

Resistance Erupts Against NATO Policy

by Elke Fimmen

“Usually when we discuss the political situation in Germany, there’s nothing to report but gloomy news. But I actually think, with the developments of recent days, perhaps weeks, that for the first time for a long while, Germany can really make a difference in history.” That is how Helga Zepp-LaRouche, the national chair of the Civil Rights Solidarity Movement (BüSo), began her speech at a rally in Berlin on April 2 for the party’s European parliamentary election campaign. Significant circles in Germany are not lining up, as they usually do, with the policy of NATO, the U.S. Administration, and the British government. She described the widespread resistance to both the sanctions against Russia and the overall policy of confrontation with Moscow.

The BüSo’s election campaign [see article in this section] aims to stop NATO’s escalation toward World War III and to pose a solution to the crisis, which originates in the disintegration of the trans-Atlantic financial system. The solution includes the concept of the World Land-Bridge, rail lines with high-technology development corridors on both sides, which was also put on the agenda by Chinese President Xi Jinping during his visit to Germany at the end of March.

The Government’s Line

Of course, the resistance so far is by no means sufficient, and has not changed the German government’s policy. We are on the verge of a thermonuclear world war! But we do have the potential to put a completely different policy on the agenda: global development and economic construction, which is not only in German interests, but in the interests of all people who do not want to go down with the bankrupt trans-Atlantic empire of globalization. To push through this alternative now, we need an unprecedented mobilization of all rational people in Germany!

NATO and the American and British governments, and the EU bureaucracy in Brussels, are putting enormous pressure on Germany, which they want to be a side-kick in their scorched-earth policy toward Russia (and China). Statements such as those of the new German Defense Minister, Ursula von der Leyen, that we have to “show the flag” at the borders of Russia, and that if it comes down to a third stage of sanctions, President Putin would have “his Maidan directly in front of the Kremlin,” stupidly play into the hands of the trans-Atlantic war faction.

German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble’s comparison of Russian behavior toward Crimea with Hitler’s invasion of the Sudetenland is even crazier. The official Russian response, delivered to the new German Ambassador, that Schäuble’s “pseudo-historical excursus” was a “provocation,” and Moscow’s recognition that both Chancellor Angela Merkel and Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier specifically distanced themselves from it, make it clear how closely Moscow is observing the policy fight in the German government.

Focus on Ukraine

In view of NATO’s decision to increase its military presence in Eastern Europe and to cut off cooperation with Russia (which raises major problems for the Afghanistan situation alone, as well as for the war on drugs), it is particularly welcome that the former Chief of Staff of the Bundeswehr, Gen. Harald Kujat (ret.), warned of escalating the confrontation against Russia. In an interview with the *Mitteldeutsche Zeitung*, he described the objectives of Western crisis management as unclear, and said that it is important not to escalate under pressure from anxious eastern states (such as Poland). Kujat opposed extending the deployment of NATO ground troops in countries bordering Russia, and added that “NATO should clearly state: ‘We do not intend to make Ukraine a member.’ . . . This is clearly what Russia wants to prevent. The best thing would be for Ukraine to say this for themselves.”

At a German-French-Polish foreign ministers’ meeting in Weimar, Steinmeier said he did not foresee NATO membership for Ukraine. We have to stop “either/or” pressure on the Eastern European countries, and must involve Russia in talks on Association Agreements with the EU, he said.

Undersecretary in the Foreign Ministry Ekkehard Brose (the former deputy ambassador to NATO), made the point in an article posted by the Berlin Foundation for Science and Policy (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, SWP), reprinted in the business daily *Handelsblatt* on April 2: The West depends on constructive cooperation with Moscow to stabilize Ukraine. Neither Russia nor the West can “stand idly by and watch the emergence of a large, failed state in Europe,” he said. Along with its orientation to the West, Ukraine depends on preserving its Russian export markets, a secure gas supply, and stable relations with its eastern neighbors. We should also consider “forms of decentralization” of Ukraine, he said.

Even if one does not support Brose’s other premises concerning Russia, the fact remains that there is no lasting solution without economic cooperation and development. This, however, can only happen if the imperial straitjacket of the EU is removed.

An important signal of opposition to the EU policy of sanctions and confrontation against Russia came from a conference of the German-Russian Raw Materials Forum in Dresden, Germany, on April 1-3. The theme of the speeches was “Cooperation Instead of Confrontation”—including from representatives of the German political establishment such as Edmund Stoiber (Christian Social Union) and former Environment Minister Klaus Töpfer (Christian Democratic Union). Russian Deputy Prime Minister Arkady Dvorkovich stressed that the event was taking place amidst a “storm, which some people want to turn into a tsunami.” Now we need “people with clear heads,” he added. Several presentations at the conference referred to the close cooperation between Russia and Germany over the last 300 years, including between the two oldest mining academies in the world—those of Freiberg and St. Petersburg. Direct cooperation between the two countries was initiated by Peter the Great, who visited Freiberg in 1697 and invited Saxon mining engineers to Russia, to lay the foundations for mining in the Urals.

It is particularly important that the Russian side wants to stop being mainly a raw-materials exporter, a situation that enforces the imperial British/EU policy toward Eurasia. That was precisely the *casus belli* regarding Ukraine’s rejection of the EU Association Agreement last Fall; the country would have benefited

from cooperation with the Eurasian Customs Union, because of this new Russian orientation.

Offers from Russia and China

So said Prof. Vladimir Litvinenko, Rector of the National University of Mineral Resources in St. Petersburg, in an interview (along with Professor Töpfer) posted on the website of the Raw Materials Forum (rohstoff-forum.org): Russia’s economy has been concentrated on raw materials, but it now wants to promote “vertical integration,” combining raw materials production with processing and manufacturing. The plan is to shift from being “a nation that produces and supplies raw materials, to a processing nation.” Russia’s foreign partners’ expertise is most welcome, he said; they can participate in the value creation, which would take place in Russia itself. Conditions for economic integration would therefore have to be created, but the added value would have to remain in the country. And then he made an offer that is of particular interest for Germany: “To this end, the developed consumer nations will have to adjust, in the context of a global division of labor, concentrating on what they do particularly well: research and development. Whoever does this skillfully will come out ahead.”

The Chinese are offering the same thing—to jointly develop Eurasia and thus to promote the world economy as a whole, as proposed during the visit of the Chinese President to Europe and the strategic agreement between China and Germany, signed in Berlin. The “New Silk Road” policy, which Xi brought to Germany, has long been the policy of the BüSo, in opposition to monetarist deindustrialization and the destructive green insanity.

Helga Zepp-LaRouche is regarded in China as “the Silk Road Lady,” and would therefore be an excellent interlocutor for all those in Germany who want to realize this vision.

Germany must now seize the golden opportunity and think about its strong points in culture, science, the economy, and innovation, or, as Zepp-LaRouche said at the end of her speech in Berlin, “commit its own treasures to a more humane future.” But the time to turn things around is short and the situation is extremely dangerous, especially as long as President Obama remains in office.

Translated from German by Susan Welsh