



TWT Gazette

March 2014
Issue 5

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About/Über

TWT

Trans World Technologies (TWT) is a commercial network with contacts and project experience in many countries around the globe.

Besides consulting, project development and foreign marketing support TWT is working on analysis, studies and articles concerning current economic, technological and political topics

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Russia –

Dead End Street?

Western policies towards Russia around the Crimean Crisis hardly are smart.

The fact that Crimea has left Ukraine and joined the Russian Federation must and shall be disputed for time to come. Russia in the future should have to prove to the World that it is the better peer to the Crimean people than Ukraine ever was. Part of this will be the development of individual freedom rights, civil society, and of course the economic situation. So Russia took on not only additional lands and people but foremost a very serious responsibility. On the other hand there are not only questions Russia has to answer but also the Western Countries. The analysis of the Crimean Crisis and subsequent policy decisions especially of deciders in the United States of America and the European Union up to date are far away from being convincing. Too readily and too quickly our Governments have taken an anti-Russian position as if there could be no alternative. Worse even: Instead to activate relations and communications the United States very quickly revived the cold war logic of “Threat and Deterrence” pushing the EU to follow suit. The result is that now we effectively walk down an alley without anyone of us having a plan of where it should lead us. Much more likely it seems that probably we have entered a dead end-street in relations with Russia which not only will cost Russia some but more likely all of us a big price. It is the typical example of taking a negative approach only because of something was not invented here. Why is it really that we are reacting the way we do now? Will it not have to be categorized historically even as an overreaction considering the matter itself? Is it really about Ukraine and Crimea we supposedly are so upset? Is it not maybe that some of our

politicians and administrators are generally frustrated with Russia (e.g. of the same quality as Ms. Nuland showed her frustration with the EU) because it did not join willingly their position on other and bigger issues e.g. Syria, Iran etc.? The West is no longer coherent in what it advocates and what it does. Many discussions are taking place and many more ideas of most different qualities seem to develop which may be legitimate but acting the way we do we create especially now in Ukraine wrong images of promises I doubt we will keep. Too often we were in this situation and looking to our track record and recent performance in other parts of the world we should consider our options better. Cutting communications with and going into punitive expeditions against Russia is probably the most counterproductive venue, which could have been taken. Again, there are many reasons why one must be and continue being critical of Russian politics. Crimea is an international issue and requires scrutiny and future accords. This however what the United States, the European Union and members of the G-7 Meeting presently are doing is the wrong if not a “Cold War” approach, which in no way should have anymore place in modern politics. What is being done now resembles more a declaration acknowledging our own failure in policies towards the Russian Federation. For more than twenty years we had time to develop into true cooperation and partnership with Russia. This is especially true for the EU. Instead of political investments we reduced our focus on economic development driving forward our own geo-strategic expansion interests leaving Russia aside as competitor instead of integrating it. In so far the West really is in a dead-end street in its relations with Russia. We entered it not only now, but already long time ago. Ukraine and Crimea could be also the chance to start all over. Not through hard talk and stupid sanctions but through earnest dialogue which includes Ukraine. Dirk P. Schneider