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## IV. World Political Earthquakes

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THE FUTURE LIES WITH THE NEW SILK ROAD!

# Whither Germany? Grand Coalition or ‘Musical Chairs’

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Jan. 5—The exploratory government coalition negotiations with changing participants, which have lasted for almost four months, are characterized above all else by one thing: such a blatant lack of forward-looking concepts that one must be seriously concerned about the fate of Germany. After the incompetent reaction from Merkel to the miserable CDU election result—“I do not see what I could have done differently”—a growing percentage of citizens clearly recognizes that Mrs. Merkel, with her “market-compliant” understanding of democracy, doesn’t give a fig for urgent tasks for the common good. According to a recent poll by the DIMAP polling institute, she fell back to third place on the popularity scale with 52%, behind SPD Foreign Minister Sigmar

Gabriel (62%) and Green Party Co-Chairman Cem Özdemir (53%). Fifty-two percent are against a new grand coalition between the CDU-CSU and the SPD, 75% want a renewal of the CDU leadership, and 67% think that Merkel has her best days behind her.

But none of the people named as potential successors to Merkel has any positive vision for the future. The same applies to the SPD, where the cockfight between Chairman Martin Schulz and former Chairman Sigmar Gabriel is just as dominant as the fear of losing more votes in a new election. And in the Christian Social Union (CSU), Alexander Dobrindt is right in saying that the 68ers marched through the institutions and secured key positions in the arts, culture, media, and politics—but that does not mean that he, as a representative of a party whose name contains the word Christian, accepts, for example, the standpoint of Pope



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courtesy of James Rea

*SPD Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel (left) and Green Party Co-Chairman Cem Özdemir (right) are leading acting Chancellor Angela Merkel of the CDU in an opinion poll, as efforts to form a coalition government drag on.*



wikipedia/ Ralf Roletschek

Francis on the refugee question, nor that he has freed the CSU from the green ideology, which is one of the consequences of the long march of the '68ers.

What a contrast to the optimistic outlook that President Xi Jinping laid out for China, and which he reiterated in his New Year's message! Xi pointed out that just last year, another 10 million people were lifted out of poverty, 13 million jobs were created, and all Chinese have been integrated into a pension and health-care system. Xi quoted the Chinese poet Du Fu: "If only I could get tens of thousands of mansions! I would house all the poor people who would then beam with smiles." Xi reiterated China's plan to lift all its remaining people out of poverty by 2020, and to use the Silk Road Initiative to help create a world of peace and development. Together with other countries, China wants to build a beautiful future for all humanity. "We agree to work together to build a community with a shared future for mankind, so as to benefit people all over the world."

And what a contrast also to the spirit of President Putin's New Year's message, which was a heartfelt reminder of the love between parents and children, expressing thanks to all the people who work on New Year's Day, calling for forgiveness of mistakes instead of resentment, and giving love, warmth, care, and attention to others.

Obviously, given the smear campaign by the Western mainstream media, this does not match the image that most people in Germany have of the President of China or Russia. But the fact of the matter is that the countries that are cooperating with China's economic belt perspective are filled with unprecedented optimism for the future of humanity, with the "Spirit of the New Silk Road." In contrast, the political process in Berlin is like the oxygen-poor atmosphere in a cheese bell—a cheese bell, however, where the various cheeses are already extremely "mature" and exhibit a corresponding intensity of odor. One could also say it less diplomatically.

President Xi Jinping has repeatedly offered all nations, including explicitly the U.S.A. and Germany, cooperation on the New Silk Road on the basis of "win-win" cooperation. The reaction of the EU has so far been clearly negative, and that of Berlin is characterized by outdated geopolitical prejudices.

The former German Ambassador to Beijing, Michael Schäfer, in an interview with the *German Business News*, raised the suspicion that the negative attitude toward the New Silk Road and the imputation of a "hegemonic approach," are the projection of Europe's own behavior in the last century. As a former diplomat,



*Children playing with bundles of worthless paper money in Germany in the 1920s. The ECB feeding the financial bubble and Germany's "black zero" is creating an even bigger crisis.*

he may find it appropriate to blame such a politically incorrect view on the behavior of the last century. We do not have this obligation: the behavior of the EU and the still merely acting German government is petty, stuck in the old thinking of geopolitics (which led to two world wars in the past century), and fundamentally in opposition to German interests. If Germany continues like this, it will catapult itself onto the sidelines of historical developments and sink into insignificance—to the great detriment of the German people.

In a situation where many EU Member States feel their interests are no longer represented by the EU bureaucracy for a variety of reasons, and are drifting apart, Berlin should—rather than call for a United States of Europe as Martin Schulz has done—put the really important issues on the agenda. Insisting on adherence to the supranational agenda will only increase the resistance, because there is no "European people."

China's New Silk Road Initiative is the largest infrastructure and reconstruction program in history, which is now overcoming underdevelopment and poverty with unprecedented momentum, especially in developing countries. It has already led to a completely new strategic orientation for over 70 countries, which have not only recognized their economic advantage in win-win



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*The options for German economic cooperation with China are readily available, since China-to-Europe rail freight capacity is increasing.*

cooperation with China, but also prefer the new model of cooperation among equally sovereign states, to the old idea of a unipolar world. All these countries—including those as diverse as ASEAN, Eastern and Central Europe, the Balkans, Southern Europe, and many Latin American and African countries, but also Japan—have recognized the opportunities inherent in this new model of international politics. Japan, for example, has invited China to cooperate on four mega-projects in Africa.

Therefore, the following issues should be given priority on the agenda of the coalition negotiations: Above all, the new government must immediately express its willingness to cooperate with China on the development of the New Silk Road. Only in this way can the dangerous terrain of geopolitics, such as is being expressed in the creation of an EU army, be abandoned and replaced by the new era of a community of destiny for humanity. And only through the expansion of the New Silk Road in the Middle East and Africa, i.e. through real economic development, can the refugee crisis be solved in a humane way.

Instead of irresponsibly supporting the Troika's (European Commission, European Central Bank, and IMF) policies in favor of the casino economy and at the expense of the common good, the negotiators must finally face the urgent need to reorganize the financial system. Since absolutely nothing was done to fix the systemic failures that led to the crash of 2007/2008, a new financial crash threatens, which would be much more dramatic than the previous one due to the massive increase in corporate and sovereign debt and the derivatives bubble. A banking system in the tradition of Roo-

sevelt's Glass-Steagall Act must immediately be placed on the agenda, and a credit system in the tradition of the *Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau* (Reconstruction Finance Agency), as it worked during the period of the German economic miracle, must replace the present ECB money-printing policy.

In this way, a national infrastructure program can be funded that will end the investment backlog on roads, bridges, water management, schools, etc. which was created by former Finance Minister Schäuble's policy of *schwarze Null* ("black zero"—a federal budget that is in the black, or fully balanced) at the expense of future generations. And funds could be made available to hire competent project managers and engi-

neers from China, who would complete the Berlin BER airport and build a high-speed railway system throughout Germany worthy of the name. With such a credit system, Germany can cooperate with the AIIB, the New Silk Road Fund, and similar institutions in joint projects with other nations in the various development programs.

China has launched a comprehensive program of national renewal at the initiative of Xi Jinping, which intends to make all layers of society aware of their 5,000-year-old culture and revive the best periods in philosophy, music, painting and poetry. If we in Germany want to achieve anything like a comparable revitalization of our culture, we must free ourselves from the counterculture that was the result of the manipulations of the Congress for Cultural Freedom, the Frankfurt School and the 1968 movement, and which has brought us today's left-liberal, "politically correct" thinking patterns.

That would actually be quite simple, because in Germany we are fortunate enough to have a large number of universal poets, thinkers, inventors, and composers—from Nicholas of Cusa, Johannes Kepler, Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz, the Humboldts, Bernhard Riemann, Albert Einstein, and Krafft Ehrlicke, to Bach, Beethoven, Schubert, Schumann, Brahms, Lessing and Schiller, to name but a few. We only need to bring their works to life among our contemporaries.

So far, however, the exploratory coalition negotiations are more akin to a game of Musical Chairs involving changing seats and positions, while the *Bürgerrechtsbewegung Solidarität* (Civil Rights Movement Solidarity) is the only party that offers such solutions.