

## 1 The Basics on political and cultural Order – a European Challenge

There is only one pattern for justifying political and cultural behavior, orders and power distribution. It has been applied throughout history on all continents:

**Because the world and current conditions are like this, we (I) should act like this (following these rules), because this is beneficial for the present and/or the future.**

So, only the details of “like this” vary in the justifications during history of human cultural development.

**The very basic variant of this argument is:**

Because I am stronger than you, it is in your best interest and to your best advantage to do what I say.

**The more advanced variant of this argument is:**

Human beings together can bring about much more and can make their lives much more pleasant and gain more degrees of freedom

- if they have good reasons to rely on the Rule of Law and on agreements to their advantage, and
- if they can therefore trustfully cooperate for creating new opportunities and remove hardship and fear.

The alternative (the very basic version) is relying on the own ability to force others and withstand them. Between these two alternatives there is a big gap in cultural maturity.

Reliable rules and trust are the basis for more freedom – a longing of human nature.

Under the **Rule of Law**, other human beings can be viewed as opportunity and chance.

Under the **Rule of the Strongest**, other human beings must be viewed as risk and danger.

This attitude is reluctant to creative cooperation and collaboration. It is aiming to reduce the abilities of others who are mistrusted. This is the opposite of bringing about new degrees of freedom.

Lack of trust always causes an unnecessary reduction of freedom.

In the end, the **Rule of Law** must be able to withstand the **Rule of the Strongest**.

Otherwise freedom and prosperity cannot be protected and cannot be maintained.

**Europe has not respected this final rule. Why?**

Question:

Q1: Would Europe be able to respect this final rule, fragmented in 27 states as Europe is now?

Q2: Or would a closer integration of Europe be a prerequisite for the needed ability to protect the Rule of Law and democracy, in Europe relying on European means only?

I think the answer to Q1 is NO and to Q2 is YES. What do you think and why?

## 2 Challenges experienced as Feedback by the Laws of Nature

These challenges are caused by over-exploitation of our planet by the human way of life in industrial societies:

- The transformation of energy production and consumption and its related infrastructure to renewable energies. Climate change may turn out to cause the main threats to our prosperity and freedom as we currently know them.
- A non-polluting way of producing and consuming resources, with the need to recycle our litter, to aim at a minimum of production of new raw material and at a minimum pollution of our livelihoods.
- The protection of eco-systems and the variety of arts, to preserve the self-healing capabilities of our surrounding nature.

To achieve these goals, our technologies are not yet mature enough. More research and development must be supported. To solve these problems, we are already late.

Yet it is not guaranteed that these challenges will be met worldwide. The consequences of climate change then may destroy our now-known prosperity and our now-known degrees of freedom, more drastically than any human caused violence.

If in some areas, for example human life would not be possible anymore, then migration will rise to a new dimension. This is only one secondary effect, which we and our children and grandchildren will see. Other secondary effects we may not yet imagine, as our knowledge of eco-systems and their tipping points is too limited.

### 2.1 Reactions to natural challenges

The worst politics is to deny these natural challenges – a common populist reaction.

A loss of time, which we cannot afford.

Also, it is obvious that these challenges cannot be met on a national basis. These are also not isolated European challenges. They can only be met by a worldwide cooperation and mutual help.

This needed cooperation cannot flourish in times of war.

This type of world-wide challenge cannot be met with methods typically used for the **Rule of the Strongest**.

This cooperation needs the **trust in International Agreements**. It must not be dominated by the fear that doing the right thing may give others the opportunity to blackmail a country later.

The G20 countries have the main influence and responsibility: (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Türkiye, the United Kingdom, and the United States / the European Union, and since 2023, the African Union).

**G20** members include the world's major economies, representing 85% of global GDP, 75% of international trade, and two-thirds of the world's population.

## 3 Direct human-caused Threats and Challenges

These challenges are caused by the will and attitude of single governments of powerful and influential states. There is no forcing reason for either of those attitudes. In this way they are artificial and cause problems unnecessarily.

China: The threat to invade Taiwan soon and make it a province of PRC, of which Taiwan never was a part.

Russia: Starting a war against Ukraine in order to make it a part of Russia

USA: - ignoring the Rule of Law in the USA, since Trump became president of the USA

- violating international treaties for blackmailing other states,
- destroying the trust of allies that the USA stands for defending democracy,
- announcing imperialistic ambitions (like China) with respect to Cannada, Greenland, Gaza, Panama,
- put the cooperation with European allies in doubt, encouraging Russia on its imperialistic path.
- Trump seemingly wants unconditional followers, not allies with own interests and ideas
- Also Trump ignores and denies the challenges set by the limits given by the laws of nature (human caused climate change and also the Covid Virus)

Since 2025 NATO is not a reliable coalition anymore. Not all for one (NATO §5) counts, but America first.

The US strategy is not visible. US ad hoc acting is unpredictable, unsettling and surprising.

### 3.1 How can Europe react?

Europe has all reasons to rely only on Europe. For this purpose, it has to mobilize all means.

- Europe must be able to defend all European NATO states by itself.
- Europe must be able to keep track in technology, as it cannot rely on US technology anymore.
- Europe must become an internationally respected voice (state-alliance) next to the USA, China and Russia, otherwise the UK and the 27 EU states are told, what they have to do and will be subject to blackmailing.

## European Challenges

If the USA turns away from democracy, and supports extreme right parties, then democracy in Europe is at risk.  
Will Europe be strong enough to defend democracy?

Will single European countries seek more integration to unite Europe to meet its challenges?

Donald Trump does not want, that Europe is strong enough just by relying on Europe.

He wants European dependency on the USA.

He wants to be able to blackmail European countries.

He may not be interested in problems being solved. He may like to continuously complain that Europe cannot solve its problems, with the option to intervene when he likes.

### 3.2 What European Initiatives are visible to date?

What do you see?