



TWT Gazette

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TWT

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Munich Security Conference (MSC) 2020 - "Westlessness"

A well chosen on-the-spot description summarizing in one word the state of western politics and the threats to it

For long time "The West" stood out positively in the world because of attractive values and politics promising a better life for the individual as very much represented by the idea of the "American Dream."

In the second half of the 20th century "The West" often almost automatically has been identified with values as i.e. Human Rights, Liberty, Democracy, the Rule of Law, the Freedom of Religion, the Freedom of Speech, Equal Opportunity, Minority Protection, Individual Chances, etc.

It typically was understood to stand for an open society and being synonym for protecting the right of individual self-determination of anyone's life.

Although we all know that the realities then not always were up to the theory it is also clear that the otherwise so-called "Free-World" provided better than any other political concept this what typical individuals are attracted to and require in order to flourish and have the best basis to realize their very own dreams in life.

The end-of the cold war in the late 1980's regardless of high hopes or also fears surely provided in principle for outstanding opportunities.

Unfortunately world leader's then, maybe because they were already exhausted from or too proud of their achievements missed the historic chance to think and move ahead a step further.

It would have been the right time to truly address a new world order starting with sustained initiatives to reform and

reorganize international rule-sets and tools as i.e. the United Nations etc..

The window of opportunity was missed as the broader picture quickly was polluted by narrow-mindedness and replaced by controversies over details and of course emerging regional and national conflicts.

Later the promises of and hopes for the new millennium quickly were shattered by the 9/11 terrorists and finally destroyed by the West's emotionally understandable but nevertheless fail decision to subscribe to the general "War on Terror" idea with NATO collective defense support instead of following up by other anti-terror means. Western military intervention increasingly is no longer understood in defense of a just cause but as offensive and oppressive or else produce never ending stories as i.e. in Afghanistan.

Western politicians since 2001 fail to effectively promote the attractiveness of The West because they increasingly rely on military intervention as means of their politics this way bringing growing numbers of people to seek out other ideas. They do no longer represent well enough the values originally attractive to people and they lack ideas to better reach out to people. The West, lead by the USA, taking the past almost 20 years globally very offensive positions is seen more and more as aggressive and oppressive instead of just. This posture, besides of course many other complex dynamics, contributes mainly that the West is loosing the "War of Ideas" to its competitors.

"Westlessness" is the result.

To change the tide and not to leave and loos it's domain to other ideological contenders it is high time to swiftly find in The West fresh political agreements which must allow necessary political change so that the western idea of a better world through freedom, democracy and justice could get back on track to be most attractive.

Dirk P. Schneider