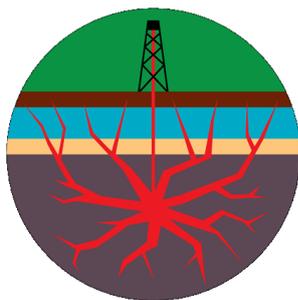
SOLARIFY 

And



There is no dispute that the climate and the CO₂ content in the atmosphere have changed from the very start with drastic consequences for nature and its forms of life. **But human beings today are the first species to consciously perceive climate changes and their consequences.** If humans know the causes and recognize the negative consequences, they can counteract them. If the causes are natural, negative consequences must be controlled. If, however, the causes are owed to human action, this action must be countered.

We have to stop pillaging our planet as soon as possible. The exploration and exploitation of ever new and deeper-lying fossil resources is against all common sense. The unscrupulous destruction of nature worldwide, whether through coal mining, fracking, or deep-sea drilling beneath the polar caps, demonstrates the human being's greed for profit, driven by egotistical behavior patterns.



Stephen Emmott says:

*"If we want to prevent a global catastrophe, we have to do something radical – and I mean really **do** it. This concerns every one of us. It concerns our failures as individuals, the failure of our economy and of our politicians. It is an unprecedented planetary emergency which we ourselves have created. Our future is at stake. We are facing problems of extreme urgency. I just do not understand why we do not finally do more to get out of this situation. I think we're fucked."*



These statements by Stephen Emmott are taken from his book *Ten Billion*. This book is about us. It is about how we are driving all of our global problems ourselves. It is about how we exacerbate each of these problems by simply carrying on the same way and growing. The facts Stephen Emmott cites on almost every page are horrifying: At least ten billion people will be living on our Earth before the end of this century. A planet with ten billion people will be a pure nightmare: We will be threatened with global climate catastrophes and widespread famine. Stephen Emmott sees two options: We can try to "technologize" ourselves out of the mess, or we change our ways, and change them radically. **We say: not either – or. Both options must efficiently complement each other – immediately!** With his pessimistic and cynical evaluation of human inactivity, Emmott manages to be drastically and deliberately provocative. In our view, the book *Ten Billion* lacks specific ideas and attempts at solutions. What it lacks above all is faith in the energy of the sun, which our heavenly power station makes available to us continuously by means of nuclear fusion. Stephen Emmott, however, basically regards nuclear fusion in atomic power plants as part of the solution, which – in view of the unmanageable risks – has a sobering effect on us.

In her government statement of January 29, 2014, Angela Merkel said:

"A grand coalition is a coalition for grand tasks. And if there is a political task where not particular interests, but human beings should be the focus of attention, then that is the Energiewende. Germany has taken the path of the energy turnaround.

Germany has decided to turn its back on the decades of energy mix, a mix primarily of fossil fuels and atomic power. There is no comparable country in this world that has tackled such a radical change in its energy supply. This decision is supported by the overwhelming majority of Germans. But let us not fool ourselves: The world is watching with a mixture of incomprehension and curiosity wondering if and how this energy turnaround will succeed. If it succeeds, then I am convinced it will become another German export hit. And if any country can succeed in bringing about this energy turnaround, then I am also convinced it is Germany."

(Source: <https://www.bundesregierung.de/Content/DE/Regierungserklaerung/2014/2014-01-29-bt-merkel.html>)



It is up to her whether she will go down in history as chancellor and pioneer of the energy turnaround and of climate protection or as one of many heads of government who failed to master this task of the century. The content of the 2015 World Climate Treaty is encouraging, but not satisfactory. It would have been unforgivable, nationally and globally, if the U.N. climate summit had failed completely as it did in Copenhagen in 2009. The appeal of **60 Nobel laureates** from all over the world a month before the U.N. climate conference in Copenhagen may have proven to be ineffective, but not void of truth, today more than ever: ***The present CO₂-intensive economy must be replaced with a more sustainable and more just economy. We have to realize the merciless urgency of acting now.***

Naderev M. Saño says:

"Everyone is looking toward Germany: Climate change threatens the foundations of human life, and that is why the German energy turnaround is so important. If a country with such sensational prosperity in global comparison does not succeed in adapting its economy and its energy systems to a climate-friendly path of development, how can we expect anything similar from the rest of the world?"



Barack Obama said before December 2015:

"This year, in Paris, must be the year that the world finally reaches an agreement to protect the one planet we've got while we still can. The U.N. climate summit in December 2015 has to be a success. Climate change is happening here, it is happening now. Human activity is disrupting the climate, in many ways faster than we previously thought.

The struggle against climate warming has the highest priority for me.

Embrace the human ingenuity that can do something about it.

We are the first generation to feel the effects of climate change.

And the last than can do something about it."



Narendra Modi says:

"It is our common goal to pass a global climate-protection agreement in Paris. Dealing with climate change is crucially important for the wellbeing of the world today and of future generations."

Pierre Trudeau says:

"I will travel to the climate summit in Paris with a new climate-protection concept for Canada. Our new government will tax CO₂ emissions in the future and back out of subsidizing fossil fuels."

Dilma Rousseff says:

"As a first step, we want to reforest 12 million hectares of woodland in the Amazon rain forest. Furthermore, we intend to reduce illegal clearing in the rain forest to zero by 2030. And, thirdly, we want to completely do without fossil fuels for energy production by the end of the century."

Vladimir Putin says:

"We are a reliable partner for the entire world community in solving global problems. And we are interested in cooperation for the mutual benefit in all areas: in the security area, in science, in energy production, in the solution of climate problems."

Xi Jinping says:

"We will increase the share of renewable energies in the energy mix to 20 percent by 2030. The living and working environment we leave to following generations should be characterized by blue skies, green fields and clean water."



These announcements are only minimum climate goals and anything but sufficient. It is particularly important that the goals be made binding as well as verifiable and measurable in a global climate treaty. The Earth can take us. But we won't be able to take the climate we are bringing upon ourselves!

Sting, Coldplay, David Bowie, Yoko Ono, Björk
and more than 300 other artists said three days before the
2015 world climate summit in Paris:

*“We are deeply concerned that our global economic and industrial systems
are driving irreversible climate change.*

*In our businesses we will be vigilant ourselves about environmental and climate protection
and we will encourage our audiences and customers to do the same.*

*We will work together to influence and support politicians who have
the capacity to accelerate positive change, to make the right decisions.*

*And we will use our creativity and collaborative culture to help find solutions to global
environmental challenges. We Must, we Can, and together we Will act on climate change.*

*The World Climate Treaty must be binding, must contain realistic delivery timetables,
and must support poorer nations in building up a climate-friendly infrastructure.”*



Results of the World Climate Summit of December 12, 2015, in Paris:



The worldwide attention and enormous commitment of many people and organizations as well as the importance of a global climate treaty for life on our planet have generated an enormous pressure to reach agreement. Between November 30 and December 12, advocates of fossil and renewable energies climbed into the ring and fought with no holds barred. In the end the referees agreed it was a draw. There is a high risk that the fossil appeals to hold out and the points thereby scored through various tricks become the bludgeons of climate change which jeopardize our future. 196 nations concluded an agreement obligating all countries to take measures to protect the climate. The countries themselves decide what kind of measures these shall be. There are no provisions for sanctions in case of non-fulfillment. As so often, many compromises lead to meager results. The countries' efforts are to be checked every five years and intensified over time. Now we must wait and see whether climate change will give us this time or thwart us, or rather the treaty. The climate treaty proclaimed on December 12, 2015 in Paris can be interpreted both negatively as well as positively.

Negative view: The most important result of the G7 summit of June 2015, i.e. the “decarbonization” of the world in the course of the 21st century, is not contained in the Paris climate treaty. Instead, compensatory solutions such as storing carbon dioxide in caverns to reduce the CO₂ content in the atmosphere, reforestation or ocean fertilization are to be set off against fossil greenhouse-gas emissions. Moreover, a landmark decision to stop subsidizing fossil energy sources is missing. There is a major discrepancy between the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 to 2 degrees and the actual climate-protection policy of the individual states. The content of the Paris World Climate Treaty basically corresponds to the recommendations made by the United Nations assembly in 2015. That is too little for the elaborately staged conference with 130 heads of state and government as well as 40,000

experts and 15,000 security forces. We are very worried that we are once again back-pedaling and putting off urgently needed measures - with moral appeals and lipservice.

Positive view: Indications that those have the advantage who are already moving away from coal, oil and gas today, are becoming increasingly stronger. It is encouraging that all the progeny of John D. Rockefeller have turned their backs on the black gold of their ancestors. They - like many other rich Americans - are investing solely in renewable energies, especially in sun and wind. Stock-market guru Warren Buffet is among them, intending to double his 15-billion-dollar contribution of spring 2014. **Because they know what they're doing - at a calculable risk.** This "Breakthrough Energy Coalition" aims at promoting innovative energy suppliers who offer CO₂-free energy at affordable prices for everyone. The 25 investors from 10 nations include Bill Gates, Jeff Bezos, Mark Zuckerberg, Jack Ma and Hasso Plattner. We need investors who act in an exemplary way and with foresight. Countries like Germany have the great opportunity to show by their value creation that the energy turnaround works, including storage technologies for mobile and stationary applications. Industrial countries must offer developing and newly industrialized countries alternative solutions so that they do not repeat the mistakes recognized in retrospect. That is good for exports and helps countries find their own solutions for climate protection.



Paris was only the beginning!

We need binding commitments to reduce emissions and not promises that can be broken with impunity. Compared with the climate conference in Copenhagen in 2009, Paris is a success, but measured against the challenges of climate change, it is by far not enough. Paris is a first step that definitely needs to be amended. The G20 states now must work on the next steps. One of them in particular is to drive the price for carbon dioxide emissions upwards by introducing a global tax or levy. The 196 countries must drastically force the pace of curbing emissions up to 2023. The gap between aspiration and reality must be closed. The word “decarbonization” must be incorporated in the World Climate Treaty - as a clear signal for the approaching end of the fossil age. All energy companies that earn their money with fossil fuels and **have no intention of changing their business model**, must be put under pressure as soon as possible. The stipulated limit on global warming, which is mandatory under international law, of well under two degrees can only be achieved if the extant deposits of coal, oil and gas remain largely unused. That perspective will deter financial investors. Allianz, for example, has already announced that it will no longer invest in fossil energies. **That' the way!**

In September 2014, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund had already announced that it would gradually opt out of investments in fossil energies. The Rockefeller family, too, is now divesting itself of shares in companies dealing in fossil fuels - and hence of the oil giant Exxon which is unwilling or unable to change its business model. The world's largest oil company is said to have lied to the public and shareholders for years about the possible consequences of global warming, thus disguising the risks of its fossil business model. The matter has been under investigation by the New York attorney general's office since November 2015. In March 2016, the Rockefeller Family Fund announced it was selling its shares in the Exxon oil company. They also want to divest themselves of shares in the sectors of coal and Canadian tar sands as soon as possible.

David Rockefeller and the Rockefeller Family Fund say:

“We cannot be associated with a company exhibiting such apparent contempt for the public interest. The reason for the step is the existential threat to which humanity and the natural ecological system is subjected by global warming. It makes little sense - financially or ethically - to continue holding investments in these companies. It is past time for all people of good will to do everything in their collective power to make our new path one that recognizes the deep interdependence between humanity’s future and the health of our natural systems.”



In April 2016, more than 400 investors, representing combined assets of 24 trillion dollars, gathered in London to call upon the world leaders not only to sign the World Climate Treaty on April 22, 2016 in New York, but also to commit themselves to a rapid ratification by their national legislatures.

The organizations Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change (IIGCC), Investor Group on Climate Change (IGCC), Investor Network on Climate Risk (INCR), Driving Sustainable Economies (CDP), Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) and UNEP Finance Initiative, which represent these 400 investors, sent the following letter to the heads of state and government of the world on April 14, 2016:

„Dear President

“The global investor networks signing this letter collectively represent more than 400 institutional investors with more than USD 24 trillion of assets under management. Since 2009, investors have been calling for an effective global agreement through the Global Investor Statement on Climate Change. In particular, we have been calling on governments to:

- Provide stable, reliable and economically meaningful carbon pricing that helps redirect investment commensurate with the scale of the climate change challenge.*
- Strengthen regulatory support for energy efficiency and renewable energy, where this is needed to facilitate deployment.*
- Support innovation in and deployment of low carbon technologies, including financing clean energy research and development.*
- Develop plans to phase out subsidies for fossil fuels.*
- Ensure that national adaptation strategies are structured to deliver investment.*
- Consider the effect of unintended constraints from financial regulations on investments in low carbon technologies and in climate resilience.*

In 2015, ahead of the G7 summit in Elmau, Germany, the CEOs of more than 120 institutional investors lent their support to the adoption of a long-term decarbonisation goal by the G7 summit, and ultimately by the Paris climate conference.

We believe that the Paris Agreement is an historic breakthrough that delivered an unequivocal signal for investors to shift assets towards the low-carbon economy. In conjunction with its national-level implementation, the Paris Agreement provides the right framework to trigger substantial investment and thus keep the door open to a well-below 2 degrees pathway.

It is now essential that the strong political consensus between 195 countries captured in Paris is made actionable through the rapid entry into force of the Paris Agreement.

The global investor networks would like to encourage your country to sign the Paris Agreement on April 22nd at the United Nations in New York. We would also like to encourage,

and stand ready to support, your country to complete domestic preparations for accession, and to accede to the Paris Agreement as soon as possible. It is essential that the political momentum arising out of the Paris conference is sustained.

Countries that accede early to the Paris Agreement will benefit from increased regulatory certainty, which will help attract the trillions of investments to support the low-carbon transition. The early entry into force of the Agreement will send an important signal to investors that governments are translating into concrete action the momentous political will represented by the adoption of the Paris Agreement.

We encourage you to sign and accede to the Paris Agreement as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely“

From the report „BETTER GROWTH BETTER CLIMATE“ of the Global Economic and Climate Commission mentioned in Message 5, “For Renewable Energy”, we learn that some 90 trillion dollars will be invested globally in infrastructure in the coming 15 years. So sufficient funds are available which we can spend on promoting renewable energies to enhance protection of the climate and the environment.

On “Earth Day” on April 22, 2016, representatives of 175 nations signed the World Climate Treaty at a meeting of the United Nations in New York. The ratification of the agreement by the national parliaments, however, which is required to enforce it, is still pending in most countries. Only 15 nations had ratified the treaty by April 22, 2016. Among them were in particular island states such as the Marshall Islands, Granada, Nauru, Palau and Fiji, as well as Palestine and Somalia. China’s Deputy Prime Minister Zhang Gaoli announced that his country would ratify the climate agreement before the G20 meeting in September 2016. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, accompanied by his granddaughter, said: *“From today on we are gaining ground, for our children and grandchildren.”* On behalf of France, President François Hollande sets his sights on Summer of 2016 and hopes the EU countries will ratify by the end of 2016.

We cannot wait for the World Climate Treaty of Paris to go into effect in four years when the Kyoto Protocol has run out at the end of 2020. We cannot waste the time until then, because otherwise, as described below for the case of coal – we will be confronted with an irresponsible scenario.

Before the world climate summit we learned that 2,500 new coal-fired power stations are planned globally up to 2030. Some hundreds are already under construction. This points completely in the wrong direction. To be profitable, a coal power plant is designed to operate for several decades. That means we are far away from solving the problem of climate change and are investing massively in technologies which make the problem worse.

According to the world climate agreement, the governments concerned must intervene now and put a stop to coal power plants in the early planning stage. The larger newly industrialized countries are planning and constructing coal power plants and investing in the use of renewable energies at the same time. The best approach would be to stop the massive and insane subsidization of coal now, as the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have demanded. Coal would consequently lose out primarily for economic reasons. Also because electricity prices will drop as a result of extended capacities for renewable energies in the grid, as we have already seen in Germany.

In conclusion: We must interpret the term "climate protection" correctly. Strictly speaking, not the climate needs protection, but we human beings and the species that live with us - protection from a dramatically changed climate. Danger comes from the creeping changes in climate which we fail to notice or perceive because we are prisoners of our everyday routines. Creeping processes we don't arrest or stop. Processes whose negative effects develop a life of their own, build up, and then become irreversible. Afterwards, our maltreated Earth will need time to recover from us before it can begin to reinvent life. **It's up to us whether it will come to that.** Let's stop trampling on the planet. Let's start protecting it by leaving greener footprints.



Fulfillment of the Message: Fossil energy is finite; its consumption is harmful to the environment and should be phased out.

1st step: Subsidization of fossil energy sources must be ended worldwide following the 2015 climate summit in Paris. It is nonsense to promote renewable energies on the one hand and to spend over 500 billion dollars annually on the other to depress the price of energy that is harmful to the environment.

2nd step: Costs for damages caused by the combustion of fossil fuels, costs of accidents resulting from the use of atomic energy as well as costs for the permanent storage of nuclear waste should be paid by the oil, coal, gas and uranium industries. In a study of May 2015, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had established the volume of these costs for the combustion of oil, coal and gas for the year 2014. The sum of the subsidies actually determined amounted to a total of **5.3 trillion U.S. dollars**.

3rd step: Greenhouse gases resulting from the combustion of fossil energy sources should be banned as soon as possible, no later than 2050 – **just as we banned CFCs because of their destructive effect on the ozone layer and asbestos because of its carcinogenic effects**.

The implementation of these steps can be developed as a component of a new global climate treaty by the Climate Protection and Energy Commission (yet to be established) of the “United Peoples of the World” and passed by the latter to become **binding**.

Leonardo di Caprio says to politicians and captains of industry:

"You can make history or be condemned by history. Governments and industrial enterprises all over the world have to adopt decisive and clear measures right away. Climate change is 'the major challenge to humanity.' It's not purely a matter of politics, our survival is at stake."

"Yes, we have achieved the Paris Agreement, that is a reason for hope. But it will not be enough. Our planet cannot be saved unless we leave fossil fuels in the ground where they belong. Now is the time for bold, unprecedented action. After 21 years of debates it is time to declare: no more excuses, no more ten-year studies, no more allowing the fossil fuel companies to manipulate."



Ambassadors and Mediators: e.g. Angela Merkel, Sigmar Gabriel, Igor Setschin, Ali bin Ibrahim al-Naimi, Vice Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the chairmen of the boards of the oil, gas and energy companies like E.ON, RWE, ENBW and Vattenfall, Al Gore, Greenpeace as well as Nate Silver (in order to energetically calculate the future of *Homo sapiens*) and writers such as Dan Brown, Joanne K. Rowling and Stephen King (to write a book together which realistically describes the scenarios of an uncontrolled climate change), directors like Kevin Costner, Steven Spielberg, Quentin Tarantino, Joel and Ethan Coen, Christopher Nolan, Roland Emmerich, Andy and Lana Wachowski, Peter Jackson, David Cameron and Clint Eastwood (to make a film of this primer with its ten messages), the lead actors of *Matrix*, *Lord of the Rings* and *Harry Potter* (to spice the film with energy), and many others.

Amy Macdonald says:

"Don't tell me that it's over with the world, because people can change it, but on their own conditions. Climate change and turmoil in Africa upset me, but I want to do something because I want to do it. I hate it when people paint doomsday scenarios.

People can do a lot if they believe in it."



Kevin Costner says:

"I would like to make films with images that no one will ever forget."

"The idea of not risking something terrifies me to death."



Risky film or tremendous chance?

"Homo progressivus – the Energetic Rebellion!"

Power to Change - Die Energierbellion, a 90-minute documentary film directed by Carl A. Fechner, intends to show people that the energy turnaround is possible with the technology already available now, provided that government subsidization for fossil fuels is stopped worldwide. The film has a grand vision - and people who put it into practice. The rebels demonstrate: The world's energy supply of the future is decentralized, clean and based 100 percent on renewable sources. The film shows a start into a future where fossil and nuclear energy sources are dispensable - and it shows it in a very moving and convincing way, combined with the message: **Let's change things together!** The documentary also takes up the personal histories of people who have taken it into their own hands to preserve the natural foundations of their life. Indisputable facts make the audience realize why the rapid switch of global energy supply to renewable energies is crucial for the survival of humankind and concerns all of us. After this exciting and visually overwhelming film, the audience will see the energy turnaround with different eyes.

Carl A. Fechner says:

*“Power to Change – Die Energierbellion’ is a film with a clear message:
The energy turnaround is possible, and much faster than its opponents claim.
We only have to want it and fight for it!”*



7. Against Hunger and Thirst

The intake of water and food is a basic need of all forms of life on our Earth. From the outset, water is the most precious resource on our planet. The origin of all life is in water. For billions of years a diversity of species, from single-cell organisms to mammals, has existed in the water. Its extent – down to the depths of the oceans – is still unknown, even today. In geological history, it rained incessantly for millions of years. That is how the oceans emerged where life was born. Life then conquered the land masses of the world, crawling out of the water, and populated the Earth with plants, insects, birds, dinosaurs and apes from which the first human beings evolved not quite two million years ago.

There is the "natural" cruelty of all living beings: The large and strong eat the small and weak in order to survive. And there is the cruelty of "human" beings not required to survive, but driven by greed and vanity.

It would go beyond the scope of this reader to describe all facets of human cruelty. We therefore provide but two examples, symbolic for countless others:

Each year *Homo sapiens* kills more than 100 million sharks. Their fins are cut off in a procedure called **FINNING**. Utterly callous human beings then throw the fishes, now incapable of maneuvering and thus non-viable due to this mutilation, back into the sea, where they die an agonizing, miserable death. The main reason for this horrendous butchery is to enhance male potency with the dubious consumption of shark-fin soup. In truth, however, men are more likely to become impotent from this dish since the oceans and their denizens are contaminated by heavy metals.



It's a good thing that 100 million people so far have been able to enjoy observing these marine predators in the aquariums of the world, a species that has been of paramount importance for the balance of the oceans since 400 million years. Looking at it from this point of view has lead many children and young people today to take over sponsorships for the shark offspring.



Tom Vierus says:

"270,000 sharks killed every day – an extermination with consequences

Sharks have been roaming our oceans for over 400 million years, controlling the marine ecosystem like a kind of maritime police. They are indispensable for a healthy balance in the oceans. They have few enemies at the top of the food chain and established themselves, in the course of evolution, as one of the most successful animal species there is. But due to industrial fishery and the rising demand for shark-fin soup, an incredible 100 million sharks are killed every year – according to statistics from the Food and Agriculture Organization FAO – whereas undetected cases, sadly enough, are probably almost twice that number. Illegal fishing and incomplete reporting of many countries on their catches make it difficult to obtain precise figures. Today we know of nearly 500 different types of sharks, which are very distinct from each other in form, size and eating habits. While the largest of them, the whale shark, may reach nearly 14 meters in length and feeds on plankton, the dwarf lantern shark only grows to be about 20 cm. Sharks populate the seven seas: They roam the tropics as well as the cold polar zones of the Earth. Some species live in complete darkness at depths of up to 3700 meters, others prefer shallow coastal waters, the open sea or the ocean floor as their habitat. Hence there is no such thing as 'the' shark; there are rather many kinds of sharks which can differ from each other completely. The image of the man-eating monster that attacks everything it sees, as

it is often propagated in the media, is totally distorted and erroneous. Only very few sharks are known to have attacked humans at all, and the reasons for such attacks vary greatly – quite a few were provoked by the victims themselves.

Cartilage instead of bones, electronic sensors and lateral line organ – sharks have amazing characteristics.

Common to all sharks is the cartilaginous skeleton, the most striking feature that distinguishes them from the bony fish, along with the lateral line organ that runs from the head area to the tip of the tail. With the help of this organ, unique to fish, they can register the smallest shifts in temperature and pressure. That is especially helpful when tracking wounded animals or when pursuing prey. Sharks have another fascinating ability: Specialized cells in their noses enable them to perceive tiny electrical fields such as those produced by a beating heart. With these, they can practically see right through us - are we afraid? Are we calm? Are we in panic, signaling an injury? Being apex predators, large sharks have no enemies, except for larger sharks and the orca which has even been observed hunting white sharks. In order to keep the stock stable and not to threaten the fish population with too many predators, nature has provided for most sharks to sexually mature very late and to produce little offspring, often with very long gestation periods (up to 24 months!). If large sharks had more progeny, and in shorter cycles, the result could be heavily increased shark populations which sooner or later would devour their own food resources. This natural system functioned for a good 400 million years. Only during the last 150 years, in which we humans began to greatly interfere in the marine ecosystem as the sharks' new enemy, the natural balance was destroyed. The reproduction rates of these fascinating animals cannot keep pace with the overfishing and killing. If 100,000,000 to 150,000,000 sharks continue to be slaughtered every year, most types of sharks will be threatened by extinction. And an ocean without sharks is an uncontrolled ocean and thus doomed.

Humans as the greatest threat – the cruelty of finning is unsurpassed

*Sharks are especially endangered by targeted fish-harvesting and sports angling, which is unfortunately still popular in many parts of the world. Shark fins are among the most expensive fish products in the world, and the way many of them are obtained, is of unsurpassed cruelty: Boats lay out long-lines, up to 100 km long, to which thousands of baited hooks are fastened. These lines are equipped with GPS transmitters and left alone for several hours. As may well be imagined, this method is highly unselective. Countless turtles, swordfish, birds, rays and other marine animals die an agonizing death hooked to these lines, many of them by drowning. The line is pulled in bit by bit, but the only catch of interest are the valuable shark fins. In the process of the so-called **finning**, the fins are sliced off while the sharks are still alive (!), and the body, useless to the fishermen, then thrown back into the sea. More space on the boat means more space for fins, which, in turn, means more profit. The shark, still alive, sinks to the bottom and is either eaten by other sharks or must wait hours, sometimes days, until it dies. All this for a tasteless soup... How extremely painful that must be! No one deserves to die that way, whether a human being or an animal.*



Everyone can help - become active, donate, and avoid shark products of any kind!

We need sharks in our oceans, and we must do more to protect them. They have survived several mass extinctions in the history of our planet and are now in danger of succumbing to human beings. The sad truth is that, through the history of mankind, we have adopted a self-destructive lifestyle aimed at exploiting and consuming the fruits of nature instead of using them in a sustainable way and thus ensuring the survival of humankind also in the future. The shark is only one example among many. One thing is clear: We cannot go on this way! And even if we may not live to see the impact of our doings, our children and the generations to follow will have to suffer under the consequences of our immoderate, wasteful and ruthless way of life. There are many animals, including sharks, that they won't be able to see as they are seen today, and I don't want to have my grandchildren hear only from their grandpas how beautiful, intelligent and graceful these animals are and how wonderful it is to be able to observe them underwater. I want them to have a chance to encounter sharks and to live in an intact world above as well as under water. We owe it to them."



Another example for the arrested development of *Homo sapiens* is the barbaric practice of "Grindadráp" on the Faroe Islands. Every year, hundreds of white-sided dolphins, pilot whales and large porpoises fall victim to a bloody slaughter, **just because tradition calls for it!** Pilot whales in particular are easy prey for the hunters. After driving the animals into shallow bays, they push a rod into the blowhole of the marine mammals to knock out their sense of orientation. The most atrocious thing, however, is the actual killing. With a knife specially made for the Grindadráp, the Faroese cut through the animals' cranial artery. Since the animals can stay under water without oxygen for about 20 minutes, they bleed to death fully conscious. **Pandora's box is still wide open!**



The human being has the capacity to think and can hence generate knowledge. Humans have demonstrated time and again that they are able to prevent catastrophes or at least manage them, even when everything seemed lost. We must learn to "humanize" the cruelty of mankind by exchanging it for solidarity with the weaker.

An adequate supply of drinking water for all living things can only be secured if we stop the man-made climate change to the extent necessary. This can reduce the salinization of ground water caused by flooding in coastal regions around the globe and curb the far too rapid melting of glaciers worldwide. At the same time **solar** desalination plants for seawater can be employed as a cost-efficient solution, especially in regions of Africa and Asia, where drinking water is scarce.

Our way of dealing with water, of all things, is another paradox of human action. Not only are we acidifying and polluting the world's oceans, the source of all life. Handling of drinking water in South America is quite alarming. Quenching thirst is a basic need for all forms of life and requires clean drinking water. But what do we do? Just an example: Lake Titicaca is over three times larger than the German federal state of Saarland, or 15 times larger than Lake Constance. It is the largest clear-water reservoir in South America. Since years, this precious resource is being contaminated and poisoned with oil and heavy metals due to legal and illegal operations. A headline of the Peruvian newspaper *La República* in 2015 was: "Lake Titicaca is turning into a cemetery."



It's about time we learned from our mistakes and from human-induced catastrophes - also as to the safe handling of chemicals. The worst civilian poison-gas disaster happened over thirty years ago on December 3, 1984, in Bhopal in India. More than thirty thousand people lost their lives. Even today, people are still dying from the consequences, and the poison continues to spread through the groundwater. The people living there were left in the lurch since compensation payments from those responsible were far too low.



Our Earth can provide enough food for all of us if we bring the resourcefulness of nature into line with man's ability to find and apply efficient solutions (bionics = human intelligence combined with the creativity of nature). Technology thus becomes a positive component of human evolution. Moreover, we should try to revive stunted primeval instincts, still alive in primitive peoples from whom we can learn them again – including their knowledge of natural healing.



A humane production of food includes keeping livestock in conditions appropriate for each species, which means breaking with dumping prices for food and with the unspeakable factory farming.



Godo Röben says:

"The production costs for vegetarian sausage are the same as for sausage made from meat. Our vegetarian concept is well-received in the shops. Our original goal was to make about one third of our turnover with meatless products by 2020.

Since things are going so well, we want vegetarian products to make up 30 percent of the weekly tonnage already by autumn 2016.

That is how we want to revolutionize the sausage market."

"Sausage is the cigarette of the future."



Leonie Rupprecht says:

*"Every year, more than 60 billion animals are slaughtered and eaten worldwide. Before, they spent most of their lives cramped into narrow spaces without room to move and without having their basic needs fulfilled. This is one of the greatest crimes of humanity. Indifferently and mindlessly, we stuff ourselves with anything offered to us without asking, where it all comes from and who had to suffer for it. **We have to stop that together – now.** We must demand humane treatment of our animal fellow creatures, which means we all – each one of us – should be willing to cut down on eating meat or to pay more for keeping livestock in natural conditions. Once we have domesticated the animals that live with us, we should at least free them from psychic and physical suffering caused by the dreadful factory farming."*



Johnny Depp says:

"If you don't like it when photos are posted showing violence against animals, then you should combat violence against animals, not the photos."



Sarah Wiener says:

“Most people in this part of the world eat products that don't deserve to be called food. They no longer contain nutrients, but up to 300 additives. In the past 40 years we have changed our nutrition more than ever before in human history. Our current livestock farming is so horrendous that in 30 years we will surely say: That was the dark age of barbarism! To point the way and to set an example, we at the Krekow farm in the Uckermark practice integral agriculture with short distances. The entire breeding and production process takes place at the same site, our farm.

That way we provide for transparency and avoid unnecessary transport routes. We are convinced that health-conscious nutrition (for both humans and animals) can only be achieved by producing food ourselves. We want to share this conviction and expertise. On a farm that is good. For animals, humans and the environment. Moreover, it is the goal of our foundation to give children and young people an appetite for healthy nutrition and to show them how simple, tasty and varied a healthy diet can be. The children are also supposed to get a feeling for the origin of the food that ends up on our plates. With the current initiative ‘I can cook’, we want to familiarize children with healthy food and the fun of cooking in a practical way so that they may profit from it all their lives.”



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Crispy chicken instead of day-old chicks!

Day-old chicks are chicks that don't get older than one day. But unlike mayflies that also live only for one day, they do not die a natural death. In factory farming, they are culled out and killed because they are unprofitable. **Mass killing of male chicks has been standard practice in the poultry industry for decades. But many consumers have no idea of how horribly these animals are abused. They are selected on the conveyor belt and then shredded or gassed, because it's economical.**

Male chicks are an unfortunate by-product in laying-hen breeding. Since they will not lay eggs later, the producers consider them useless. Male chicks do not fatten as well, so from the point of view of the poultry industry, they yield too little meat. The result: **Every year** some **50 million** male chicks are killed in Germany shortly after they hatch.

The proceeding is cruel: Employees of the poultry firm sort out the male chicks with a practiced eye. Still quite alive, they are placed on a conveyor belt. The belt transports the animals to an industrial shredder. They are shredded alive. So far, there is only one alternative to this procedure of chick-shredding: the gas chamber. Here the chicks die in a few minutes because they don't breathe in oxygen any more, but only carbon dioxide.



Whose heart wouldn't be touched at the sight of the fluffy yellow chicks waddling behind the mother hen? Almost everyone thinks baby chickens are cute – and at the same time everyone who consumes eggs without thinking has a share in the blame for their early death.

How much may an egg cost to put an end to this, we must ask ourselves. Or: To enjoy a crispy roast chicken, are we willing to pay the price required for the appropriate raising of a male chick? Rolf Spangenberg has looked into the question.

Rolf Spangenberg says:

The problem of creating chicken breeds for maximum laying performance has already been discussed in detail in the media. The female chicks are raised to lay eggs in large numbers as hens. Specialists separate the freshly hatched chicks according to male and female – a matter of seconds. One in the basket to the right, the other to the left. Nowadays, the male feather balls are practically garbage. No one wants them, they are either gassed or chopped up and crushed in shredders meant for garden refuse. The reason for this monstrous cruelty to animals: In contrast to the fattening breeds, these male chicks do not develop muscles. They do have tasty meat, but not as much of it as the broilers. The rearing would be too expensive; it's only a matter of a few cents, but profit is top priority. Inexplicably, this practice has been accepted by the legislators. While the law protecting animals allows killing a warm-blooded animal only if it is anaesthetized before the blood is drawn, in the case of chickens economic interests obviously come first... Two alternatives are being developed; one is trying to breed so-called "dual-use" poultry, where the hens lay eggs and the cockerels put on meat in an economically acceptable way. That will take time. The other is hatching a complicated method to determine the sex of the embryo by drilling a small hole into the egg. If this is successful, the question is whether it will pay for itself.

What can a normal animal lover do about this inhumane practice of chick-shredding? Demonstrate, protest - that won't help much because the economic interests obviously take priority. But there is a non-violent way. How did it work in former times when poultry was running around the farm, a couple of roosters and the hens that go with them? At some point the hen was in the mood to breed; she sat on the nest, and after 21 days she proudly led her flock of chicks around the farm. They grew up, and soon the little roosters began to crow. Eventually they were killed – a chicken dinner in those days was still a rare, but tasty treat. The meat was spicy and anything but tough. Where is the creative entrepreneur who would raise the 'waste chicks' to sell them later on – with a commensurate surcharge because of the higher forage costs – for example as 'crispy chicken'? Who would keep the little creatures in a reasonable way, then properly kill them and sell them for a profit? They don't need to be idealists; it is not illegal to earn money with good ideas! This approach could make everyone happy. The egg producers who would be rid of the annoying rooster problem which also damages their image. The chicken breeders who would then be able to practice their profession with a clear conscience. And of course the animal lovers, who would see the abolition of a truly hideous form of cruelty to animals.



Eggs, chicks and crispy chicken!

Hans-Ulrich Grimm says:

“Somewhere between the pen and the pan, things are going off course. Humans and animals developed together on this planet - until man became a disruptive factor by placing the logic of profit above everything else. Meat is rich in protein, minerals and other valuable components. The same is true for milk, eggs and fish. But too much meat is detrimental to health. Cancer, Alzheimer's and diabetes are just a few of the diseases that can be caused by frequent meat consumption. Extremely low prices are the reason for this excessive consumption. But quantity is not the only problem. Most food comes from industrial production. Breeds created for maximum efficiency, raised with chemically enriched fodder, treated with drugs as a matter of routine, produce food of questionable quality. I denounce the ecologically and ethically more than questionable machinations of the livestock industry and argue for considerate, reduced and appreciative consumption of meat, fish, etc. Symbiotic agriculture as practiced by the former sausage manufacturer Karl Ludwig Schweisfurth may help solve the problem. This is an interplay between humans and animals, plants and the soil: What our specialized, high-performance society has sundered, is brought back together in symbiotic farming – far from mass production and killing on the conveyor belt. Eat meat once a week instead of twice daily. This ideal route to health and to a long life would make mass stock keeping superfluous. Basically, this means living in harmony with all forms of life, treating them all with respect. So that all can thrive.”

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Karl Ludwig Schweisfurth and the Schweisfurth Foundation say:

"Meat must become a precious commodity again. Better half as much, but twice as good! Symbiotic agriculture can be an important impulse for the further development of ecological farming. Symbiosis is life, symbiosis has a future. Symbiosis is a biological term. It means the long-term partnership of dissimilar organisms adapted to each other for their mutual advantage. Symbiotic agriculture is a radically different form of land use, in particular when it comes to keeping livestock. A courageous, new approach in conceiving and handling the production of food. Symbiotic agriculture is aimed at producing meat that is as tasty and healthy as possible, and at preserving fundamental ethical values by being attentive to all living things – and not at minimizing costs."



Götz Rehn says:

"I already resolved to do something meaningful when I was 21 years old. Some kind of business which would focus on human beings and would not destroy the Earth. Organic food products best suit the attitude of an ever growing section of the population which is health-conscious and environmentally aware and which wants to make the world a bit better by consuming differently. But we are still far away from a health-food boom. Only four percent of all food in Germany comes from ecological farming. That's pathetic! There's still plenty of potential for growth in this field."



We must learn to enter into a symbiotic relationship with nature instead of abusing her.



A symbiosis!

Apart from the children's heroine "Biene Maja", a bee named Maja, we seem to have little acquaintance with the world and the work of honey-bees. We owe every third bite we eat to the pollination work of bees. The situation is dramatic: Depending on country and region, between 30 and 70 percent of the bee colonies are currently dying. Just imagine if every third cow lay dead in the meadow. There would be an indignant outcry. But very few people are aware that the bees are dying off right under our eyes. After all, the shelves in the supermarket are still filled with honey jars. If the bees disappear, human beings will also disappear. No one wants to picture this apocalyptic scenario. In his impressive documentary ***More Than Honey*** director **Markus Imhoof** tells a story about life, people and bees, industriousness and greed, about super-organisms and swarm intelligence. His film shakes people up because it's about much more than honey. Imported parasites, new pesticides, destroyed habitats and climate change are only some of the reasons leading to the death of millions of bees every year.



Greenpeace says:

"Save the bees: A third of our food – vegetables, fruit, nuts, spices and vegetable oils – depends on pollination by insects. Of the 100 food plants that provide 90 percent of global food production, 71 percent are pollinated by bees. In Europe alone, more than 4,000 types of vegetables depend on bees. Without the bees, who would pollinate all these plants? The economic value of bee pollination worldwide is about 256 billion euros. Protecting bees thus pays off also from an economic point of view. We have simple but effective solutions for saving the bees. We only have to apply them!"



Tom Kruse says:

"It is absolutely necessary to protect the bees. There are many reasons why our honey bees, wild bees, bumblebees and hornets are so highly endangered. With what we know today, we can do a lot and learn from the mistakes we made in the past. We can jointly foster a positive development for the bees and for nature. The honey bee is only one of more than 500 types of bees that live in Germany alone. There are over 20,000 types of bees in the world. All bees, whether honey bees, wild bees or bumblebees, are intensive and indispensable pollinators. Many kinds of fruit like apples, blackberries, strawberries, blueberries, cherries and peaches are especially dependent on the pollination work of honey bees, wild bees and bumblebees. The same is true for beans, peas, cucumbers and pumpkins which are only pollinated by bees. Other creatures, too, such as the birds, are highly dependent on bees. Only if plants are pollinated, there will be enough seeds and berries for birds to eat. The greatest danger for bees and bumblebees comes from large-scale industrial farming. Small-scale cultivation of various plants and crops has been replaced, nowadays, with extensive monocultures (such as corn), to which many other host plants have given way. Spreading of mineral fertilizers and liquid manure has eliminated many types of plants which are indispensable sources of food for wild bees.

On top of that there is the use of pesticides and insecticides. Their components (nerve poisons) can be harmful and are partly responsible for the decline of the bee population. Another danger is represented by the varroa mite which, if not fought effectively, will destroy the honey bee colonies or decimate them. Last but not least we, too, deprive the wild bees of their food supply with our learned conception of order and cleanliness on private outside areas. Why don't we leave nature its freedom? Not only the wild bees enjoy naturally laid-out parks and gardens much more than dissected, shaved huge lawns and rockeries with large paved areas.

Let meadows and gardens be spangled with flowers again."



Corinna Hölzer, Cornelis Hemmer and "Deutschland summt!" [Germany is humming] say:

"With our initiative 'Deutschland summt!' which we founded to save the bees, we have already managed to inspire many people to appreciate the enormous pollination work done by honey and wild bees. To become aware of the treasure we are about to destroy. We especially want to awaken the sense of responsibility among decision-makers in cultural fields, science, economy, politics, administration and the church. Maintaining our ecosystem is a task for the whole of society. Environmental protection activists, friends of nature, and in the case of honey bees, the bee-keepers, are not the only ones responsible for keeping our natural resources healthy. It's up to all of us! The international strategy on biological diversity provides political backup for anyone wanting to mobilize for the conservation of nature. Our friendly mascot, therefore, encourages everyone, young and old, whether at work or at home, to become involved and use their skills, whether it means planting indigenous flora, making environmental policy decisions or promoting ecological farming in the shops. True to the slogan: If many individuals take many small steps... the face of this world can be changed. In the course of the work of our foundation, we are surprised time and again at how interesting managers who have become alienated from nature think the wool bees, great banded furrow bees, or leafcutter bees are! They must be guided step by step to a basic understanding of natural relationships. That alone rules out certain decisions. We seem to be getting a little closer to our vision. More and more people are actively joining up! With every specific measure that protects bees or maintains our biodiversity, we are getting closer to our goal. Germany is humming! Will you hum with us?"



Anna, Leah, and Rebecca Bremer and Michel Acker say about ecology in viticulture:

"With nature and not against her!"

To wring something out of nature: In many vineyards and cellars, this meant and means a daily struggle of humans against nature. But instead of antagonism, ecological winegrowing is about an understanding of nature, a long-term interplay of man, soil and grape. People still have to struggle, but more with themselves. People can create allies in the process if they listen to nature, if they make nature their ally. First of all, this means learning to do without: without synthetically produced chemical pest control; without mineral fertilizer; without turbo yeasts and enzymes. But it also means giving the wine time to relax. Here the wine grower acts as a midwife. But it also means having the time and patience to turn a blighted vineyard into a living organism again. Which is not so simple if more than a single year is needed to help the soil develop a diversity of living creatures and microorganisms which then make the plants stronger. Revegetation, mechanical soil cultivation, adding dung and compost: It takes time for a balance to develop from an impoverished variety of species, offering also beneficial insects a habitat so they can become natural assistants. We are experiencing just now at the Bremer winery how difficult this transformation process is. But we are also happy about our first successes. If you want to farm in a sustainable way and maintain the soil for future generations, you cannot expect quick success. But when you see plants becoming more resistant, less sensitive to drought stress, and yielding full-bodied grapes, this is a reward that makes your day.



When the wines develop their individual character, start speaking to us, when we fathom out the character of the vineyard in the same way as we must come to understand the character of our children, then the work in the vineyard and in the cellar is an extraordinary fulfillment. As much as we focus on the factor of time, we must be aware that people seldom have more than 30 or 40 years to apply their knowledge, know-how and passion to a product. That is why we should not waste a single day in progressing on this path."



How and where do we want to live in the future?

Since the cognitive revolution 70,000 years ago, we human beings have been trying to give meaning to life. To that end we use manifold written, oral and pictorial narratives and paintings of all sorts, which are often passed from one generation to another or are preserved visually. They are intended to help us understand the secrets of life and find out who we are, what we want and what we are capable of. Thus we recognize the coherence in an often chaotic reality and can better understand our place in the world now and in the future. We need a vision of the future that challenges us, which is more than the mere further development of products and topics that are trendy at the moment. We should dare to journey into the unknown, to further pursue the secrets of our life. How do we want to live in the future? How can we shape our future together, in the city or in the countryside? A debate about these questions is an important step toward a society that is to have a future. **We are not talking about appeals to morals and peoples' sense of justice, we're talking about practicing fairness and respect in daily life for the benefit of the common good.** The world is out of whack. We have lost our balance. The foundation is crumbling and gradually dissolving. Misery on earth is more evident than ever before. We see this misery, caused by war, abuse of religion, intolerance and waste of resources every day in our globalized and digitalized world. And yet human beings – most of them at least – persist in their lethargy and impotently watch this egotistical and irresponsible behavior unfold. We must change that, and we *can* change it if we stick together – and team up with people of good will possessing the capacity to guide us. **They already live among us as well as in the messages of this primer. We need them as ambassadors and mediators and to elicit public sympathy. We call upon them to accept this role!**



Be an ambassador!

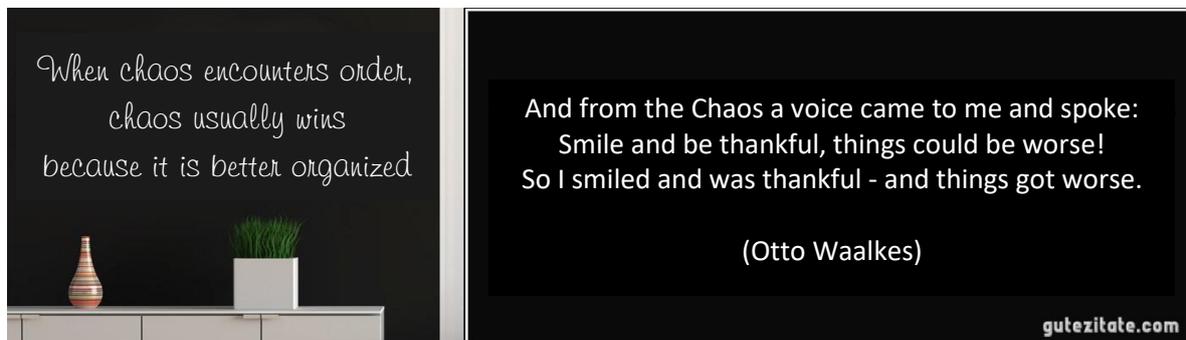


Job application ... as a public charmer

People of good will are called upon and must cooperate to develop future prospects we can all look forward to and which can be converted into political programs!

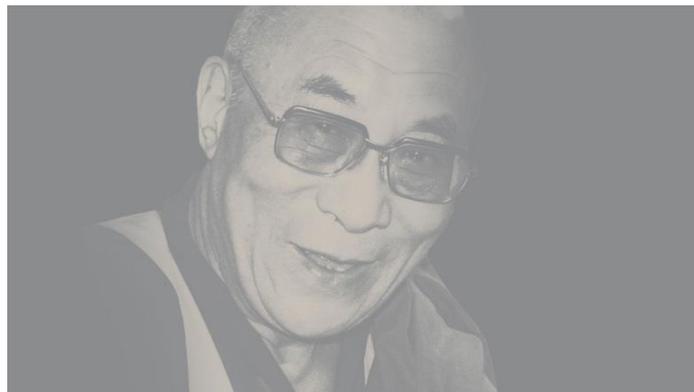
We need an epic change. To bring it about, millions of people must probably swarm together like bees and cooperate to make billions of people strive for peace, freedom and justice. We hear many people say that the concept of justice, as we understand it, is an illusion because the world of finance, of industry and commerce, of politics and religion is far too intertwined – with criminal and corrupt excrescences deeply infesting the pores of society.

We should remind ourselves that we human beings have created this world with its hierarchies and the resulting discrimination, partitions and other injustices. Let us throw the superfluous bureaucracy and in-the-box thinking overboard. We can and we must reinvent ourselves. Free association and holistic thinking, based on ethical principles, will help us. **Without ethical principles, reflecting on the meaning of our lives would be senseless, and we would sink even deeper into a chaos of insecurity and indifference!**



The Dalai Lama (Tenzin Gyatso) says:

"Ethics is more important than religion. Many days I think it would be better, if we no longer had any religions. We do not come into this world as a member of a certain religion. But ethics is inborn. Ethics goes deeper and is more natural than religion. Ethics is an inborn inclination in people toward love, goodness and affection. I believe we can develop all our inner values, which do not contradict any religion, but which - and that is decisive - also do not depend on any religion."



Werner Bartens says:

"Empathy does not only make others feel good, it's even healthy - people who can put themselves into the shoes of others are less likely, for example, to suffer from depression and are less sensitive to pain. The good news: Empathy helps not only us, it also binds society together in its inner core."



André Uhl says:

"The development of social projections is one of the most important tasks of modern futurology.

Projections must be graphic, detailed, and fascinating. Telling a story in a plausible but also

gripping way, creates a good foundation for the readiness to act."



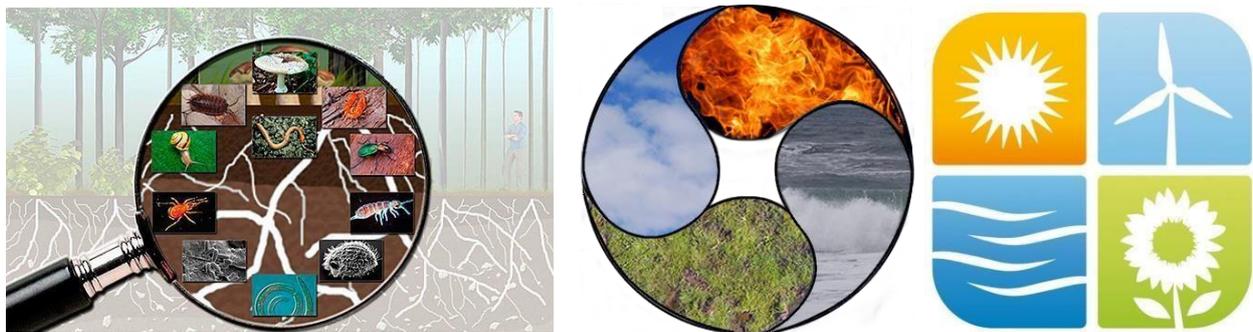
Today 3.65 billion people, 50 percent of humankind, live in cities. In 50 years it will be 7 billion - i.e., 70 percent. In China and India alone, 800 million people will move into the cities during this time, so cities will have to be redesigned to accommodate them - a major challenge for urban planners, architects and nutrition experts. **To prevent the cities from becoming the parasites of the world, we need - along with eco-technological expansion (Internet of energy or the Smart City) - also an on-site food production accompanying the demographic development.** The distribution of food around the globe, with all the logistics and energy involved, should be reduced to the lowest level possible. "Vertical farming" projects are already under way where food is produced in high-rise buildings using sunlight and LED-light. Even disco-farms have developed in a combination of blue, red and infrared LED-light. The current high costs for food produced by such farming methods will drop as they have for other products which only very few people could afford at the beginning, but which, after mass-production and mass-application, everyone owns today – such as digital cameras, smartphones and flat screens.



Vertical farming!

The importance of our soil and the threat to it

Vertical food production in cities will lead to the urgently needed relief of the stress on our soils. Land and soil are becoming scarcer. Ground sealing, erosion, over-fertilization and intensive farming endanger the thin layer of soil upon which our survival depends. And soils are important not only for food production. They filter rain water and thus create clean drinking water. They regulate the climate since, after the oceans, they are the earth's greatest carbon retention reservoir: They store more carbon dioxide than all of the forests on earth. And soils are quite alive: More organisms live in a handful of earth than people on the entire planet. Two thirds of all species live hidden beneath the earth's surface. In order to limit land usage, each person would have to make do with 0.2 hectare to support them. But in Germany 4.6 hectares per capita are used, and in the USA as many as 7.2 hectares. The world community has set itself three important goals: The loss of biodiversity must be stopped, climate warming must not increase by more than 2° C, and every person should have the right to a balanced diet. The global threat to soil and the resulting consequences call for global answers. The General Assembly of the United Nations has declared the year 2015 the "International Year of Soils", thus highlighting the importance of soils for securing food supply in the world and for the wellbeing of our society. We fear that this complex issue will once again be too great a task for the U.N. to handle. **The hope for reasonable solutions remains nevertheless.**

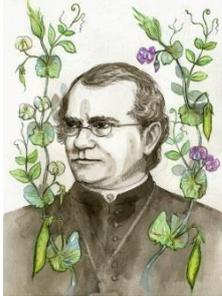


**These three photos are meant to help us humans see how our environment is intertwined
and how we can solve our greatest problems with renewable energies -
driven by the power of our sun!**

Peter Harry Carstensen says:

"Knowledge of plants is the key to producing food on a sustainable basis for a growing world population. That is the foundation of life for humans and animals on earth.

Therefore it is a matter close to my heart to commit myself to intelligent plant breeding in the Gregor Mendel Foundation."



Stefano Mancuso says:

"Without the plants that provide us with food, energy and oxygen, we human beings could not survive on the earth even for a few weeks. Research has just recently come to recognize what

Charles Darwin suspected: In spite of their (apparent) immobility, plants have amazing capabilities, even intelligence. In addition to human beings' five senses, they have at least 15 more with which they can not only sense electromagnetic fields and calculate gravity, but also analyze many chemical substances in their environment. They use fragrances to warn against predators or to attract animals who free them from predators; they build immense networks with their roots through which information about the environment circulates. Without organs,

they are thus able to develop strategies to ensure their survival through a form of swarm intelligence. So much for talk about 'vegetating'! Understanding plants better could teach us how to avoid pesticides, even to develop better computers and networks."



The concentration of the population in large cities must not cause new problems. We have to make sure that the rural exodus does not become a problem for the people who stay in the countryside. Secondly, we must prevent huge slums from emerging and/or remaining in existence in or alongside the asphalt jungle we live and work in.



And last but not least: We must stop destroying the green lungs of our Earth. **It is truly schizophrenic to cut off our own air supply in order to farm barren land.** We have known for some time that the trees in the rain forests get their nutrients from the air and not from the soil where they would not find much since the soil is extremely impoverished.



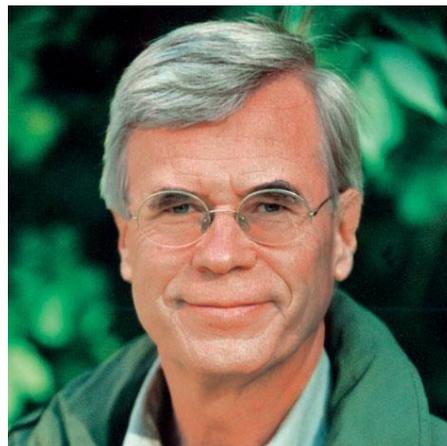
Senta Berger says:

"We must realize that the wood in the rain forest serves us better if it lives to consume carbon dioxide and produce oxygen instead of hanging dead in the wardrobe."



Michael Otto says:

"An intact nature is the foundation on which our future is built."



The number of trees worldwide has been reduced nearly by half since the beginning of human civilization. Due to felling and slash-and-burn methods, every year 15 billion trees fall victim to land usage and the timber industry – to man, that is. Thus the stock of trees shrinks, the faster human population increases. Three trillion trees worldwide today still provide us with clean water, clean air and beautiful landscapes. Trees are essential indicators for the CO₂ storage capacity, the reaction to climate change and the proliferation of animals and plants. That means we can assess the consequences for the climate, for species diversity and human health on the basis of the reduced number of trees on our planet. So much greater efforts than so far are required to regenerate healthy forests and to expand rather than reduce the tree population.

Eugen Roth said:

*"It takes less than half an hour to fell a beautiful tree.
But to grow high enough to be admired, takes a whole century."*



Hannelore Elsner says:

"It is important to handle our resources more carefully. We have the obligation to maintain our planet so our descendants can live well on this unique, small Earth. True to the motto, 'Good for me - good for the environment', I want to take my share of social responsibility and support the environmental symbol 'Blauer Engel' (Blue Angel) as an Environmental Ambassador. This emblem denoting environmentally-friendly products helps in many fields – to conserve our forests, for example, so that we will continue to see them in the future – not only in films."



Something very important at the conclusion of this message: Humanitarian and benevolent sharing does not mean handing out alms, but helping the needy to help themselves wherever they live.



David!

Thilo Bode, director of the consumer protection organization *Foodwatch*, once said: People are always for David, never for Goliath. **The little David would be very grateful, if that finally happened!**

Malala Yousafzai says:

"For good or bad: People will remember 2015 as a turning point. This campaign wants to ensure that the year will be remembered for the right reasons. 'action/2015' is an attempt which has never been made in this form, to combine the different objectives that are at stake in 2015 into a public wave of demands. It deserves to be supported by all of us."



Also in 2017 and the following years!

Mats Hummels says:

"As a football player, I know how important a common goal is. If everyone does their best, it is even possible to become world champion. With your commitment, you can support projects of your school and help children in developing countries. Many children there continue to die day by day because they don't have clean water for drinking and washing. But together with UNICEF we can do something about it - build wells and create better hygienic conditions. It makes me very happy to be the patron of this wonderful campaign."



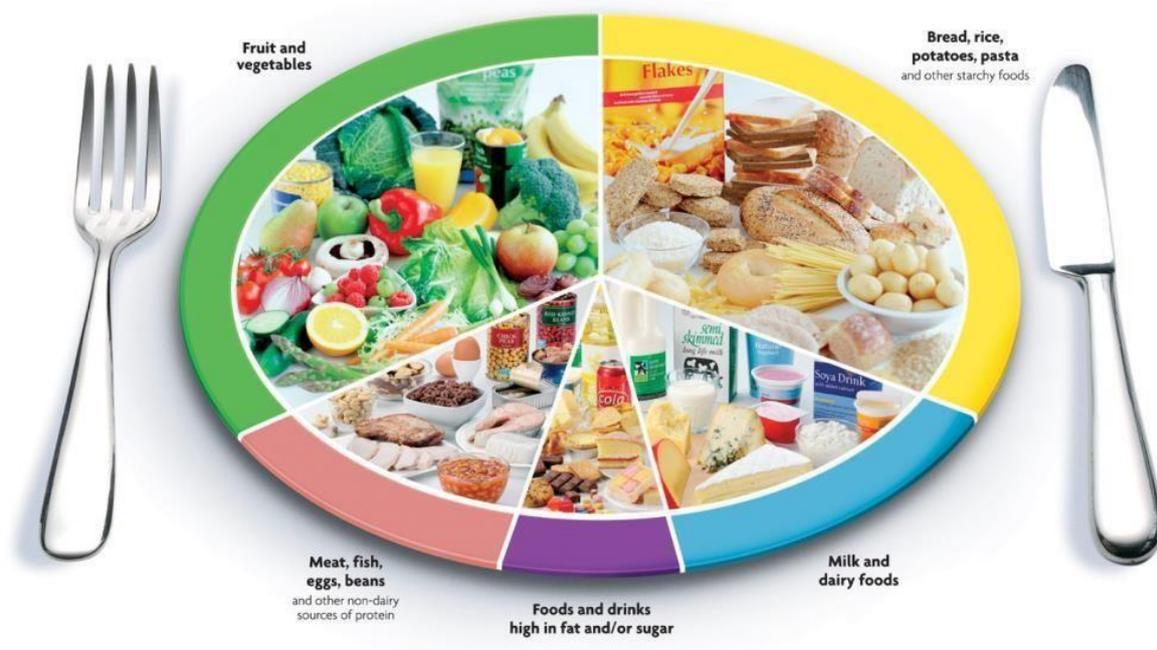
Roger Moore says:

"There is no more to say about millions of children than, 'Once upon a time.....' – because they die before their life's story begins. The reasons are pneumonia, diarrhea, measles, and hunger. Children die every day in the poorest countries of the world for reasons that are easy to prevent. Help us prolong this story. You can give life to a child for only 10 euros per month."



Fulfillment of the Message: The basic preconditions for the production and utilization of food and drinking water should be regulated by the Food and Agriculture Commission (yet to be established) of the "United Peoples of the World" and implemented by the latter.

Ambassadors and Mediators: e.g. Claus Kleber, Thilo Bode, Dickson Despommier, James von Klemperer, Anil Menon, Carlo Ratti, the chairmen of the boards of the world's largest food producers, importers and exporters (also in order to improve the meager results of the latest G20 agriculture summits in the interest of all consumers), all agriculture ministers of the world, the chairmen of the big Central Banks such as Mario Draghi, Janet Yellen as well as Christine Lagarde, Ben Bernanke and Dominique Strauss-Kahn (also because he has something to make amends for), Renate Künast, Ilse Aigner, Dietrich Grönemeyer and the many cooks in the world, such as Jamie Oliver, Johann Lafer, Horst Lichter, Christian Rach, Nelson Müller, Eckart Witzigmann (because even without many stars they can cook up new dishes – tasty and rich in vitamins) as well as all food researchers and scientists who have something to contribute, and many others.



Against hunger and thirst!

Valentin Thurn says:

“The world population will grow to ten billion over the course of this century. Where is the food to come from which every individual needs every day to survive and which every sixth person has too little of, even today? How can we prevent the human race from destroying the basis of its nutrition simply by growing? In my last film, ‘Taste the Waste’, I showed what immense amounts of food today land in the garbage, wasted. The film addressed a broad audience and was able to launch an intensive social debate beyond the borders of Germany. Now I am taking it a step further, and in my new film, ‘10 billion’, I focus on agriculture as the basis for world nutrition. How can enough food be produced for ten billion people in the future? Two camps claim they know the answer: On the one hand, we have industrial farming which continues its global expansion and is committed to high-efficiency mass production. On the other, we have organic and traditional farming which may produce less mass, but deals responsibly with the limited resources. We wanted to know from each side how they intend to feed the world in the future. The film shows the global interaction in agriculture between protagonists in the core production area of seeds, fertilizers, pest control, fodder production, livestock breeding and trade. The standard practices of each of the sides are critically examined, but we also provide an unbiased presentation of their solutions and visions for the future. Innovative approaches for food security at the local and regional level are then presented at the end of the film. They all demonstrate the enormous influence our eating habits have. Each of us actively decides which route will dominate agriculture in the future.”



8. Against the Abuse of Religions

The different religions created by human beings should be united in **one** faith, especially because they have caused more harm than good due to the disparities, contradictions and differences interpreted into them.

Thomas Jefferson said:

"I tremble for humanity when I reflect that God is just."



Karl Lehmann says:

"No one knows which way history will go and how the spirit will lead us.

The burden imposed on us is to do everything so that we really move ahead in the coming years and decades. We know there may be hours and years of failure and of missed opportunities, but also moments of glory. I would not be able to do all this work if I were not convinced that there may be some moments of glory."

Hans Küng says:

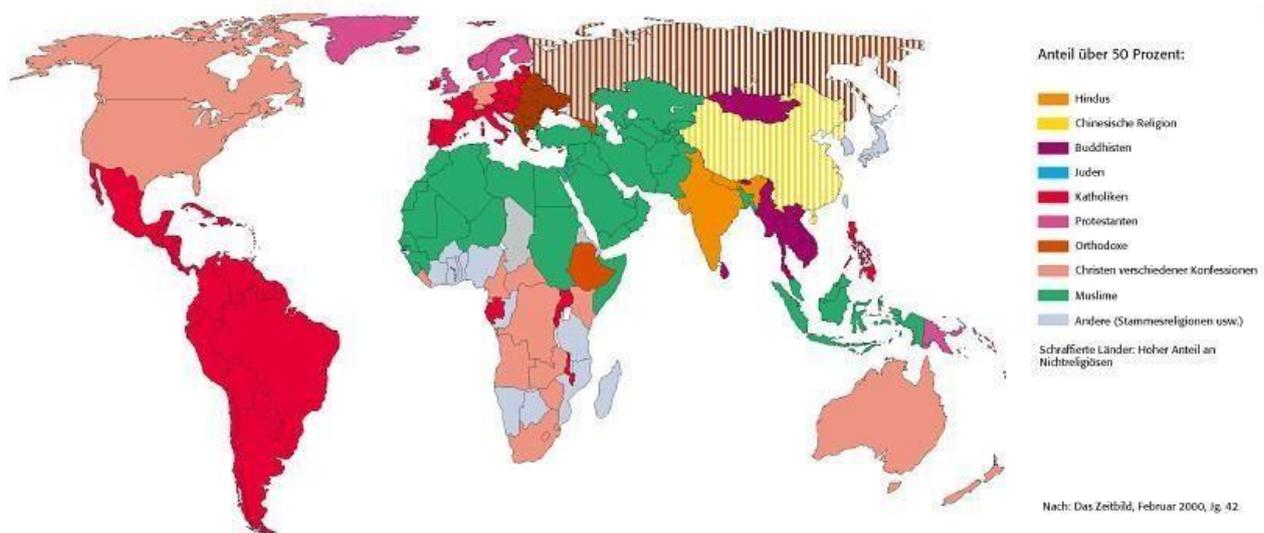
"There will be no peace between people if there is no peace between the religions."



Religions have existed for as long as human beings have existed, and they were all invented by human beings. Every period of time and culture in the different regions of the world had several gods or one god with the associated commandments and rules according to which people lived, more or less.

These include, for example, the Greek and Roman gods, the gods of the Hindus, the God of the Muslims, the Buddhists and the Christians as well as Manitou, the God of the Indians.

About 2.3 billion Christians currently live on our Earth, 1.6 billion Muslims, 1.1 billion Hindus, 500 million Buddhists and 14 million Jews. The other approximately 1.8 billion people are followers of natural religions and smaller religions, or they are without religion or not assignable to a specific religion, although in part believers and religious.



Religions are nothing but spiritual communities and interest groups, and in this respect they do not differ much from other power structures.

The leaders of the individual religions were, or are, often demagogues, one-eyed Pharisees or good Samaritans. Some examples:

- Religious wars like the Crusades under the guise of Christianity against Islam, and vice-versa. Muslims had ruled over the Holy Land for more than 400 years when Pope Urban II summoned Europe's Christians to an armed "pilgrimage" to Palestine in November 1095. They were to finally snatch Jerusalem from the infidels. As a reward, Urban attracted many noblemen, knights and kings with the promise that as a reward, God would forgive them their sins. The summons of the prince of the Church - who, as the Vicar of Christ, placed church power over earthly power - unleashed a bloody war between the religions.



- Pope Urban II's summons to the first crusade brought the latent tensions between Christians and Jews to an explosion. The crusaders' fanaticism was stoked by the idea that the crusades were to bring about the Second Coming of the Messiah whom the Jews had nailed to the cross.



Gabriele did not only mourn on the sidelines. She was shamed as a Christian!

- Constantinople, Christian at the time, was taken and plundered in the fourth crusade from 1202 to 1204. This event deepened the schism between Greek Orthodox and Roman Catholic Christians that already existed and persists to this day.



- In 1484, Pope Innocent VIII issued the “Witch Bull,” which marked the beginning of witch-hunts all over Europe. To facilitate the work of inquisitors, two Dominicans published the so-called “Hammer of Witches,” a preposterous and barbaric handbook for “identification,” torture and execution of witches. In the late Middle Ages, faith had long since degenerated into superstition. Thanks to its institutionalization by the Church, a kind of mass hysteria developed and raged over three centuries, claiming millions of victims, primarily women, but also children, who were often lynched in atrocious ways.

- Martin Luther was more the good Samaritan. But he, too, brought about another schism, although his intention as well as his stamina and assertiveness were laudable. He flatly rejected several ideas and practices of the Catholic Church, including "purgatory" and "letters of indulgence" with which people could "buy their way out" of their sins.



Today he would be considered a revolutionary spirit and would rock the stage, the audience and the filled stadiums of the world!

Nowadays it is, above all, the self-proclaimed jihadists of Al Qaeda, Boko Haram and ISIS (IS) who kill in the name of God in a global jihad, the new crusade against the West – in a most despicable way and flagrantly contradicting the Koran and message of Allah. They must be called to account and condemned for their barbaric actions.



Jürgen Todenhöfer says:

"The IS has as much to do with Islam as rape has to do with love."



We must by no means underrate the explosiveness hidden in the orientation and ambitions of ISIS. A pseudo-state has already taken shape which has spread over vast areas of Iraq (a third of the country's surface area) and Syria (half of the country's surface area) in 2015. This pseudo-state by now covers an area corresponding to that of the Federal Republic of Germany before 1990. Either civil war or bloody battles, mainly between Shiites and Sunnis, are raging in Syria as well as Iraq. The continuing repression and helplessness of people in both countries form a perilous breeding ground for Salafist manhunters.

In 2014, the terrorist militia proclaimed the "caliphate" and renamed itself "Islamic State." The leader of the IS or ISIS is Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, also known as "Caliph" Ibrahim. With the title "Caliph," he makes claim to the status of a "representative of God" or "successor of the Prophet Allah". The Caliphate denotes an Islamic form of government in which the worldly and spiritual leadership is held by the same person, the Caliph. The only thing superior to the Caliph is the religious law, the Sharia. Financially, ISIS is currently the strongest terrorist organization in the world. With the display of power and repression, sympathizers and potential recruits in the whole world are to be lured into believing that ISIS, with new conquests – also in the Western world – can return to the Golden Age of Islam. ISIS will not be driven out with bomb attacks from the air or with secret service spies. **This can only happen with a completely new Mid-East policy, established and implemented under the auspices of the “United Peoples of the World”!** After all, the overwhelming majority of the 1.6 billion Muslims does not see any justification for terror and murder in the words of the Koran and disapproves of offensive violence as well as a subjugation of all “infidels,” i.e. non-Muslims.

Necessity for an "Alliance of humanitarian forces" against ISIS

With the massacres in Paris on Friday, November 13, 2015, ISIS not only attacked France and the values of the Western world, but declared war on the whole world. ISIS and its brutalized and unscrupulous minions can avail themselves of every possibility the digital network offers to recruit potential "warriors." Once selected, the blinded are radicalized, drilled to become extremely violent, given arms training, and turned into unscrupulous killers. The number of victims, no matter on which part, and the brutality of the murder or suicide are irrelevant. This is demonstrated by the attacks in Beirut in November, the attack on a peace demonstration in Ankara in October, and the airline crash in Egypt in October 2015, presumably caused by an explosive charge smuggled on board by ISIS. The attacks by a single perpetrator in January 2016 in Istanbul and in March 2016 in Brussels show how people in a crowd are at the mercy of such killers who – from their distorted perspective – sacrifice themselves as martyrs.

Explosion in Istanbul



Explosion in der Altstadt – mehrere Tote und Verletzte

Grafik: © APA
Quelle: APA

APA



Anschläge in Brüssel



Grafik: KEYSTONE, Quelle: APA

It seems no one is safe from this boundless terror, anywhere in the world. The levels of escalation we have seen on both sides since September 11th, 2001, are utterly unacceptable for a humanitarian world society. The wars in Afghanistan and Iraq were followed by the attacks in Madrid and London and the execution of Osama Bin Laden. Every time people think the danger is over, a new one emerges.

The mistakes following 9/11, including deployment of the "Coalition of the Willing" against Iraq, and the atrocities of November 13, 2015 in Paris with their tragic toll should have brought us to our senses.

Lassana Diarra says:

"In this climate of terror, it is important for all of us representing this country with its diversity, to speak out and remain united against a horror that has neither color nor religion.

Let us all together defend love, respect and peace."

Bastian Schweinsteiger says:

"I'm still stunned by what happened on Friday. I want to communicate my deepest sympathy to everyone affected by this tragedy. I also want to commemorate the victims in Beirut who lost their lives in the attack the day before. No matter what part of the world we come from or what religion we belong to – we're united."

Lionel Messi says:

"All my thoughts are with the victims of yesterday's tragedy and their relatives. We have to repeat again and again, today more often than ever before, that there is only one way: love and peace between people and a union of the world."



Antoine Leiris said:

“Friday evening you deprived an extraordinary being of life.

That of the love of my life, the mother of my son.

But you won't get my hatred.

I don't know who you are. And I don't want to know.

You are dead souls. If the god for which you blindly kill,

has created us in his image, then every bullet

that hit my wife's body must have

torn a wound in his heart.”



`Abdu'l-Bahá said:

"Oh, kind Lord! Bring all people together. Let all religions be in accord with one another and unite the peoples so that they regard each other as a family and the whole earth as their home. Oh, may they live together in perfect harmony!"



"The earth is only one country, and all people are its citizens."

For this to succeed, we now need to establish an "Alliance of humanitarian forces," which will march against ISIS for its own protection and with a common strategy. The evil seed must be vanquished and unmasked, just as the evil of the Third Reich was vanquished, and its new growth suffocated again and again. We cannot be victorious over ISIS if we let ourselves be provoked and if we follow our feelings of hatred and revenge. We will vanquish ISIS more effectively with our intelligence and with enlightenment than with bombs and canons, even though we won't be able to do completely without them – to relieve the desperate people of their suffering. We must expunge the barbaric ideology of ISIS from the minds of those susceptible to it. To this end we must offer ISIS followers an alternative to their messed up lives and lack of prospects. That includes, of course, communicating the positive values of love, forgiveness, sharing, peace and freedom under the auspices of the "United Peoples of the Earth." **The first step would be to obtain a U.N. mandate for the "Alliance of humanitarian forces". By no means should it become a NATO alliance issue. After all, countries such as Russia, China and the affected countries of the Middle East must be involved.**

Nicolas Hénin said:

“They fear our unity more than our aerial attacks. The victors in this war will not be those who have the latest, most expensive, most highly developed weapons systems, but those who succeed in winning people over to their side. With bombs we drive people into the arms of the IS. Why are we doing everything wrong in the Middle East? Why do people misunderstand the region so badly? We are making our enemies strong, we are increasing the suffering and the disaster for the people there. What we need to do - and that is the real key - is involve the people who live in these countries. As soon as people have hope for a political solution, the Islamic State will collapse. It would lose its foundation. I am not in favor of foregoing military force. But within the scope of an anti-terror strategy, it can be only a small part of the instruments to choose from.”



Nicolas Hénin was an ISIS hostage in Syria from mid-June 2013 to April 2014.

All of his fellow prisoners were beheaded.

Results of the G20-summit 2015 in Turkey

At the end of the G20 summit of November 2015 in Turkey, the following resolutions were announced:

- The G20 nations resolve to take joint measures against ISIS terror. These include intensified cooperation and exchange of information for freezing ISIS funds, the criminal prosecution of the financing of terrorism as well as sanctions against countries associated with terrorism and the financing of terrorism.
- The G20 nations intend to cooperate more closely to limit the mobility of terrorists. Exchange of information about travel activity is to be intensified. Moreover, border protection as well as air safety shall be improved.
- The G20 nations shall work together closely against terrorist propaganda on the Internet to counter radicalization. In combating terrorism, the G20 nations pledge compliance with international law and the U.N. conventions for human and refugee rights.

In view of the ISIS attacks and massacres in 2015, these resolutions are the bare minimum and remain mere lip service and empty phrases anyway until they are implemented and put into practice.



But then: 8 days after the G20 summit of 2015, a Russian fighter jet was shot down by Turkey over the Syrian-Turkish border. Hopes of the world community to find a reasonable and common solution for the end of ISIS were dampened – also by Saudi Arabia's organization of an Islamic anti-ISIS military alliance in December 2015. In addition, diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran were severed at the beginning of January 2016. The reason was the execution of a Shiite cleric in Saudi Arabia and the following arson attack against the Saudi Arabian embassy in Iran. The issue in this conflict, too, is less religion than tangible political and economic interests as well as the fight for supremacy in the Middle East which both countries aspire to. The rift and the destruction between Sunni and Shiites are becoming ever greater. One reason more for the Arab Spring to be hibernating.

These are crippling blows for the Syrians who had been counting on a U.N. mandate for an armed intervention against ISIS. And ISIS is laughing up its sleeve. Civilians' willingness to make sacrifices is sinking to its nadir. The yearning for peace and freedom in Europe continues to grow. What remains is a declaration of bankruptcy for world leaders who simply appear to be incapable of finding a humanitarian solution for the problem. We would be happy to stand corrected and thus continue to hope for a stringent U.N. peace plan in 2017. But we strongly doubt that Donald Trump, in succession to U.S. President and Nobel Peace Laureate Barack Obama, will offer his help in this. Judging from his bearing during his first three months in office, it is to be expected, unfortunately, that he will rely exclusively on military means under NATO mandate. What else we may expect from Donald Trump, is described in the separate strategy paper – ***"Homo progressivus – The Energetic Resistance"*** - which we are placed on the market in May 2017.



A nightmare!

In January 2016, the chairman of the Munich Security Conference, Wolfgang Ischinger, said: *“We need a greater capacity for dealing with international conflicts before their consequences arrive at our front door. There is the inability of the U.N. Security Council to take timely decisions to end wars. There is the inactivity of the EU in the immense crisis in the Middle East during the years past. It is an incredible failure that the EU only now, after four years of murderous civil war, wants to deal with Syria. It would have been a political and moral imperative for the EU to intervene early in this civil war instead of waiting for the Americans – as it did 20 years ago in Bosnia.*

We will not have peace in Syria in a period of weeks or a few months. The situation is too chaotic for that to happen. The Russian intervention has made the situation even more complicated than it already was with the many splinter groups fighting each other. The peace plan is thinking in categories of six, twelve and 18 months. That is very ambitious, but it is the right thing to do.

It will be difficult to stop ISIS militarily. Just as George W. Bush failed to win the ‘war against terror’ he proclaimed following the attacks of September 11th. It would be an illusion to assume that, after the attacks in Paris, we can eliminate the terrorism of the ‘Islamic State.’ It will not work. It is like a hydra with heads that grow again and again. We hope that ISIS can be deprived of the foundation of its existence in Syria. But it will then entrench itself somewhere else.”

(Source: http://www.allgemeine-zeitung.de/vermischtes/vermischtes/ein-puzzle-fuer-die-besten-diplomaten_16519883.htm).



Marwan Abou-Taam says:

"Charismatic preachers and violent videos from Syria and Iraq make Salafism a kind of pop-culture for many young people. Salafism, of all things, which preaches violence, promises its followers a society free of conflict, an equal status for all who find the true way back to God. The more critically eyed or the more marginalized by the bulk of society young Muslims feel, the stronger they are driven into the arms of extremists. This complexity of temptations can be countered only by society as a whole. The host society must recognize a new diversity which makes it possible for young Muslims to have a part in society without forcing them to relinquish their dual identity."



Michael Wolffsohn says:

"Just as the Thirty Years War in Europe between Catholics and Protestants was not about religion, Sunnis and Shiites have been fighting to gain ascendancy over individual states for ages."



Abdullah Öcalan says:

"It is high time to end our cruel and destructive history and begin an era of peace, brotherhood and democracy."



Mr. Öcalan, please repeat this promise in 2017 – especially in the direction of the Turkish government!

Hassan Rohani says:

"While the sun sets in Teheran, I wish all Jews, especially the Iranian Jews, a blessed Rosh Hashanah. The absolute majority of people elected me because I came out strongly against extremism, violence, abuse of religion and slogans, the costs of which must be paid by the people. It is only natural that people have questions and doubts, so we should give them the chance to freely express them. We have to tell people the truth. Today, July 14, 2015, is a day of awakening to a better future. We don't want weapons of mass destruction, we don't want military tension, we want to meet you in brotherhood and have better relations and freedom."



Mr. Rohani, please repeat this speech in 2017 – especially in the direction of Saudi Arabia and Israel!

Shimon Peres said:

"Liquidation of terrorist leaders is not the liquidation of terror.

The question is not, was the attack justified. The question is:

Does it foment terror or quench it? And it foments it!"

"It is better to talk, talk, talk than to shoot, shoot, shoot."



How true, how true, how true!

Only the Catholic Church, with the Pope, has a leader who speaks for all Catholics the world over. The Protestant Church, Islam, the Hindus and Buddhists, usually have national leaders.

The present Pope Francis seems able to free not only the Catholic Church from its burdens and vices. We wish him a long life. Together with other benevolent religious leaders, he can thus begin today to liberate us from often misconceived ideas of religion, and move us toward a faith for all mortals in the name of a unified church and in the name of the Lord or the Lady. This would also be what our common forefather, Abraham, intended.



**In Jerusalem, the city of the three monotheistic world religions
(Christians, Jews and Muslims), on June 6, 2014!**

Jürgen Erbacher says:

“This pope is different. He captures the hearts of people because of his openness and modesty. The Cardinal Secretary Pietro Parolin expresses it simply: Francis is what he says. The attributes of this pope are tenderness and mercy as well as love of truth and justice. The servants of the church must be merciful; they must look after people, accompany and guide them - like the good Samaritan who washes his neighbor, cleans him and lifts him up, says Francis. He conveys an image of the church characterized by openness, dialogue and an acceptance of others in their otherness. Instead of exclusion, Francis promotes a culture of encounter. That is true for the church internally as well as for its relationship to the world. Two things are important for Francis: The human being must be at the center of economic activity, not profit, and property should serve the community. Those who have must share with those who have nothing. Francis criticizes greed for power and denounces corruption, which he calls ‘social cancer,’ and ‘egoistical tax evasion.’ Francis demands a radical shift in thinking at all levels as an answer to global excesses: starting from the individual in his daily activity to political and economic decision-makers, all the way to global structures for which, ultimately, human beings are responsible. Francis, a political pope, calls for fairer structures worldwide. Until then the pope maintains his stance: ‘This economy kills’ - not ‘the’ economy as such, but one marked by greed for profit and by corruption which excludes entire sections of society. On the encounter of religions, Francis says: Dialogue between religions is a necessary condition for peace in the world and therefore a responsibility for Christians as well as for the other religious communities.

This dialogue is above all a dialogue of life.”



In February 2016, Francis met the Russian Orthodox Patriarch, Kirill. A first discussion and rapprochement after 1,000 years of schism. Francis participated also in the 500th anniversary of the Reformation which was celebrated in Sweden in October 2016. Together with the President of the Lutheran World Federation, Bishop Munib Younan, Francis leading an ecumenical event. Referring to the communion of the Churches, Francis said: *“We are one, in spirit and also in blood.”* **Pontifex means bridge-builder!**

Our feeling tells us that Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Mohamed and many other prophets, as well as the Jesuit Father Pierre Teilhard de Chardin have agreed among themselves up there who should represent their common interests down here.

Believing together and living together. This is also the spirit that characterized the traditional Worms Disputations. Over 500 guests came to Worms, a "city of Luther"*, in April 2016. Following the theme-year “Reformation and the One World” of the Protestant Church in Germany, the theme this time was: “My conscience and our/your world.”

Ulrich Oelschläger says:

“Our aim is to start a successful dialogue devoted to the problems of this world in matters of conscience. We want to initiate talks between religions which are completely misjudged in public debate because people see only their extremes. Conscience, respect for the moral decision of the other, is a constant. We hope this is given in all religions and confessions.”

Jacob Emmanuel Mabe says:

“An appeal to all the faithful and all non-believers should proceed from the Worms Disputations to the effect that the peoples of the world can secure peace, freedom and justice on a permanent basis only by means of intercultural exchange of knowledge and experiences.”

* Luther was outlawed by the Emperor since he refused to recant his writings before the Diet of Worms.

The event itself has a pedagogical message which is to help the participants toward an insight into the necessity of intercultural exchange in all areas of knowledge and life."



Peter Ustinov said:

"When you see what the dear Lord allows to happen on Earth, you get the feeling he is still experimenting."



Or testing us?

Martin Luther King said:

"No problem will be solved if we passively wait for God to take care of it."



»Fürchte dich nie, nie, niemals davor, das zu tun, was richtig ist, speziell dann, wenn das Wohl eines Menschen oder eines Tieres auf dem Spiel steht. Die Strafe der Gesellschaft ist nichts verglichen mit den Wunden, die wir unserer Seele zufügen, wenn wir wegschauen.«

»Never, never be afraid to do what's right, especially if the well-being of a person or an animal is at stake. Society's punishments are small compared to the wounds we inflict on our soul when we look the other way.«

Martin Luther King
US Bürgerrechtler, 1929-1968

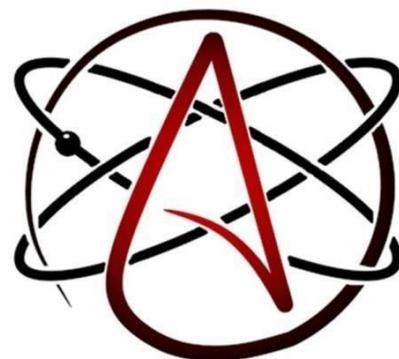
Mahatma Gandhi said:

"I am a Christian, Hindu, Muslim and Jew."



We believe that Mahatma Gandhi did not mean the belief in God in this statement, but rather the norms and values of each religion. **He surely assumed that every religion basically pursues the same objectives and values.**

Fulfillment of the Message: The various man-made religions should be united in one faith, especially since they have brought more disaster to the world than salvation due to their differences, contradictions and the disagreements resulting therefrom. These differences and contradictions should be resolved in the Commission on Faith (yet to be established) of the "United Peoples of the World" and lead to "recommending" a common faith. **After that, it is up to anyone's discretion to follow their faith or the principle of randomness.**



Ambassadors and Mediators: for example Pope Francis, Andreas Englisch, Franz-Peter Tebartz-van Elst, Karl Lehmann, Roland Koch and the Dalai Lama as well as religious leaders of the Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists and Christians, such as Eugen Drewermann, Hans Küng, Kathrin Göring-Eckhardt, and many others.

9. Against Greed

Greed and constant striving for growth and profit of any kind and the thus achievable gain in power are, as driving forces, doubtlessly an essential component of human existence. This fact has been continuously reinforced since the scientific revolution 500 years ago. Greed and striving for greater knowledge have given enormous impetus to science backed by capital, and with this knowledge we can increasingly understand life on earth. So we can assume that growth, profit and power are not negative as such. **It all depends on how we generate growth, produce profit and apply power.** In the past, greed has degenerated into unbridled rapacity through unjustified claims to ownership. Human beings were exploited and destroyed, particularly by war, slavery and serfdom. This happened because unscrupulous political and economic leaders abused their power, which was facilitated, among other things, by unrestrained forces of an uncontrolled market. **We must jointly stop this blatant nonsense - now, here and everywhere on our planet.** Growth and long-term investment of profits in the manufacture of useful and intelligent products are a gain for employers as well as employees. **That way responsible employers create jobs with decent wages to ensure the purchasing power of consumers.** It is an economic cycle, which – controlled by the state – also provides a safety net for the socially disadvantaged and the ill, without smothering the individual's motivation to get ahead. This system, characterized by an efficiently working, sound banking business and **a sensible way of consuming,** is known as "social market economy."

As we learned in the book by Friedrich Schorlemmer, *Die Gier und das Glück – Wir zerstören, wonach wir uns sehnen* ["Greed and Happiness – How we destroy what we yearn for"], the German word *Gier* (greed) has to do with "desire" and "longing." But in this book we also find out there have to be limits to growth.

Friedrich Schorlemmer says:

"Without the power of desire, there would be too little personal effort and self-development. But the happiness derived from obtaining something fails to materialize when desire transforms into greed. What has been obtained does not lead to enjoyment, but to being driven to have more and more. The question posed to us as individuals and as society is, how can we gain what we really long for: an intensive life that turns out well? How can we strike the right balance with our longing in order to regain an equanimity that does not lead us to become listless, unemotional and passionless? In the boardrooms, no one gives a second thought to the fact that the capitalist principle of growth overstrains the globe with its limited resources, torments it and bleeds it dry. Growth ideology hence no longer helps us achieve our goals – no, we merely reach the end. But who has the courage to draw the political conclusions? And who would have the courage to elect those willing to mould the necessary consequences into binding laws? Who, then, would be prepared to think things through to their possible end and live accordingly themselves? We need heroes for a new retreat, which would, however, be an advance: learning from each other, seeing oneself in the other, the sheer enemy. Tolerating difference - and deeming it a gain for oneself. If the greedy becomes the partner of the ascetic, the greedy will become more moderate and the ascetic will rediscover desire and pleasure. A fairy tale, yes – however: Politically, if the world is to be saved, we must come up with coalitions that are now unimaginable. But it must happen, and it will! As times become foreseeably more disastrous. We currently resemble a group of mountaineers who keep on climbing upwards and keep on asking where the summit is. Until they all notice that their path is continually taking them downwards. A person who gazes up at tall, robust trees, is looking into a time before he was born, and probably at something that will survive him. In the tree, we live in the same way that a bit of us has died in the slaughtered tree. Trees cannot rebel – humans can."



Pink says:

"Unbridled consumption keeps us from thinking about women's rights, Iraq and what is happening in Africa - it keeps us from thinking at all."



Andreas Mayer says:

"The term luxury today means things like luxury cars, luxury apartments, luxury cruises, etc. In the future, luxury will mean clean air, clean drinking water, an adequate supply of food, a tolerable climate and a life in peace and freedom, also in the interest of the species living with us. If we do not jointly make that our maxim and live accordingly, mankind will have no future."



There would be enough for everyone if we learned how to share in a just way and be prudent with our natural resources.

"Sharing" and "value creation" must be the priority. Away with deceptive packaging and incessant striving for growth, which is rampant and making us consume the Earth's resources far too fast, to the disadvantage of those who come after us.

Greed foments jealousy. And that leads to fanaticism, hatred, violence, thirst for revenge, terror and war.

With disbelief, anger and incomprehension, we see the unjust and morally indefensible distribution of wealth. **In 2016, the richest, i.e. one percent of the world's population, possessed more wealth than the remaining 99 percent altogether.**

Bob Dylan sings:

"All the money you made will never buy back your soul."



In 2014, the 85 wealthiest people on earth owned as much as the poorer half of humanity, then 3.6 billion people. By 2015, it was 62 people and in 2016 it was the 8 wealthiest people on earth who owned as much as the poorer half of humanity, currently 3.735 billion people. That means that the unfair distribution of wealth is increasing dramatically. **These very rich people should set an example and show that they are willing to share with the rest of the world.**

Bono says:

"You can go down in history by letting poverty become history. We don't want pity, we want justice. We can't solve all problems, but if we can solve one problem, we have to do it."



Plan International says:

"The global problem of poverty and hunger can only be solved together.

It is incumbent on heads of government to make concrete decisions to support developing countries in overcoming extreme poverty, hunger, discrimination and avoidable diseases.

We, the team of Plan International, demand that the issues of mothers', women's, children's and youth health, including sexual and reproductive health and rights, as well as an end to Aids by 2030 and the Global Fund for fighting Aids, tuberculosis and malaria be put on the political agenda."



About hunger in Africa, Bob Geldof says:

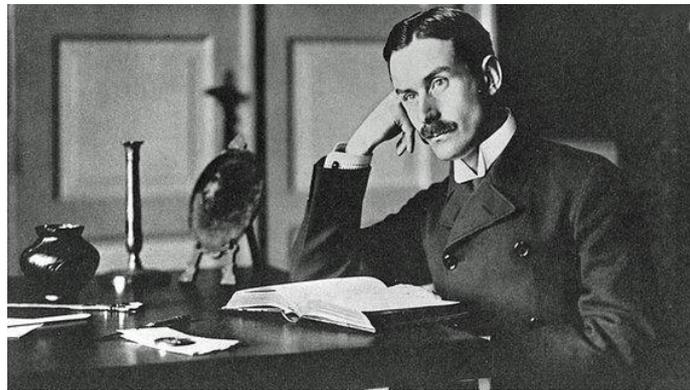
"No tears please, they don't do any damned good."

"I just can't stand the pornography of poverty. Never ever."



Thomas Mann said:

"There is no property that would endure negligence."



Synonyms for negligence:

irresponsibility, carelessness, unscrupulousness!

Immanuel Kant said:

*"We are not rich by what we possess,
but rather by what we can do without."*



That does not mean it shouldn't pay off to do outstanding work. But income beyond a certain level should be set aside for projects that promote the common good and be put at the disposal of the financial funds (yet to be established) to be administered by the "United Peoples of the World."

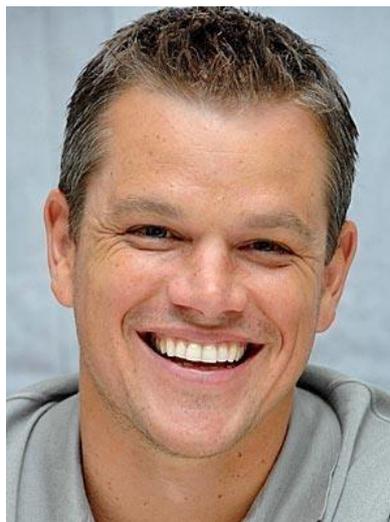
Denzel Washington says:

"I am blessed by the fact that I can earn several hundred million dollars. But I can't take them with me, and you can't either. The point is not how much you have, but what you do with what you have."



Matt Damon says:

"I woke up one day and realized that I have influence. We actors are something like spokesmen for our society. And that's when I became aware that we have to be committed to the world. It's fun and I don't see it as work. I'm responsible for returning something of my good luck and helping people with it."



We're not talking about leveling everyone down. But it is simply indecent and completely out of proportion if the chief executive of an industrial enterprise or the fund manager of a bank thinks he is entitled to earn a hundred or even a thousand times more than the normal worker or bank employee.

Wolfgang Gerhardt says:

"We want to create awareness for the fact that market economy has a social value and a social mission."



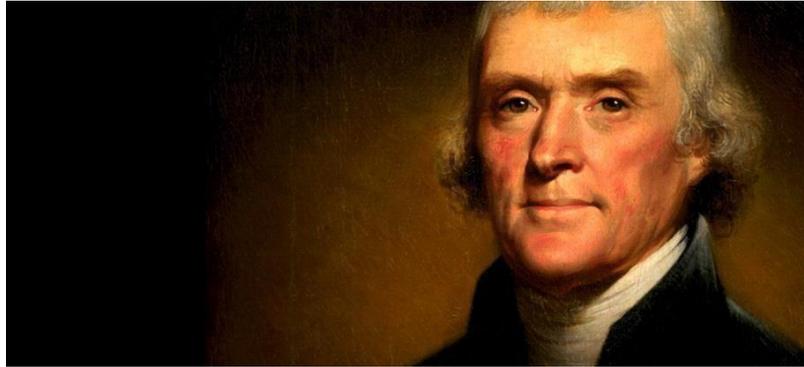
Reasonable and just sharing regulations include reorganizing the financial world and the stock markets worldwide.

The world of finance should be returned to its original form, which is to guarantee the flow and availability of funds for investments promoting the commonweal, instead of indulging in speculative deals with obscure and worthless derivatives that are often circulated with criminal intent and rotten tricks. Instead of palm-greasing and money laundering, we need more positive values to make the world go round.



In 1802, Thomas Jefferson wrote:

"If the American people ever allow private banks to control the issue of their currency, first by inflation, then by deflation, the banks and the corporations that will grow up around them will deprive the people of all property until their children wake up homeless on the continent their Fathers conquered."



Thomas Jefferson was the third president of the United States of America (1801–1809) and the main author of the American Declaration of Independence. His thinking and acting was shaped by the principles of the Enlightenment.

The Federal Reserve, which issues the dollar, is a private bank or rather is controlled by private banks. The recent financial crisis developed exactly the way Thomas Jefferson predicted. Millions of Americans lost the roofs over their heads in the real estate crisis.

Jimi Hendrix said:

"People only see what they might have and get, but they don't value what they have until they lose it. When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace."



About the recent financial crisis Peer Steinbrück says:

*"An unbridled capitalism as we have experienced it here with all its greed,
will devour itself in the end."*



Bobby de Keyser says:

"We have accumulated a lot of junk in our society. The economic and financial crisis gives the youth a chance today to say, 'We're not going to let you dump all that on us anymore. We want to live differently.' I am convinced: We are facing a soft revolution. That's good. We have to get rid of the ballast. We need collapses, especially to turn the world of finance inside out for good."



Thomas Jefferson said during his time in office (1801–1809):

"I hold that a little rebellion now and then is a good thing, and as necessary in the political world as storms in the physical."



Georg Schürmann says:

"The traditional banks did not really change their ways after the financial crisis in 2008. It was therefore no big deal to say: Now I will go to a bank and show that banking business can be done differently: oriented towards people and values. Our currency is change. We are part of a community of more than 500,000 people in all of Europe. Each of these people, whether saver, investor or borrower, makes an essential contribution to the whole. Our program does not include bonuses, trading for own account or speculation. Instead we have a mission that we accomplish together with our clients."



The stock market should be changed so that the positive values of *Shareholder Value* and *Stakeholder Value* are merged and their negative elements and weaknesses are eliminated. That way the exclusive maximization of shareholder benefits from enterprises can be balanced out in favor of a sustainable, sensible operation and the survival of enterprises. In brief, we need more responsible entrepreneurs again with pioneering spirit and committed to long-term planning, instead of managers who have nothing in mind but quarterly figures and their own profit.

It is of utmost important to put a stop to the greedy stock-market sharks' trading that is so detrimental to the public good. Above all, speculation on food products must be prohibited by law.



Food is nothing to play with!

**Spekulation mit Lebensmitteln
ist kriminell**

Speculation on foodstuffs is criminal!

In this context, it also pays to take a closer look at our textile industry, with its cut-rate fashion and consumer marketing aimed at controlling our consumption behavior. Andrew Morgan took on this task for us.

Andrew Morgan says:

"Globalization is not bad in principle. Just as long as a small group of people doesn't grab all the profit for themselves while the rest have to live in poverty. It's incredible to see the masses of clothing available everywhere. Big companies make their profits by persuading us to consume more and more fashion articles in ever shorter periods. And it works: Our consumption of clothing has grown by 400 percent in the last two decades. At the same time, prices for cheap fashion are continuously dropping, but this is combined with lower quality. Such an item is replaced at an ever faster pace. Since the materials and transportation don't get cheaper, the only link in this chain where costs can be reduced to a minimum is labor. And this is where it gets profoundly disturbing. We exploit these destitute people who have no alternative to their miserable working conditions. This continuous exploitation perpetuates a system of poverty. The production system of cut-rate fashion is inhuman. Why can't we improve it? I must be aware of the fact that I am supporting inhuman labor when I buy cheap clothes. Cut-price fashion has the largest market share in the textile industry."



Andrew Morgan

Please use your influence and take responsibility!

Alfred Herrhausen said:

"We have to say what we think. And we have to do what we say.

Then we also have to be what we do." "The crucial question is not

whether you have power; the crucial question is how you use it."

"Over the long run, you can only sell products if you have a good reputation.

The day managers forget that an enterprise cannot continue to exist

if society no longer recognizes its usefulness or perceives its behavior to be immoral,

the enterprise will begin to die."



What is surprising about these quotes is that they come from a former chairman of the board of the Deutsche Bank and that two and a half decades ago, no one laughed condescendingly when they heard the very powerful and highly respected Alfred Herrhausen speak that way.

Jürgen Fitschen, co-chairman of the Deutsche Bank until May 2016, said in October 2014: *"The wealthy cannot just close their eyes to the concerns of others. At some point patience will wear thin if the wealthy earn more and more in the future, while too many citizens get the feeling they cannot share in the jointly generated added value."*

(Source:<http://www.tagesspiegel.de/politik/deutsche-bank-chef-fitschen-warnt-arbeitnehmer-arbeitnehmer-muessen-staerker-vom-wohlstand-profitieren/10859074.html>).

We will judge John Cryan, the new chief executive, by the statements of Alfred Herrhausen and Jürgen Fitschen. The acquittals in court of former board members of the Deutsche Bank in April 2016 are not nearly sufficient to regain the customers' and the markets' squandered trust. On April 26, 2016 the Deutsche Bank share price was 16.58 euros. On January 11, 2007 it had been 117.96 euros.

Investment banking, which got completely out of hand with its dubious business practices, must be consigned to the past, also in the interest of the Deutsche Bank. Otherwise billions in new penalties threaten, as in the Libor scandal surrounding manipulated interest rates. The Deutsche Bank announced in October 2015 that it would withdraw from investment banking in Russia where it is struggling with a money-laundering scandal. The bank is alleged to have laundered at least six billion dollars of illicit funds on behalf of Russian clients. The U.S. Justice Department, several supervisory authorities and the Deutsche Bank itself are investigating the case. **Good - away with the corrupt and shady deals.**

Good news from the G20 summit in 2015 as to bank control and tax trickery

The participants of the G20 summit in November 2015 resolved that the 30 largest banks worldwide must maintain larger capital reserves in future. This includes the Deutsche Bank. In addition to the already more stringent equity requirements, a buffer of external capital at least as large must be allocated. These are bonds that can be converted to a liability mass in an emergency. Including investors in the measures to salvage banks is meant to ensure that tax payers will no longer be presented with the bill when such institutions collapse. The G20 also agreed on a worldwide effort to fight tax evasion by multinational companies. **In future, companies are to pay taxes on profits in the countries where the profits originate.** Recent reports from Luxemburg on companies operating there showed that many groups shift profits within their own companies to artificially reduce the calculations and pay taxes on the remainder in locations with the lowest tax rates.



Klaus Schwab says:

"Following the self-destruction of the communist system, we are now running the risk that capitalism, although it might not destroy itself, may well destroy the moral foundations of human existence."



The World Economic Forum in Davos was founded by Klaus Schwab in 1971, and he has led it since that time. His noble objective is *"to improve the state of the world."* To that end, Klaus Schwab gathers some 2,500 internationally top-ranking personalities – captains of industry, politicians, intellectuals and journalists – each year to discuss current global issues. The forum, which took place from January 20-23, 2016, was eclipsed by the refugee crisis. The results are sobering. Instead of presenting adequate solutions, a return to the nation-state and protectionism is looming large. A great majority of the top managers does not believe in a "globalization" of the economy. Instead of political and economic unions, globally effective trade laws, common values and a World Bank in a single global economic area, the managers see, and also expect for the future, an increase of nationally closed markets with different economic systems, regional economic areas, varying laws and value systems as well as local banking institutions. This year's forum was overshadowed by the inaugural speech of Donald Trump on January 20, 2017. The results were meager and once again disappointing. Along with Klaus Schwab, we hope that responsible politicians and industrial leaders will come up with something to get us out of the mess we're in. **Perhaps bilateral discussions and agreements behind the scenes will contribute to "improving the state of the world."** The next World Economic Forum will be held in January 2018 in Davos. In view of the grave international crises and disasters, we must use the time to establish a new value system for the global economic and financial system.

Instead of empty promises and missed opportunities, we need responsible entrepreneurs with pioneering spirit and a new value system in which ethical and moral orientation as well as principles for sustainable growth have a higher priority. Political and economic decision-makers have the responsibility of finding and establishing just regulations to gradually eliminate inequality and poverty in the world.



The basic idea of “Yunus Social Business” is to solve an urgent social problem while managing a business in a financially sustainable way. The non-profit limited company founded in 2011 by Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus, Saskia Bruysten and Sophie Eisenmann helps entrepreneurs in newly industrialized and developing countries to implement their business ideas by providing investment capital and consulting services. These enterprises create value for everyone involved, for the company itself as well as its customers and the investors.

Muhammad Yunus says:

"Over the years, I have built up many businesses. From my experience in microfinancing I learned how powerful social business models can be for solving human problems, and that this applies universally and to all sectors. So whenever I wanted to solve a social problem, I tried to think of an entrepreneurial approach to it. I called this type of enterprise a 'social business', a company 100% dedicated to solving social problems all the while operating in a financially sustainable way."

Muhammad Yunus, Saskia Bruysten and Sophie Eisenmann say:

"We founded Yunus Social Business to help entrepreneurs in transition and developing countries build up businesses that solve social problems with a long-term effect. The social businesses we work with benefit from our offering customized financing concepts as well as from our advisory services. The investment capital is paid back and can be reinvested over and over again into new social businesses. Most importantly, thousands of jobs have been created this way and hundreds of thousands of people have gained access to vital resources and services like safe drinking water, health care and affordable clean energy - hence improvements in their daily lives that would simply not have been available to them without social business models.

This creates an added value for all parties involved."



A win-win-win situation!

A community of kindred souls gives us reason to hope, makes us courageous and lends stronger expression to our present anger.

We are furious about hypocritical companies, politicians and celebrities who conceal their wealth and park it in tax havens. People who hide behind letterbox companies to launder money and avoid taxes deserve to be pilloried and taken to court. Uniform transparency registers listing the real owners of letterbox companies must be introduced worldwide to restrain these criminal activities. In addition, tax havens should be placed on a global “black list.”

In cooperation with an international network of investigators, journalists of the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* have been reporting on the so-called “Panama Papers” since April 2016. 2.6 terabytes with 11 million files and 214,000 letterbox companies landed in their net. The immense investigative effort of these journalists from around the world disclosed how the Panamanian lawyer's office of Mossack Fonseca has helped the rich and powerful to transfer their questionable money out of the country and hide it in tax havens under false names. This fuels the suspicion of money laundering and tax evasion. We hope that the political and judicial results lead to smashing a network of illegal and criminal financial transactions.

On the one hand, the poorest are fighting for naked survival. On the other, there are the rapacious rich who never manage to get enough – and who are completely flabbergasted when their obscure dealings are uncovered. The “Panama Papers” could have a positive side if their exposure educates those who were caught and other potential dishonest candidates to be honest, reasonable and aware of the need to serve the common good. What we need in this world are many more philanthropists and philanthropic institutions recognized and admired for their magnanimity, instead of selfish skinflints and speculators, exposed and stigmatized for their criminal resolve.

Thomas Pogge says:

“The Panama Papers show how the international money-elite hides its wealth from the states. Developing countries in particular lose billions every year as a consequence. When companies save on taxes, more money flows to their shareholders. This additional income is then usually taxed in richer countries. Only the developing countries come up empty. ... While about 8 percent of European private wealth is hidden abroad, the corresponding percentage in Africa, the Middle East and Latin America is about thirty percent. ... The international system of tax havens, offshore companies, sham trusts, anonymous bank accounts and corrupt banks, lawyers and lobbyists, is no trifle but a crucial obstacle to the eradication of world poverty, to which all countries often commit themselves – most recently in 2015 at the UN in New York when the Sustainable Development Goals were adopted. In order to realize these goals, it would be helpful to double development aid. Yet, it would be vastly more helpful still to cut the illicit financial outflows from the developing countries in half. Such reforms would also make other kinds of crime more difficult: the embezzlement of money by politicians, civil servants and managers in companies, the illegal trade in persons, drugs and weapons, international terrorism as well as money laundering which is associated with all these activities. Transactions in the netherworld of offshore finance have strong inequality-aggravating effects, both nationally and globally. Hidden and anonymously transferred funds mostly belong to people in the richest one percent of humanity or to companies that evade taxes through offshore subsidiaries and other tricks. ... Inequality of income and wealth has grown considerably almost everywhere in the past decades. Oxfam recently announced that the richest one percent of humanity now owns more than half of all private wealth. The poorer half, by contrast, owns only 0.6% - as much as the richest 62 billionaires. And these shocking figures take account only of known assets. With hidden assets included, the richest one percent surely own more than only half. Excessive inequality undermines democratic institutions or prevents them from developing. With large inequalities, the interests of the rich are far removed from those of the rest and it is then lucrative for the former to purchase sufficient political influence via lobbyists to shape the rules of the game in their favor. A clique of politicians, bankers, managers and lawyers rule - even if their rule is regularly legitimized by elections - and the members of this clique pass their leading positions on to their children: through money, elite universities and connections that promote their careers. Such conditions have come to prevail not only in

developing countries such as Brazil, South Africa and Indonesia, but increasingly also in the two most important countries in the world: China and the United States. Europe must avoid being pulled into this pernicious trend. Following the disclosures of the last few years and especially of the Panama Papers, people are so outraged that governments are forced to act. And work is indeed being done – especially in the OECD – toward formulating and negotiating reforms. But this does not mean that we can forget the problem. Many people in leading positions profit from the existing system and would be glad if the reform efforts ran aground or exhausted themselves in a few small cosmetic reforms. ... There will be effective and lasting reforms only if knowledgeable citizens demand them. And, given the complexity of the material, this is not easy. Fortunately there is a whole network of highly competent academics, think tanks and non-government organizations which have worked on the problem for many years. They have analyzed the problems in depth and have worked out the best reform proposals – both national self-protection measures against the existing system as well as profound reforms of it. The task now is to understand these reform proposals, critically to refine them and to implement them politically. This is certainly not an easy task, but it is crucial for the continued existence of democratic states.”

Source: Excerpt from a commentary by guest writer Thomas Pogge in *ZEIT ONLINE* of April 7, 2016.

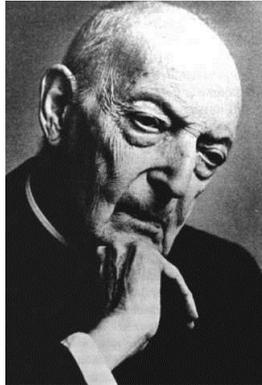
Title: „ At the cost of the poorest“.



Mehr Gerechtigkeit wa(a)gen.

Oswald von Nell-Breuning said:

"It is unquestionable that we are living at the cost of the underdeveloped peoples, that our excessive consumption diminishes their possibilities of consumption, because the amount of what we claim for ourselves alone cannot be made available to all."



Many of us feel much better when they are able to give than when they must take. There is enough for all of us to live well. Those who work hard and efficiently should be adequately compensated and rewarded with our appreciation. We have the feeling that an increasing number of well-to-do people sympathize with the fates of millions of desperate people. We are well-advised not to take this for mere self-PR, but for the assumption of responsibility at the right time.

“The Giving Pledge” is an initiative of Bill Gates and Warren Buffet. Those who join the project enter a written obligation to donate at least half of their wealth for charitable purposes. The aim is to tackle the most urgent social problems worldwide. By the end of 2015, there were 138 billionaires on the list of generous givers.

Warren Buffet says:

"No one should cling to their wealth."

"I have committed myself to gradually donate all my shares in Berkshire Hathaway to philanthropic institutions. I could not be happier with this decision."

Bill Gates says:

"We were blessed with great wealth which makes the mind boggle. But as great as this blessing is, our responsibility to use it sensibly is just as great. Therefore we are very happy to join others in taking on a clear obligation with 'The Giving Pledge'."



Angelina Jolie says:

"It's a wonderful feeling to be generous and give money to people who need it far more than a Jaguar dealer."



Melinda Gates says:

"As one of the richest couples in the world we feel obligated to take up the fight against poverty with many other partners. From the beginning, Bill and I wanted to do something about the inconceivably poor living conditions in many regions of the world.

Our honeymoon trip to Africa opened our eyes."



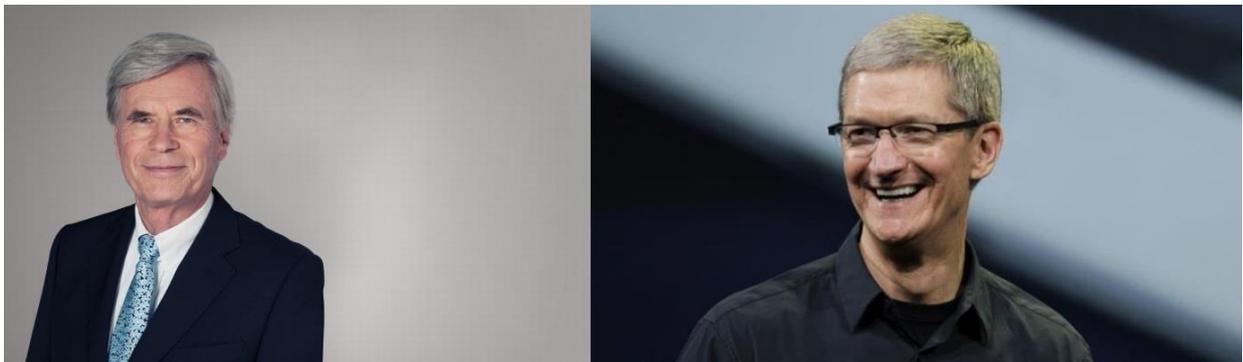
Michael Otto and Tim Cook, too, have decided to follow the example of Bill Gates and Warren Buffet and have donated their entire wealth to charities.

Michael Otto says:

"Sometimes you have to give something back."

Tim Cook says:

"You want to be the pebble in the pond that creates the ripples of change."



Katrin Göring-Eckardt says:

"Values like happiness and quality of life cannot be measured only by high incomes and the availability of material values. They include social and cultural infrastructure, an intact environment as well as equitable access to all these goods."

(Source: <http://goering-eckardt.de/detail/nachricht/fortschritt-wachstum-lebensqualitaet.html>).



Martin Kneer says:

"Observing complexity and change is not so much what is actually significant; it is far more important to measure the pace and degree of acceleration at which the world around us and we ourselves are changing with it. This does not mean wearing ourselves out by focusing on ourselves, but acting in a purposeful and forward-looking way in the interest of the public good. 'If you don't throw a stone into the water, you won't cause any waves', is my personal guiding principle for foresighted thinking and acting. As homo politicus and member of the frequently cited '68 generation, my focus is on shaping, changing, and taking responsibility. This is a triad that mirrors the core values of life."



Fulfillment of the Message: We human beings must learn to share willingly and justly. Those who have much must give to those who have little. Concrete rules for donations and sharing should be developed by the "Ethics Commission" (yet to be established) of the "United Peoples of the World" and legislated by the latter. Experts on the subject of sustainable economy, such as Pavan Sukhdev, should be involved.

Arnold Schwarzenegger says:

"Help others and give something back. I guarantee you will discover that charity makes people better and improves the world around you; its greatest reward, however, is the enrichment and new meaning it will bring to your own life."



Ambassadors and Mediators: for example the 62 richest people in the world like Warren Buffet, Bill Gates, Jack Ma and Ingvar Kamrad, as well as Uli Hoeneß, Klaus Zumwinkel, Alice Schwarzer, the chairmen of the boards of the world's listed companies and their predecessors and many other wealthy people – along with socially-minded actors like Robert Redford, Ben Kingsley, Liam Neeson, Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie, George Clooney, Morgan Freeman, Leonardo Di Caprio; and musicians such as Bob Geldof, Bono, Bruce Springsteen, Mick Jagger, Mark Knopfler, Bob Dylan, Joan Baez as well as journalists (also war correspondents) like Carolin Emcke and Ulrich Wickert, Pavan Sukhdev and many others.

Pavan Sukhdev says:

“We must urgently change the rules of the game according to which we run our economy. The question must no longer be who is best in influencing governments, avoiding taxes and obtaining subsidies for dubious business models to optimize profits for a single group of stakeholders, namely the shareholders. In the future, competition between corporations should consist in being more innovative than the rivals, using resources more carefully and meeting the demands of very diverse social groups. Society, which had to bear the costs up to now, should be able to see what companies destroy when they grow. We need a general set-up for a new corporate culture that increases human wellbeing and social equality, while preventing environmental risks and ecological losses from growing.”



10. Against War

There have been wars as long as there have been humans: on a small scale, for instance, wars between tribes or clans, and on a large scale religious wars or the world wars of the 20th century, which brought disaster upon great parts of the world.

The causes of large wars were and are usually the prospects of rulers and warmongers for unjustified territorial gains, extension of their power and greed for resources of all kinds. This includes the striving of demagogues' and sadists' for supremacy; they have always known and still know how to create bogeyman images, incite hatred, stir people up against each other, abuse them and use them as cannon fodder.

The death toll of the two World Wars of the 20th century 1914–1918 and 1939–1945 amounted to approximately 75 million, of which World War II alone claimed at least 55 million. Since then, about 20 million people have lost their lives in wars and armed conflicts. The percentage of victims among the civilian population has drastically increased. In the face of these numbers and considering the population explosion between 1950 and 2017 – taking us from 2.5 billion to nearly 7.5 billion – we have been living in a somewhat more peaceful world in the past 70 years. One reason for this is probably that wars in general are less profitable in the age of nuclear deterrence than market domination in our increasingly industrialized and digitalized capitalist world. **But it is a fallacy to believe things won't or can't possibly change in the future.** The radical changes already perceptible as a consequence of climate change, of the unilateral increase in wealth and of world population growth are alarming. In combination with dictatorial power structures, they could cause unpredictable and uncontrollable risks which could then trigger immeasurable suffering worldwide. The governments of the countries possessing nuclear weapons (such as China, France, India, Israel, Pakistan, Russia, the UK and the USA), along with many political, economic and social experts, feel safe and often speak of the "balance of terror" which has guaranteed 70 years of world peace. But the radical changes mentioned above have already led to tipping points in some areas. If these tipping points actually tilt – as is the case with climate change – there will be feedback effects creating self-reinforcing dynamics.

Then the balance of terror would no longer be merely on the brink of tipping, but would threaten to melt away in an atomic hellfire.



What does war do to us? It turns us into perpetrators and victims. It brutalizes us and hardens us. It deprives us of our humanness and makes us killers and monsters, or it plunges us into a deep trauma, sometimes both. In the end, not only the dead have lost their lives. The survivors often don't find their way back to life either. Many of them have become different persons and will suffer the injuries the war has left on their bodies and souls for the rest of their lives. Often enough they seek refuge in drugs.

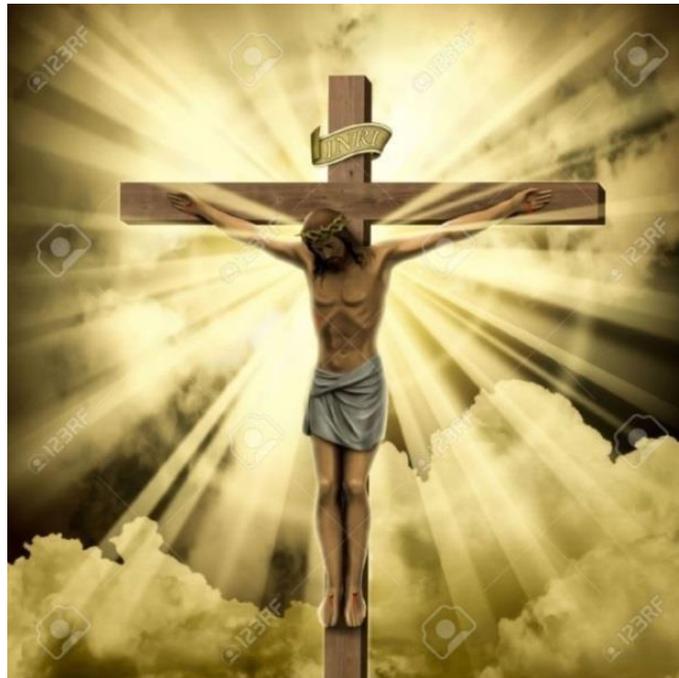
Violence breeds ever new violence, hatred ever new hatred, and war ever new war – **we should have learned that much from history!**



Countless wars have been waged in Europe. Every belligerent nation has "*prayed*" for victory. What a delusion, when they were all praying to one and the same God, in this case the God of the Christians.



Wars in the shadow and not in the light of the cross!



**Christians believe, He gave his blood
also to deter us from war and violence!**

The imperialism of the European powers in the colonial period, especially on the African continent and in the Middle East, must be condemned as well. It is bad enough that the colonial masters misappropriated land. But it is barbaric that the indigenous population was enslaved, abused and often treated like animals – even worse than in the period of serfdom in Europe. Especially when one considers that the birthplace of mankind is in Africa.

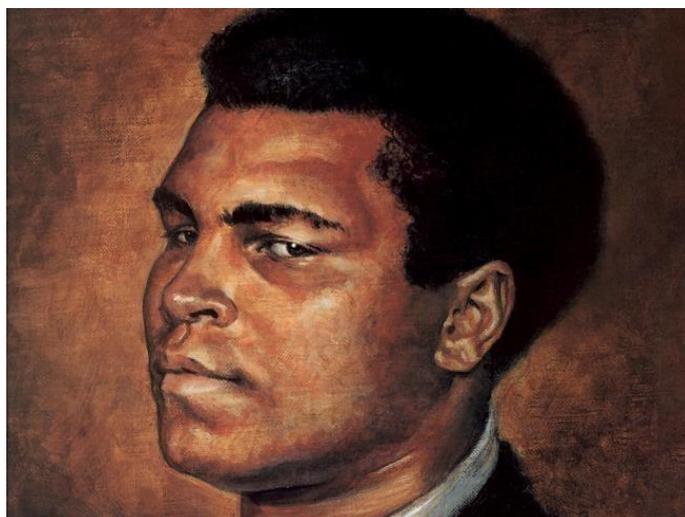
All early ancestors and early man **naturally** had dark skin caused by the radiation of the sun in Africa.



Other skin colors developed only when our ancestors – already as *Homo sapiens* - left Africa some 100,000 years ago. The first "white man" was the Neanderthal, who died out about 30,000 years ago. **This knowledge leaves no space for discrimination on the basis of race, color or national and ethnic origin.**

Muhammed Ali said:

"It's wrong to hate people because of the color of their skin. And it's irrelevant which color does the hating. It's fundamentally wrong."



The television series *Roots* is a shocking portrayal of the inhumanity and barbarism slavery caused. The film begins with a young man in Africa called Kunta Kinte. He was abducted from Africa in 1767 and enslaved in America. But he refused to be called by his slave name. His heroic protest lived on in his progeny. In whispers, the name Kunta Kinte was passed on from generation to generation until a little boy growing up in Tennessee heard it. His name was Alex Haley. And he made Kunta Kinte's name known worldwide. His family tree became the backbone of the book *Roots*. Haley was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for his book that shocked America and the entire world. 130 million viewers saw David L. Wolpers' TV series; it was flooded with dozens of prizes. To this day, the film has lost none of its rousing vitality.

The mini-series covering a time period of 100 years between 1765 and 1865 was shown for the first time in Germany in 1978. Filmed for a mass viewership, America's first critical examination of the history of slave trade raised the awareness of the nation about its own past as no other TV event ever had. The production, awarded nine Emmys, reminds one more of the story in *Uncle Tom's Cabin* than of the slave-romanticism seen in *Gone with the Wind*. It portrays violence and gruesome suffering never previously seen on television - such as when part of Kunta Kinte's foot is hacked off after his repeated attempts to flee. The saga was all the more moving, however, because Blacks were not only portrayed as victims or abstract examples of repression, but as intelligent people in search of a small piece of happiness, something with which the audience could identify.

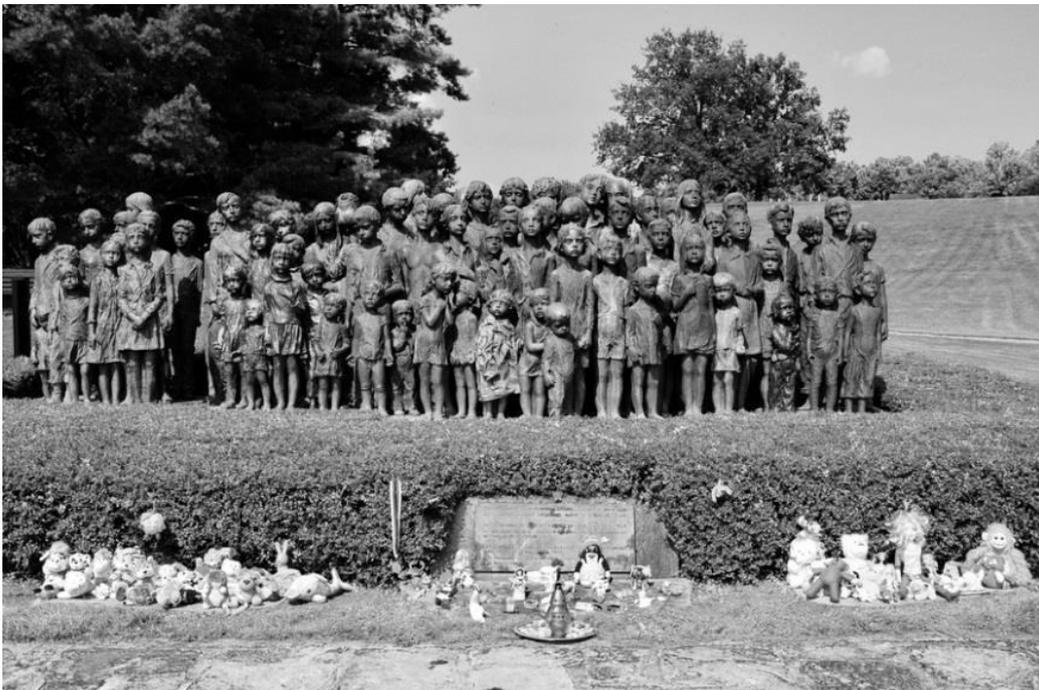


The Europeans were not one jot better when they conquered the Americas. Along with the slaves from Africa, the conquerors also brought in rats and pathogens. About 90 percent of the original inhabitants were exterminated within one century. Only at the end of the 20th century did the population of their descendants return to the size it had been before Columbus landed in the Caribbean in 1492.



How can we prevent inhuman demagogues like Hitler Stalin, Mao or Pol Pot from seizing power in the first place, before they can become completely dehumanized mass murderers and war criminals? How can religious wars against Islam under the guise of Christianity be prevented from happening again in the future?

More than six million Jews were killed during World War II, among them 1.5 million children. Since then it is continuously repeated: Such a thing must never happen again.



Nevertheless we sit in front of the TV today in our globalized world, staring benumbed at abominable scenes where people are brutally slaughtered in the name of a falsely understood religion – by terrorist groups like Al Qaeda, Boko Haram or ISIS. In spite of this disgraceful relapse into barbarism, these gangs of murderers experience a growing influx of young people who have gone astray and become radicalized. **The seed sown on 9/11 is still bearing fruit.**



**This, too, is a way to remember the day that shook the world –
instead of inciting to revenge and new bloodshed!**

In our view, the warmongers and gravediggers include George W. Bush, Dick Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld and Paul Wolfowitz, who lied to us and cheated us following the last war against Iraq. The latter three are smarter and for that reason all the more despicable.

It's better not to even think about what would have happened if these four hardliners, instead of John F. Kennedy and his staff, had been in power in 1962 in the middle of the Cold War. After a lot of saber-rattling, Kennedy and Khrushchev reached an agreement because they knew that a third world war – with atomic missiles on both sides – could have destroyed all life on the planet.



A good thing it ended like this...



...and not like this !

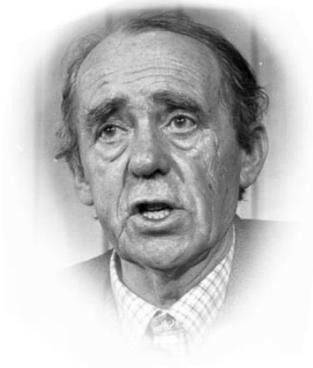
Mahatma Gandhi said:

"An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind."



Heinrich Böll said:

"There is nothing, no law or anything in the world that could justify the use of the atomic bomb."



John F. Kennedy said:

"Our goal is not the victory of power, but the rule of law - not peace at the cost of freedom, but both freedom and peace here in our hemisphere and, as we hope, everywhere in the world.

If God wills, we will achieve this goal."



Before the George W. Bush era, the USA under Bill Clinton had a balanced budget with a flourishing economy. When he assumed office in 2009, Barack Obama took over a mountain of debt of 11 trillion dollars left to him by his predecessor. Worse yet: In eight wasteful and baneful years between 2000 and 2008, the nations of the world - including their peoples and ethnic groups – were more divided than united. **Instead of giving in to the urge for revenge after 9/11, the group of the twenty most important industrial nations and newly industrialized countries (G20) should have been called upon to seek and find peaceful solutions to such terrorist attacks!**

George Clooney says:

"If Al Gore hadn't had to distance himself from Clinton because of the Lewinsky affair, he would've won the presidential election. And he never would have gone to war. It's ridiculous – Lewinsky gives the president a blowjob, so we attack Iraq."



David Letterman says:

"President Bush has said that he does not need approval from the U.N. to wage war, and I'm thinking, well, hell, he didn't need the approval of the American voters to become president, either."



Robert Redford says:

"I'm worried about my country. The incompetent government of President George W.Bush exploited people's fears after the 9/11 attack. I have never experienced such dark times in my entire life."



Sean Penn said about warfare in Iraq:

"Looking from above, we see smart bombs and drones, that's all. Showing the war as it is would normally stop it. We have to look at that, again and again, and we have to call those who are responsible to account."

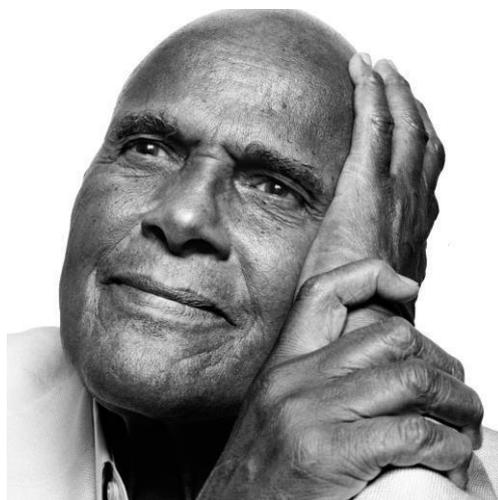


Unfortunately, the former U.S. President and Nobel Peace laureate Barack Obama came too late and so far has not been able to fulfill the expectations and hopes he awoke. This is not a reproach, but **the result of a deeply fragmented society, politically and religiously, in the "Divided States of the World."**



Harry Belafonte says:

“The people who deny us civil rights are the very same people who reject world peace. But we will not achieve anything without peace. We have to understand that peace is not some far away goal, it already begins with the path toward peace.”



In May 1969, Hillary Diane Rodham said:

“I find myself reacting, something that our generation has been doing for quite a while now. We're not in the positions yet of leadership and power, but we do have that indispensable task of criticizing and constructive protest. [...] But there are some things we feel, [for example] that our prevailing acquisitive and competitive corporate life, including tragically the universities, is not the way of life for us. We're searching for a more immediate, ecstatic and penetrating mode of living.”



Hillary Diane Rodham's commencement address of May 31, 1969 at Wellesley College was about integrity, respect and trust. In 2016, Hillary Clinton faced her greatest political challenge. In order to defeat Donald Trump in the race for the White House, she would have had to undergo the **metamorphosis of *Homo sapiens*** – which Anne Frank, Astrid Lindgren and Pierre Teilhard de Chardin so fervently wished for – herself.

Hillary Clinton also lost the election because she underrated the anti-establishment movement. To teach the Washington establishment a lesson, many voters wanted to demonstrate that the power is in the hands of the people – even the power to completely screw things up. This helped Trump to win. The election was decided chiefly by frustrated rural citizens in the states between the East and the West coast – where racist, violent and reactionary tendencies are stronger than elsewhere in the country and match the new president and his entourage.

In the George W. Bush era Robert Redford said he had never experienced such dark times in his entire life. U.S. artists are called upon to participate in **joint efforts to prevent times from becoming even darker under the new president.**



Some American performing artists who could try to enlighten the public

Many more artists must join now to shake up the American public – especially the angry citizens in the rural and small-town areas. After the fact, all Americans now have the opportunity to explore the real reasons for the rift between them.

Scarlett Johansson says:

The majority of Americans, like myself, did not expect this election outcome. That was pretty devastating. But now it's time to look ahead. Our country has already mastered several dramatic challenges in the past. The government we have now may have little political experience, but perhaps it will bring the different trends of our society back together again. Maybe we have become too smug. Maybe this is a chance to overcome our differences and band together, whether out of frustration or out of fear. Perhaps the election has the positive effect of reuniting the nation. I'm not saying these are going to be four easy years. I'm sure we will have to weather bad storms and a hard winter. But if we're clever, we will take this as an opportunity for a change of direction. I believe in being able to achieve great changes in one's surroundings. So I could very well imagine engaging in politics.



Before looking ahead and taking action together with Scarlett Johansson, we will take a look back. After all, we should know how it was possible for Donald Trump to become U.S. President. Where this could lead and what we can learn from it for the future is described in the separate strategy paper – **“Homo progressivus – The Energetic Resistance”- Or: How we can free ourselves from the arbitrary system and the bad style of Donald Trump and from other autocrats and populists in the world”** - which we are placed on the market in May 2017.

More than 70 million people today (2017) are fleeing from war and persecution; we haven't had that many refugees since World War II. Many of the more than 400 armed conflicts and wars worldwide were and still are fueled by irresponsible arms exports, evidencing the utter failure of the international community.

Bloody conflicts and brutal persecution in countless countries have driven more children, women and men from their homes than ever before. Every 113th resident of the Earth is now directly affected, laments the World Report 2015 of the U.N. Refugee Agency (UNHCR). The total number of refugees, internally displaced persons and asylum seekers has thus reached a sad record, according to the study presented on World Refugee Day on June 20, 2016.

While on average six people were displaced per minute in 2005, it is now 24 per minute – which is statistically two people at every breath we take, according to the U.N. report. On the whole, the number of people fleeing is about as large as the population of the UK, France or Italy. More than half of the refugees is younger than 18 years old, according to the UNHCR. Particularly alarming is the high number of children who are unaccompanied or separated from their parents.

Filippo Grandi says:

“A horrifying number of people are losing their lives at sea, the land route is increasingly blocked by closed borders, and in many countries there is agitation against asylum. In addition, the willingness of countries to face the refugee crisis and cooperate toward a solution in the common interest of humanity is decreasing.

But it’s exactly this unifying spirit that is so desperately needed.”





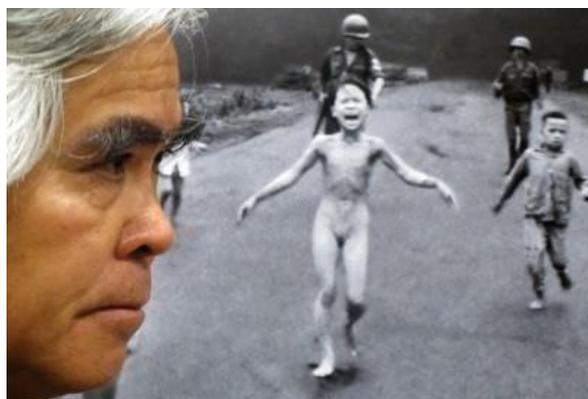
Vietnam, June 8, 1972 - please, please, please - never again war!!!

Nick Út was asked:

"Did you consider whether it was right to publish this photo?"

Nick Út answers even today:

*"Yes, the decision was right because
this photo has become an antiwar photo against the Vietnam war!"*



Dustin Hoffman says:

“The Vietnam War began with a lie. The trigger was the alleged attack of the North Vietnamese on one of our war ships stationed in the Gulf of Tonkin. But there was no such attack, it was a lie, a propaganda fabrication, to begin the horrible war.

History sometimes repeats itself.”

Albert Gore Sr. said:

“The country was pulled into a conflict under false pretenses which cost thousands of lives and massively damaged the moral position of our country in the world.”



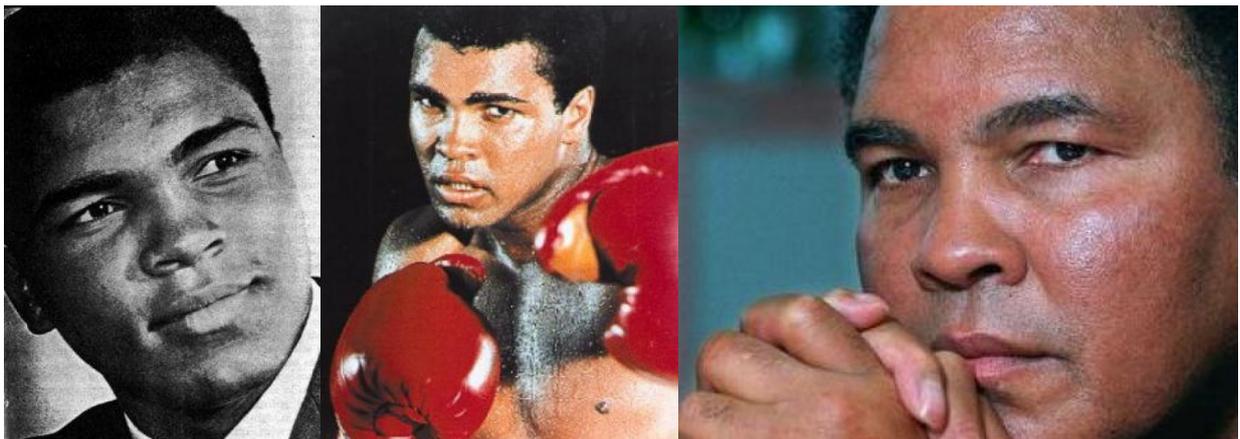
The liar!

More than 5.5 million people died in the Vietnam War, 58,220 of them U.S. citizens. The documents released by the U.S. intelligence service NSA in November 2005, confirmed once more that the North Vietnamese attack reported to U.S. President Johnson was suggested by a one-sided selection of radio signals, hence deliberately faked.

Muhammad Ali, who died in June 2016, outraged white America in 1967: At the U.S. Armed Forces Recruiting Office in Houston, Texas, he refused to do his military service. Publicly rejecting the Vietnam War, he accepted being stripped of his world title as well as the revocation of his boxing license and five years in prison for his refusal to be drafted.

Muhammad Ali said:

*"Why should they ask me to put on a uniform and go 10,000 miles from home to drop bombs and bullets on brown people in Vietnam, while so-called Negro people in Louisville are treated like dogs and denied simple human rights?
No, I'm not going 10,000 miles from home to help murder and burn another poor nation simply to continue the domination of white slave masters over darker people the world over!"*



Three years later the Supreme Court overturned the conviction and declared the withdrawal of his boxing license unlawful. Muhammad Ali returned to the ring – the most famous comeback in sports history. In 1998, U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan appointed the freedom fighter "U.N. Peace Messenger" .

The 2015 report of the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), "Children between the fronts," gives an alarming description of the situation of minors in war and crisis zones. In 2015 alone, UNICEF needed 3.1 billion dollars to keep up its help for victims in 71 countries. Only a third of the needed funding is secured for some conflict areas such as Syria or Sudan. 230 million children are affected worldwide. These children are either refugees, shooting targets or soldiers, or all three. Their playgrounds are battlefields where death and fear indelibly shape their daily lives. About half of the 60 million refugees worldwide are children.

According to UNICEF estimates, 14 million children and teenagers were affected by the war in Syria in March 2015. They are still fighting for their lives.

Hanaa Singer says:

"One boy was seven or eight years old. He was missing an eye, with the other eye he looked at me; his gaze was dead and full of bitterness." "If we don't save these youngsters now, they will be manipulated and used by different groups."



We will only be able to prevent wars if we fundamentally change the mandate and the powers of the United Nations – to become the "United Peoples of the World" with a democratically elected government. If demagogues, war criminals and warmongers succeed in seducing millions of people, abusing them and plunging them into misery, shouldn't we *jointly* succeed all the more in filling billions of people with enthusiasm for peace, freedom and justice?

Rudolf Seiters says:

"War causes untold misery.

It is nevertheless omnipresent. There are daily news reports on armed conflicts. Mass graves, victims of mines, displacement and rape are all part of this terrifying scenario. In 2015, there are 60 million refugees worldwide. The conflict in Syria, which also spills over into neighboring countries, is considered to be one of the greatest humanitarian catastrophes in decades. More than 11.5 million people are on the run. Nobody here seems to have ever heard of the humanitarian international law. Protection of civilians is trampled underfoot. Access to conflict areas and to prisoners is becoming increasingly difficult. What we urgently need now to solve the conflict in Syria is a broad and effective alliance mandated by the United Nations and a European solution to the refugee situation."



**Deutsches
Rotes
Kreuz**

Aus Liebe zum Menschen.

The "G20" organization, founded in Berlin in 1999, is called upon to prepare the ground for a new world order. That would make it possible to draw a new line of balance we urgently need in international law.– with a balanced distribution of votes requiring also small countries to be represented. That way, cross-border conflicts and hardening fronts could be avoided and global objectives achieved.

Imagine we were facing a global threat from outside our world, such as we know from science fiction films. Then the peoples and religions of the world and their leaders would stand together to protect and defend our Earth.



If we carry on as we are doing now, *sooner or later* climate change will become a global threat to everyone – not from the outside, but one we have created ourselves. With this knowledge, we must push for a binding agreement on global measures to protect the climate and prevent wars fought over drinking water and food. The second part of that sentence is crucially important here.

Scientists have pushed the minute-hand of the "Doomsday Clock" from five to two and a half minutes to midnight.



Among these scientists, you won't find any nutty prophets of doom or namby-pamby angels of peace, but serious, world-renowned experts including no fewer than 17 Nobel laureates.

Two main reasons for this step are reproachfully presented to the responsible politicians:

Firstly: The escalating confrontation between the USA and Russia – both equipped with upgraded nuclear missiles.

Vladimir Putin says:



**Now Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump are called upon to turn back the Doomsday Clock!
Hopefully we will find a picture of the current presidents in the near future in this direction!**

Secondly: Climate change, which is advancing unchecked.



Our greenhouse, too, must be thrown into reverse gear!

If Fracking-Trump and Pipeline-Putin will accelerate the climate change furthermore in the forward gear, then it will be only a matter of time before the "Doomsday Clock" strikes twelve!!!

All in all, the experts see:

“An extraordinary and undeniable threat to the survival of mankind.”

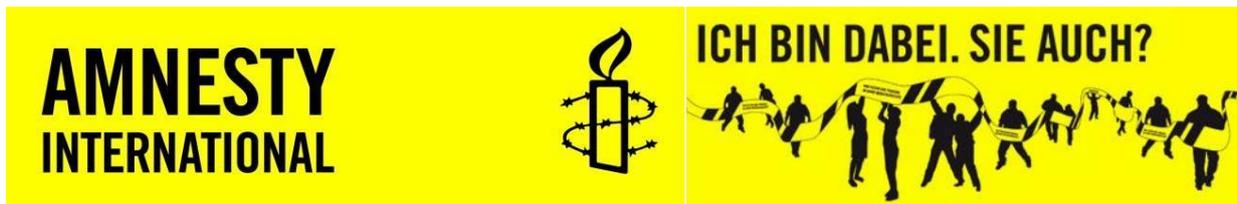


Amnesty International demands:

"The five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council must waive their veto in cases of genocide and similar severe crimes.

The Security Council has failed in Syria, Iraq, Gaza, Israel and the Ukraine.

By relinquishing the power of veto, the UN Security Council would obtain more latitude to protect civilians in armed conflicts."



Germany's Ambassador to the U.N.-, Harald Braun, said on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the United Nations in June 2015: *"In New York it is clearly perceptible that a continuously growing number of member states favor a reform of the U.N. Security Council. A Security Council that reflects the world of 1945 will not be able to solve the problems of the 21st century on a long-term basis. I am convinced this view will ultimately catch on."*

(Source : <http://www.n-tv.de/politik/Die-UN-sind-70-und-nicht-mehr-zeitgemaess-article15377041.html>).

Coming to terms with the past and envisaging the future are inseparably connected with each other. From our history we can learn what we can gain or should avoid in the future. When looking into the mirror, each of us should see the following image:



Then we "*know*" that there must be no discrimination, neither against nor in favor of anyone, because of their skin color, faith, gender, origin, disability or political views. No one must be persecuted, much less killed – whether in smaller or in larger wars.

Wars still break out because people, due to arbitrary definitions and delusions – whether of a religious, nationalist or racist nature – fancy themselves to be superior to others whom they declare to be "the enemy" or "inferior." In the future we will also have wars for access to drinking water and food, all the way to our individual struggle for survival, **if we carry on obliviously!**

Hans-Dietrich Genscher said:

"The world of the 21st century will only be able to preserve its stability if it is determined by the force of law and not the law of force."

"The world is a survival community."



After the shots fired in Sarajevo on June 28, 1914, countries fired at each other in the First World War. After the shots in Paris on January 7, 2015, leaders from all over the world marched arm in arm for peace and against terror. That gives us courage and hope.



Leaders from all over the world - arm in arm for peace and justice!

In a joint manifesto of January 2015, representatives of the three great religions in Germany also condemned the attacks in Paris and warned against acts of revenge: *"Killing in the name of God is unacceptable. The Bible, Torah und Koran are books of love, not of hatred. Every Christian, Jew and Muslim should pray for the Paris victims – today on Friday in the mosque, on the Sabbath in the synagogue, and on Sunday in church. Pray for reconciliation, peace and freedom. Hatred is no response to hatred. And intolerance is no response to intolerance. Only by acting together can we protect our values and our faith against radicalized minorities."*

(Source: <https://www.evangelisch.de/inhalte/112252/09-01-2015/gemeinsames-manifest-von-christen-juden-und-muslimen-gegen-gewalt>).

Marlene Dietrich, Joan Baez and Pete Seeger have sung these words:

"Where have all the flowers gone, long time passing?

Where have all the flowers gone, long time ago?

Where have all the flowers gone? Girls have picked them everyone.

When will they ever learn? When will they ever learn?

Where have all the young girls gone, long time passing?

Where have all the young girls gone, long time ago?

Where have all the young girls gone? Taken husbands everyone.

When will they ever learn? When will they ever learn?

Where have all the young men gone, long time passing?

Where have all the young men gone, long time ago?

Where have all the young men gone? Gone for soldiers everyone.

When will they ever learn? When will they ever learn?

Where have all the soldiers gone, long time passing?

Where have all the soldiers gone, long time ago?

Where have all the soldiers gone? Gone to graveyards, everyone.

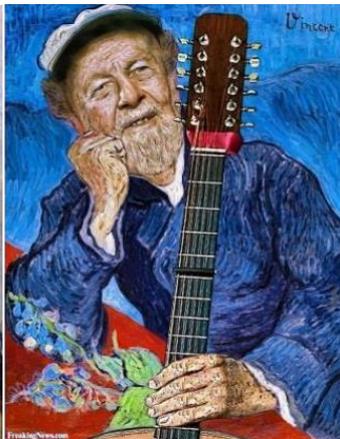
When will they ever learn? When will they ever learn?

Where have all the graveyards gone, long time passing?

Where have all the graveyards gone, long time ago?

Where have all the graveyards gone? Covered with flowers, everyone.

When will we ever learn? When will we ever learn?



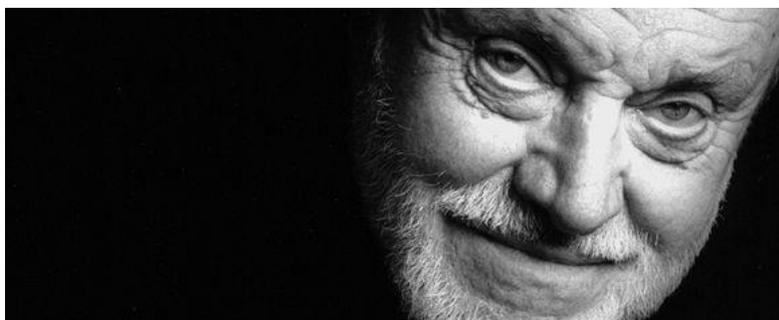
Yusuf Islam says:

"Music can draw a picture of a better world. Music can't do the job, people have to do it. But a song can be an inspiration; it can get people going. Improving the world is the best goal you can have. But that only works if you improve yourself. It wasn't clear to me whether it would be my destiny to ever write a song again. On September 11th, it seemed as if the world was going to break in two. There was a crack. The world became wilder. The "Wild World" was suddenly on everyone's doorstep. And I knew it was time to sing again. Because if my music stood for anything, it was for peaceful cooperation. How to live with each other, how to love each other, how to enjoy this world without destroying it."



Kurt Masur said:

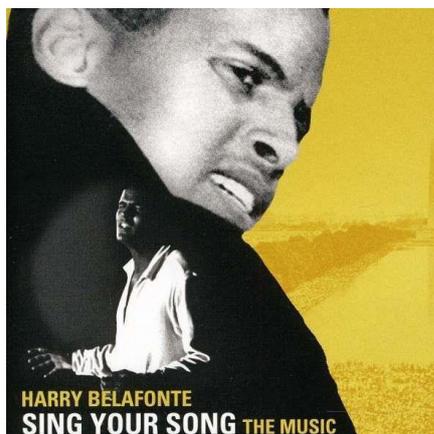
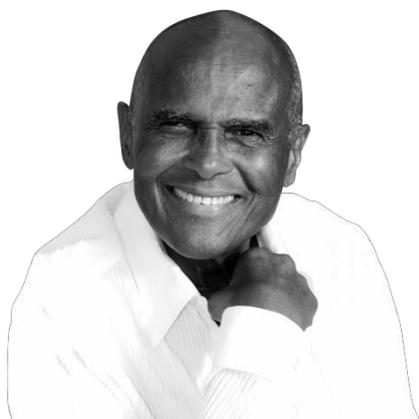
*"The masterworks of music give hope to the hopeless, courage to the sad, to the lonely the feeling of living in a community after all.
If you could put everyone in the world into a concert hall,
they would be peaceful, at least for two hours."*



Then let's turn our whole lives into a concert !

Harry Belafonte says:

“How can it be that there is so much chaos, disorder and violence in the world after so many have invested so much to change it? But I remain optimistic. Without optimism you can’t give hope a direction. The world needs hope. It needs a vision. And those of us who still have a spark of it, should communicate as much vision as they possibly can. In the years past, I have looked across our borders and have seen young people everywhere in the world who have recognized how much we need each other in our struggle. It will surely help us on our journey to know more about each other.”



Astrid Lindgren, whom we all know as the author of books for children and adolescents, was awarded the peace prize of the German book trade in 1978. In her acceptance speech she said:

"To speak about peace means to speak about something that does not exist. Genuine peace is nowhere to be found on this earth and has probably never existed except as a goal that we are evidently unable to achieve. For as long as we humans have lived on this planet, we have been indulging in violence and war, and the fragile peace that sometimes exists is constantly under threat. At this very moment, the whole world is in fear of a new war that will destroy us all. In the face of that threat, it is true to say that more people than ever before are working for peace and disarmament. That could be seen as a hope.

But it is so difficult to be hopeful. Politicians gather in their hordes for summit meetings and talk so animatedly in favour of disarmament, but only the disarmament they want other nations to undertake: Your country must disarm, not mine! Nobody wants to be the first to start disarming, nobody dares to start because everyone is so afraid and has so little faith in the aspirations for peace of others. And while one disarmament conference follows another, the reality is that rearmament is proceeding apace on a scale never before seen in the history of the world. It's not surprising that we're all afraid, whether we live ... in a country that is a great power or in a small neutral country. We know that a new major war would affect the whole of humanity, and it makes little difference if, at the end of it, I lie dead in a pile of ruins that is neutral or non-neutral.

After millennia of constant war, is it not time for us to ask ourselves if there is some inherent fault in the human condition? Are we doomed to perish as a result of our aggression? We all desire peace. So is there any possibility at all of our changing fundamentally before it's too late? Of our learning to distance ourselves from violence? Of our trying quite simply to become a new kind of human beings? But how could we go about that, and where should we start? I believe that we should start from the bottom. With the children.

The children of today will eventually take over the running of our world, if there is anything left of it. They are the ones who will make decisions concerning war and peace and the kind of

society they want to have – if they want a society in which violence continues to grow, or if they prefer one in which people live in peace and brotherhood?

Is there any hope at all that they will be able to create a more peaceful world than the one we have lumbered ourselves with? And why have we failed so badly despite all the good will that exists?

I recall how shocked I was when it dawned on me at an early age that the people governing the fate of our countries and the world at large were by no means gods with superior capabilities and divine perspicacity. They were human beings with the same human weaknesses as I had. But they had power, and at any given moment could make the most momentous decisions on the basis of whatever whim inspired them at the time. If things turned out badly, war could break out on the basis of a single person's lust for power or desire for revenge or vanity or greed, or – and this seemed to be the most common reason – an excessive belief in violence as the most effective remedy in all situations. Similarly, a single good and sensible person could sometimes avert catastrophe simply by being good and sensible, and refraining from violence.

There could only be one possible conclusion to draw: The fate of the world was decided by individual people. So why were they not all good and sensible? Was evil congenital in some people? I couldn't believe that, and I still don't think it is the case.

Intelligence and intellectual powers are congenital, but children are not born with a seed that automatically sprouts to develop into good or evil. What decides if a child is going to become a warm, open, trusting person with a propensity for communal feelings or a callous, destructive lone wolf is up to those who bring the child into the world and teach it the meaning of love – or fail to bring home to it what love entails.

"One only learns from the people one loves", said Goethe, and so it must be true. A child that is surrounded by love and loves its parents learns from them a loving attitude towards the whole of its environment and retains that attitude for the whole of its life. Which has to be a good thing, even if he or she never becomes one of the few who decide the fate of the world. But if that child, contrary to expectation, does become one of those who decide the fate of the world,

we can all be grateful if his or her nature tends to love rather than violence.

I should like to tell all those clamouring for a more rigorous approach and tighter reins what an old lady once told me. She was a young mother in the days when people still believed in the [Biblical] idea of, 'Spare the rod and spoil the child' – or rather, she didn't really believe in it, but one day when her little boy did something naughty, she decided he had to have a good hiding, the first one of his life. She told him to go out and find a suitably supple stick or rod for her to use. The little boy was away for a long time. He eventually came back in tears and announced: "I can't find a rod, but here's a stone you can throw at me." At which point his mother also burst into tears because it had suddenly dawned on her how her little boy must have regarded what was about to happen. He must have thought, 'My mum wants to hurt me, and she can do that just as well by throwing a stone at me.'

She threw her arms around him, and they spent some time crying together. Then she placed the stone on a shelf in the kitchen, and it stayed there as a permanent reminder of the promise she made to herself at that moment: NEVER VIOLENCE!

However, if we bring up our children without violence and on a loose rein, will we produce a new human being who will live in a state of eternal peace? Only authors of children's books could be simple enough to believe such a thing! I know full well that would be a utopia. And of course there are so many more things in our poor, ailing world that must also be changed if we are going to achieve peace. But at this point in time, even though no war is currently raging, there is so incredibly much cruelty and violence and repression going on in the world, and our children are most certainly not blind to it. They see and hear and read about it every day, and will no doubt end up by believing that violence is the natural state of affairs.

Is not the least we can do to show by example in our homes that there is another way of living our lives?

Perhaps it would be a good idea for all of us to have a little stone on a shelf in our kitchens as a permanent reminder for ourselves and our children: NEVER VIOLENCE!"



The laudatory speech was held by Hans-Christian Kirsch. At the end he said: "*We thank Astrid Lindgren not only for being there for the children, but also for throwing us adults into a salutary state of uneasiness.*"

Astrid Lindgren, too, asked us:

Couldn't we try to simply become a new kind of human beings?



Fulfillment of the Message: The world must be jolted out of its indifference to create a new world order under the auspices of the "United Peoples of the World." Only that way can their elected decision-makers deter the warmongers with the necessary authority or smother the flames of war and call the perpetrators to account – among others, the murderous religious fanatics of Al Qaeda, Boko Haram and ISIS etc. Demagogues and criminals like Hitler, Stalin, Mao or Pol Pot should never again be able to seize power. The implementation should be prepared by the **six commissions** (yet to be established) **of the “United Peoples of the World”** and brought into force by the latter. We already have the International Court of Justice in The Hague where those accused of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes must face charges. **It would be yet better if the experience and expertise of this international court and its judges were combined with the capabilities of an anti-war commission to prevent genocide and wars!**

Nelson Mandela said:

"It always seems impossible until you do it."

Carl Sandburg said:

"The tender flower growing upward has split and splintered many a stone."



For peace!

Ambassadors and Mediators: for example Noble peace prize winner and former U.S. President Barack Obama (because he still owes something for receiving this premature award), the Russian President Vladimir Putin (because he should do himself, his country and the entire world a favor) and Angela Merkel (because she should work to prevent crises and not only to manage them),



That's the way, boys – make up and take Nikita Khrushchev and John F. Kennedy as an example in memory of 1962!



But not that way! The poor dog!

Mikhail Gorbachev, Bill Clinton, Colin Powell, Henry Kissinger, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, Helmut Kohl, Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Gerhard Schröder, Joschka Fischer, John J. Mearsheimer, Kofi Annan, Desmond Tutu, Queen Elizabeth (as Head of the Commonwealth) and the successor to the British throne, King Abdullah II of Jordan, Ayatollah Khamenei, Hassan Rohani, Shimon Peres, Benjamin Netanyahu, Mahmud Abbas, Bashar al-Assad, the President of South Africa (also as the defender of the legacy of Nelson Mandela) as well as the heads of state of China, India (also as the preserver of the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi) as well as King Salman, Crown Prince Muqrin and Vice Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Naif (also to prevent a new oil war), the U.N. Secretary General, the International Court of Justice, Amnesty International, Doctors without Borders, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent, George W. Bush, Dick Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, Paul Wolfowitz (because they have already done good things, are still doing good things and can do more good - *or because they still have something to make up for*).



Game Participants - Role Models, Ambassadors and Mediators



V. Game Participants – Role Models, Ambassadors and Mediators as well as a New Constitution and New Decision-makers in the Government of the “United Peoples of the World”

We should view our planet as what it really is: A tiny little, but beautiful speck of dust in an incredibly large universe, on which it is worthwhile living and whose inhabitants are fighting for survival.



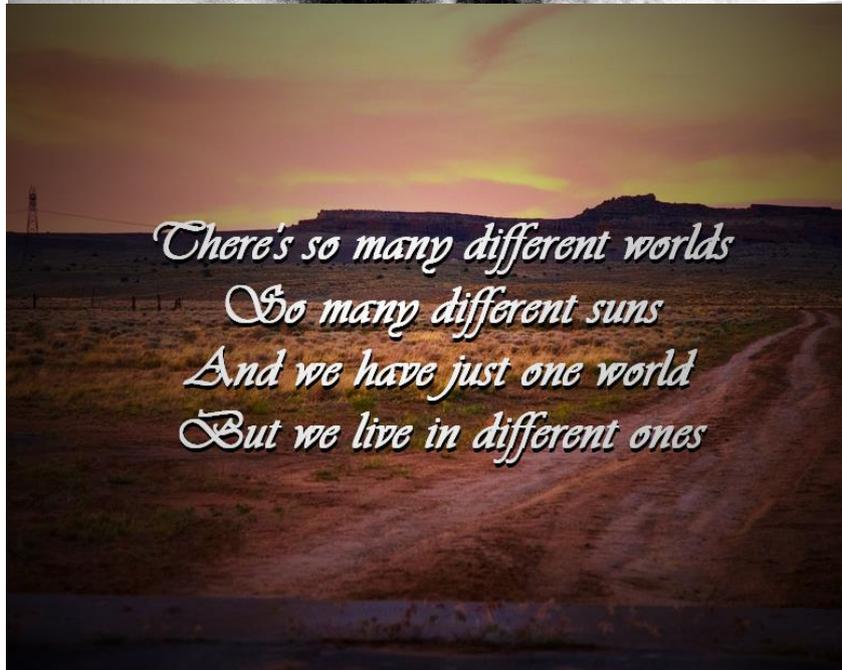
Hubble would say:

If you people could see what I see, you'd know how lucky you are on your tiny speck of dust.

I've been fascinated by my view of the infinity of the universe for 25 years now and have shared it with you. With all I've seen I can assure you, you will not find a more beautiful place within reach than Planet Earth.



Mark Knopfler sings in *Brothers in Arms*:



Sigourney Weaver says:

"Honestly now, what can our species do really well?"

We are slow, clumsy, vulnerable.

*Basically, we are little animals which can die out
or be eaten by stronger animals any time."*



Oskar says:

*"Actually, we are all just stupid little pests
circling around the sun on a small, blue sphere, obstinately and ignorantly."*



Oskar means us – *Homo sapiens!*

With this insight, our consciousness, our virtues and our abilities, and bringing to bear

- knowledge, imagination, creativity and curiosity
- reason, vision and wisdom
- openness, tolerance and solidarity as well as
- anger, compassion, benevolence and respect

we should be able to understand and internalize the central message, "For Love, Forgiveness, Sharing, Peace and Freedom" and live by it.

Cr7z and Absztrakkt say:

"The difference between knowledge and wisdom?

One is just knowing the path, the other following it."

"The best time for change is always now."



The ten messages of this primer could become the basis for a new "Constitution of the United Peoples of the World":

For a life on Earth in the "United Peoples of the World"

For love, forgiveness, sharing, peace and freedom

For one creed

For a fundamental right to education

For renewable energy

Against fossil energy

Against hunger and thirst

Against the abuse of religions

Against greed

Against war



Living in Harmony

Heraclitus: The most beautiful harmony arises from the unification of opposites.

If we jointly succeed in seeing the positive messages as opportunities and seizing them, we can eliminate all that is bad and evil on earth.

A new world government should be composed of representatives elected by the peoples of the world, who "serve" as role models in a global sense. At the end of their term of office, they should propose their successors.

The constitution and the decision-making power of the "United Peoples of the World" should combine the positive elements of the governmental systems of countries/organizations such as the following, but excluding their weaknesses:

- China and Russia with their ability to make decisions quickly, but with inadequate democratic rights of co-determination.
- USA, France and UK with fundamentally strong presidential systems, but paralyzing institutions (e.g. USA - Congress and House of Representatives mutually block each other due to alternating and polarizing majorities).
- The European Union as united states: formerly often adversaries – today 28 nations peacefully united with common democratic institutions and a single currency. What is still missing are unified and stable humanitarian, social and free-market structures and rules.
- Germany with historically conditioned division of powers, but too many regional elections in 16 *Länder*, which can block or prevent really important decisions due to shifting majorities in the *Bundesrat* [representative body of the federal states, the *Länder*], because these decisions need to be agreed upon.
- The United Nations: "*The U.N. is the conscience of the world,*" Kofi Annan, former Secretary General, once said. The U.N. was founded in 1945 with the aim of "preserving humanity from the scourge of war," as it says in the Charter. A noble aspiration upon which the organization has often run aground. The dream of peace is as burning an issue today as it was when the U.N. was founded just after World War II. While maintaining its positive values, the U.N. should be replaced by a government of the "United Peoples of the World" which is more assertive and more efficient at making decisions.

When a government of the "United Peoples of the World" is elected, it should be able to rigorously and resolutely govern in order to achieve the pinpointed goals - supported by a commission of experts on which equal representation is provided. That can prevent shabby political compromises from watering down factually correct decisions. If the voters do not agree, an unsuccessful world government under the auspices of the "United Peoples of the World" will be democratically voted out of office at the next election.

The
white
doves
are
NOT
tired!

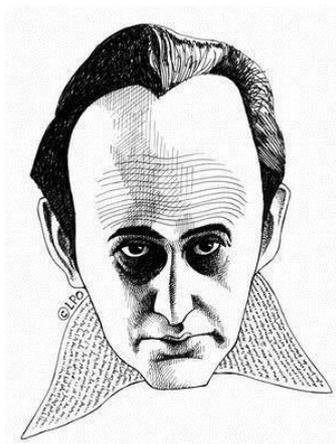


On Germany and its role in the world

Germany was the primary cause of two world wars and lost them. The people living in Germany are the guardians of cultural treasures created by their poets and thinkers as well as musical artists in centuries past. At the same time, they are eternally obligated to keep the memory of the hellishly cruel deeds in the concentration camps alive.

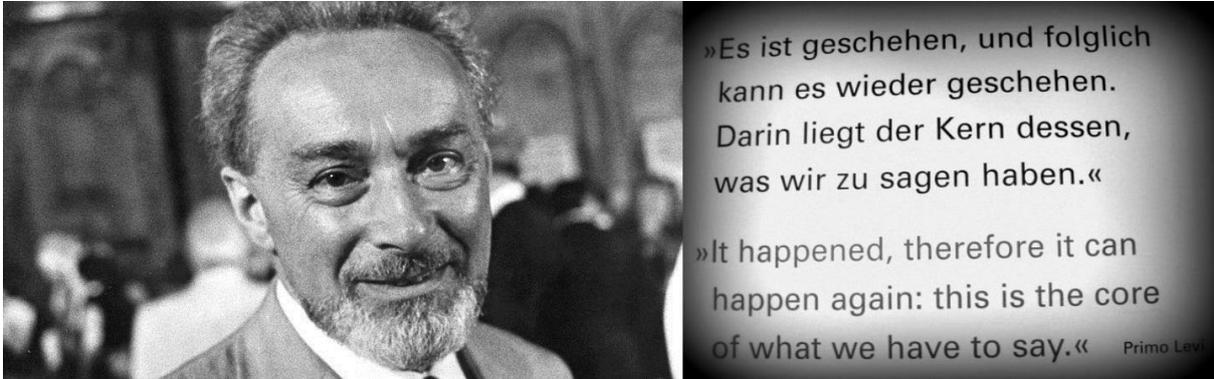
At the beginning of 1945, Paul Celan wrote the *Death Fugue* about the Holocaust:

*"Death is a master from Deutschland his eye is blue
he shoots you with leaden bullets his aim is true
there's a man in this house your golden hair Margarete
he sets his dogs on our trail he gives us a grave in the sky
he cultivates snakes and he dreams Death is a master from Deutschland
your golden hair Margarete
your ashen hair Shulamite."*



Primo Levi said:

*"It happened, therefore it can happen again:
This is the core of what we have to say."*



Primo Levi survived Auschwitz. His quote adorns the lobby of the Holocaust Memorial in Berlin which commemorates the six million European Jews murdered by the Nazi regime.

The architect Peter Eisenman said: *"The dimension and the scale of the Holocaust make any attempt to represent it with traditional means inevitably a hopeless undertaking. The monument attempts to develop a new idea of recollection."* The chairwoman of the society founded to promote the erection of this memorial

Lea Rosh says:

"We are deeply satisfied and happy that so many people have come here. We want to provide information; we don't want the murdered to be forgotten. The Holocaust Memorial is a grave of honor, a memorial grave, which is urgently needed since most of the murdered Jews have no graves of their own."

Iris Berben says:

"Interest in this dark chapter of our history is unfortunately declining. The best way to show respect for the murdered is to search for their names and make their biographies accessible once again. This builds a bridge between the past and the future. It is important not to see the past as a burden, but as an opportunity to be vigilant, to be strong in the face of pied pipers."

Anne Will says:

"Whoever enters the Room of Names will never forget it. There are few words to be heard there, and yet there is no end to the stories they tell. Names, birthplaces, the traces were lost at some point, but they always stand for an entire life. That's the idea of the Room of Names, to give the victims of the holocaust their history back. I deeply feel that we owe it to the victims not to forget them. The money we invest here is enormously important for our future."

Michael Verhoeven says:

"No one can undo the horror, the inconceivable that Germans did to the Jewish people. But every one of us can make at least a small contribution to giving the Jews, tortured and murdered by Germans, today, in better times, a token of our recognition and recollection. In the Room of Names we want to give them the very least we simply owe them: this sign that they are not forgotten!"



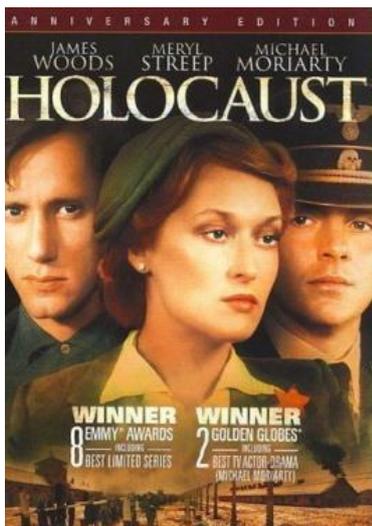
The U.S. docu-drama *Holocaust* made an important contribution to elucidating, and coming to terms with, the past. The four-part series calls upon us to keep the memory of this reign of terror alive.

In 1979, *Holocaust* was a ground-breaking TV event about the harrowing fate of a Jewish family in the Third Reich. The series tells the story of the persecution and extermination of the Jews in National Socialist Germany: The Jewish physician's family gets caught up in the killing machinery of the NS state while the lawyer Dorf enhances his influence and career. The film begins in 1935 in Berlin. Karl Weiss and Inga Helms are celebrating their wedding. Both are German citizens, but Karl is the son of a Jewish family. Shortly afterwards, the Nuremberg Laws are passed, making "mixed marriages", now considered a "*Rassenschande*" (lit. "racial disgrace"), punishable offenses. The Weiss family stays in Germany nevertheless. The horrors that the Nazis will commit against their Jewish fellow citizens, cannot yet be conceived. But then, the cruel persecution of the Jews begins with the "Night of the Broken Glass" on November 9th, 1938.

In the 1980s, *Holocaust* represented an important step for Germans in coming to grips with their history. It was the first fictional series on German television dealing with the annihilation of the Jews during the Nazi period. Up to then, the subject was dealt with only in documentaries and panel discussions. There was long and heated public debate before and following the 1979 broadcast as to whether such a subject should be shown in this form. These discussions made *Holocaust* not only a smash hit with the viewers, but a real media event in the course of which many critics who initially had reservations about it changed their opinions in light of the overwhelming success with the public. In the end, the series reached an audience of 15 million, far more than anything previously achieved by broadcast documentaries.

After three decades of difficulty in dealing with the subject and of largely tabooing many aspects of it, German viewers became so emotionally involved in the story that the broadcasting stations recorded 30,000 phone calls from deeply touched spectators – an overwhelming reaction showing the willingness of Germans to be confronted in this form with that unspeakably cruel chapter of their history. The personal story with its shocking details is used as a framework to outline the historical and socio-political context, while focusing in detail on significant events such as the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. The fact that the hell of the Shoah can ultimately not be depicted, least of all within the limitations of such a television series, does not exclude that such a film is obviously capable, in an emotional and yet mostly non-histrionic way, of keeping millions of people in Germany captivated in front of their television sets and of unleashing animated discussions which had previously ended in uneasy silence.

We recommend that this four-part series be repeated at regular intervals.



Gas chambers in the Majdanek concentration camp

The Germany people had surely incurred great guilt and had atoned for this. Today, Germany is among the most popular countries in the world. Against this background also Germany bears a major responsibility for a better and more peaceful world. Germany can set an example by proclaiming the 10 messages in this primer in the whole world and living by them!



A united country and a city without a wall!

Frank-Walter Steinmeier says:

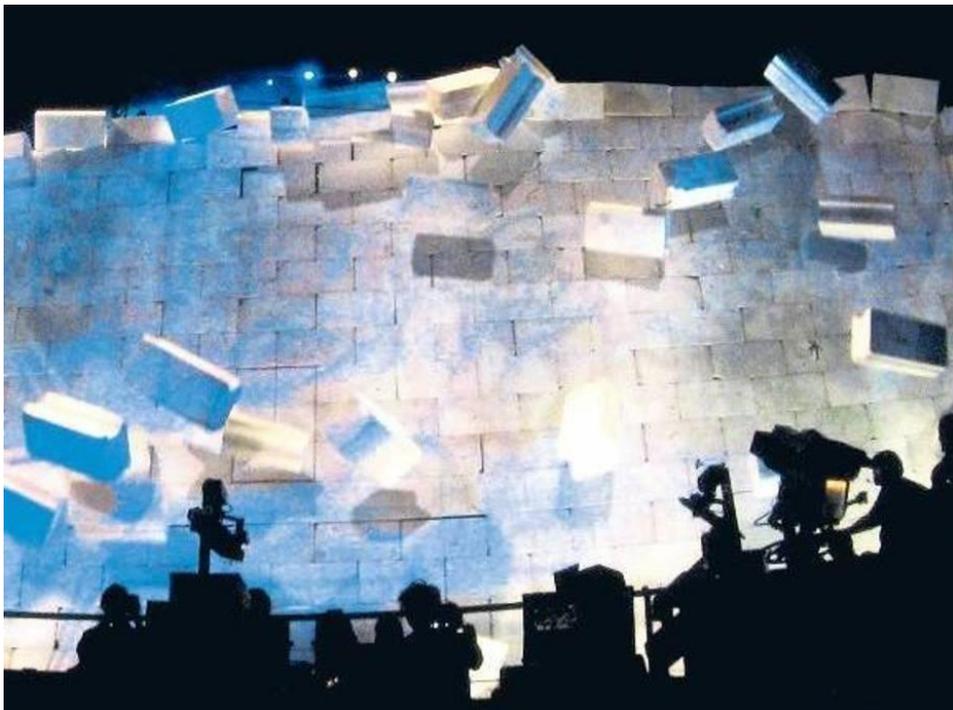
"Germany must take on more responsibility. In matters of foreign and security policy, Germany must be prepared to make a contribution sooner, more resolutely and more substantially."



Joachim Gauck said at the beginning of 2014: *This is a good Germany, the best we have ever known.*

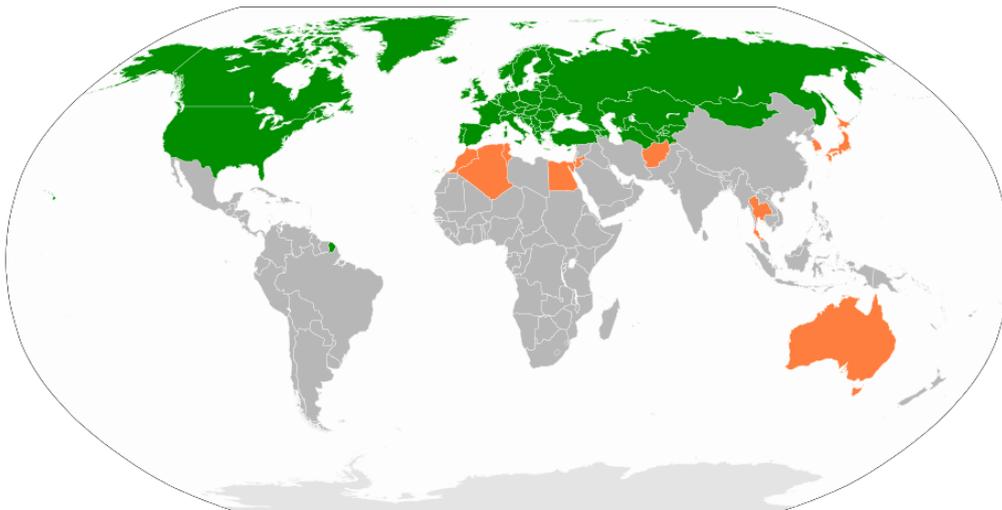
Roger Waters added at the end of 2015:

"In the past we wanted a wall to be safe from the Germans and to keep them at a distance. Okay, respect had been there for quite some time: the flourishing industry, the Greens, and so forth. But as human beings? Now that has changed, even the few crazy skinheads in Dresden can't destroy this harmony and the reputation of the Germans, because every country has such people."



Germany took over the chairmanship for the OSCE (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe) for 2016. Since the signing of the Final Act of Helsinki in August 1975, the OSCE has been an institution committed to conflict avoidance and peace keeping. All of the European states as well as Russia are among the 57 participating countries. Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier was the chairman for 2016. At the beginning of January 2016 he said: *“We are probably confronting the most serious threat to peace and security in Europe since the end of the Cold War. Germany is ready to take responsibility. We have set ourselves ambitious goals for the period of our OSCE chairmanship: To me, it is important that we work hard to renew the dialogue and at the same time do not shy away from calling violations of the OSCE principles and of international law by name. We must do everything in our power to rebuild lost trust in Europe. Only on the basis of trust will it be possible to again create a stable security order in Europe. As chairman in office, I will commit myself to this goal.”*

Today, Germany plays a major role in international politics. With the reputation it has gained, its influence has grown, and the country is now able to bring the quarrelers to the negotiating table and help them jointly find solutions. The continent must be held together, and escalations at its periphery and in its center must be prevented. We will know if the three aims - *renew dialogue, rebuild trust, reestablish security* - have been achieved when the foreign ministers of the participating states meet in December 2016 in Hamburg.



Member and partner countries of the OSCE

Time Magazine wrote in December 2015:

“Germany has spent the past 70 years testing antidotes to its toxically nationalist, militarist, genocidal past. Merkel brandished a different set of values – humanity, generosity, tolerance – to demonstrate how Germany’s great strength could be used to save, rather than destroy.”



The U.S. news magazine selected German chancellor Angela Merkel as "Person of the Year 2015". This honor is accorded to people who have most changed or moved the world in the year ending - whether positively or negatively.

The object of this tribute would surely have been happier about the award if those who came in second and third had made the world better and more just. But what does it say about our world when the following places are occupied by ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi and U.S. presidential candidate Donald Trump?

Where are, for example, the leaders of the U.N. veto powers – China, France, Russia, the UK and the USA? *Time Magazine's* explanation for awarding the German chancellor was: She deserves the award for asking more of her country than most politicians would dare, for standing firm against tyranny as well as expedience and for providing steadfast moral leadership in a world where it is in short supply. **Together we must make it clear to world decision-makers that we will follow them when they show courage, venture to do something and join forces with the aim of improving life on our planet as a whole.**

In an initiative launched by Lea Rosh and André Schmitz, more than 70 personalities from the fields of culture, society and politics sent an open letter to Chancellor Angela Merkel in February 2016 to support her asylum and refugee policies.

Lea Rosh says:

“We must support the Chancellor in her efforts for an open Europe based on solidarity, and assure her of our solidarity.”

André Schmitz says:

“In view of what we have experienced in European history, the future cannot only be about not erecting new borders, but must be about preserving a Europe of diversity on the basis of common values. The true friends of Europe are called upon, now more than ever, to defend what we have achieved so far.”



The wording of the open letter:

Mrs. Chancellor!

You have changed our country. People no longer fear Germany, to the contrary: People want to come to Germany. After the horrors, the atrocities that issued from Germany, it is a wonderful new experience for us, too. Ruth Klüger, who survived the holocaust, spoke so impressively in the German Bundestag on January 27, 2016, about her astonishment ("Verwunderung"), which then turned into admiration ("Bewunderung"): "That was the main reason why I was delighted to accept your invitation... to speak about the terrible crimes of the past.– here, where a completely different, an exemplary image has arisen... under the modest-sounding and yet heroic slogan: We can manage this." Mrs. Chancellor, we wish you strength and success for the coming negotiations. Europe, this new Germany and the refugees need you!

From 1990 to today, the reunification of Germany has cost more than 1.5 trillion euros. This investment was worthwhile in every respect - in financial, cultural, social, as well as in purely human terms. Anyone who looks at and assesses Germany from abroad agrees. **How much more valuable the whole world could become for each of us if we were able to invest in peace and freedom on our Earth with long-lasting effect!**

Gesine Schwan says:

"Dear Germany, have a little more confidence in yourself!"

"For me, people are equal in their dignity, but not in their opportunities in life.

There are terrible discrepancies. The whole purpose of politics is to even these out as far as possible. The name of the game is equal opportunity."



The ambassadors and mediators proposed in this primer could also work together as elected members of the following commissions of the "United Peoples of the World":

- Anti-War Commission
- Commission on Faith
- Food and Agriculture Commission
- Climate Protection and Energy Commission
- Educational Commission
- Ethics Commission

with the support of the joint committees of experts assigned to each commission.

Where and who are the role models and personalities who, as world politicians, jointly negotiate binding treaties that promote the common good?

Günter Bentele says:

"Protagonists are perceived as credible if they can be expected or have proven themselves to be correct, true and consistent in their statements or their entire communicative action."



Let us reflect on living and departed role models from different areas who can serve as orientation.

- **Konrad Adenauer** with his "Westpolitik", **Willy Brandt** with his *Ostpolitik* and **Mikhail Gorbachev** with *Glasnost* and *Perestroika* were the pioneers of German reunification, which **Helmut Kohl**, after the fall of the Berlin Wall, drove forward with assertiveness and his "10-Point-Plan" in 1989.



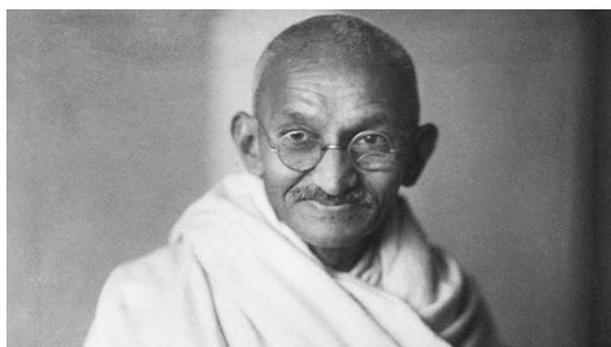
- ***Helmut Schmidt and Valéry Giscard d'Estaing*** - As ardent promoters of European unity in the 1970s, they laid the cornerstone for the European Union and a single currency.



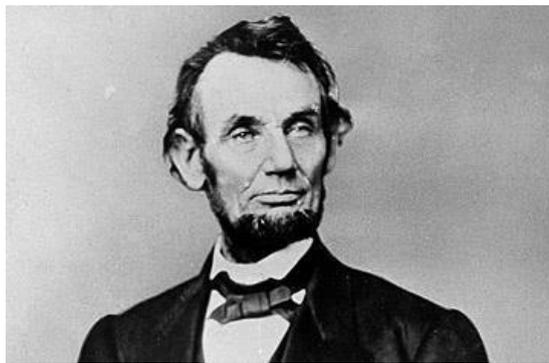
- ***Nelson Mandela*** ended Apartheid in South Africa peacefully with his policy of reconciliation and forgiveness as well as his charisma and disarming smile. After his death in December 2013, he was compared with Mahatma Gandhi and Abraham Lincoln.



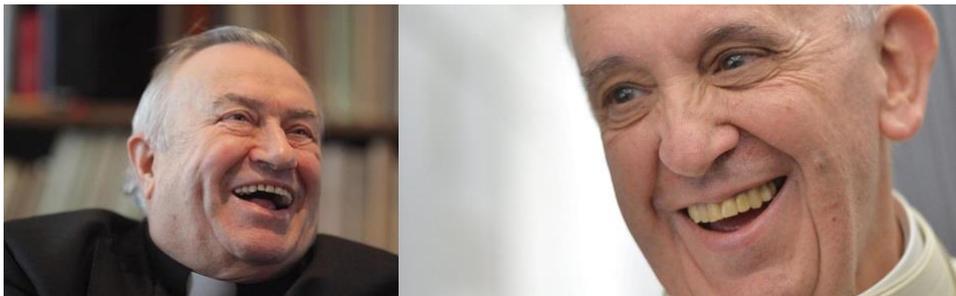
- ***Mahatma Gandhi*** – The man of slight physical stature from India lead an immense country of 400 million people at the time into independence thanks to his truthfulness and nonviolence, but also to his slyness and tenacity.



- **Abraham Lincoln** successfully abolished slavery in the USA. Under his government, the country embarked on the path of becoming a centrally governed, modern industrial nation, creating the basis for its ascendancy to world power in the 20th century.



- **Karl Lehmann und Francis** – In all modesty they found the door to reconciliation and were able to open it. By passing through it, we will tread the path of enlightenment leading to a common faith which we have sought for so long and can practice **voluntarily**.



Neighbors - not only in Heaven!

- **Anja Niedringhaus** – As a war correspondent, she furnished us conclusive evidence that wars are a deadly poison. Her courage cost the 48-year-old reporter her life. She was shot by a policeman in Afghanistan in April 2014. She was the first German woman to receive the Pulitzer Prize, for her photo reporting from Iraq. Her photography shows the most diverse and horrible facets of people living in conflict areas.



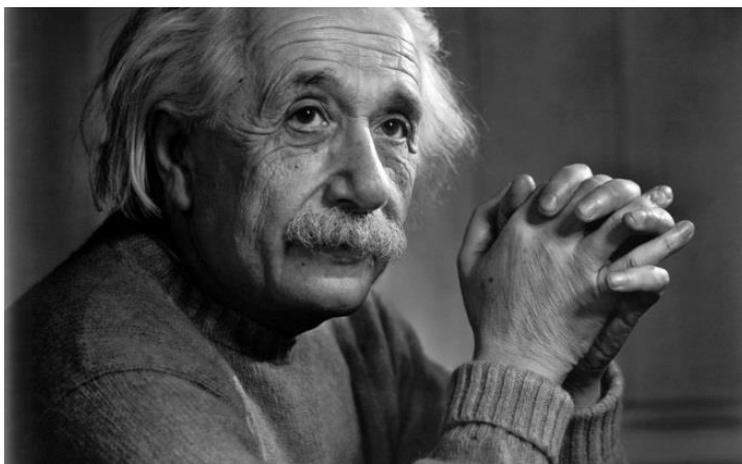
- **Peter Scholl-Latour** – As a journalistic role model, he knew the rogues and the rebels of the world and presented them to us – in his characteristic way of speaking – on the screens in our living rooms. Whether as a German or a Frenchman, he was always, beyond that, a European and citizen of the world.



- **Moritz Julius Bonn** – He recognized and said that capitalism must serve society.



- **Albert Einstein** – The unforgettable nuclear physicist and inventor of the theory of relativity ($E = m \times c^2$) remains memorable also because of his quotes. Among these in particular: *"The meaning of life does not consist in being a successful person, but a valuable one."* *"If at first the idea is not absurd, then there is no hope for it."* *"Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited to all we now know and understand, while imagination embraces the entire world."* *"Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity; and I'm not sure about the universe."*



- **Alfred Nobel** – The inventor of dynamite was already famous in his own lifetime. But he achieved worldwide fame after his death. In his will, the childless chemist, inventor and industrialist bequeathed his entire fortune of some 31 million Swedish crowns to a foundation. The interest earnings of this foundation were to be allocated "as prizes to those who in the year past had contributed the most benefit to mankind." Nobel's will was carried out for the first time in 1901. Since that time, the Nobel Prize is the most famous and most important award in science and society.



- **Bertha von Suttner** – In 1876, Alfred Nobel met the Austrian pacifist Bertha von Suttner, who then worked for him for a short time as his private secretary. Nobel admired von Suttner's commitment as a pacifist. She encouraged the industrialist to create a peace prize, and in 1905, she became the first woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. Bertha von Suttner died seven days before the outbreak of World War I.



- **'Abdu'l-Bahá** was born in Teheran in 1844. Although he never attended school, he was well-read and author of various writings himself. He could read and write Persian, Arabic and Turkish. 'Abdu'l-Bahá spent most of his life with his father and his family in prison and exile. It is said he was finally freed at the age of 64, in 1908. In 1910, 'Abdu'l-Bahá began a long lecture tour which took him to Egypt, Europe and the USA. In Vienna he met, among other people, the later Nobel Peace Prize winner Bertha von Suttner. His followers describe him as a champion of peace, religious tolerance, social justice, women's rights and racial equality. His many speeches were written down and published in book form. In recognition of his humanitarian commitment during World War I, 'Abdu'l-Bahá was dubbed Knight of the British Empire in 1920.



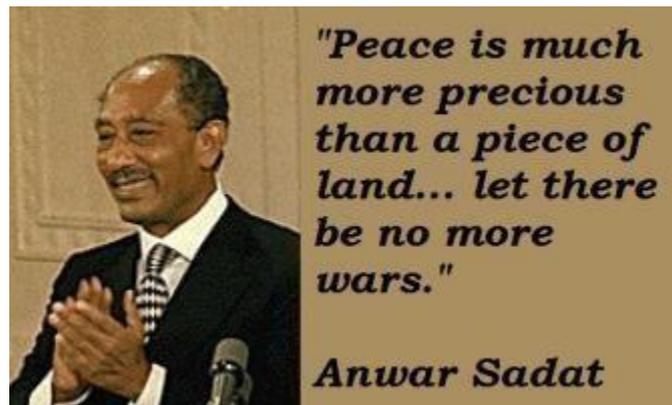
- **Oskar Schindler** wore a ring with the engraving: "Whoever saves one life, saves the entire world." The Jews on "Schindler's list" gave him the ring with this Talmud saying engraved on it. Made of real dental gold, the ring was all they had on May 8, 1945 to thank Schindler for saving their lives. This famous list had on it the names of 1,200 people who consequently survived the atrocities of the Nazis. *"The list is an absolute good. The list is life. All around its margins lies the gulf."*



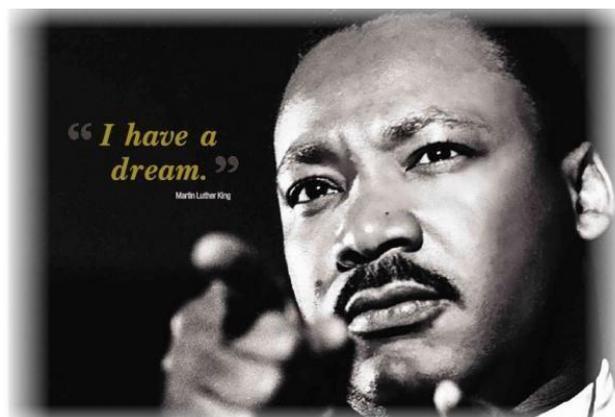
- **John F. Kennedy and Nikita Khrushchev** agreed in 1962 that a possible third world war, unleashed due to the threat of stationing Russian nuclear missiles on Cuba, had to be prevented at all costs, because the use of atomic weapons from both sides would have had catastrophic consequences for the planet.



- **Muhammad Anwar al-Sadat** was an Egyptian statesman. As president he led Egypt into the Yom Kippur War against Israel in 1973. Sadat later loosened the country from its close ties to the Soviet Union and concluded a peace treaty with Israel in 1979. Together with Menachem Begin he received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1978 for his efforts in the peace process with Israel. Sadat's policy of reconciliation with Israel was his downfall: In 1980, he was assassinated by fanatical opponents of his policy.



- **Martin Luther King** was an American Baptist pastor and civil rights activist. He was among the most important proponents of the fight against social repression and racism. He promoted civil disobedience in the 1960s as a tool against the political practice of racial segregation in the Southern States of the USA and participated personally in these actions. His commitment and fervor unleashed a mass movement which ultimately succeeded in having racial segregation abolished and introducing the unlimited right to vote for the black population of the South. Martin Luther King received the Nobel Peace Prize prize in 1964 for his work. King was assassinated in April 1968.



- **Albert Schweitzer** was a German-French physician, Protestant theologian, organist, philosopher and pacifist. He founded a hospital in Lambaréné in Gabun in Central Africa. His numerous and well-regarded works include theological and philosophical treatises, essays on music and autobiographical writings. In 1953, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 1952, which he then received in 1954.



- **Max Schmeling and Joe Louis:** When they fought each other for the first time in 1936 and Schmeling achieved his fabled victory, no one would have guessed that the two legendary boxers of different skin colors would remain friends until the end of their days.



- **Jesse Owens and Luz Long** – an example of tolerance and fair play. In the *Neue Leipziger Zeitung* of August 11, 1936, the following news appeared: "The battle of colors is over. *Black was the best, irrefutably the best with 19 centimeters ahead of white.*" The entry was extraordinary, courageous and extremely dangerous. In the battle of colors, the white athlete Luz Long was the loser. Jesse Owens, the black competitor, was the winner. But later, whenever Owens described how he had become one of the greatest Olympic heroes, he never forgot to mention the other contender, his spiritual brother, who was supposed to defeat him, so to speak by orders of the *Führer*, to prove the superiority of the Arian race. Instead they became friends, right under the eyes of Adolf Hitler. Owens later said: "You can melt down all the medals and cups I have and they wouldn't be a plating on the 24-carat friendship that I felt for Luz Long at that moment. Hitler must have gone crazy when we embraced each other."



- **The World champions in Soccer of 1954 – Fritz Walter, Helmut Rahn** and the rest of the team, with their fighting spirit, passion and will to win, gave us such a splendid powerful kick on our way toward the economic miracle after World War II.



- **Udo Lattek and Johan Cruyff** – By now, soccer is also played in Heaven.



- **Udo Jürgens** loved and enjoyed his life. With his sophisticated, pioneering texts and catchy melodies, he left us a musical legacy we will remember for a long time to come.



- **Roger Willemsen** – He met people on an equal footing. He lived in the here and now and knew how to enjoy the moment. He was awesomely intelligent, delightfully witty and extremely charming. He didn't care about borders, whether political, geographical or social borders.



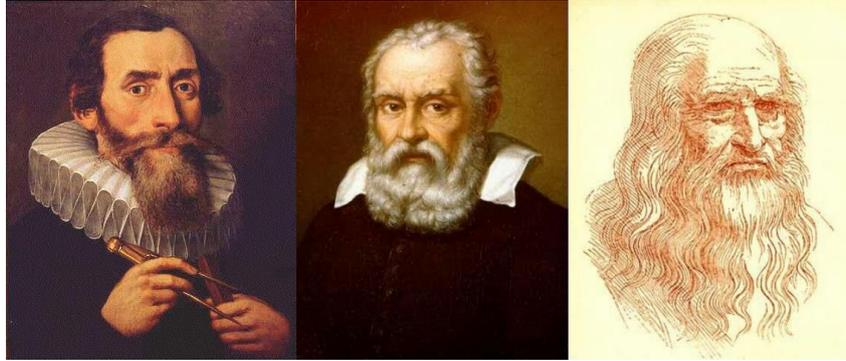
- *Janis Joplin, Amy Winehouse, Jimmy Hendrix, Jim Morrison, John Lennon, Elvis Presley, Bob Marley, Joe Cocker, Freddy Mercury, Kurt Cobain, Jon Lord, Rory Gallagher and Michael Jackson* – because they revolutionized not only the world of music in their often very short lives.



- *Johann Sebastian Bach, Ludwig van Beethoven and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart* left us a musical legacy for all eternity.



- Universal geniuses like **Kepler, Galilei and da Vinci** have taught us: The Earth is not a disk nor is it the center of the universe or even of our planetary system. But for us it is a livable place which is worth preserving - as long as our sun shines and bequeaths its power to us.



- **Johannes Kepler** was a German polymath and lived from 1571 to 1630. As a mathematician, astronomer and astrologer, he discovered, among other things, the laws of planetary motion.
- **Galileo Galilei** – Born in 1564, his discoveries changed the entire world. He announced his most important research results in 1615: The planets revolve around the sun and the sun is at the center of the system. People previously assumed that the sea was the beginning of the end of the world and that the Earth was the central element of the universe. Galilei's discoveries were not acknowledged by the church until 1757 and taken off the Index only in 1835.
- **Leonardo da Vinci** lived from 1452 to 1519. He was a painter, sculptor, architect, musician, mechanic, engineer, philosopher and scientist. The universal genius is famous for the Mona Lisa, his anatomical drawings and his study of proportions, *The Vitruvian Man*. In addition to art, various inventions contributed to his fame, among them the parachute and the diver's suit. With many of his inventions, Leonardo was a visionary.

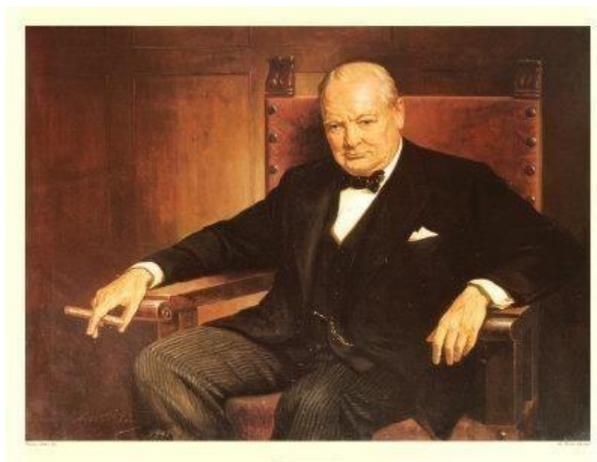
- **Matthias Claudius** – The great German poet of “*Der Mond ist aufgegangen*” died 200 years ago. He wrote a poem that ends as follows: “*God grant me each day only what I need to live. He provides for the sparrow on the roof. Why should he not provide for me?*”



- **Goethe, Schiller und Shakespeare** – because they wrote even better than **Marcel Reich-Ranicki** critiqued.



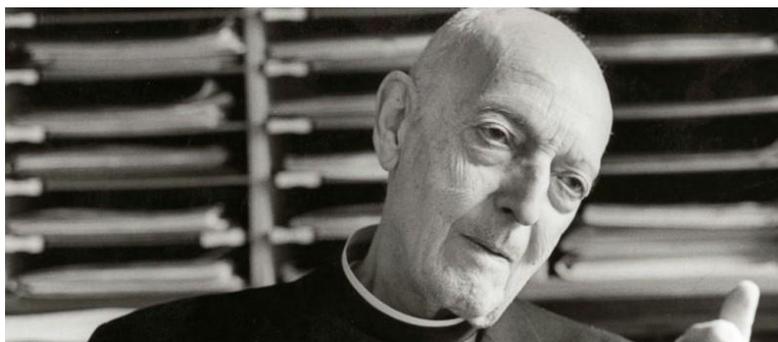
- **Winston Churchill** stood as a bulwark against Hitler. Together with the Allies, he freed the German people and the world from the nightmare of fascism in World War II. He was a dazzling figure who left his mark on the last century - with ups and downs as well as depressive phases in periods when he was not serving in government. Winston Churchill today would build bridges, especially between Islam and Christianity, which he considered equal. As Prime Minister in October 1940, Churchill approved the plan for a Mosque in the center of London and made 100,000 pounds available to build it.



- ***Pierre Teilhard de Chardin***, French Jesuit and scientist, lived from 1881 to 1955. His particular interests were philosophy, anthropology, geology and paleontology. After decades of scientific research (he lived and researched for many years in China) he developed “unorthodox theological views” and therefore clashed with the Catholic Church, which banned the publication of his works and even saw to it that he was exiled from France. He then lived in the USA. His books were published only after his death, and millions of copies were sold.



- ***Oswald von Nell-Breuning*** was a professor and Jesuit priest and one of the leading critical commentators on and catalysts for the economic and social policies of the early Federal Republic of Germany. He was a bridge-builder between Catholicism and the Trade Unions as well as the Social Democrats, and, as a long-time "Nestor" of the Catholic code of social ethics, also a critical voice in debates within the Church. At the same time he played an important role as a political intellectual who was competent in the fields of social science, economy, jurisprudence, philosophy and theology. He had considerable influence on the social and economic development of the Federal Republic as an industrial society organized as a welfare state and based on the rule of law.



- **Siegfried Lenz** is among those authors who had – and have to this day – a forming influence on German literature after the Second World War. In his works *The Heritage* and *Training Ground*, among others, Siegfried Lenz time and again explored social problems and Germany's difficult recent history. And we still recall his words: *"Those who fail to act are anything but free of guilt. Remaining indifferent will save no one's purity."* *"Creation can be destroyed by our contempt and our egoism"*. *"We cannot obtain peace if we do not take care to remedy the misery of the third world"*.



- **Ulrich Beck** – The catchword "risk society" made him famous. Ulrich Beck died in January 2015 at the age of seventy. His book *Risk Society* was translated into 35 languages. It deals with the risks we have produced ourselves and which elude the existing safety mechanisms. In the book *World Risk Society* of 2007, he described them as global risks characterized by four features: de-localization, incalculableness, non-compensability and not-knowing.



- *Audrey Hepburn, James Dean, Marlene Dietrich, Charlie Chaplin, Marlon Brando, Lino Ventura, Greta Garbo, Paul Newman, Jean Gabin, Rock Hudson, Elisabeth Tayler, Richard Burton and Romy Schneider – because they brought us pleasure and have inspired us to reflect.*



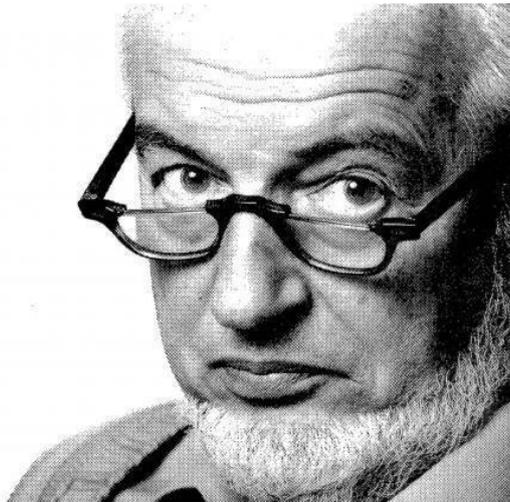
- **Charlie Rivel** – because with his clownery and humor, he could make people laugh, even when they were down in the dumps.



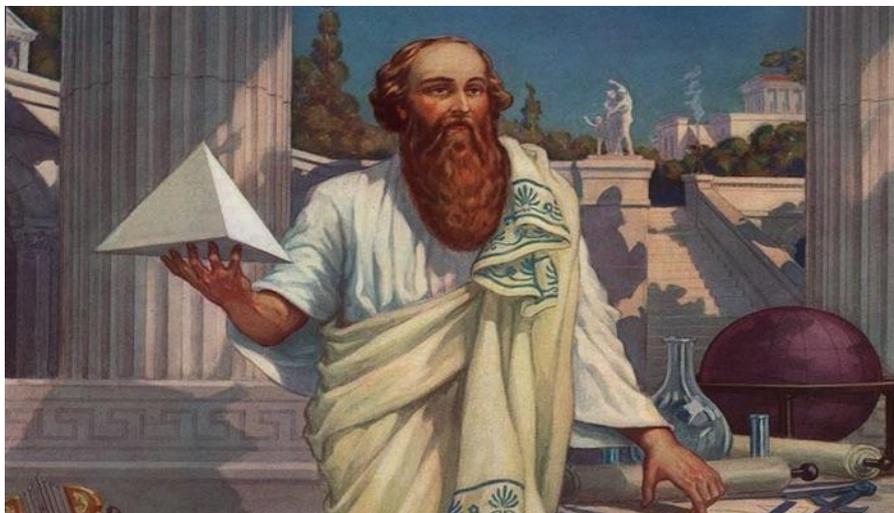
- **Alfred Hitchcock, Stanley Kubrik, Ernst Lubitsch, Billy Wilder, Ingmar Bergmann, Luchino Visconti, Sergio Leone, François Truffaut, Richard Attenborough, Elia Kazan, Federico Fellini, Howard Hawks and Sergei M. Eisenstein** – because they made sure that the actors provided marvelous and sophisticated entertainment for us.



- **Hoimar von Ditfurth** explained the world in a simple but exciting way. In his books *Im Anfang war der Wasserstoff* ["In the beginning was hydrogen"], *Der Geist fiel nicht vom Himmel* ["The mind did not come out of a clear blue sky"], *Children of the Universe* and *The Origins of Life - Evolution as Creation*, he describes the chaotic and incredible creation of the universe, of the Earth, of life, and the evolution of our consciousness. He investigated the question of how the theory of evolution can be reconciled with religious ideas.



- **Pythagoras** lived 580–495 BC. In his philosophy of nature, the harmony and order of numbers were the essence and structure of all things. He knew that the Earth was spherical. As a mathematician he developed the geometrical formula for calculating the surface of right-angled triangles ($a^2+b^2=c^2$).



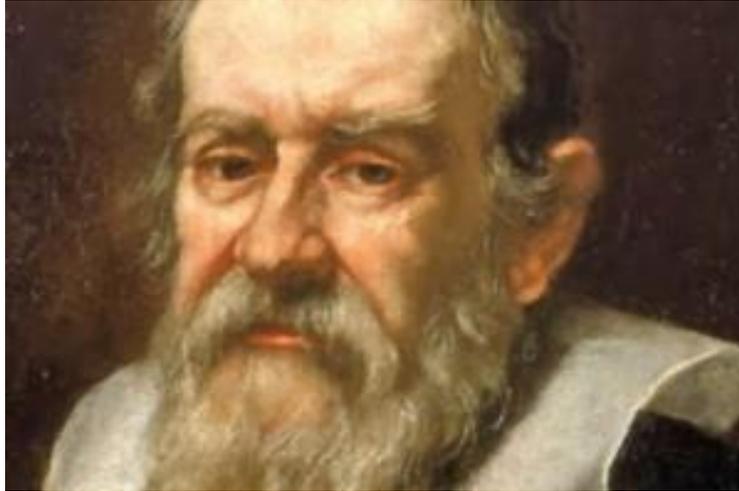
- **Confucius** lived 551-479 BC and taught the five virtues (kindness, righteousness, truthfulness, loyalty and wisdom) and three social obligations (rectitude, morality, respect).



- **Huan Kuan** lived in the first century BC. This Chinese was far ahead of his time. He compared traditions in different cultures, essential for mutual understanding based on the teachings of Confucius, and very instructive – at any time.



- **Ptolemy** lived 87-150 AD. He was a skeptic, an all-round genius and, in addition to being a philosopher, also a mathematician, geographer, astronomer and astrologer. As such, he developed the geocentric system that was considered valid in the Middle Ages. In addition, Ptolemy wrote a comprehensive work consisting of 13 volumes on mathematics and astronomy.



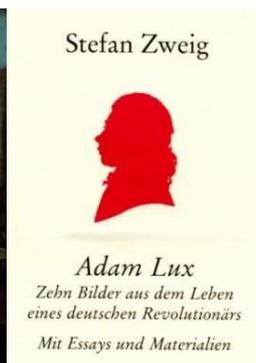
- **Martin Luther** was a reformer and the founder of Protestantism. In his 95 theses (which he nailed to a church portal in Wittenberg in 1517) Martin Luther objected to letters of indulgence, buying of ecclesiastical offices, pilgrimages and mortifications. Luther translated the Bible into German in just 11 weeks.



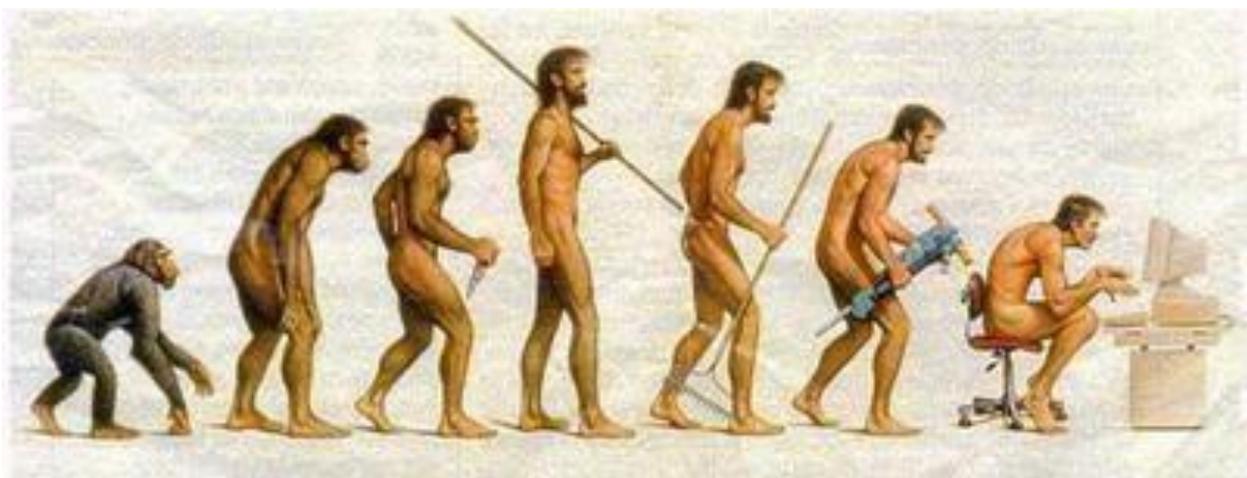
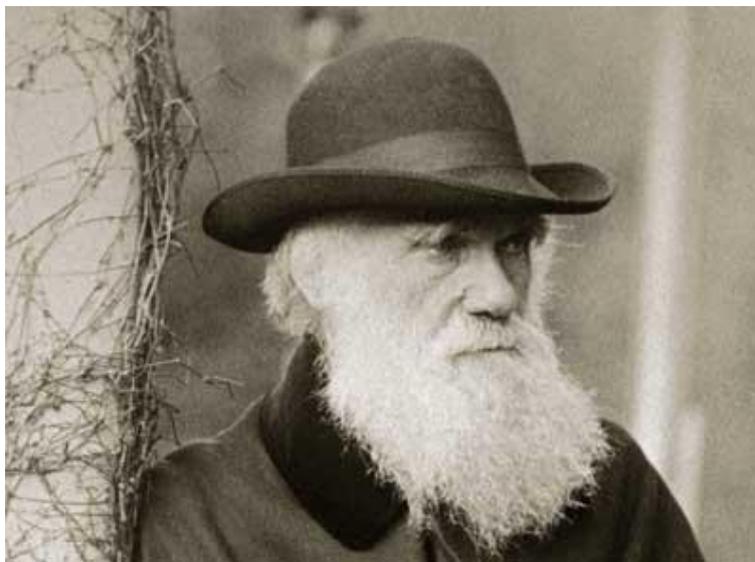
- **Voltaire** was a French author and a philosopher of the Enlightenment who lived from 1694 to 1778. He was the greatest intellectual authority in Europe of his day: "Knowledge instead of belief" was his maxim, which meant that claims had to be supported by empirical evidence. He fought for religious freedom, tolerance and human dignity and advocated the separation of Church and State.



- **Adam Lux** – Born in 1765, he went to Mainz when he was seventeen years old to study philosophy. In 1792, he left for Paris as a deputy to represent the interests of the Rhineland republicans at the National Convention there. However, the revolution devours its children. Adam Lux witnessed the cruel confirmation of this famous saying about the French Revolution on the streets of Paris. Liberty had become despotism, equality had become intolerance, fraternity had become murderousness. He saw only one way to reactivate the fundamental values of the revolution: by suicide on the guillotine. Lux provoked his own death by distributing pamphlets against the radical Jacobins' reign of terror. His macabre plan succeeded, and soon thereafter he was arrested and executed. Even his contemporaries saw Adam Lux as a "martyr of truth." We owe thanks to Stefan Zweig for retrieving the tragic life and failure of this German democrat from oblivion.



- **Charles Darwin** – In the 19th century Darwin made the essential contributions to the theory of evolution which to this day is considered to be the explanation for the emergence and development of life. The foundations for the theory of evolution were laid: Living beings progress in their development by gene mutation. Positive changes prevail, negative developments are doomed to extinction. The survivors of a species are those best adapted to their environment. Since the environment changes gradually, the type of survivors also changes, which leads to evolution. Darwin published his discoveries in *On the Origin of Species*. The book was sold out the very day it appeared in 1859.



- **Karl Valentin, Rudi Carrell, Heinz Erhard, Dieter Hildebrandt and Loriot** amused us and set us thinking – with cultivated humor, intelligent wordplay, charm and social criticism. They were also able to make such marvelous fun of themselves.



- **Harry Valerien and Bruno Moravetz** – The two unforgettable sports commentators entertained us with their professional obsession and got us to shape up with exercises in wit and charm.



- **Peter Ustinov** – because he made us dissolve into tears, both from laughing and from crying.



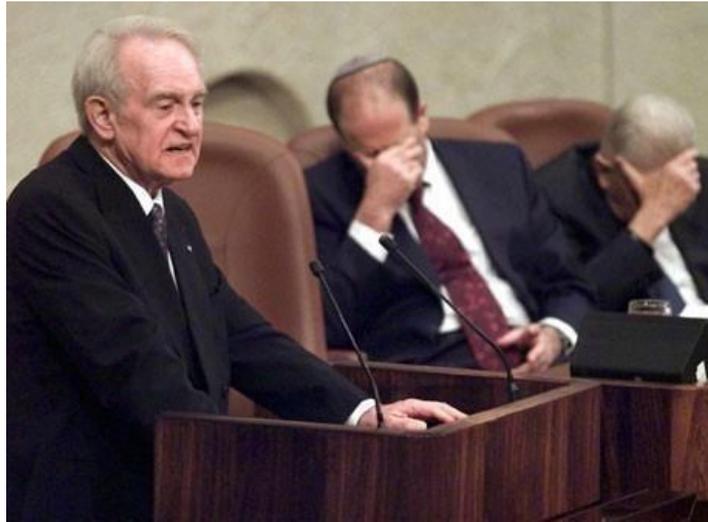
- **Audrey Hepburn** withdrew from the stage after several successful films such as *Breakfast at Tiffany's* and *My Fair Lady*, and devoted herself to charitable causes. She travelled all over the world to support the U.N. Children's Fund UNICEF. She visited disaster and famine areas and used her fame for people in need. For that reason she was made Special Ambassador for UNICEF in 1988.



- **Heinz Sielmann** – From the early sixties on and for over three decades, the maker of award-winning wildlife films brought the beauty and fragility of the wilderness into the living rooms of German TV viewers. He was thus instrumental in sensitizing us to the importance of nature conservation. Heinz Sielmann also devoted himself to environmental education by making his knowledge and abilities available to schools. For generations of students, many of his educational and documentary films have become the most memorable moments in nature study.



- **Johannes Rau** loved people and lived by the motto, "Reconcile, don't divide". Peace in the Middle East and reconciliation with Israel was close to Rau's heart. He shaped a new image of Germany in Israel. His speech in February 2000 as German President in the Knesset, when, in tears, he asked Israel's forgiveness for the crimes of the Nazis, was as important for Germany as Willy Brandt's act of kneeling down at the Warsaw Ghetto memorial.



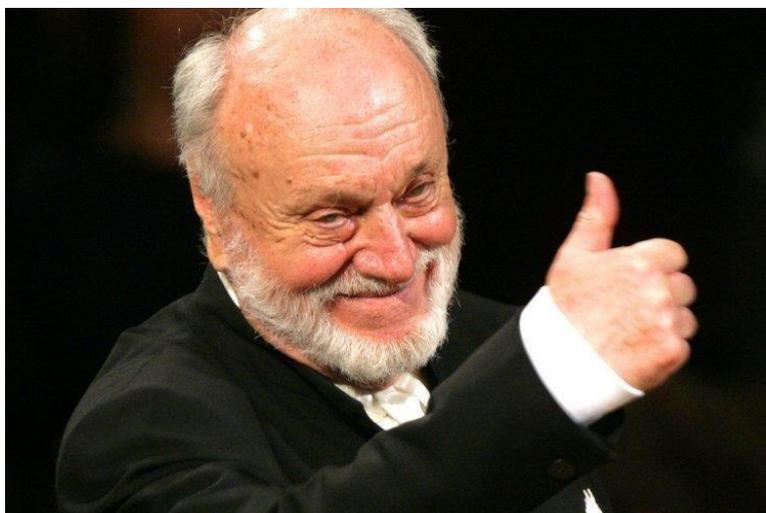
- **Richard von Weizsäcker** – Addressing the *Bundestag*, he passionately reminded the Germans that the day of capitulation, May 8, 1945, was also the day of liberation for Germany. Despite opposition, he called for reconciliation across the political spectrum. In doing so, he helped lay the foundation of trust on the way to German reunification. The great humanist doubtlessly had a forming influence on 20th century Germany.



- **Klaus Bednarz** was a relentless journalist and carried the torch for humanitarian behavior between individuals and for environmental protection. He was an anchor for everyone committed to human rights, freedom and justice as well as a pioneer in investigative journalism based on thorough research. He was credible as no one else was in this business, with his distinctive, courageous and often outspoken manner, whether as a foreign correspondent in Warsaw and Moscow or as a special correspondent who brought the beauty of nature to us in our living rooms. In November 1992, speaking as the face of the political magazine program *Monitor*, Klaus Bednarz stood on a stage in Cologne before 100,000 people and called out: "**Nazis, piss off. No one will miss you!**"



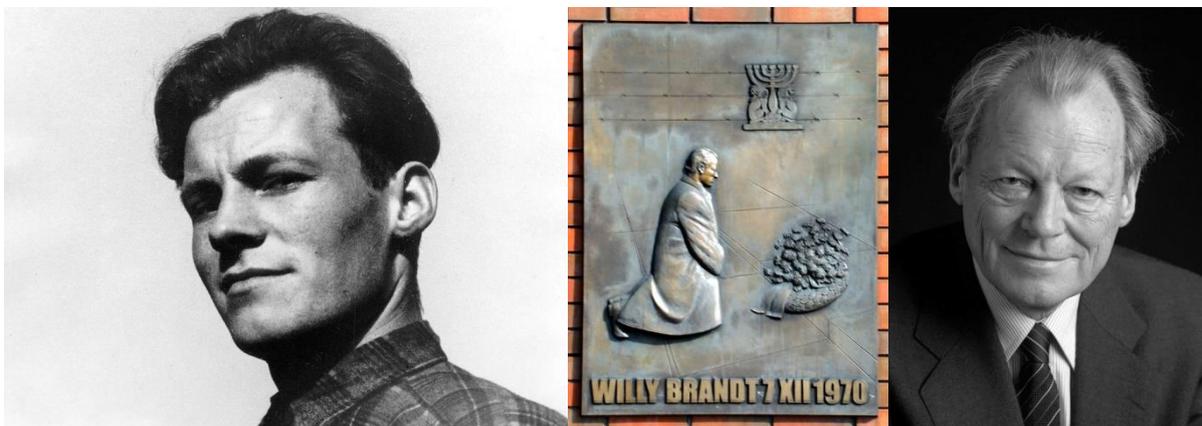
- **Kurt Masur** not only conducted great symphony orchestras in New York, London, Paris, Dresden and Leipzig, he was also the “Conductor of the German Revolution” in the fall of 1989. We will remember him as a great humanist and champion of the good.



- **Hans-Dietrich Genscher** was not only the architect and builder of German unity. He was a European and a citizen of the world who believed in freedom and the rule of law before everything. The following excerpts from his last book, *Meine Sicht der Dinge* ["My view of things"], are an impressive illustration of this: *The world is a survival community. Together, a great deal is possible. We need each other. In view of the global challenges facing us, we must solve and overcome enormous problems. What is needed is a global peace order which would be perceived as a world order of good neighbors and which would be considered as just all over the world. This new world order must be based on the equality of nations in every respect as well as on the ground rules of coexistence as provided for in the Charter of the United Nations, according to which there can be no peaceful world without global solidarity. Every year there should be a “Day of Global Solidarity” which focusses attention on overcoming hunger and poverty, discrimination and lack of education; which calls upon the world to act in solidarity, and which encourages us to treat mass exodus movements, such as that from Africa, not as a border issue of the neighboring regions or a transportation problem, but as a matter of survival for helpless people seeking protection. For Europe, the continent which has carried so many wars into other parts of the world, it would be a magnificent vision to be a driving force of this global peace order. Globalization has turned the world into a survival community, a challenge that concerns all of us, and which we as Germans and Europeans must recognize and accept. “Human dignity is inviolable.” That does not mean the dignity of German or of European humans, but the dignity of every human being on earth.*



- **Willy Brandt** was a charismatic figure, astute and sly – similar to Mahatma Gandhi – showing empathy and warm-heartedness. His personal magnetism was felt by all age groups and layers of the population – and its echo is still felt today. In 1969 he brazenly declared that the SPD had emerged victorious from the 1969 parliamentary elections because the sister parties CDU and CSU, each on its own, had won fewer votes. Willy Brandt and Walter Scheel of the Liberals (FDP) quickly agreed that this meant they had a mandate to form a new federal government. Willy Brandt opened the door to the East: Kneeling down at the memorial to the victims of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising on December 7, 1970, was acclaimed worldwide as a gesture of humility. This sudden impulse, this spontaneous act of humanity calling for reconciliation was one of the reasons he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1971. At the award ceremony in Stockholm, he quoted Friedjof Nansen: ***"Fort dere – før det er for sent å angre - Make haste, lest it be too late to rue."*** Mikhail Gorbachev must have heard and understood this. The Iron Curtain and the Berlin Wall fell, **because two people had an internal compass and were on the right spot at the right time.** *"Now what belongs together will grow together."* Who but he could have expressed this more credibly – the mayor of Berlin, the German Chancellor and the Elder Statesman renowned and esteemed the world over? As in this quote, Brandt himself became one with Germany, the country that placed heavy demands on him all his life. Unfortunately, the Guillaume espionage affair cut Brandt's chancellorship short. But the call to "Elect Willy" before the parliamentary elections in 1972 and the results thereof will always remain imprinted on our minds.



- **Berthold Beitz** was one of the most important captains of industry after the Second World War. He was General Director of the Krupp conglomerate and paved the way for the German *Ostpolitik* in the Cold War. At the same time he was a sports functionary and a generous patron. In his role as a responsible entrepreneur and head of the Alfred Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach Foundation, he decisively influenced and shaped the development of the Ruhr area. Till the end, he disapproved of executives' greed for ever higher salaries. Many scientific, social and cultural projects would certainly never have been carried out without Berthold Beitz' extraordinary commitment. His courage and humanity were remarkable. Before he was thirty years old, he had already risked his life to save hundreds of persecuted Jews from certain death. For him, the most treasured honor was his acceptance into the Israeli holocaust memorial Yad Vashem as one of the "Righteous among the Nations."



- **Loki and Helmut Schmidt**, who reached the age of 91 and 96 respectively, accompanied us throughout our lives and brought us great joy. They knew each other for 81 years and were married for 68 years. They seemed to radiate their deep affection for each other making it visible to their surroundings. At her husband's side, Loki maintained her independence and authenticity. She always kept her feet on the ground and never lost touch with the common people. Helmut Schmidt's nickname, "Schmidt Schnauze" ("Schmidt the lip") referred to his habit of not mincing words. When the going got tough, he kept a stiff upper lip and got going. *Salus publica suprema lex*, "The public good is the chief law." This remained his motto at all times, no matter what the challenge – the Great Flood in Hamburg, the worldwide oil crisis and economic recession, Red Army Fraction terrorism or the NATO Double-Track Decision – and also during his time as a journalist and author after the end of his political career. Whether as a citizen of his home town, his region, his country, Europe or the world, he felt at ease on all platforms and was appreciated wherever he appeared. Straightforwardness, single-mindedness, steadfastness, honesty, the ability and the power to create and to lead, as well as his acumen, willpower and firm hold on reality – all these qualities united in one person is surely unique. His intelligence of the first order allowed him to master all the ups and downs, without scandals tarnishing his impressive life and career. **"War is shit,"** he said, and continued: **"The Second World War and the German catastrophe can be called a tragedy of our sense of duty. As individuals, we are for the most part not guilty, but we must bear the political legacy of those who were."** Helmut Schmidt did not go into politics because he wanted to make a career for himself. Due to his experiences as a German with some Jewish heritage and as a soldier in World War II, he wanted to contribute to preventing Germany and the world from ever reliving such horror and atrocities. And he did his bit. Helmut Schmidt stood side by side with Willy Brandt. They left their mark on their party, our country, Europe, the world and on us, sometimes together and sometimes as competitors. One was a realist, the other a visionary. Knowing that exactly this combination was needed, they took leave of each other with a deep bond of friendship when Willy Brandt died in October 1992. In 1996, Helmut Schmidt said: **"On fundamental issues, one must be naive. And I am of the opinion that the problems of the world and mankind are insoluble without idealism. I believe, nevertheless, that one should be realistic and pragmatic at the same time."** [This quote has greatly

influenced our approach to this primer. The second sentence goes hand in hand with our **realistic** approach: An unbridled climate change will make life on earth impossible for us human beings. The first sentence of this quote goes hand in hand with our **naivety** and **idealism**: *Homo sapiens* can develop further and prevent the worst from happening, as described in this primer]. The little confession at the end of his life (as to a romantic affair he had) did him no harm. It showed instead that he, too, had human weaknesses that he sometimes succumbed to, as most of us do. Loki had, at any rate, forgiven him this lapse decades ago. Loki and Helmut Schmidt are and remain genuine role models for us, also in regard to their long and loving relationship. Perhaps Helmut Schmidt will succeed in explaining the world to God so that we can work on improving it with him. Loki believed that at least through our molecules we continue to live. This was their common conviction. Their molecules will continue to exert a positive influence, wherever and in whomever.



What a pity that many of the role models mentioned did not live at the same time, and were thus not able to show us the positive and help us to achieve more together.

Imagine that the role models who have already passed away were to return to the Earth once again, all at the same time. They would read us the riot act, make us get rid of the junk in our bodies and souls - and then call for world revolution. **Especially because we have been so wasteful with our resources and so cruel to life on this planet – during the past century in particular.**

Since this, unfortunately, will not happen, the ambassadors and mediators proposed in this primer, and many more, must step into the breach. Given the current condition of the world, we now need **a global sustainability revolution 1.0** – actually even before the already initiated *Industry 4.0 future* project.

The ambassadors and mediators proposed in this primer live on our planet today and can ward off threats and dangers together and find solutions promoting the common good, supported by acknowledged experts from all fields. The role models of today and tomorrow may emerge from their ranks. They can be democratically elected by all of us as decision-makers. **They must be credible, charismatic personalities with strong leadership qualities to whom we give our votes, in whom we trust and in whose hands we lay positive power.**

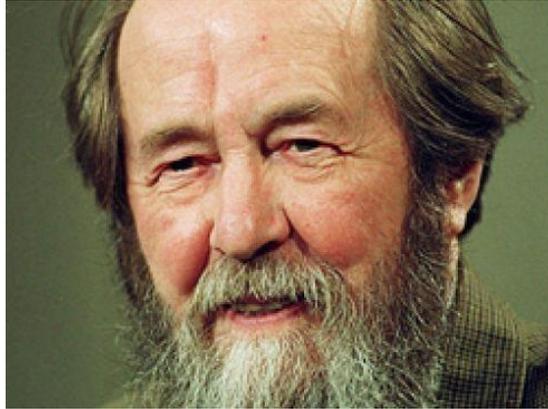
We will best be able to use the power over our planet by seeing ourselves as **one people of the Earth**, led by personalities who use their authority wisely as servants of the world. And above all without this cursed human cruelty which has been haunting us and ruling our planet for so long. We need reliable politicians, sociologists, philosophers, economists, idealists and realists, rather than warlords and tyrants. Let us win each others' hearts, instead of usurping our wealth and property.



All of us in one boat - peacefully and happy!

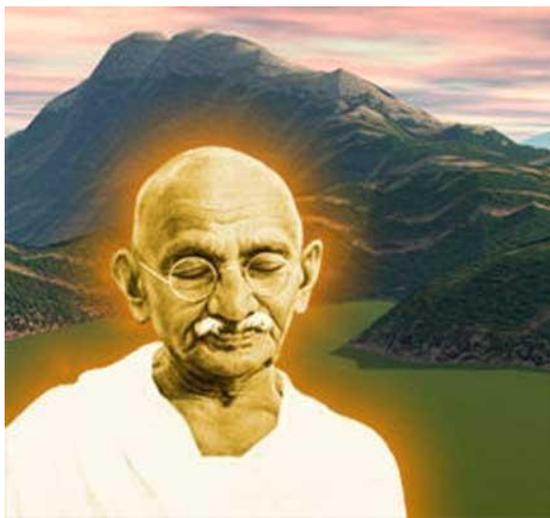
Alexander Solschenizyn said:

*"It is possible to survive all the economic, national and physical catastrophes,
but not the spiritual one. If we forsake ourselves, if we cease to believe
in ourselves and our future, we are doomed."*



Mahatma Gandhi said:

*"And when I despair, I remember that all through history
the way of truth and love have always won.
There have been tyrants and murderers,
and for a time, they can seem invincible,
but in the end, they always fall."*



Let us imagine that the people proposed in this primer stand together as ambassadors and mediators, marching arm in arm like the politicians from around the world after the shooting in Paris in January 2015, and announce together:

*"We stand for the "United Peoples of the World,"
united in one faith,
in peace and freedom."*

On this day we shall celebrate the Declaration of Human Rights.

"INDEPENDENCE DAY - IN THE WORLD OF HOPE AND DREAMS"

(in the style of Bruce Springsteen)

All together - all over the world - every year.



No one could overhear this signal, this message, *this energetic rebellion*, and no one with the wellbeing of our Earth and its living creatures in mind could escape it. The role models mentioned above would pat us on the back and support us with all their power.

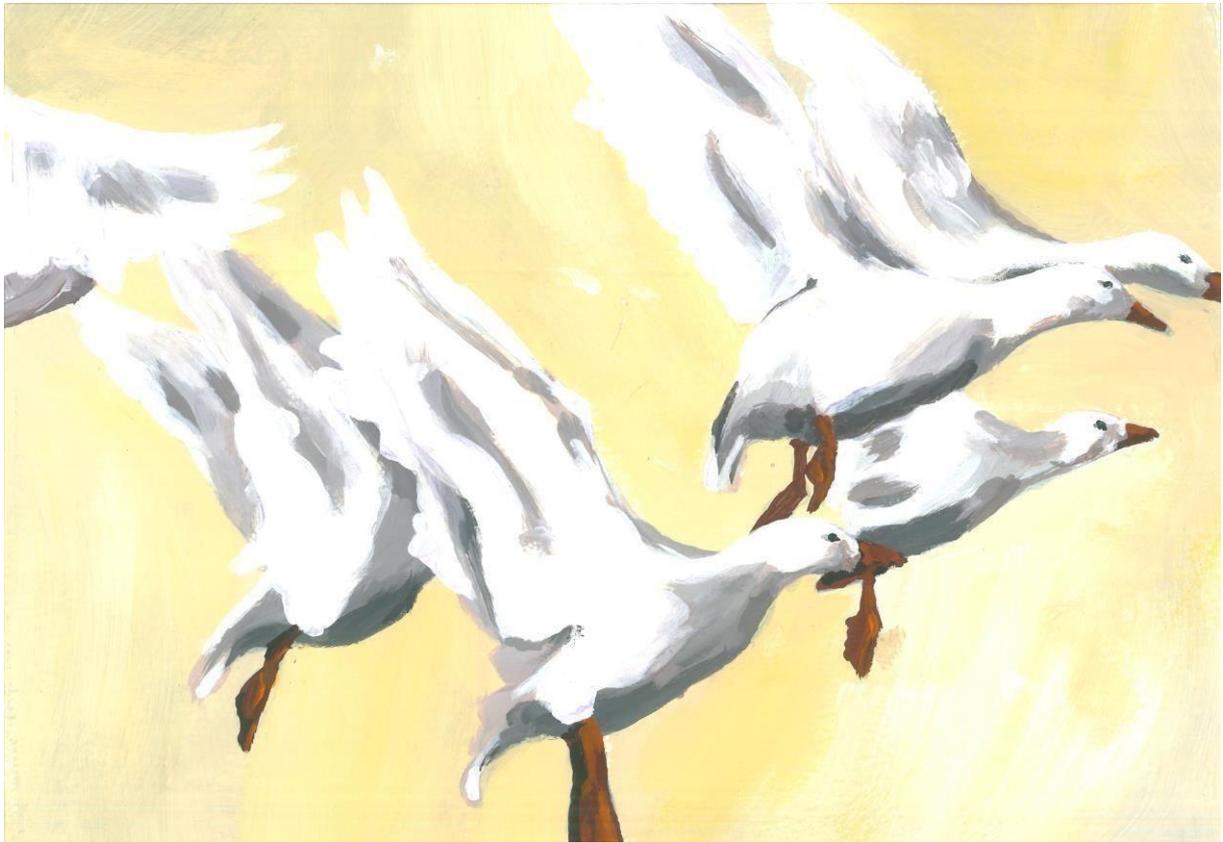


***Homo progressivus* – the Energetic Rebellion!**



The “United Peoples of the World”!

**Game Without Borders -
With the Power of Consumers**



VI. Game Without Borders - With the Power of Consumers



Consumer power can also be exercised and expanded through the channels of the World Wide Web. As a multiplier of the good!

Reinhold Messner says:

"It is only possible to change the world if each individual changes himself."

"The path emerges as we walk, and those who risk nothing cannot even fail."



10 tips for things to do by yourself or with others, with three exhortation marks!!!

1. We all have influence and power even in our own small sphere. That is why each of us can achieve something on a small scale.
 - If everyone joins together, the crowd has a lot of influence.
2. We can protect the environment when we go shopping. Example:
 - Avoid plastic wherever possible. Start by doing without plastic bags when shopping.
3. What we don't need, we don't need to buy. Boycott can change markets.
 - The buyer has the power to say no. No one can force us to buy everything the market offers.
4. Don't let yourself be intimidated.
 - No matter what the issue is, take heart and show moral courage, even when things seem to get a little too hot for you. Get information yourself and don't let yourself be spoon-fed. Journalists and politicians, too, are only people with personal opinions.
5. Stay curious about everything.
 - That way, everything remains exciting and will never become negative. Always ask questions if you don't understand or don't know something. When we were children, we did it automatically.

CURI OSI TY IS ALWAYS
AT THE **BEGI NNI NG**
OF A **PROBLEM** THAT
NEEDS TO BE SOLVED

GALILEO GALILEI

*»He who is not
curious
learns nothing.«*

Johann Wolfgang v. Goethe

6. Do as much as possible consciously and not mindlessly.
 - Start by eating less meat. It should be something special. Or would you be able to kill the animal yourself that you are eating right now? Unpleasant, but we all have to ask ourselves this question.
7. Switch to providers of eco-friendly products if possible (electricity, gas, food).



8. Buy regionally, seasonally and consciously. Example:
 - Do I need strawberries from China in the winter? Who knows what they spray on the crops in China? Do I really need the latest mobile telephone, or can I live with the one I have? Let's enjoy looking forward to things again: the first strawberries of the season, the day we buy our next mobile phone.
9. Help wherever you can. Example:
 - Take on sponsorships, work as a volunteer or barter with friends or neighbors: I'll help you with the painting and you can help me in the garden – that's free of cost.

10. Make proposals and offer ideas again and again. Example:

- Whether on local, regional or national level: The simplest ideas are the best, because no one has come up with them yet. If you believe in something, don't let them get of you.



Playing the Game – With an Upward View

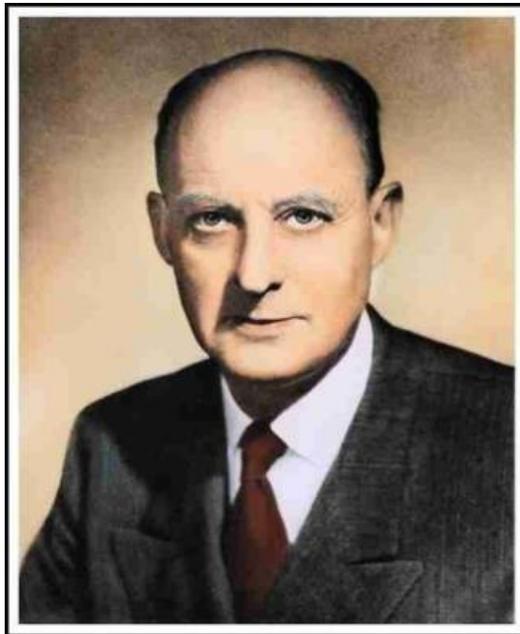


VII. Playing the Game – With an Upward View

Regardless of when the universe came to be or who or what created it, we place our hope in a force of an empathetic and peaceable nature that shapes and orders it.

Reinhold Niebuhr said:

*“God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,
the courage to change the things I can,
and the wisdom to know the difference.”*



But first we have to believe in ourselves, courageously and confidently, with rules worth following. Then we will be spared many a prayer, and the universal power up above and in each of us will live on. **Our consciousness, our reason as well as our good and bad conscience empower us to do so.** And at the end there is

peace and contentment.

Hoimar von Ditfurth wrote:

"We are not only of this world."



Death is the end of life as we know it. Perhaps - and we assume this is so - we are judged according to what we have done or wrought on this Earth, as a measure for coming tasks or penance that awaits us wherever it may be.

Many people believe in a life after death. For these people death is a door behind which another opens - here or somewhere else.

Romy Schneider said:

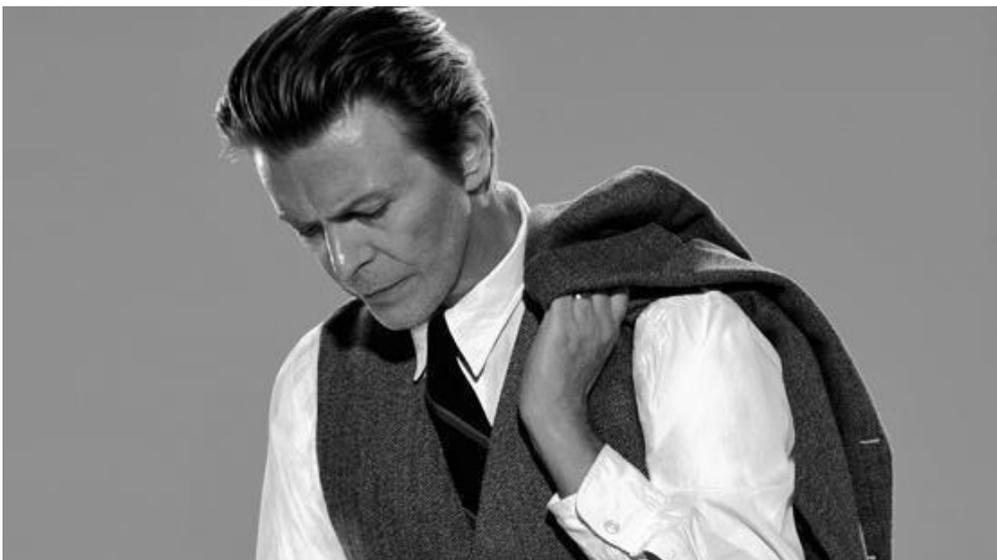
*"I buried my father. I buried my son.
I never forsook either of them, and they never forsook me."*



The Passerby

David Bowie said:

*"I wanted to prove the sustaining power of music.
I don't know where I am going from here.
But I promise it won't be boring."*



A wanderer between the worlds

Let us jointly open the gates – in *this world* and into the *next world* – so that we will be welcomed there.



This evening, we saw the sun go down again in all its splendor. That is much more beautiful than if it were to go down on us – *the human race*.



The Special Playing Card

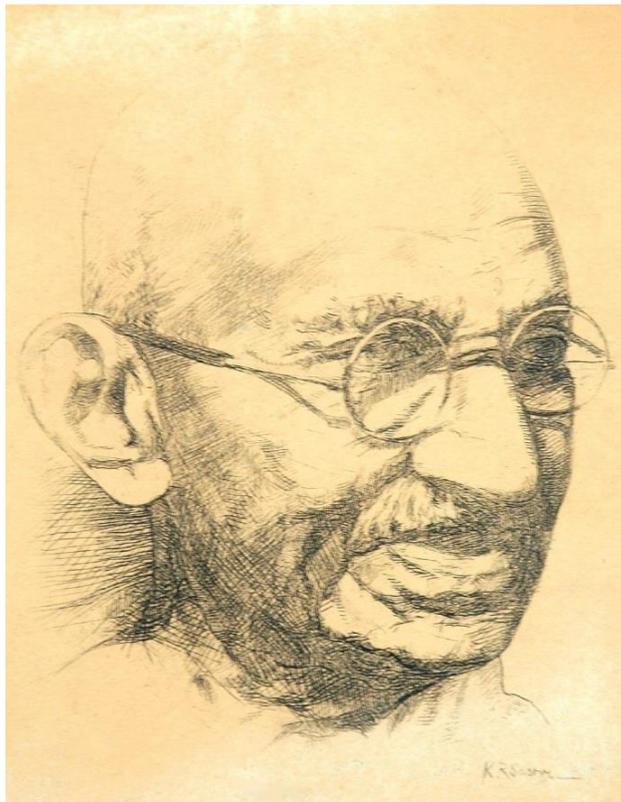


VIII. The Special Playing Card - The Joker with an Exemplary Afterthought

Mahatma Gandhi said:

"You must be the change you want to see in the world."

It is a pleasure for us to live according to this example.



Letter from Albert Einstein to Mahatma Gandhi:

"Honorable Mr. Gandhi!

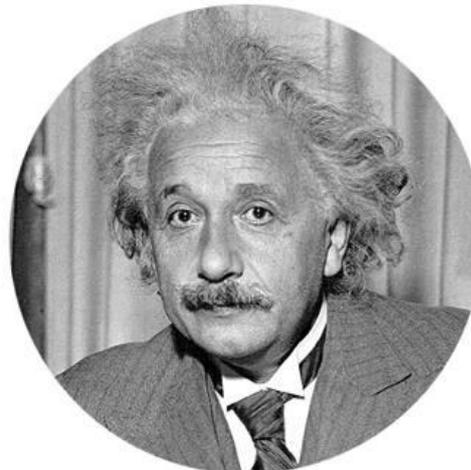
You have shown through your works that it is possible to succeed without violence, even with those who have not discarded the method of violence. We may hope that your example will spread beyond the borders of your country, and will help to establish an international authority, respected by all, that will take decisions and replace war conflicts.

With sincere admiration,

Yours, Albert Einstein"

On the occasion of the funeral of Mahatma Gandhi, who was assassinated in 1948:
"The man, honored by hundreds of thousands, died as he had lived – a private man without wealth, without property, without official title or offices. Mahatma Gandhi was not a commander of great armies nor ruler of vast lands. He could boast no scientific achievements nor did he have artistic talents. Yet heads of state, governments and dignitaries from all over the world have joined hands today to pay homage to this little brown man in his loincloth who led his country to freedom. In the words of General George C. Marshall, the American Secretary of State, "Mahatma Gandhi had become the spokesman for the conscience of mankind... a man who made humility and simple truth more powerful than empires." And Albert Einstein added, "Generations to come will scarcely believe that such a man as this ever in flesh and blood walked upon this earth."

Source: Richard Attenborough's film *Gandhi* from 1982 with Ben Kingsley as Gandhi.



End of the Game – With a Summary and an Outlook



IX. End of the Game – With a Summary and an Outlook

The end is open. It is up to us, whether *Homo sapiens* will lose or *Homo progressivus* will win.



Bertold Brecht said:

"Dear Audience, go on, find the ending yourselves!

It must be a good one, must, must, must!"

"Change the world; it needs it."



Message 1: For life on our Earth in the "United Peoples of the World"

Message 2: For love, forgiveness, sharing, peace and freedom

Message 3: For one creed

Message 4: For a fundamental right to education

Message 5: For renewable energy

Message 6: Against fossil energy

Message 7: Against hunger and thirst

Message 8: Against the abuse of religions

Message 9: Against greed

Message 10: Against war

Summary and Outlook

It is thanks to the location of planet Earth in our solar system that millions of species were able to develop over billions of years in the water and on land. During this time, unimaginable for us human beings, life has continuously been changing through the process of evolution and other influences and it has **reinvented** itself numerous times.

Animals, plants and human beings which adapted to their environment in an optimal way had the best chances for survival on this long journey – that is, until 70,000 years ago, when *Homo sapiens* underwent a cognitive change and consequently fell into the agricultural trap around 12,000 years ago. **We are still shackled by this today.**

In this primer, we have compressed the age of our Earth from 4.6 billion years into one calendar year in order to better understand the chronological progression and milestones. Based on a calendar year, *Homo sapiens* first saw the light of day on New Year's Eve just after 11 p.m. Within this – geologically speaking – very short time of about an hour, *Homo sapiens* developed into a creature of contradictions. On the one hand, we see him love, forgive and share as well as live, learn and pray in peace and freedom. On the other hand, we see boundless suffering – as a result of wars, pillage, greed, hunger and thirst and abuse of religion – as well as an irresponsible waste of resources. *Homo sapiens* has subdued the Earth, and in a way that not only threatens the diversity of species, but severely threatens the survival of his own species.

The proven threat to life as we know it on our planet does not come from the outside, from aliens, asteroids or comets, but from the irrational behavior of *Homo sapiens*. For all we know, it is three minutes to twelve on the Doomsday Clock. It is time for a collective effort by all caring people to show common sense and act. **This is a wakeup call, a guide and an invitation to join in. A thunderbolt must shake the earth, forcing us to overcome our indifference and making hell on earth freeze over!**

The ten messages of this primer are directed at everyone and in particular at decision-makers, at those responsible in this world and their summits. We have demonstrated the need for action in the various areas in order to carry out these messages. At the same time, the living persons cited in this reader can lead the way **together** before the many ambassadors and mediators proposed here and all who mean well close ranks. Each of us is small and cannot accomplish very much. **Together** we can achieve much more **in the large scheme of things** – and that will work best **on the principle of swarm intelligence**.

We have learned from Stefano Mancuso that plants, although they don't have organs, can develop strategies to ensure their survival by using a form of swarm intelligence. We also know about the ability to survive through swarm intelligence in the animal kingdom, e.g. in the ant colony and in schools of fish.



Swarm intelligence is a concept that is becoming increasingly important in science. The principle of swarm intelligence is spread throughout the universe. It is true for planets, solar systems, galaxies, galaxy clouds and the entire visible and invisible cosmos. Even the nerve cells in our brains follow the principle of swarm intelligence, amazingly enhancing our faculties of perception and of acting. The positive force from above is in each of us. We can reinforce this force by sharpening our consciousness, individually and in our spheres of activity. People who want to use their lives to make the world a little bit better, can join together and thus form a swarm. That way, something bigger and better emerges from the interplay between single individuals: ***"Homo progressivus – The energetic rebellion."***

The countless voices crying for peace, freedom and justice demonstrate the necessity of new values and new rules. They challenge us to speak out against outmoded, parochial and self-serving behavior. For us, they are a powerful driving force and a great incentive for the future, which begins today! The best way into the future, according to a well-known motto of futurologists, is to *invent* it. We have done our best in this primer.

What we need is an epic change. To bring it about, millions of people must probably swarm together and cooperate to win billions of people over to peace, freedom and justice. We hear many people say that the concept of justice, as we understand it, is an illusion because the world of finance, of industry and commerce, of politics and religion are far too intertwined, with criminal and corrupt excrescences deeply infesting the pores of society.

With this in mind, we must realize that we human beings have invented and shaped this world with its hierarchies, thus creating discrimination, partitions and other injustices. Let us throw unnecessary bureaucracy and in-the-box thinking overboard. We can and we must reinvent ourselves. Free association and holistic thinking, based on ethical principles, will help us. **Without those principles, reflecting on the meaning of our life would be worthless. We would sink ever deeper into a chaos of insecurity and indifference!**

The time is ripe for a new world order that is appropriate to our time – politically, economically, socially and in religious respect – under the umbrella of the "United Peoples of the World."

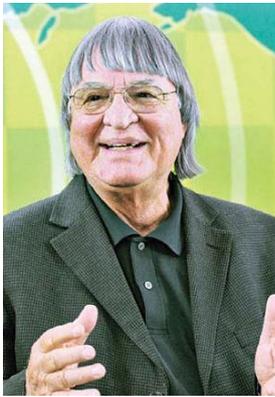


Jim Dator says:

"Any useful statement about the future should at first seem ridiculous.

True innovation lurks in the unknown, not in trendy technologies

that merely take old business models apart."



We humans must reinvent ourselves with a new business model.

This model is called *Homo progressivus* – who pays

with the "Globe" and protects it!

If we are convinced of something, we should not allow ourselves to be held back or dissuaded from it. We must keep going to the end. We will reach our goal if we set out on this path together and move ahead in a powerful but non-violent swarm.

Giacomo Girolamo Casanova said:

"He who has resolved to do something and thinks of nothing else,

will overcome all obstacles."



Ulrich Beck defined "Risk Society" as follows:

"The term 'risk society' characterizes a change in the system and epoch in three areas:

The first is the relationship of industrial society to the resources it depletes.

The second is the relationship of society to the risks it generates, which shatter the basic assumptions of the social order prevailing so far. The third is the process of individualization, since all collective sources of meaning are exhausted."



**It is our common task to turn this so precisely described
risk society into a peaceful and free society!**

Pope Francis says:

"We have never treated and damaged our common house so badly as in the two centuries past. Were someone to consider the inhabitants of the earth from the outside, he would be amazed at such behavior, which sometimes appears suicidal. The Earth seems to be transforming itself into an 'immense garbage dump'. The rhythm of consumption, the waste and the change of the environment has so far surpassed the capacity of the planet that the current life style can only end in catastrophe. The subjugation of politics to technology and the financial system demonstrates the failure of the world summits on environmental issues. But climate change is one of the most important current challenges to mankind. Rapid growth in the rich countries is achieved at the expense of the poor countries. This often wildly rampant growth must be slowed down and reorganized."



Franz-Josef Radermacher says:

"If we are to establish a global eco-social market economy, environmental and resource protection must be implemented worldwide: for all value-creation processes in the areas of work, recreation and vacation, for all global common resources, for the oceans as well as for the Arctic and Antarctic, for the great rivers and water reservoirs, for energy, climate, for the agricultural sector, the dealing with rare metals etc. Sustainable handling of scarce resources must succeed, in conjunction with rigorous environmental protection worldwide. We must guard the earth like a treasure. Nature has intrinsic rights above and beyond its utility to human beings. The world must be passed on to the next generation intact, at least in the condition it was in when the current generation took over. Rigorous environmental and resource protection has priority, along with social balance and cultural interaction. Growth comes after that, but not growth on the basis of 'plundering', but on the basis of intelligence and peaceful cooperation.

For all of that we need a better regulatory policy with global perspective, with a global domestic policy in which tasks are efficiently assigned to the correct level of organization (global, continental, national, regional, municipal).

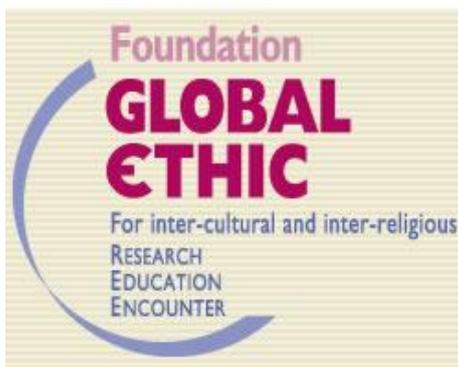
We need a sound social contract for this globe."



Hans Küng and the Global Ethic Foundation say:

“Our world is experiencing a fundamental crisis: A crisis in global economy, global ecology, and global politics. The lack of a grand vision, the tangle of unresolved problems, political paralysis, mediocre political leadership with little insight or foresight, and in general too little sense for the commonweal are seen everywhere: Too many old answers to new challenges. Hundreds of millions of human beings on our planet increasingly suffer from unemployment, poverty, hunger, and the destruction of their families. Hope for a lasting peace among nations slips away from us. There are tensions between the sexes and generations. Children die, kill, and are killed. More and more countries are shaken by corruption in politics and business. It is increasingly difficult to live together peacefully in our cities because of social, racial, and ethnic conflicts, the abuse of drugs, organized crime, and even anarchy. Even neighbors often live in fear of one another. Our planet continues to be ruthlessly plundered. A collapse of the ecosystem threatens us. Time and again we see leaders and members of religions incite aggression, fanaticism, hate, and xenophobia – even inspire and legitimize violent and bloody conflicts. Religion often is misused for purely power-political goals, including war. We are filled with disgust. We condemn these blights and declare that they need not be. An ethic already exists within the religious teachings of the world which can counter the global distress. Of course this ethic provides no direct solution for all the immense problems of the world, but it does supply the moral foundation for a better individual and global order: A vision which can lead women and men away from despair, and society away from chaos. We are persons who have committed ourselves to the precepts and practices of the world’s religions. We confirm that there is already a consensus among the religions which can be the basis for a global ethic – a minimal fundamental consensus concerning binding values, irrevocable standards, and fundamental moral attitudes. There is no survival for humanity without global peace! Young people must learn at home and in school that violence may not be a means of settling differences with others. Only thus can a culture of non-violence be created. We must value a sense of moderation and modesty instead of an unquenchable greed for money, prestige, and consumption. In greed humans lose their ‘souls’, their freedom, their composure, their inner peace, and thus that which makes them human. When politicians lie in the faces of their people, when they manipulate the truth, or when they are guilty of venality or ruthlessness in domestic or foreign affairs, they forsake their credibility and deserve to lose their offices and their voters. Conversely, public opinion should support those politicians who dare to speak the truth to the people at all times. When representatives of religion stir up prejudice,

hatred, and enmity towards those of different belief, or even incite or legitimize religious wars, they deserve the condemnation of humankind and the loss of their adherents. We all have a responsibility for a better global order. So we appeal to all the inhabitants of this planet. Earth cannot be changed for the better unless the consciousness of individuals is changed. We pledge to work for such transformation in individual and collective consciousness, for the awakening of our spiritual powers through reflection, meditation, prayer, or positive thinking, for a conversion of the heart. Together we can move mountains! Without a willingness to take risks and a readiness to sacrifice there can be no fundamental change in our situation! Therefore we commit ourselves to a common global ethic, to better mutual understanding, as well as to socially beneficial, peace-fostering, and Earth-friendly ways of life. We invite all men and women, whether religious or not, to do the same!”



Freely adapted from Bill Pullman in the film *INDEPENDENCE DAY: Mankind* – *from this day on this word shall hold new meaning for us. We can no longer allow petty conflicts to sap our strength.*

Our common interest connects us. It is time to fight for our freedom. Against tyranny, persecution and repression and for the continuation of the human race. If we pool our positive strengths and our resources, we will survive and celebrate our INDEPENDENCE DAY together across the world.



In the movie *The Plan*, John Slattery, the heavenly "administrator," tells presidential candidate Matt Damon:

"Most people take the path we intend for them. Too fearful to explore a different one. But now and then there are people like you. Who overcome all obstacles we put in their way. People who recognize that free will is a gift you can't use unless you fight for it.

*I believe that is the true plan of the chairman.
That someday we will no longer write the plan – you will."*



Winners, Winnings and Rules of the Game



X. Winners, Winnings and Rules of the Game (Which are Not Always Followed)

We have linked the ten messages in this primer with ten books, ten films and ten song texts.

Let's collate the numbers, data, facts and recommendations in this primer with those from the following ten books:



... complement them with the following ten films: *Home*, *Our Earth*, *The Terminal*, *The March*, *Miracle on 34th Street*, *Power to Change*, *More Than Honey*, *10 Billion*, *Sing Your Song*, and *The Plan*...



... and add to them the power of music, the interaction of music and text from the following ten song texts: *Menschenjunge*, *Was wir alleine nicht schaffen*, *Freiheit*, *Hello*, *I Believe*, *Masters of War*, *Where Have All the Flowers Gone*, *The Wall*, *Independence Day* and *Imagine*:



If we really understand the messages in these books, films and songs, if we succeed in internalizing them and applying them globally, then *Homo progressivus* will win. In this case *Homo sapiens* won't lose, because the human species would be taking on a positive development. Pierre Teilhard de Chardin and kindred spirits would be very pleased about that.

The German-speaking contemporaries cited in this primer have, in various ways, given their consent to the publication of their quotes. The quotes are given in their original form or have been updated, modified, abridged, supplemented or newly written specifically for this primer. We would like to emphasize that the persons cited are not being used for advertising purposes to promote sales of this primer. Our main concern is the support of its charitable cause, expressed by the permission to publish the quotes.

We began writing down our ideas on December 28, 2014, and we submitted the first draft of the primer to Brigitte und Otfried Urban as well as Heike Rupprecht, Lukas Horn, Marvin Teschner, Peter-Max Harig and Thomas Kruse in January 2015. We would like to express our thanks to these seven people for their suggestions and proposals. We are most grateful for Otfried Urban's recommendation of the above-mentioned book by Yuval Noah Harari, from which we have gained a lot and which greatly inspired us to complete this primer.

As already stated at the end of Chapter III, the entire net publisher's profit from sales will be given in full to existing charitable foundations and organizations.

Permissions for non-German quotations will be applied for when the primer is also available in English.

Because of the demanding timeframe we set ourselves, we were not able to obtain rights to all the photos. In that sense we have disregarded the rules and conventions. Since we are not selling this primer for profit, we trust the holders of the copyrights for the photos will understand that we will meet any claims after the fact. It would, of course, please us very much if these photos were made available to us for one-off use in this primer.

We may not always have found the right pictures and the right words. We probably made mistakes in spelling, grammar and punctuation. We intentionally chose an unconventional approach, beyond formal strictures. The messages of this primer and the intention *to set a positive signal* are more important to us. Our messages may not appeal to everyone, but surely to most people. The playing fields are ready, and the games are opened. The indispensable metamorphosis of *homo sapiens* which we hope to drive forward with lots of positive energy, is what this is all about. The soup we are in thanks to our own doing since we enriched it with toxic ingredients and fossil energy should be taken off the menu. After all, what is at stake is our survival.

We can still hear John Lennon singing:

*"Imagine there's no countries
It isn't hard to do
Nothing to kill or die for
And no religion, too
Imagine all the people
Living life in peace
You may say I'm a dreamer
But I'm not the only one
I hope someday you will join us
And the world will be as one
Imagine no possessions
I wonder if you can
No need for greed or hunger
A brotherhood of man
Imagine all the people
Sharing all the world
You may say I'm a dreamer
But I'm not the only one
I hope someday you will join us
And the world will live as one"*



215 people and organizations so far have supported the idea of this primer and the good intention behind it with their quotes, which have been approved, updated or newly written especially for this primer:

- The theologians Karl Cardinal Lehmann, Rainer Maria Cardinal Woelki, Prof. Hans Küng, Dr. Eugen Drewermann and Father Anselm Grün
- German President ret. Prof. Roman Herzog, † Jan. 10, 2017
- *Bundestagspräsident* (parliamentary speaker) Norbert Lammert
- German Foreign Minister Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier
- German Minister of Finance Dr. Wolfgang Schäuble
- Katrin Göhring-Eckardt (parliamentary party leader of Bündnis 90/Die Grünen)
- Gregor Gysi (long time parliamentary party leader of DIE LINKE)
- Prof. Gesine Schwan (President of the HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform)
- Jürgen Erbacher, theologian and political scientist as well as television journalist and author
- Friedrich Schorlemmer, theologian and publicist, Director of the "F.C. Flick Foundation against Xenophobia, Fascism and Intolerance"
- Actors Walter Sittler, Henry Hübchen, Harald Krassnitzer and Friedrich von Thun
- TV presenter Günther Jauch
- Prof. Hans Joachim Schellnhuber, climatologist
- Prof. Helmuth Karasek, literary critic († Sept. 29, 2015)
- Dr. Thomas Reiter, astronaut
- Dr. Ulf von Rauchhaupt, science journalist and editor at the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* as well as editor responsible for science of the *Sonntagszeitung*
- Prof. Paul Crutzen, Nobel Prize winner in chemistry
- Prof. Robert Schlögl, Director at the Fritz-Haber-Institute in Berlin, Founding Director of the Max-Planck-Institute for Chemical Energy Conversion and Spokesman for Energy Issues at the Max-Planck-Society. He has authored more than 800 publications and has more than 20 patents
- Dr. Gerhard Hofmann, owner and managing director of the Agency Future as well as co-founder of Solarify - Energy for the Future

- Prof. Wolf Dieter Blümel, geographer and geomorphologist, expert for dry-zone and polar research and for paleoclimatology
- Hilmar-Andreas Holland, Climate Protection Manager of the district of Mainz-Bingen
- Heike Müller, environmental scientist of the municipal association of Sprendlingen-Gensingen
- Andreas Pfaff, Climate Protection Manager of the municipal association of Sprendlingen-Gensingen
- Manfred Scherer, Mayor of the municipal association of Sprendlingen-Gensingen
- Prof. Axel Meyer, Chair of Zoology and Evolutionary Biology
- Prof. Andreas Löschel, economist, Chair of Microeconomics, Energy and Resource Economics, Chairman of the expert commission on the monitoring process "Energy of the Future" of the German Government
- Prof. Axel Börsch-Supan, economist and mathematician, Director of the Munich Center for the Economics of Aging (MEA) in the Max-Planck-Institute for Social Legislation and Social Policy, expert in the field of demographic change
- Prof. Werner Nachtigall, pioneer in technical biology and bionics as well as author
- Prof. Franz Josef Radermacher, economist and mathematician as well as expert on globalization and author
- Dr. Reiner Klingholz, Director of the "Berlin Institute for Population and Development" and author
- Prof. Harald Lesch , astrophysicist, science journalist TV Moderator
- Prof. Mojib Latif, meteorologist and climatologist
- Sven Plöger, meteorologist and weatherman
- Prof. Eicke R. Weber, expert on solar energy and energy storage
- Prof. Clemens Hoffmann, expert on wind energy
- BAP frontman Wolfgang Niedecken
- Reinhard Mey, singer and songwriter
- Konstantin Wecker, singer and songwriter
- Nena
- Xavier Naidhoo & Die Söhne Mannheims
- Michael van Almsick, managing owner of the artists' agency van Almsick & Partner – communication & management

- DEDON founder Bobby Dekeyser
- Herbert Schein, Chairman of the Board of VARTA
- Udo Möhrstedt - Chairman of the Board of IBC Solar AG
- Arndt Kirchhoff, Managing Partner and CEO of KIRCHHOFF Holding, President of the "Institute of German Economy" and of Metall NRW, Vice-President of the VDA ["Association of the German Automobile Industry"]
- Marc Zoellner, Chairman of the Board Hoppecke Batterien
- German Foreign Minister ret. Hans-Dietrich Genscher († Mar. 31, 2016)
- Dr. Wolfgang Gerhardt, Chairman of the Board of the "Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom" and former party leader of the FDP ["Free Democratic Party"]
- German Foreign Minister ret. Joschka Fischer
- Dr. Henning Scherf, former Mayor of the Hanseatic city of Bremen
- Mountain climber Reinhold Messner
- Prof. Michael Wolffsohn, historian
- Downhill skiing champions Rosi Mittermeier and Markus Wasmeier
- Artist Heike Rupprecht (10 illustrations instead of a quote)
- Actresses Senta Berger, Hannelore Elsner and Anja Kling
- German Minister for Family ret. Renate Schmidt
- German Minister for Family ret. Rita Süßmuth
- German Minister of Finance ret. Peer Steinbrück
- German Minister of the Environment ret. Prof. Klaus Töpfer
- German Minister for Development ret. Dr. Erhard Eppler
- Federal Minister of the Interior ret. Gerhart Baum
- Michael Ebling, Mayor of Mainz
- Dr. Volker Jung, President of the EKHN [Protestant Church of the district Hesse and Nassau]
- Dr. Ulrich Oelschläger, Head of the Synod of the EKHN
- Prof. Arthur Benz, Chair of Political Science at the Technical University of Darmstadt
- Prof. Wielant Machleidt, (social) psychiatrist, psychotherapist and psychoanalyst
- Flavia Kleiner and Operation Libero ["Organization for the shaping of a sustainable future in Switzerland - without xenophobia"]
- Prof. Gerhard Trabert, physician for emergency medicine, social education worker, and the reg. society "Poverty and Health"

- Lars Hennemann, chief editor of the "Echo Media Group" of the Verlagsgruppe Rhein Main
- Christian Matz, member of the main editorial office of the *Allgemeine Zeitung* of the Verlagsgruppe Rhein Main
- Prof. Jacob Emmanuel Mabe, political scientist and philosopher, President of the Anton-Wilhelm-Amo-Gesellschaft
- Christoph Cuntz, journalist of the Verlagsgruppe Rhein Main
- Dr. Marwan Abou-Taam, Islam expert at the LKA (criminal investigation bureau of the *Land*) Rhineland Palatinate, associate member of the BIM ["Berlin Institute for Empirical Research on Integration and Migration"] at the Humboldt University in Berlin
- Julia Klöckner, party leader of the CDU (Christian Democrats) of Rhineland Palatinate
- Jürgen Todenhöfer, journalist and war correspondent
- Dr. Michael Otto, Owner of Otto-Versandhandel
- Martin Kneer, general manager of the Wirtschaftsvereinigung Metalle (1998-2015)
- Prof. Klaus Schwab, Director of the World Economic Forum in Davos
- Reiner Hoffmann, head of the DGB [German federation of trade unions], and the "Alliance for Cosmopolitan Attitude"]
- Nobel Peace laureate Prof. Muhammad Yunus, Saskia Bruysten, Sophie Eisenmann and Yunus Social Business Ltd.
- Prof. Thomas Pogge, philosopher and Director of the Global Justice Program at Yale University, USA
- Prof. Margit Osterloh, business economist and research director of CREMA (Center for Research in Economics, Management and the Arts) in Zurich and Basel
- Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Bruno S. Frey, economist, research director of CREMA, co-founder of CREW (Center for Research in Economics and Wellbeing, University of Basel) and author
- Stephan Weil, *Ministerpräsident* of the *Land* Lower Saxony and member of the supervisory board of Volkswagen AG
- Bernd Osterloh, chair of works council of the Volkswagen group
- Oliver Blume, Chairman of the Board of Porsche AG
- Dr. Michael Bolle, Managing Director of the division "Research and Advance Development" of Robert Bosch GmbH

- Dr. Thorsten Ochs, head of the research department "Battery Technology" of Robert Bosch GmbH
- Dr. Karl-Thomas Neumann, Chairman of the board of Adam Opel AG and President of General Motors in Europe
- Winfried Hermann, Minister for Transport and Infrastructure of the *Land* Baden-Württemberg
- Petra Pinzler, (foreign) correspondent of *DIE ZEIT* in Hamburg, Washington, Brussels, Berlin
- Carl A. Fechner, journalist, filmmaker and producer
- Sebastian Pflugbeil, President of the "Society for Radiation Protection"
- Evelyne Lemke, Deputy *Ministerpräsidentin* and Minister for economic affairs, climate protection, energy and regional planning of the *Land* Rhineland Palatinate (2011–2016)
- Garrelt Duin, Minister for economic affairs of the *Land* North Rhine-Westphalia
- Dr. Jean Botti, Chief Technical Officer of the Airbus Group
- Dr. Müller-Wiesner, Senior Vice President, Airbus Group
- Georg Schürmann, Manager of the Triodos Bank n.V. Deutschland
- Werner Biberacher, contractor for finance and insurance services, lecturer at the Cooperative State University Baden-Württemberg
- Dieter Weber, Managing Director of "nife power gmbh" in Gründung
- Wolfgang Bühring, Managing Director of the Stadtwerke Speyer GmbH
- Prof. Günter Bentele, communications scientist and Chairman of the DRPR ["German Council for Public Relations"]
- Prof. Heinrich August Winkler, historian and author
- Benjamin Zeeb, historian, manager of the Project for Democratic Union and author
- Prof. Brendan Simms, historian, President of the Henry Jackson Society, chairman of the Project for Democratic Union as well as author
- Prof. Dieter Dörr, Chair for Public Law, International and European Law, Media Law at the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz
- Helmut Markwort, former publisher of the magazine *Focus*
- Andreas Petzold, publisher of the magazines *stern* and *Capital*
- Christian Krug, chief editor of the magazine *stern*
- Stefan Aust, publisher of the newspaper *Die Welt*

- Dr. Werner Bartens, physician, journalist and senior editor responsible for science of the *SÜDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG* as well as author
- Julius Jamal, author and founder of Die Freiheitsliebe, and Die Freiheitsliebe ("Portal for critical journalism")
- Christoph Bautz, co-founder and managing secretary of Campact e.V., and Campact e.V.
- Nora Tschirner, Maren Urner and Perspective Daily
- Udo van Kampen, ZDF correspondent in New York and Brussels 1995 – 2015
- Michael Jungblut, journalist for economic, social and political issues
- Kurt Sigl, President of the "National Association eMobility"
- Futurologists Lars Thomsen and André Uhl
- André Heller, multimedia artist
- Tax consultant Gerd Salomon
- Architect and energy-efficiency expert Renzo Sciullo
- Solar energy expert Bastian Becker
- Renovation expert Andreas Mayer
- Sascha Maské, manager of the company Wattladen
- Susanne Weiß, founder and owner of "womange" as well as head of the office representing the *Land* Hesse in the National Association eMobilität
- Soccer world champion Mats Hummels and UNICEF
- Soccer world champion Mario Götze and Plan International
- Dieter Kürten, sports reporter and TV presenter (1967–2000)
- Herman van Veen, Hans-Werner Neske and the Herman van Veen-Stiftung
- Horst Wackerbarth, the photo artist with his „Red Couch“
- Dr. Peter Neher, President of the German Caritas Association
- Dr. Rudolf Seiters, President of the German Red Cross
- Nobel Peace Prize winners Médecins sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders)
- Klaus Vogel and SOS Méditerranée
- German Doctors e. V.
- Abeer Pamuk and SOS-Children's Villages worldwide
- Marion Lieser and Oxfam Germany
- Lea Rosh and André Schmitz, as initiators of the open letter of February 19, 2016 to Chancellor Angela Merkel in support of her asylum and refugee policies

- Lea Rosh, Iris Berben (also for *Jerusalem*), Anne Will, Michael Verhoeven and the „Förderkreis Denkmal für die ermordeten Juden Europas e.V.“
- Nora Weisbrod & aktion tagwerk
- Carlos Benede and Weitblick Jugendhilfe e.V.
- Uschi Glas and brotZeit e.V.
- AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL - division of the Federal Republic of Germany
- Greenpeace e. V. - The international environmental organization in Germany
- Claudia Michelsen, Bernd Siggelkow and Die Arche e.V.
- Dr. Jürgen Fricke, owner of EPS-Consultants († 31 Jan.2017)
- Godo Röben, Management Rügenwalder Mühle
- Sarah Wiener and the Sarah Wiener Foundation
- Dr. Rolf Spangenberg, veterinarian and author
- Dr. Hans-Ulrich Grimm, journalist and author
- Karl Ludwig Schweisfurth, up to 1985 owner of the "Herta" sausage factory, subsequently founder of the Schweisfurth-Foundation for sustainable agriculture and nutritional science, and the Schweisfurth Foundation
- Prof. Dr. Götz E. Rehn, founder and manager of Alnatura
- Valentin Thurn, documentary filmmaker and producer of the films *Taste the Waste* and *10 Milliarden - Wie werden wir alle satt?*
- Tom Vierus, ocean ecologist, photographer and animal conservationist
- Eberhard Brandes, head of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) in Germany
- Dr. Peter Harry Carstensen, *Ministerpräsident* ret. of the *Land* Schleswig-Holstein, Chairman of the Gregor Mendel Foundation and of the Gregor Mendel Foundation
- Roland Koch, *Ministerpräsident* of the *Land* Hesse ret.
- Leonie Rupprecht, committed to an animal husbandry appropriate for each species
- Karin Schramm und Christian Gansloweit, dog home of "Tierschutz Wörrstadt"
- Markus Imhoof, Swiss film director and scriptwriter (e.g. *Das Boot ist voll* and *More than Honey*)
- Corinna Hölzer, Cornelis Hemmer and "Deutschland summt!"
- Anna Bremer, Leah Bremer, Rebecca Bremer and Michel Acker of the Bremer Winery
- Dr. Thomas Kruse, civil engineer and bee conservationist
- Lukas Horn, the young fan of electromobility

- Reiner Hoffmann, the German Trade Union Federation (DGB) and the Alliance for Cosmopolitan Attitude
- Nobel Peace Prize laureate Prof. Muhammad Yunus, Saskia Bruysten, Sophie Eisenmann and Yunus Social Business
- Prof. Hans Küng and the Global Ethic Foundation.

The Authors

The authors live and work in harmony with Nature and technology in idyllic atmosphere on a former vinery. In four restored buildings the energy revolution is already present since 2012. Further details under: www.efa-batt.de.



Bertold Brecht said:

*"And they sawed the branches on which they sat, and called out to each other
what they had learned, how one could saw in a better way.
And they plummeted horribly to the ground, and those who watched them
shook their heads and continued to saw with ever increasing vigor."*

Let's compress the age of our planet from 4.6 billion years into a single calendar year. *Homo sapiens* thus first saw the light of day on New Year's Eve just after 11 p.m. Our world is beautiful and exasperating at the same time because *Homo sapiens* is stuck in the mist of evolution since half an hour and threatening to disappear into an evolutionary blind alley.

Let's imagine we faced a global threat from outside our world, such as we know from science fiction films. Then the people, the religions of the world and their leaders would stand together to protect and defend our Earth. And if we continue the way we are going now, *sooner or later* climate change will become a global danger for everyone, but one we human beings are creating, not one that comes from without. Knowing this, we ought to legislate binding global measures as fast as possible to protect the climate and prevent wars being fought over drinking water and food.

Albert Einstein said:

*"Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity;
and I'm not so sure about the universe."*

Let's prove the contrary - here, now and everywhere across the whole world!

Let's use our intelligence and act with vision, wisdom, and imagination to ensure that the story of *Homo Sapiens* is not just a pretty damn short episode in the history of our planet. May the species threatened with extinction or becoming extinct thanks to our doings breathe a sigh of relief, not because mankind is moribund, but because we humans, at last, distinguish ourselves by humaneness and commitment to the protection of endangered species.

A handbook on how we can together prevent the end of our world. If there were a school subject labeled "global consciousness," this book could well be used as a standard textbook. It is humorous, yet full of unpleasant truths; but it manages the balancing act between inspiration and giving hope in an objective and eloquent way. It is about the great problems of our time:

climate change, waste of resources, hunger, war and migration, civil rights, greed and abuse of religion. But more importantly, it is about how we can all win the game for the future. Readers will be amazed at an idea that sounds so absurd and so unrealistic, but in the end, they will be surprised at how simple the solution can be.



Thomas Reiter says:

"I would like as many people as possible to see, – in the not too distant future – with their own eyes, how beautiful our planet is from this perspective. Considering the many problems we human beings have, primarily with each other, this sight will make us realize that we are all in the same boat, in the true sense of the word. Then, I am absolutely convinced, it will be clear to everyone: We can only solve our problems down here together."