

**EAB Analysis
by Dr Tilo Wagner
(2014-17)**

Europe`s chance to aid North Korea - US ties!

(Nagasaki Day - Long Version)

Not unlikely that Pyongyang in secrecy wishes to draw even with `Confucian brothers` Beijing, Seoul and Tokyo when it comes to receiving US-/EU-support to grow more prosperous. However, ongoing since 1992-93 and escalating timely towards 2017 UN General Assembly gatherings in New York in September, how could Europe contribute its *rich* east-west peace-unifying experience (Valery Giscard d`Estaing to Helmut Kohl) to help mitigate and transform DPRK-US nuclear stand-off? As twenty-five years of UN-sanctions have failed to keep Pyongyang from building and testing a nuclear deterrence (since mid-2017, BBC reporting) leaving its leadership ever more isolated, mistrusted and hence dangerous behind, new methods need to be swiftly considered to cut the vicious cycle in an effort to finding long-term solutions. Worth discussing may be to revive the `Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe` (CSCE 1972 - 1994, since then OSCE) tailor-made applied (perhaps in China-initiated Silk Road context?) onto the Korean peninsula and its beautiful cultural settings (Ban Ki-Moon, 2006). A rising `humanitarian power` (Alexander Graf Lambsdorff, 2017), the EU *by tradition* appears prepared to serve-up proactively to key important US-North Korean peace relations (paramount for Beijing) the way it did by means of KEDO from 1996 to 2005 (Benita Ferrero-Waldner, 2005). Perhaps once tasting multilateral success replacing *mutual* militarist attitudes with smart east-west diplomacy in Far East, that might prompt the White House to go in for quid pro quo action in Ukraine, also a `Cold War left over frozen conflict` (paramount for Moscow : Russo-Sino Baltic naval drills, summer 2017) - Europe`s no less urgent Korea-style geostrategic challenge ...

(EurAsiaBridge - 9 August 2017)

Astana Expo embraces Sustainable Future

Amid Beijing`s forging geostrategic ties with central America`s Panama and Gulf region`s United Arab Emirates, which repercussions for Trump administration after quitting (Vatican lobbied) Paris Climate Accord ? As Opec-sponsored Anglo-American pre-2003 optimism is one-and-a-half-decades on ending up in national retreat and roll back confusion, Expo 2017 Astana (EU-supported) embraces a `new era` of renewable future energy schemes to help fuel tomorrow`s world economy while keeping dear human livelihoods. Hosting also in Astana Russia-sponsored talks for a Greater Middle East peace (towards a Russo-US "Sykes-Picot" ?), Kazakhstan has grown into key position of rising Silk Road community aiming to stabilize and develop trans-Eurasian spaces and beyond.

(EurAsiaBridge - 18 June 2017)

Allez hop, l` Europe ! Hit the road, Europe !

Provided that `continentalists` prevail over `nationalists` in 2017 European general elections, how could `rich in overseas territories` France convince `rich in private savings` Germany to invest more bravely into *heartland* leadership of `ever closer European Union` ? Disintegration and neighborhood instability pressing, Berlin`s matching strong sense for safety should be addressed. Paris would need to focus on shifting `euro currency` towards common budget/ fair tr(aid)e with a (German) finance minister on top, and `euro security` creating common military/ intelligence with a (French) defense minister supervising affairs. Such scenarios would need good support from European Union institutions.

(EurAsiaBridge - 1 May 2017)

Referendum shifting Turkey eastwards

Are China-sponsored Silk Road affairs a potential frame for European Union (EU) - Turkey - United States of America (USA) future ties ? As Ankara *appears* to swap EU-membership ambitions for post-2022 neo-Ottoman aspirations, Beijing meanwhile may (as in the case of Russia) be for Turkey the 21st century new focal point. With the US President (phone) and China`s Vice Premier (visiting) among the first to congratulate Ankara, Brussels has obviously *understood* the Henry Kissinger leaning message : The new epicenter of global geopolitics is the Asia-Pacific region, co-managed by Washington and Beijing (Florida`s US-China recent summit). Well illustrated by today`s China-EU pragmatic efforts to ease North Korea-US tensions between two "smart cookies".

(EurAsiaBridge - 19 April 2017)

Trump`s Revolution and China`s Globalization

An all too natural `local vs global` reflex or is the West inevitably about to dismantle itself ? Amazing *Donald`s Triumph* is a clear message to *intensify* Europe`s political integration process and Silk Road relations hedging against socio-economic risks haunting today`s troubled world.

(EurAsiaBridge - 11 November 2016)

The Brexit and Europe`s Political Future

History`s edgy irony to secure a future for Europe ? Following Britain`s shocking-stupid Brexit leave vote : Keeping the `lovely island Kingdom` as close as possible to the European Union project (by free trade) while seventy years on *upgrading* (2016 - 2025) continental Europe to firmly embrace Winston Churchill`s 1946 vision of `United States of Europe`.

(EurAsiaBridge - 26 June 2016)

Ukraine in east-west geopolitics : "Russia bashing" counter-productive for Europe in transition

Compared to most other regions in the world and in varying scope, the EU enjoys it mostly all : Superb nature (with spring time cherry blossom), skilled labour, material wealth, civil liberties and political stability - also thanks to our US-American friends and supporters.

In constitutional terms at the cross-roads, following May elections the European Parliament will provide first time ever for the European Commission President (a German social-democrate ?) and perhaps also for a common (!) European Finance Minister (a Luxembourg conservative ?).

The latter being a post still to be created, both would be (r)evolutionary steps indeed, which *could* turn the (euro-currency) block into a federal political union in the future. *If* supported and adopted by a sceptical "European Public", a well-balanced and "slim" *nation state* could result, perhaps resembling the federation model of Switzerland.

According to a former German foreign minister, founding a kind of "United States of Europe" is even inevitable for successfully facing up to mounting challenges at home and abroad.

The EU is surrounded by instability, wars and poverty. In international relations, the way I do understand promising, *trust* and *law* based stability (combining the guiding principles of the *east* and *west*) first and foremost should depend on the willingness to *understand* and *serve* the wishes, needs of respective counterparts around the globe.

Bearing in mind the horrors of World War I and II (1914-1945), it appears to be irresponsible to try to antagonize and isolate the people of Russia. Instead Brussels and Washington should like to pay respect to fears in Moscow, which 100 years on finds itself again confronted with an eastward moving block (EU and NATO, or "the West") now supporting Ukraine, historically the cradle of Russian statehood.

Let us be frank : Marching boots into Kosovo (1999) and Iraq (2003) not really were prime examples of promoting international law, unfortunately little able to avoid scenarios of failing states heavily burdened with poverty and crime, unintendedly destabilizing regional affairs.

As the Ukraine might face a similar fate, Moscow certainly wants at least to spare the Crimea, which in historic terms is Russian territory. The peninsula`s population made that apparently clear, when overwhelmingly voting itself into the Russian Federation.

Apart from that, authoritarian ruled Russia (whether one likes it or not) has a right to culturally differ from the West and good working relations with the "admirable bear" remain instrumental when it comes to save peace and prosperity in all of Europe, and to keep excellent links to the Far East, too.

...

Excursion West : Seemingly aspiring a kind of "Maginot line" to protect security interests in the long run, Moscow is likely until May constitutional elections in Ukraine to take over the West`s tactics of quietly co-sponsored civil unrest.

It looks as if the Kremlin (not interested in escalating confrontation) would still feel comfortable with a federal Ukraine, whose eastern part is Russia friendly. However, if Kiev remains firmly anti-Russian, a "Transnistria"-style breakaway entity is likely to emerge as a buffer to Russia`s western borders.

If genuinely interested in same level-field, cooperative peace relations, the West should rather deliver signals of good will. For instance by supporting Moscow`s "Eurasian Union" customs/ regionalization project (Kiev formerly a file part of it) and by applying a strict "hands off" policy from geopolitically sensitive countries such as Moldova, Armenia and Georgia, *if* unwilling to coordinate eastward expansion (Ukraine being a wake-up call) beforehand with Russia.

Unlike sanctions, both proposals should offer suitable "risk-hedging" against step-by-step stumbling back into old perilous mentalities reminding the world of June 1914 Sarajevo events and their catastrophic repercussions for the international community...

Excursion East : Reaching out to East China Sea`s numerous war potential disputes, one might also wonder why Japan (in line with security ally USA) and China actually should not try to share administration over Senkaku/Diaoyu islets ... and strive to copy what western Europe (especially France and Germany) had achieved after World War II when merging their then time strategic resources (steel and coal), finally leading to what is today`s EU ?

Although not quite a role model for east Asia, European integration`s strength has always been peace by understanding based cooperation, mindful of (grave) cultural differences.

Such like steps could send strong signals of willingness for fruitful interaction (singling out harmful confrontation schemes) across and towards both far ends of the vast Eurasian landmass in extremely shaky times.

...

In order to preserve peace and further economic well-being worldwide, the West (incl. G7 and as part of G20) must not be short-sighted, however could be more self-critical and less self-serving about winning geostrategic grounds, one might easily think.

The other way round, servicing Russian security needs in Ukraine would likely win the West also much needed Chinese trust in negotiated peace solutions for pressing security ills such as the Koreas, Iran and Syria - all of them by the way directly inter-linked.

As the lessons of EU history hold, *basic trust* is required to make *international law* functioning again, finally via the (easy to veto) United Nations Security Council, is it not ?

Living in a cross-linked and inter-dependent "one world", let us *bridge the gap* between east and west for the common good !

(EurAsiaBridge – 18 April 2014)

* * * * *