

"Mendacity as the basic characteristic of our times"

Already in 1920 Rudolf Steiner, the founder of Anthroposophy, singled out "mendacity as the basic characteristic of all public life in our times".¹ In the meantime this fundamental characteristic has become even more dominant, especially in political life. Hitlerism was based on lies, as was bolshevism. And political Americanism, not only in the past but especially in the present, is built on lies. After the collapse of Hitler's gigantic system of lies, the "sole world power" (Zbigniew Brzezinski) can now propagate its lies with complete freedom from competition.

Principle of deliberate provocation

Here are a number of facts about the policy of the USA and its *anti-American* character, for this policy deceives and harms not least its own citizens themselves.²

- The attack of the Japanese on Pearl Harbor (7 December 1941), which as we all know resulted in the USA entering the Second World War, was – in total contradiction to the official account – not a surprise attack but one that was deliberately provoked by the Roosevelt administration in order to get the US Congress ("Day of Infamy") and the public to agree to wage war. The American writer Gore Vidal calls it a "barefaced lie": "Roosevelt (whose domestic policies – the New Deal - I admire) deliberately provoked the Japanese to attack us in Pearl Harbor."³
- The "Tonking Gulf Incident" (2 August 1964) brought about an abrupt widening of the Vietnam war. Two North Vietnamese torpedo boats were alleged to have attacked the American destroyer "Maddox". This "incident" led to the Tonking Resolution by the Security Council and triggered off the saturation bombing of North Vietnam. The torpedo "incident" was a pure invention of the US. Interestingly, this news was first reported by the AP from *Pearl Harbor*.⁴
- Zbigniew Brzezinski in an interview boasted of the fact that it was the CIA that supported the rebels in Afghanistan against Moscow, thereby luring the Russians into their "Vietnam".⁵
- On 25 July 1990 the US Ambassador April Glaspie assured the Iraq regime that the US would not get involved in the Iraq-Kuwait conflict. After the invasion of Kuwait the US government made a strong protest and threatened intervention.
- On 10 October 1990 the daughter of the Kuwait Ambassador testified before the Human Rights Committee of the US Congress and in a voice choked with tears described the atrocities of the Iraqi soldiers in Kuwait. The "incubator story" was born. Iraqi soldiers were said to have ripped hundreds of babies out of their incubators and savagely killed them. Behind this story was a 10 million-dollar assignment given to the largest American public relations firm, Hill & Knowlton. Amnesty International later corrected this "error". Nevertheless the desired effect on American public opinion was achieved; two days later came the Iraq Resolution in the Security Council – giving the green light to the Gulf War.

From Pearl Harbor to 11 September 2001

Already on the day of the New York catastrophe a comparison was made of this attack to that on Pearl Harbor, probably for the first time in the president's Air Force One, and then by Brzezinski and others. This "parallel", immediately widely propagated by the media and evoking strong emotions, put everyone on their guard who knew the true facts about Pearl Harbor and not just the "official version" or the Hollywood film that had been released in the summer of 2001

(not to mention the proven ties between the CIA, the Pakistani secret service, Al Qaeda and the financing of Mohamed Atta, the "chief hijacker"; or the substantial business links of the Bush family to Osama Bin Laden).

The 11th of September is indeed justly to be compared with Pearl Harbor. But the comparison is justified in a shocking sense, the one stated in the words of McGeorge Bundy, the unscrupulous adviser to Kennedy and Johnson, regarding the growth in US power thanks to the catastrophe of Pearl Harbor: "It was a terrible day, but it had a very wonderful result."⁵

"Deal in straight power concepts"

To get a clear idea of the basic feature of US foreign policy uttered in such words, we need only read the guidelines (for years treated as top secret) set down in 1948 by George Kennan, Head of the Planning Bureau of the US Department of State. In his "Planning Study 23" Kennan wrote: "We have about 50% of the world's wealth but only 6.3% of its population (...) In this situation, we cannot fail to be the object of envy and resentment. Our real task in the coming period is to devise a pattern of relationships which will permit us to maintain this position of disparity (...) To do so, we will have to dispense with all sentimentality and day-dreaming; and our attention will have to be concentrated everywhere on our immediate national objectives (...) We should cease to talk about vague and (...) unreal objectives such as human rights, the raising of the living standards, and democratization. The day is not far off when we are going to have to deal in straight power concepts. The less we are then hampered by idealistic slogans, the better." Here for once the main thrust of US foreign policy fortunately comes unambiguously to light

Anyone who understands the impact of such guidelines will not wonder at the current conduct of this "sole world power" when it comes to "human rights" or the humanitarian goals of the UN and its "idealistic slogans". The present war is the proof of the woeful course of US policy over the last fifty years. Truly it has reached the point where it is no longer inhibited by "idealistic slogans" in any way whatsoever.

To be sure, Saddam Hussein is a scoundrel. This was also known to the CIA at the end of the 1960s, when it began to support and use him. But at first he was a useful scoundrel. US policy makes use of useful scoundrels everywhere; this is one of its techniques. At that time someone said: Hussein is a son of a bitch, but he's *our* son of a bitch. But since the end of the 1980s he has no longer been "our" son of a bitch. This is the whole difference. That is why he has to go, even if it costs the lives of hundreds of thousands of civilians. This is uninhibitedly acting according to "straight power concepts".

First US war without a pretext

Now for the first time, the sole world power has started a war without first fabricating a *credible* moral garb for itself and without having successfully mobilized the moral indignation of the public against an enemy. This is what is totally new and alarming about the current world situation. The regime with the deadliest weapons of mass destruction on this planet is threatening the safety of the entire world. And it is all the more mendacious when the US junta, now wild and unrestrained, seeks to present its brutal wars of world conquest in the guise of a divinely appointed dispenser of apocalyptic retribution.

Switzerland as a non-aligned information provider?

These developments can only be counteracted when they are clearly seen for what they are, without allowing oneself to be fooled by "idealistic" or pseudo-religious "catchwords". For this a truth-oriented spiritual life must be developed. At the level of public reporting this could consist in creating an independent information service. (During the First World War Rudolf Steiner wanted to set up a *neutral* information service in Zurich, but this was blocked by the German High Command). The possibilities for this would be available precisely in a still somewhat neutral country like Switzerland. However, they will disappear if in Switzerland the belief in the "specter of isolationism" becomes still more deeply rooted, in particular making way

for the insanity of trying one's luck in entangling political and military alliance structures (like the EU or NATO) which in the final analysis are anyway dominated by the US.

* **Thomas Meyer**, born 1950, is a freelance writer and a publisher.

¹ On 21 August 1920.

² Nafeez M. Achmed: *The War on Freedom – How and Why America was Attacked* September 11 2001, Joshua Tree (CA), 2002.

³ Gore Vidal: *Dreaming War – Blood for Oil and the Cheney-Bush Junta*, Clairview, London, 2003, p. 75 f.

⁴ Barry Zwicker in: *September 2001, Coverup or Complicity*
<http://www.globalresearch.ca>

⁵ "The CIA's Intervention in Afghanistan", *Global Outlook*, No. 1, 2001

⁶ "GEO", May 2001, p. 89.

⁷ Quoted according to N. Chomsky: *Was Onkel Sam wirklich will*, Zürich, 1993.