

China: A road of peace

by Dietrich Schulze

The “New Silk Road” is the largest peace project of human history, involving investments of € 900bn. It means: mutual trade interests of the bordering states of a railway line using large containers – faster than traditional sea routes. Peter Broedner, an expert on China, emphasized in a lecture in 2016 [1]: »This project, which will be completed by the middle of the century, will involve 40 to 60 countries, in which 65 per cent of the world population live.« The website [2] shows existing and planned train / land / sea routes and a smart photo of one of the containers.

Unfavourable comments in German media

German media have for years been commenting on the “Silk Road” project in unfavourable and hostile terms. No wonder: what the Asian “rival” suggests is the opposite of NATO warmongering. A civilian “win win” policy instead of regime change, military blackmail and war.

Such policies, copied by the EU from the United States, will lead to increased EU subsidies for armament research: € 0.5bn per year by 2020, € 1.0bn from 2021, on top of national budgets. € 5.5bn will then be spent annually in the EU for armament research and development.

Universities misused for armament research

This will be a boost for military research projects instead of civilian ones. It will make it more difficult to promote civilian research and science – the idea behind civil clauses. In the course of time, students will only have heard of “security research” – a specific form of armament research – and have got used to this disguise as if it were a matter of course. This is why I would like to draw attention to international peace projects like the New Silk Road as good examples. There ARE alternatives to camouflaging, fiddling, shooting ...

Hongkong: Cold capitalism

At the moment, German media strongly criticize China about Hongkong. Finn Mayer-Kuckuk, an author of the Karlsruhe local daily BNN, complained on 29 June 2017 [3] »When taking over the city from Britain in 1997, China promised to maintain “one country, two systems”: centralist socialism on the mainland, free markets and democracy in Hongkong. Critics say: the only thing that remained was a more and more cold version of capitalism.« Where does the author of those lines live? “A more and more cold version of capitalism” is what we have in Germany. Democracy is being eroded, turned into a surveillance state, in which trojan software is used freely by state authorities. [4]. Cold War policies have led to a situation in which the German Bundeswehr is deployed close to the borders of Russia.

KuKa Augsburg deal with Midea China

Economic cooperation with China is attractive. An example is the robot manufacturer Kuka in Augsburg (Bavaria), a company with 3,500 employees. [5]. The Chinese appliance manufacturer

和平
和平项目
新丝路

Lerning Chinese Characters:
Peace - Peace Project - New Silk Road

Midea bought KuKa to start new projects. KuKa will remain a German company. The new owner Midea promised to maintain the German workers' jobs. What a guarantee for the future!

Fresh East Wind from Beijing & Russia

The German TV station MDR reported on 23 Jun 2017 [6] on the Belt & Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing in May 2017. Here is a remarkable quotation from the editor-in-chief of "Russia Today": »Those who trade with each other will not wage war against each other. These trillions are also an investment in the Chinese idea of a world along the lines of Confucius. The desired ideals in that concept are balance and harmony, not conquests and dictates. « And smugly turning to the West, he asks: »Do you feel the difference?«

Previously the author had explained his view of the difference. And the mainstream press continues its imperialist struggle against the "New Silk Road" peace project.

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung media war concerning China, Pakistan, India

The Asia correspondent of the leading German newspaper FAZ talking about Pakistan on 21 May 2017 [7]: "Not a no-seller any more, at last". On the day before, their headline was: "People's Republic of Pakistan". The paper deals at length with the well-known contradictions with India: »High on China's shopping list is crisis-shaken Pakistan – and feels flattered. Its rival India is alarmed.« India is seen as a chance for new German business projects.

Here the author of this article would like to draw attention to his analysis of the history of relations between Nazi Germany and India.

KIT nuclear transfer thriller – with India

This was the title of an article which I published in NRhZ on 24 June 2015 [8] together with Prof. Wolfram Thiemann of Bremen University. It tells the story of a Nazi-inspired "German-Indian Association" including its terrible post-war history, including nuclear (weapons) cooperation between Karlsruhe University and India, and including Rudolf Greifeld, an "Honorary Senator" of the University and old Nazi, who had for decades influenced the links to Indian students.

Back to the Road of Peace

"Learning from history" would mean: support from Germany, together with India, for the Silk Road project. Universities could contribute to peace by establishing professorships about the historical significance of the Silk Road, combined with practical transport policy, on international understanding. This is what civil clauses are about, and it should be taken up by the civil clause movement as a peace project of its own, in addition to necessary campaigns like "Stop Air Base Ramstein". [9]

Translated by Lothar Letsche

Sources (in German)

[1] <http://www.stattweb.de/files/civil/Doku20161110pb.pdf>

[2] <http://derstandard.at/2000040866601>

[3] <http://www.stattweb.de/files/civil/Doku20170629bnn.pdf>

[4] <http://www.stattweb.de/files/civil/Doku20170623rr.pdf>

[5] <http://www.nrhz.de/flyer/beitrag.php?id=22848>

[6] <http://www.mdr.de/heute-im-osten/russland-neue-seidenstrasse-100.html>

[7] <http://m.faz.net/aktuell/wirtschaft/wirtschaftspolitik/china-sichert-sich-mit-investitionen-in-pakistan-ab-15024107.html>

[8] <http://www.nrhz.de/flyer/beitrag.php?id=21735>

[9] <http://www.stattweb.de/files/civil/Doku20170620pl.pdf>

The author: Dr.-Ing. Dietrich Schulze (born in 1940) worked for 18 years as a researcher in High Energy Physics, then from 1984 to 2005 as Chairman of the Employees' Representation at the Karlsruhe Research Center (now KIT Campus Nord). In 2008, he started with others in Karlsruhe the "Initiative against military research at universities" (German WebDocumentation www.stattweb.de/files/DokuKITcivil.pdf). He is a member of the Advisory Board of NatWiss and known through publications. Email dietrich.schulze@gmx.de