

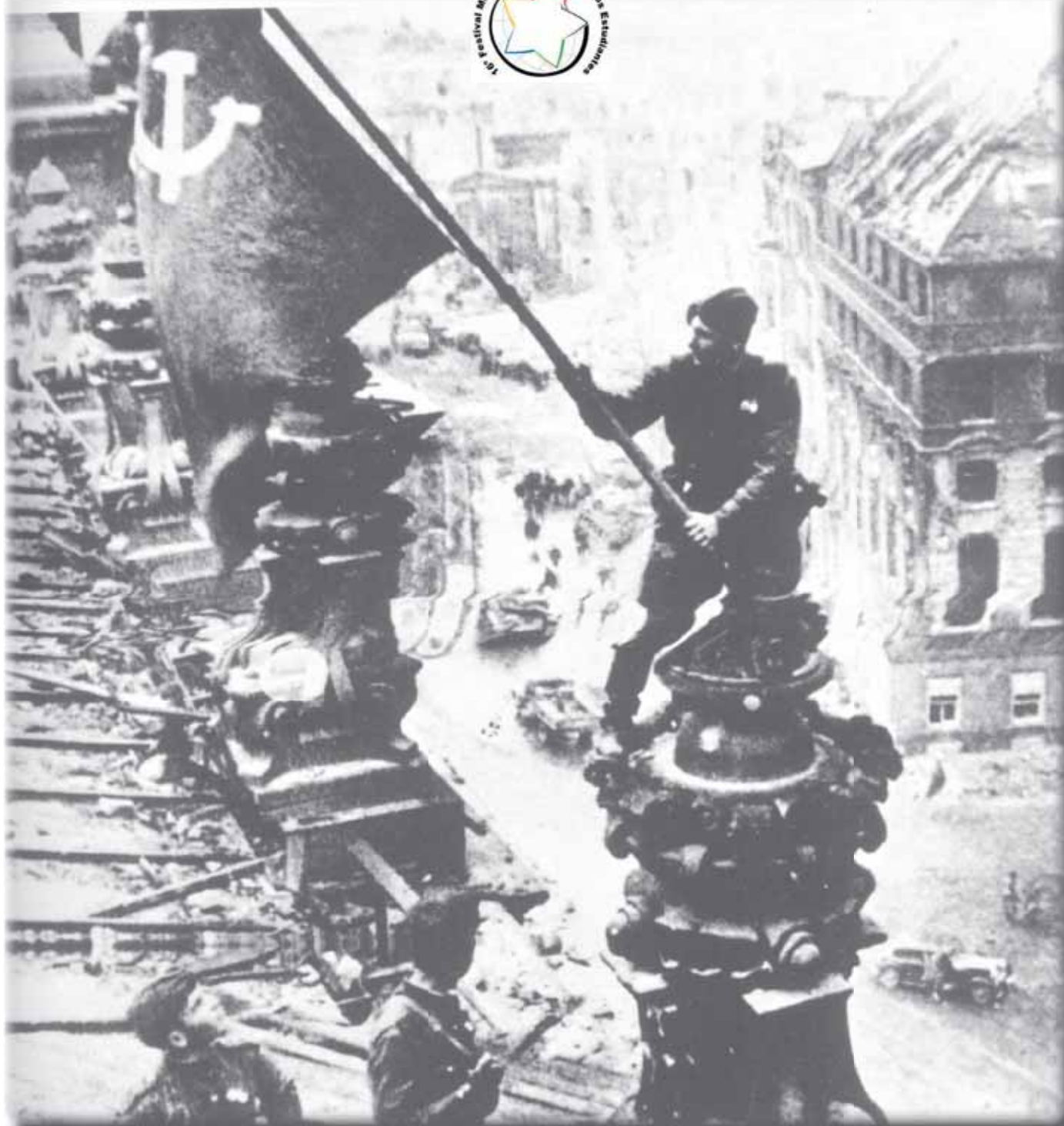
HERAUSGEGEBEN VOM ZENTRALRAT
EXTRAUSGABE

FAMFARE

XVI World Festival Venezuela 2005



DAS INFOBLATT DER
FREIEN DEUTSCHEN JUGEND



What is the Potsdam Agreement?

After 55 millions dead, Nazi Germany unconditionally surrenders in front of the Red Army's and its allies' gun barrels. The victorious powers sign the Potsdam Agreement on August 2, 1945, in order that Germany will never again be able to threaten her neighbors or the preservation of world peace. The Potsdam Agreement is thus the most important document of international law dealing with Germany. It should regulate the postwar order in Germany and clearly decree what to do in order that war and fascism never again originate from Germany.

Main contents of the Potsdam Agreement concerning Germany:

"The complete disarmament and demilitarization of Germany and the elimination ... of all German industry that could be used for military production."

"To destroy the National Socialist Party and its affiliated and supervised organizations, to dissolve all Nazi institutions, to ensure that they are not revived in any form, and to prevent all Nazi and militarist activity or propaganda."

"At the earliest practicable date, the German economy shall be decentralized for the purpose of eliminating the present excessive concentration of economic powers as exemplified in particular by cartels, syndicates, trusts and other monopolistic arrangements."

"To prepare for the eventual reconstruction of German political life on a democratic basis and for eventual peaceful cooperation in international life by Germany."

("Report on the Tripartite Conference of Berlin", Potsdam Agreement of August 2, 1945)

Without interruption, and also in the future, the Potsdam Agreement is in force; it is enforceable international law for Germany. The ruling German imperialists do not care about it very much; already in the early postwar years they violated this agreement. In the German Democratic Republic (GDR), the Potsdam Agreement was enforced; here, one had learned the lessons of horrible World War II.

In the GDR, all fascist parties were illegalized and dissolved. All conglomerates, trusts, and big

businesses, that had financed the National Socialist Party and had profited from war, were expropriated and nationalized. All teachers, judges, and professors who had joined in the Nazi movement were immediately fired. The entire apparatus of the Wehrmacht [Nazi army], with all its affiliations and Nazi generals, was disempowered and dissolved. Leading Nazis got the death sentence. Anti-fascist youth organizations, for example the FDJ, were supported by the GDR; an anti-fascist unified labor union was founded. The relations to other peoples were promoted by innumerable friendship organizations.

In the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG), a multitude of fascist parties and organizations were admitted and promoted already shortly after the war. The conglomerates' masters, as Siemens, Krupp, and Thyssen, could return into their old positions unpunished. Nazi teachers and university professors remained untouched and could further spread their Nazi poison. Leading Wehrmacht personnel from the chief of staffs built up the Bundeswehr, the FRG's army. From its very beginning the Bundeswehr was in the fascist Wehrmacht's tradition. The Nazi criminals' prosecution was stopped shortly after the war. The old fascists looked for fields of activity in the civil service sector, in the police, or in the Bundesgrenzschutz [federal border patrol]. Anti-fascist youth organizations were persecuted by the FRG's organs from the beginning. In 1951, the anti-fascist, democratic FDJ was illegalized; the Communist Party of Germany [KPD] followed in 1956. Revanchist and fascist organizations like the National Party of Germany (NPD) and the German People's Union (DVU) were allowed to again promote hate among the peoples and incite the Germans against their neighbors shortly after the war. Revanchist organizations, in parts financed by the state, are threatening the sovereignty of neighboring countries like Poland, the Czech Republic, and others.

The FDJ demands the immediate enforcement of the Potsdam Agreement. This means: The expropriation of the warmongers—Siemens, Daimler-Benz, Thyssen, etc. The complete demilitarization of the FRG and the destruction of the German armaments industry. The illegalization of all fascist organizations. The abolishment of the FDJ and KPD prohibition.

Imperialism and socialism in Germany after 1945

The German bourgeoisie loses its fascist state on May 8, 1945. It has to escape from the Red Army.

The German imperialists, under the western Allies' protection, found the Federal Republic of Germany in May 1949.

The German anti-fascists and communists, under the Soviet Union's protection, found the German Democratic Republic in October 1949.

How did these camps develop? Which of the two states learnt the lessons from war and fascism?



De-Nazification in the FRG?

Big Nazis in high offices:
The West German state authorities are composed of fascist politicians, military personnel, civil servants, medical doctors, and intellectuals.



Democratization in the FRG?

1952: The armed police units shoot Philipp Müller, an anti-fascist organized in the FDJ.



De-militarization in the FRG?

The Bundeswehr, created in 1955, continues the traditions of the nationalist Reichswehr and the fascist Wehrmacht.



De-centralization in the economy in the FRG?

The Nazi-conglomerate for chemical production, the "I.G. Farben", has been in a "state of dissolution" since 1945.



De-Nazification in the GDR!

1949: In the so-called "Waldheim" trial the GDR sentences important fascists to death. Fascist organizations are illegalized.



Democratization in the GDR!

Unity of the working class: Under Wilhelm Pieck and Otto Grothewohl, the Communist Party of Germany and the Social Democratic Party of Germany unite in 1946.



Antimilitarism in the GDR!

1952: Workers' militia as first organs of the people's armament are created.



De-centralization of the economy in the GDR!

77% vote for an expropriation of German capitalists during a referendum in 1946. The ship is called "Peoples' friendship".



With the destruction of the anti-fascist and anti-imperialist wall in Berlin, on November 9, 1989, the German bourgeoisie received the freedom to travel! To the worse of the peoples!



What ever happened to the lessons learnt from World War II? What about de-Nazification, de-militarization, de-centralization of the economy, and democratization, as agreed upon by the powers that defeated fascism? What about „Never again war, never again fascism“, sworn by the former inmates of the Buchenwald concentration camp? Is the „unified“ Germany peaceful, democratic, anti-fascist, anti-imperialist?

We say: No!



Fascists are allowed to freely roam the streets and parliaments.



Private associations, supported by the government, demand territories in three countries (Poland, Czech Republic, and Russia).



German imperialist troops are based all around the world.

Government demagogues propagandize the people.



The mistakes we made and how the GDR was annexed

In the years prior to the annexation of the German Democratic Republic (East Germany), we neglected to analyse our contradictions. We were confident that everything will turn out by itself—well or not. We ceased fighting for people's minds. We became too lazy to fight. Too many members of our parties and youth organizations only joined for their personal advantage.

We forgot the important role of the GDR for peace in Europe, and also for the peoples fighting suppression. We only thought about our own benefit and envied the West for the bright, full shopping windows. Nice cars became of more importance to us than our anti-fascist constitution. We believed in their freedom and free enterprise instead of people's enterprise. We forgot our own state, built up in 40 years of hard work. All the achievements built up despite the daily assaults of the FRG (West Germany) seemed useless. We trusted the ones from the West when they promised we could live their wonderful lives just by letting them into our country. We fell for the advertisements, blind to the fact that the FRG is an exploiters' state, just like any capitalist state is.

So on October 3rd, 1990 the FRG reached the goal it had been planning for since the founding of the GDR: the annexation of the other, the socialist Germany. Blinded by the promises, the people of the GDR opened the borders and the gates of the factories for the German imperialists. Quite some saw through their lies, but in the rising counter-revolution no one would listen to their warning voices.

First thing the ruling class of the FRG did, was to disarm the NVA—our army. There was no resistance. After they had torn down the Wall, destroyed our party, and dissolved the armed workers' brigades there seemed no possibility to stop them. Now they showed their real face and made over 3 million people unemployed in the following five years alone. Every possible competitor for the West German industry had to be destroyed. Piece by piece, our industry was demolished; within only two years, industrial production was halved.

A highly industrialized country—number 15 worldwide in 1985—was run down to a desolated area with only ruins left of our steel, chemical, machinery plants, and big agricultural complexes. The FRG destroyed East Germany's economy so completely and brutally that today East Germany is among the poorest regions of Europe. Since 1945, this amount of demolition of an economy, as in the GDR after its occupation by the FRG, has been unique.

All the people's property not changing directly into the hands of the FRG was given to the "Treuhand" (official trustee). The Treuhand not only helped destroying the economy but also all the libraries, schools, kindergardens, and youth clubs. With the state gone that had taken care of them, they had to close. Thousands of tons of our books written by Marx, Lenin, Brecht, or Anna Seghers were dumped or burned—like the Nazis did. All big publishing houses, all newspapers were liquidated or bought for a penny by West German companies so today you can only buy what the bourgeoisie wants you to read. Workers' libraries are not desired, because workers who read don't suit the capitalists well.

We lost all achievements built up for 40 years: outpatients' departments, school lunch, cultural centers, factory kindergardens, free public health care.

The Treuhand did a good job in expropriating us. 85% of the 1.2 billion (U.S.: trillion) DM the people of the GDR owned were wrecked or got into possession of West German companies and banks. The monetary assets of the FRG capitalists doubled in just 10 years (1993-2003), but there is no intention of ending the raid. When the Treuhand closed, it left debts: 256 thousand million DM we and the workers in the FRG have to pay with their taxes; we pay for our own annexation.

Today, high rents, unemployment, and growing poverty, as well as the struggle one against the other have become normal in the



Again and again, we show the people that, despite the GDR's annexation, we fight against the FRG. „Despite annexation: We are still here!“



The GDR's border was an insurmountable obstacle for the Bundeswehr and Nazis of the FRG. With a drawn GDR borderline we remind everybody that the „wall“ had thwarted the FRG's plans for 40 years.



At the Palace of the Republic, a famous GDR building, we fixed the slogan: „Peace—Employment—GDR“. The next day, the police had removed the letters. German imperialists are afraid of everything and everybody that reminds of the GDR. In the upcoming months, they will tear down the building...



„Better out of the FRG than into war!“ We confronted the west German annexationists with this slogan at the so-called „Day of German Unification“.



„Factories and land back into the workers' hands!“ May 1, 2004.



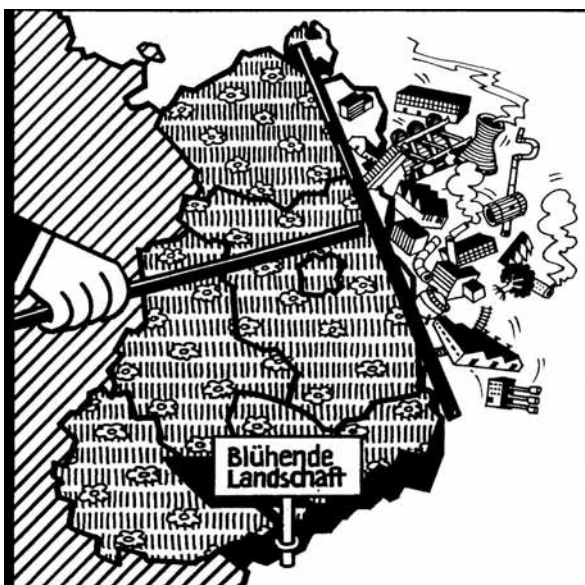
During a solidarity march against the FRG's class jurisdiction we reminded people of the thousands of communists and antifascists of the GDR who were sentenced by west German courts after the annexation.



No comment.



An activity at the anniversary of the Berlin wall's erection, in front of the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin. „This border prevented that we went to war together against other peoples“



„Blossoming landscapes“—this German imperialist promise fulfilled itself: Where industrial plants and workshops once were, weeds are growing today.



Where young people are on the streets against fascism, we try to fight with them. Here, the FDJ flag waves at an anti-fascist rally against deportation.



The west German imperialist army, the Bundeswehr, increasingly stages big celebrations. Today, as on other days, we join a protest against this militarism and say: „No to the FRG and its army!“

new Greater Germany. Kindergarden has become a luxury—children are expensive without a socialist state taking care of mother and child. Two years after the annexation, the birth rate nearly dropped to half.

Anything reminding of the GDR was destroyed: hundreds of monuments honoring the Red Army, Marx, Lenin, Ernst Thälmann, Hans Beimler, and all the other anti-fascists and revolutionaries were demolished. Memorial sites for the victims of German fascism were destroyed. The ruling class demanded silence and immediately started the attack against the opposition while most of us were still blinded by the cheerful fireworks at the Brandenburg Gate and living the illusion of the paradise FRG. 1.5 million democrats, anti-fascists, and communists were simply fired, got their pension cut down to zero, or were sentenced and imprisoned by the West German imperialists. Our teachers and principals, professors and scientists, attorneys and judges were fired and replaced by civil servants from the west. The hardest punishment was reserved for members of the party and the army because they had dared to fight for socialism for 40 years. We watched without helping, because we had forgotten how to fight. We forgot that socialism needs a daily fight and lots of hard work as long as the old world still exists. We forgot that the world is divided into classes, we only distinguished between “West” and “East”. After World War II our grandparents said: “We would accept dry bread as our meal forever if it helped prevent another war.” But we do not know war, so we did not fight against our main enemy—the FRG. Naively, we were convinced of the irreversibility of society’s achievements in the GDR. But German imperialism, our worst enemy, only waited for its day to turn back time and start the third attempt after two horrible world wars.

Workers in both countries—the annexing country and the country being annexed—stood and watched how German imperialism absorbed the GDR, instead of fighting together. Since we didn’t share the struggle, we now share our common defeat. For us, democrats, socialists, and communists, for the workers in East and West Germany this was the greatest defeat since 1933. Divided as we were, we did not have a chance against German imperialism—be it in 1933 against the Nazi threat, or in 1990 against this dangerous Great Germany. The grown Germany being no.1 in Europe threatens world peace again. After the annexation of the GDR the Bundeswehr is increasingly being transformed into a high-tech army only useful for invasions. The Wall is gone and thus the fortress holding back the FRG—the GDR. That is why Germany was able to bomb Yugoslavia in 1999.

As twice before we underestimated German imperialism and believed it had become more peaceful. This naivety cost us our state and peace in Europe.

Under difficult circumstances we have to learn where our main enemy is; we learn what we lost with the GDR. We have to start all over again. What remains of the GDR are the experiences, the knowledge of a different Germany being possible. The most important thing we learned is that a socialist state is not worth a penny if you are not consciously struggling for its existence. If you forget that you have a responsibility for it, and how fast everything you strove for can perish. Consequently, we must learn the lessons from history, otherwise it will repeat itself. To learn the lessons from the latest German history means: Fighting the annexation of the GDR, fighting against the FRG! Every day!

German imperialism speaks of Europe's necessary ascendance as an equal global power vis-à-vis the United States —and means its own ascendance

With the annexation of the GDR, the FRG incorporated to its assets 16.5 million people and a territory 1/3 its own size. German imperialism was thus the only one that enlarged its territory after 1990. Being an economic giant already before that, the FRG then became a political giant as well. That first alteration of borders revising the postwar order of 1945 in Europe was quickly followed by others after 1990—much less peaceful ones. Main instigator from outside: the enlarged Germany, again and again, often explicitly against the declared will and warnings of its imperialist competitors, France, Great Britain, and the United States. The dissolution and shattering of Yugoslavia—started off by the diplomatic recognition of Slovenia and Croatia after 1991; the renewed partition of Czechoslovakia in 1993, along a demarcation line at first drafted by the Hitlerite fascists in 1944. In 1999, chancellor Schröder militarily declared the end of the postwar era as well: with the attack on Yugoslavia.

German imperialism took the GDR's annexation as its chance to put an end to the almost devastating defeat of 1945. Today, the German bourgeoisie is the strongest in Europe, and again it endeavors to subordinate the continent and realize the plans that Friedrich Engels had stigmatized publicly already in 1859: "We mean the 'middle European great power theory' that intends to create a federal state out of Austria, Prussia, and the rest of Germany; that intends to germanize Hungary and the Slavic-Romanian Danube countries by colonization, schooling, and soft force; that additionally intends to reconquer Alsace and Lorraine. The German's fatherland will be stretching twice as far as the German tongue now may be heard; and when all of this will have been accomplished Germany will be the mediator and master of Europe."

1914, in an essay titled "The World Power":

"Germany struggles for the European thought. Thus Germany earns the right of being the prime power of a European community of states."

Whether openly by war or hardly disguised by the talking about a so-called "European constitution", set on the path towards a "peaceful unification of Europe." Our thanks to the French and Dutch people for their rejection of the constitution.

A "constitution" that would have resulted in a temporary unity of the German with the French imperialists—lead by the Germans—in order to subordinate the remaining European states. Enacting this constitution would have resulted in the "peaceful" and "constitutional" recruitment of the signatories' militaries, budgets, economies, and the people for the European aim of "equal and on the same level with the U.S.A." enforcing "security and peace all over the world."

The German imperialists know very well that – in order to be on one level with the U.S. – it is not enough to repeatedly be world champion of exports, as for example last year. The United States' economic power is about four to five times bigger than the FRG's, and the distance in armaments and military is even larger. Only the economic power of all present E.U. states combined nearly matches that of the U.S. And also the backlog in armaments and military may only be reduced with a direct access to the resources of the E.U. members.



Each year in January, we commemorate the murdered communists, Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg: „Down with war! Down with the government! Give nothing for German interests! The main enemy is at home!“



„A German Europe means war—enforce the Potsdam Agreement!“ FDJ members at a union demonstration.



FDJ members, with their red flags, salute the memorial for the Red Army in Berlin-Treptow.

To demand a free, equal, and just Europe means to us: demilitarize Germany first!
 “Europe—free, equal, and just—is only possible when German militarism is completely destroyed!”
 May 1, 2004.





On May 8, 2004, we confront the FRG (Nazi Germany's successor) with the anti-Hitler coalition's flags.

Again, we demand the enforcement of the Potsdam Agreement, with huge letters, in front of the Brandenburg Gate.



„A German Europe means war!“

This problem occupies the German imperialists today, as it did yesterday, when they talk about “Europe”. Carl Duisburg, chair of the I.G. Farben company—predecessor of the BASF, today the biggest chemical company of the world—demanded in 1931: “Only a closed economic bloc from Bordeaux to Odessa will provide Europe with the economic backbone that is needed for the continuation of its importance in the world.”

About ten years later Hitler Germany had temporarily created that economic bloc; for these ends, it had brought war, expropriation, and millions of murders to almost all peoples in Europe. Only the anti-fascist struggle of the peoples and the anti-Hitler coalition could end all this. The “voluntary” and “complete” subordination of the European peoples to German plans has failed for the moment. However, just for this special case, the CDU/CSU [Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union], then governing party, threatened: “Without the continuation of such a development Germany could be requested or be tried, out of own security interests, to enforce Eastern Europe’s stabilization on its own and in the traditional manner.” The “traditional stabilization” of Europe in two world wars exterminated almost as many people as are living in Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Czechoslovakia, and Poland.

Lenin noted in August 1915: “From the point of view of the economic conditions of imperialism—i.e. capital export and the partition of the world by the ‘progressive’ and ‘civilized’ colonial powers—the United States of Europe, under capitalist conditions, are either impossible or reactionary... Of course, temporary agreements between the capitalists and the powers are possible. In this sense, the United States of Europe are possible as an

agreement of the European capitalists...about what?”

The majority of bourgeoisies and their henchmen in the European states try to convince their peoples that a “united Europe” is in the interest of the working people. The obligation to be exploited for starvation wages—in the interest of the working people? Strikes for higher wages being quashed by the military after declaring them a “terrorist threat”—in the interest of the working people? The obligation to armament and the agreement on world wide wars—in the interest of the working people? The erection of detention camps for refugees at the E.U.’s borders in order to use them as work slaves when necessary—in the interest of the working people? NO!

Europe’s capitalists are forced to temporarily unite their forces in order to intensify the people’s exploitation, to increase their extra profits, and to strengthen their competitive stance vis-à-vis other imperialists, mainly the U.S.A.

At a global scale, Europe under German leadership—never mind whether by way of the “constitution” or by way of force—may only play an imperialist role, directed against the people’s will, a counter-revolutionary role. The peoples all over the world will have to bear the consequences.

German imperialism talks about Europe’s necessary ascendance. Either its European competitors move along the drafted lines—or German imperialism threatens them, again, with German barbarity. This threatening of other peoples is possible and will be enforced by German imperialism as long as the people in Germany permit it.



German Imperialism and the struggle for economic power in Latin America

German imperialism has always had a strong business presence in Latin America. In 1987/88, 35,5 % of German foreign direct investments in „developing countries“ went to Latin America and the Caribbean whereas only 4,5 % went to Eastern Europe. Five years later, however, the situation had fundamentally changed. In 92/93, 50,9 % of German exports to „developing countries“ went to Eastern Europe and only 15,6 % went to Latin America. That means that after 1990 the FRG temporarily focused on its old „backyard“ in Eastern Europe where the markets suddenly opened up for German capital.

Nevertheless, Germany stayed present in Latin America. Even in the mid-90s, the FRG was Latin America's largest trade partner within the EU and the third largest in the world (after the USA and Japan). It was also by far the largest investor in Latin America of all EU-countries. In Sao Paulo alone there are 800 German enterprises. This makes the Brazilian city the biggest German industrial location outside of German territory. About 80 % to 90 % of German foreign direct investments in the region go to the three countries Brasil, Mexico and Argentina.

However, on the 1st of January 1994 the NAFTA between the USA, Canada and Mexico was established. Washington thus increased its influence on Mexico. As an immediate result the „share of the EU-countries of Mexican exports decreased by half from 12 % to 6 %“, says the German foreign ministry.

Now, an increased competition on Latin American markets ensued between the USA and the European, especially German imperialists. In the same year, in 1994, the Federation of German Industrialists (BDI) founded the so-called „Latin America Initiative“. Its objective is „to secure and enhance the position of German businesses [...] in Latin America. The various activities in Latin America

and Germany needed to be brought together and aligned strategically.”

In principle, the FRG tries to give German foreign policy a European outlook also where Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) is concerned. The German foreign ministry demands the „Europeanization of Germany's LAC policy“ and states that it is required to keep Germany's LAC policy „under constant review to see whether its goals can be realized more effectively through a bilateral or a European approach. Wherever possible precedence is given to a European approach.”

What is the strategy of the USA? Washington has long intended to establish a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego. In April 2001, it was decided at the summit in Québec to realize the FTAA until 2005.

According to the German secretary of economy Müller in 2001, this project is „a special challenge for the European economy“: „Before the FTAA comes into effect, the trade agreements between the EU and the Latin American states must be completed, so that Europe is one step ahead of the United States in gaining markets“, claims Müller. „Otherwise, similar problems as with Mexico threaten to arise.“ Georg Braun, head of the German „Latin America Initiative“ adds: „Without this counter balance in the form of other economic areas, like for instance between the E.U. and Mercosur, the F.T.A.A., in the long run, will be a real threat to our interests.”

That means, German capital has long been claiming a free trade agreement between the E.U. and Mercosur (full members: Brasil, Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay). With such an agreement the world's largest free trade area of the world would be created. Already in 1999, a framework of a cooperation agreement between the E.U. and Mercosur came into

force. However, this was only the beginning of the tug-of-war.

The Germans demand an opening of the markets for industrial goods, services, and the “liberalization” of placing public orders from the Mercosur states. As return, these states demand the opening of the European agricultural market and a reduction of E.U. agricultural subsidies. However, there is a clash between the F.R.G.’s and France’s interests. Paris is not willing to subordinate the E.U. agricultural policy to German interests. Berlin is nonetheless aiming at an agricultural reform, which would result in a distinct cut-back in assistance for French agriculture. Released funds should, on the one hand, be diverted to the “German backyard”—Eastern Europe. On the other hand, German industry wants to penetrate Mercosur markets and is willing to sacrifice French agricultural interests to that strategy.

France, however, couldn’t be deceived. In October 2004 the negotiations between the E.U. and Mercosur failed, at least for the time being. The German BDI [federation of German industrialists] immediately demanded a “fast resumption” of free trade negotiations, because Mercosur was “a strategic market for German industry.” Also the F.T.A.A.—a U.S. project—failed in 2004, which means neither of the two imperialists is strong enough right now to enforce its project completely. Both parties could however attain partial victories. The

U.S.A. concluded 2004 a contract with Central America in August 2004; it was agreed that a duty free area would be created within ten years. The E.U. concluded a contract with Chile—the “most far-reaching association contract [...], the E.U. and its member states ever agreed upon,” as the German Department of Foreign Affairs proudly noted. In 2000, a “global agreement” with Mexico went into effect as well. Since then E.U. trade with Mexico increased 30%.

How will it continue? The German “Foundation Science and Policy” (a highly influential German foreign policy think tank) notes: “Two results might be conceivable: Either competing economic blocks on the American and European continents, or South America bound to the E.U. and an enlarged North American region [Raum] under leadership of the U.S.A.

Such an attempt at dividing spheres of influence by the great powers wouldn’t be new. During World War II, the Nazi Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ribbentrop offered the U.S.A.: You will get America, and we will rule Europe. At the moment, German foreign policy is not ready to be satisfied with Europe, but is working actively to get important parts of South America under its control. The world won’t get more peaceful as a consequence. Far from that: The danger that the contradictions between the imperialists for the third time grow into a great war is increasing.

„May 8th 2005: Brecht is forbidden in the FRG“

1

The project will be the continuation of another one: the scenic depiction and modification of Bertolt Brecht's „Legend of the Dead Soldier“ performed on the battle fields of Verdun, the military cemetery in Bitburg, on the river Rhine and then in the former capital, Bonn, in 1989. A fallen German soldier was exhumed three times and declared fit for military action, until finally the “dead soldier” himself climbed into his grave in Bonn. There he rested only one year and arrived – in the course of German unification – in Berlin where he is roaming around since then.

2

In the present project, the „dead soldier“ lies on the stairs of the „Reichstag“ and then will be brought in and laid out inside. Hanne Hiob, Brecht's daughter reads the poem of her father loudly while, in the meantime, gentlemen dressed in black will have driven up in front of the “Reichstag” with

two Soviet tanks and a truck. They will sing a Russian soldier's song when they enter the “Reichstag”. After that they transport the “dead soldier” to the Cecilienhof, where the Potsdam agreement was signed in 1945. During the night, the air-raid protection alarm roars over Potsdam and anti-aircraft searchlights illuminate the sky. An allied bomber appears above the town, but—in contrast to the night on April 14th, 1945—it will not drop any bombs but pieces of paper on which the events of the next day will be announced. The next day: the “dead soldier” is taken in custody by the representatives of the four victorious powers (France, Great Britain, U.S.S.R., U.S.A.) and will be brought to the place where the “Garrison Church” once stood and where an imitation of the former carillon can be heard today. At that place he will be buried forever. The allies drive back to the former British airport of Gatow in Berlin and fly away with the British bomber.

Bertolt Brecht

Legend of the Dead Soldier

And when the war reached its fifth spring
with no hint of a pause for breath
the soldier did the obvious thing
and died a hero's death.

The war, it appeared, was far from done.
The Kaiser said, 'It's a crime.
To think my soldier's dead and gone
before the proper time.'

The summer spread over the makeshift
graves.
The soldier lay ignored
until one night there came an official army medical board.

The board went out to the cemetery
with consecrated spade
and dug up what was left of him
and put him on parade.

The doctors sorted out what they'd
found
and kept what they thought would serve
and made their report: 'He's physically
sound.
He's simply lost his nerve.'

Straightway they took the soldier off.
The night was soft and warm.
You could tip your helmet back and see
the stars they see at home.

They filled him up with a fiery schnaps
to bring him back to life
then shoved two nurses into his arms
and his half-naked wife.

The soldier was stinking with decay
so a priest goes on before
to give him incense on his way
that he may stink no more.

In front the band with oom-pah-pah
intones a rousing march.

The soldier does like the handbook
says
and flicks his legs from his arse.

Their arms about him, keeping pace
two kind first-aid men go
in case he falls in the shit on his face
for that would never do.

They paint his shroud with the black-
white-red
of the old imperial flag
with so much colour it covers up
that bloody spattered rag.

Up front a gent in a morning suit
and stuffed-out shirt marched too:
a German determined to do his duty
as Germans always do.

So see them now as, oom-pah-pah
along the roads they go
and the soldier goes whirling along
with them
like a flag in the driving snow.

The dogs cry out and the horses
prance
The rats squeal on the land.
They're damned if they're going to
belong to France:
it's more than flesh can stand.

And when they pass through a village
all
the women are moved to tears.
The party salutes; the moon shines full.
The whole lot give three cheers.

With oom-pah-pah and cheerio
and wife and dog and priest
and, among them all, the soldier
himself
like some poor drunken beast.

And when they pass through a village
perhaps
it happens he disappears
for such a crowd comes to join the
chaps
with oompah and three cheers...

In all that dancing, yelling crowd
he disappears from view.
You can only see him from overhead
which only stars can do.

The stars won't always be up there.
The dawn is turning red.
But the soldier goes off to a hero's
death
just like the handbook said.

Translation by John Willet



The project „The Funeral or The Heavenly Four“ couldn't be performed in Berlin on May 8th 2005 since the municipal senate declared for itself a “special law” for that day on the area around the “Reichstag”.



Instead, a „Day for Democracy“ was celebrated in the middle of the city.



We couldn't do anything but point out the government's ban ...

...and make the promise: “We will come back!”



So that HE will finally rest in peace and that no war will originate from German soil anymore.