

Bridge, is the necessary focus of such a reorganization, meaning that a crash program would be implemented to unleash the productive potential of all countries in the world, to go for full productive employment, and then push through infrastructure projects, economic development, in all parts of the world, from Eurasia, to the Middle East, into Africa, into Latin America, and reconstruct the world, with the same kind of effort by which Germany was rebuilt after the war.

A very important step in that direction was made, when President Jiang Zeming visited the United States at the end of October, and agreed on a strategic partnership with President Clinton. This was very important and necessary, but unfortunately, as I and some members of the Schiller Institute were telling people in China in September, the dimension of the crisis is such, that it is simply not enough to do something positive and then do nothing after that for five weeks! What counts right now, is momentum! And that is the big problem.

If this reorganization is not done, civilization is doomed, because people lack the moral fitness to survive. If this reorganization is not done, we will plunge into a new Dark Age. If we don't give up the cultural axioms of the post-1968 period, European civilization will disappear, and chaos and barbarism will prevail.

I don't know if each of you is conscious that we are about to lose European civilization. If you don't believe it, all you have to do is go to your local theater and try to see a Classical performance, and what you will find is *Regietheater* [performing a re-edited script, instead of the original text of a play] and hardly recognizable ideas of the great poets. The irony is that it is exactly in this European culture, in general, and in the Greek and German Classical tragedies, where the lessons are to be found which we could use to save ourselves, if we just chose to do so.

Last month, there was, in the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, an extremely intelligent article, by a certain Dr. Barbara Zehnpfennig, about the positive example which *The Federalist Papers* of Alexander Hamilton could play, for the future of Europe. She argues that Europe can only be founded on the basis of a great vision, a great idea, and not on some cost-benefit-accounting thinking, which is obviously what is going on right now. She makes the obvious but forgotten point, that one really does not need a new idea, but only the realization of the very fundamentals of European heritage: the ideas of the Greek Classics and of Christianity, which, after all, had a dimension for all of the universal history of mankind, and only need to be realized, to solve the present crisis.

It is noteworthy, that this Mrs. Zehnpfennig is an assistant at the University of the Bundeswehr in Hamburg, and one can only hope that some people there are taking this to heart.

The lessons of the Greek tragedies

I want to take up the challenge of Mrs. Zehnpfennig, and therefore look at the Greek Classical period, especially the great Greek tragedies, to see what we can find there which

The Classical roots of European civilization

Europeans should study *The Federalist Papers*, to build a sound basis of principles for a unified Europe, wrote Barbara Zehnpfennig, a professor at the University of the German Armed Forces in Hamburg, Germany, in the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* on Nov. 28. The article was headlined "The Experiment of a Great Republic: Can Europe Learn from the Creation of the American Union?"

There is much talk about European integration, she wrote, but it creates little excitement, because, as it is being pursued right now, it is only based on cost-benefit calculations. The founders of the American Republic, on the other hand, in order to overcome tensions and differing interests between the various states, held that America must represent universal ideals of humanity in the minds of its citizens. *The Federalist Papers* are very instructive in this regard—particularly those contributed by Alexander Hamilton.

It is particularly important to re-emphasize the two spiritual foundations of European civilization, she argued: the ideas of the Greek Classics, and Christianity, based on its Jewish foundations. By doing that, instead of concentrating on petty day-to-day cost-benefit considerations, a new design for Europe can be developed, and only in this way, can it become the basis for the sound integration of the European nations, Zehnpfennig concluded.

could be relevant to the problem before us.

The period between the Persian and the Peloponnesian wars is, without question, one of the most important periods in history. It is this period, in the fifth century B.C., which really started what we call European history. Already in the Homeric epics, which defined the Greek sense of identity since the eighth century [B.C.], and especially the case of Odysseus, in his fight against the evil god Poseidon, this represents the beginning of a new culture. But it was this period that was correctly called the Greek Miracle. While Athens was relatively unimportant in the Archaic period, which lasted from 750-500 B.C., with the exception, naturally, of Solon's efforts in the sixth century, shortly before the year 500 B.C., Athens was already the most powerful city in Greece.

In the year 500, the Attic plenary meeting supported the rebellion of the Ionian cities in west Asia against the Persians. At the beginning, this rebellion was defeated. In 494, the Persians sent an expeditionary army to punish the Athenians