

The Flux of World Events

On the 7th December 1918 Rudolf Steiner opened a lecture in Dornach with the words: “It is often difficult for people to find their orientation in the flux of world events ... The human being, though he does not always admit it, would so much like to be led blindly by the powers that rule supreme in the world. It is especially difficult for the human being to orient himself in a clear and objective way when he is forced in a given incarnation to live in such a catastrophic period as, for example, the one we are experiencing now. He has the tendency to ask: Why do the Gods allow such things to happen? – He is not inclined to inquire into what life might demand as a necessity. But he has the longing, so to speak, to see things in as pleasing a light as possible. In a time like ours, however, the human being must turn his gaze towards many a phenomenon that is preparing to arise out of chaos. **Chaos is necessary for the general course taken by events in the world.** And we must often be prepared to place ourselves into the chaotic just as readily as into what has been brought into harmony. Our fifth post-Atlantean epoch is, in particular, a period that brings to the human being many experiences of a chaotic nature. But this is connected with the peculiarity, the essential character as a whole, of this period in history. For **we are living in the period in which the human being is meant to undergo those impulses of development which place him on his own ground and imbue him with individual consciousness. We are living in the age of the consciousness-soul** ... What, then, is the most profound and characteristic feature of this age of ours, and of consciousness-soul development? The most profound characteristic of this age is the following: that **the human being must acquaint himself in the most thorough and intensive way with those forces which oppose the harmonizing of mankind as a whole.** For this reason, there must gradually spread across the world in our time conscious knowledge of the Ahrimanic and Luciferic powers opposing man. **If the human being were not to pass through these impulses of development** in which the Luciferic and Ahrimanic powers are also working, **he would not come to full use of his consciousness, and thus to the unfolding of his consciousness-soul.** But we have to recognize in this incorporation of the consciousness-soul into human nature an anti-social drive in the fullest sense. So that we have in our age the peculiar feature that the emergence of social ideals appears as a reaction to what is wanting to surge up out of the innermost depths of human nature, namely, the development of individual consciousness ...” (GA 186, emphasis wl).

And Rudolf Steiner’s description also applies to our time. We need, also in the present day, to come to an understanding of the course of world events. Even if, here, we have

not for a long time experienced direct military conflict, everything is in a process of disintegration all around us, in a way that no-one would previously have thought possible.

World-wide Debt and the collapse of Banks

Multinational banks have long been driving all States ever deeper into debt. And if a State does not wish to be driven into debt, its government is denounced as totalitarian or dictatorial and is violently opposed, as it is only by means of a democracy that these games against peoples and States can succeed. Governments that resist are infiltrated with the help of secret services and are finally overthrown – it is always merely a matter of time and of the cost and effort involved; if necessary through civil war. After a coup d’état the plundering of resources begins, together with the creation of massive debt. For, any democratic government provides a perfect opportunity for enemies of the State and the people. The bait of privilege is held out to the politicians – i.e. the representatives of the people – or they are blackmailed with “skeletons in the cupboard” to make them amenable. And some things are so complex that not even all the specialists, let alone ordinary mortals, can penetrate or understand them. The phenomenon of the central banks and also provision for old age could be cited as examples.

Experts have been warning for decades that one debtor State or the other could collapse under the burden of debt repayment. But a bankruptcy of this kind has never previously been permitted, the problem always being “resolved” through “re-scheduling” – i.e. the debt was increased by the amount of the interest due. Only since within the EU the “community” – i.e. Germany – has borne liability for the losses, has one allowed States to go bankrupt, whereby Greece is only a beginning! The next candidates are already lined up. This means in concrete terms: The highly-paid “jugglers with money”, who up till now have realized gigantic gains for shareholders, management and possibly their own pockets, are said now to have driven their own banks into bankruptcy. And this deficit is so gigantic that the banks are supposedly unable to cover it with their reserves or real estate. And because it is allegedly not permissible for such huge banks to collapse, the community at large – i.e. the States – or in other words the tax-payers, are asked to step in to rescue the banks from these deliberately engineered bankruptcies! And in order to be able to fill these and other such “holes” also in times to come, one has already devised methods that offer “promise for the future”, and these are being applied already by way of example. The intention is to eliminate gradually by this means the property of the middle class. In Cyprus this is being carried out for the first time, as *PHI* reports, e.g. in Nr. 17-2013:

How the EU considers organizing Bank Rescues

PHI reports: “As was announced on May 4th [2013], the EU wants to involve by law all creditors, including savers, in bank rescues, although the aim is to protect savers by means of a European deposit guarantee. The legal proposal with respect to regulation of future procedure in the case of bank collapse is at present the theme of negotiations. The aim is to put in place an overall regulation to prevent a collapse of the system. Holders of bank accounts should in principle be the last to suffer losses in the event of a bank collapse. However, whether and when the possibilities of other creditors – share and bondholders – are exhausted, will be decided on a case to case basis, reports the *Deutsche Mittelstand-Nachrichten* ... Apparently, confiscation from savers is also possible. To prevent a run on a bank the blueprint proposes that, in the event of a bank collapse the owners of bonds with banks should be “shorn” first, before the savers. Assets of up to 100,000 Euros should if possible be exempt. With regard to the risks of the Southern European banks, these are, we are told, so high, that a guarantee of deposits is only possible if German savers and taxpayers also contribute in an emergency. If Germany does not intervene, the French and Italians will only be able to rescue their banks at enormous cost to themselves. It is, meanwhile, clear to the EU that the big European banks cannot be rescued in the same way as those of Cyprus, as sums of a quite different order are involved. If bank rescues on a purely national basis were enforced, savers in the Southern European countries would probably lose a large part of their money ... Participants in the negotiations report that Germany is still opposed to shared guarantee of bank deposits: Angela Merkel had said on Savings Accounts Day in Dresden, that “for the foreseeable future” Germany would not accept the principle of shared deposit guarantee. It will all now depend on whether or not Germany abandons its hard line. Merkel had only conceded that a harmonization of the national guarantee systems must come about. In an emergency situation there is only one kind of harmony that can help savers in Europe, and that is – active German involvement in the rescue. Meanwhile the German banks, the Deutscher Sparkassen und Giroverband in particular, are vehemently opposed to shared guarantee of deposits. ...

(Excerpt from *Symptomatologische Illustrationen*, Nr. 94, 8-9/2013)