

Editorial

The Germany of Schiller and List

November 10 was the 230th birthday of the poet and dramatist Friedrich Schiller, a most appropriate birthday to be remembered in light of the events occurring, not only in East Germany, but also in Poland and other parts of Eastern Europe. Already, there is an accelerating popular impulse for reunification of Germany—at least, an impulse for assimilating the East Zone into the Federal Republic.

Such a process unleashes the only possible positive basis for a unification of the two German populations: The best qualities of the East Zone people and the best qualities of the West German people must interact. This means, first of all, a revival of the classics of German culture—the common, pre-Hitler cultural roots, the well-springs of true German greatness.

Second, the positive feature of the East Germans coming across the border now is that they have labor skills, and bring them to a West Germany that is losing many of its skilled industrial operatives due to the Green, “post-industrial” ideology that has grown so rapidly in the recent period. Those coming over are thus immensely valuable to the industrial economy of the Federal Republic.

A reunification of the two Germanies means that these two features—German classical culture and scientific-technological-industrial skills—are of paramount importance.

The critical question before the world today is whether there exists an alternative to two collapsing international monetary systems: on the one side, the rotten-ripe communist system centered in Moscow; on the other, the Western “Adam Smith” system centered in London, New York, and Washington. Both are collapsing, and nothing can save either of them.

If we are going to avoid war, we’d better find a solution. If we’re going to draw the nations of Eastern Europe and Communist China into cooperation with the other nations of the world, we had better introduce a monetary system that meets the needs of people on both sides of the communist/anti-communist divide.

Such a solution is readily at hand. It used to be called the American System. It was associated with names like U.S. Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton, who coined the name of “American System.” It also included the two Careys—Benjamin Franklin’s collaborator Matthew Carey of Philadelphia, and his son Henry C. Carey, the economic adviser of Abraham Lincoln. It was also associated with the great German-American Friedrich List, author of *The National System of Political Economy*.

This is a tried and true system in the United States, as in the Germany of List and earlier of Gottfried Leibniz, who founded the science of political economy, or in the France of Carnot and Monge. It is a tradition which fosters developing the productive powers of labor through capital-intensive and energy-intensive investments in scientific and technological progress, and of national banking as defined by Hamilton.

Such a system would meet the requirements of the human beings who live in the East, whether they have experienced communism, Tartarism, or who-knows-what variety of barbarism in the past. Since it meets the needs of both sides, it is the way of unifying the people coming out of the Dark Age in the East, the communist system, with those of us coming out of the nightmare of Adam Smith’s economics, around common interests, common goals, and cooperation.

This is the road to peace; it leads, with the United States’ cooperation, and that of Paris, through Bonn, to Berlin, to Warsaw, and thence to other points. The success of the recovery of Poland, in the context of cooperation between the economies of East and West Germany, with East Germany serving as the bridge to this cooperation, is the road to peace. It does not guarantee peace, but is the only road which leads in that direction.

Now is the time to junk both Karl Marx and his mentor, Adam Smith, and to go back to the proven systems of Leibniz and the American System of Hamilton, the Careys, and List.