

ZEPP-LAROUCHE ADDRESSES THE GERMAN PEOPLE

On Hopeful Prospects for 2018 And the Impossibility of Keeping the Status Quo

by Helga Zepp-LaRouche, chairwoman of the German political party,
Civil Rights Movement Solidarity ([BüSo](#))

Dec. 22—If, in times like these, you want to arrive at an adequate assessment of the situation we are in—the strategic and historical situation—it is imperative to see the world from different angles. You should not only look at the events as through a zoom lens, in which the very-small of German political correctness is inflated out of all proportion, but you should reflect on the world for a moment from German, then again from Chinese, Russian, American, African, and other perspectives.

It is perfectly obvious that none of the parties participating in the slow-moving exploratory talks on forming a new German government, has even attempted this approach, and that none of them has a vision of what the future of Germany should look like in ten, fifty, or one hundred years. And that has a paralyzing effect on public awareness in our country. Since the mainstream media, for their part, believe they have to determine which topics are newsworthy and which should not be covered, political discourse on matters of life-and-death importance hardly takes place in Germany, except in our own media, of course.

By far the biggest gap between the assumptions of



Helga Zepp-LaRouche

Schiller Institute

the majority of the population, and reality, concerns the image that most people have of China and of the Silk Road Initiative, which President Xi Jinping put on the international agenda more than four years ago. Only those who have been to China, or have been investing in, or trading with China, have an idea of the unprecedented success of the Chinese economic miracle and the largest infrastructure and development program in history. This is a program involving more than 70 countries that, thanks to this collaboration on a win-win basis, now participate in the “Spirit of the New Silk Road,” that is, in an optimism that has been completely lost in Germany.

Most people have very little knowledge of China and are often influenced by the media’s negative coverage, ranging from diffuse fears of “the yellow peril” to the idea of an autocratic system—without democracy or human rights—with an imperial claim to world power. The reality is quite different: China has undergone a tremendous transformation in recent years, transmuting itself, in a manner of speaking, into the Confucian-shaped opposite of the ten years of the Cultural Revolution, lifting 700 million people out of

poverty. And it intends to enable the remaining 42 million still living in poverty to make a decent living by 2020.

In stark contrast to the mood in Germany, where most people think, for the first time, that future generations will be worse off, the absolute majority of the Chinese people are very optimistic about the future. According to Western surveys, 83% of the population of China is very satisfied with the government's policy, in contrast, for example, to about 42% in Germany.

When President Trump presented the new National Security Strategy report on Dec. 18, he attempted to mitigate its geopolitical orientation by deviating from the text, emphasizing that he wanted to build a strong partnership with Russia and China. But he still spoke of China and other states as competitors. The reaction from China was clear. Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying commented on Trump's speech at the ministry's regular press conference on Dec. 19, saying: "The development achievements scored by China are universally acknowledged and it is of no avail to attempt to distort the facts on the part of anyone or any country. No one and no country can stop the Chinese people from unwaveringly continuing following the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics and reaping greater achievements."

The self-confidence expressed in these formulations is typical of Chinese society today, and it has a real basis in the tremendous progress China has made in recent decades. For example, China has developed about 30,000 kilometers of high-speed railways, on which first-class trains run with a top speed 330 km per hour; a new model that can reach 400 km per hour speed has already been developed; and by 2020, China plans to have 50,000 kilometers of track and to have all major cities interconnected with high-speed rail.

Compare this with the embarrassing demonstrations of lost engineering skills at the opening of the high-speed rail route from Berlin to Munich—before Christmas, after 26 years of construction—when the train control system malfunctioned, or the saga of the new Berlin airport that is scheduled to open who knows when. While Germany's Transrapid high-speed monorail, with magnetic levitation, still does not run in Germany, it does in China. The same is the case with the inherently safe, high-temperature nuclear reactor de-

veloped in Germany, which is being built in China. The cost of the ill-considered transition out of nuclear must be borne by the consumer. And which of the parties represented in the Bundestag has a plan to help roughly the 20% of children living in poverty in Germany, to reach a good standard of living by 2020? Not to mention the results of the EU austerity policy in the Southern European countries, or the falling life expectancy in the United States.

In view of the obvious success of the Chinese model and the equally obvious disadvantages of our system, which only benefits the rich and leaves the poor with no hope of overcoming this state of affairs, would it not be advisable to consider objectively what China does better than we do? The Chinese are now absolutely confident that they have the superior economic and social model. And they do not want to export and impose this model by means of the Silk Road Initiative, but only to offer the benefits of win-win economic cooperation. President Xi Jinping has also proposed a completely new model of international cooperation between states having equal rights regardless of their size, with each having full respect for the other's sovereignty and self-determined social model. Xi speaks of humanity being a "community of common destiny," which implies the idea of one humanity coming before the interests of the individual nation. Should not everyone who cares about world peace be relieved and happy that, for the first time, a concept global governance is being proposed that overcomes geopolitics at the higher level of the common interest of the human species?

So how can one explain that the EU, the Bundestag parties (if they comment on the Chinese policy at all), most think tanks, and the mainstream media, stubbornly persist in using the categories of geopolitics, usually with the argument that the EU needs even more integration so it can assert itself "against" China, Russia, the United States, and so on?

The answer is prosaic. The permanent bureaucracies, as well as the EU and party establishments, owe their privileges to the monetarist system, which favors speculation at the expense of the common good. And since they are personally very well off materially, they are career-conditioned not to think outside the box of the existing system and to instinctively do everything to maintain the status quo. Ever since Chancellor Kohl upheld the principle that one must "sit out" problems—

that is, for over three and a half decades now—mediocrity has become the standard in Germany, which Angela Merkel, who refuses to look beyond the end of her nose and will only “take small steps” in politics, has brought to a new low.

This establishment proves to be utterly incapable of recognizing that preserving the status quo is impossible in times of such epoch-making upheavals as we are currently experiencing. The most clinical form of this denial can be seen in Hillary Clinton, who neither wants to accept the reasons for her election defeat nor the damage she and the “Democratic” Party are inflicting on the reputation of democracy through their participation in the coup attempt against President Trump.

Nevertheless, the forecast for 2018 looks fundamentally positive. While there are some serious threats, most notably the likelihood of a new financial crash worse than the one in 2008, the fact that the framework for a new economic and financial system already exists, in the form of the Silk Road Initiative

and a real-economy banking system that includes institutions such as the AIIB, the New Silk Road Fund, and others, gives rise to optimism that the crisis can be mastered.

It is therefore more likely that the enormous economic benefits from cooperation with the Chinese policy—and that have long since been recognized by the countries of Asia, Africa, Latin America, Eastern and Central Europe, the Balkans, Southern Europe, Austria and Switzerland—can no longer be concealed. More and more people in Germany—the middle class, the people who feel left behind—will realize that the New Silk Road provides opportunities for all of humanity.

So, when we look out beyond the narrow confines of Germany and see the optimistic dynamics among the nations that are gripped by the “spirit of the New Silk Road,” and understand that we are in the process of experiencing and shaping the dawn of a whole new era of humanity, then enthusiasm for the future will arise even in Germany.