

## Foreign Policy in the time of the American Empire

Jochen Bitter is right. Nobody who had the chance to listen to the brave words of John F. Kennedy which he proclaimed in his inaugural address will ever forget them. I watched him on T.V. as an exchange student in Minnesota.

But, Jochan Bittern is pretty wrong on everything else. What was the reality back then? The basic Western Cold War doctrine was “Containment of Communism”, borders were not moved, mutual interests were respected.

What happened after the Cold War? The concept of containment was replaced by a policy of roll back: Since the end of the Cold War the American sphere of influence in Europe was extended by one million square kilometers and more than an additional one hundred million people. The combined GDP of the USA and the EU amounts to 34 000 billion US dollars, compared to 2 100 billion US dollars of Russian GDP. The Western defense spending is more than eleven times the Russian defense budget.

While the West won a great victory, Russia has lost everything the country gained during the last 300 years, from the time of Peter the Great and Catherine II. Had those losses been written down in a peace treaty, people would have considered it a great humiliation. The NATO expansion that followed was considered as a “tragic mistake” by George Kennan as early as 1998. The regime change which took place in Kiev one year ago was one humiliation too many, Russia reacted.

By reacting, Russia asserted its own national interests, having established its own internal order, differing from Western models concerning the role of the state or the influence of the church. The question is: is this allowed in the time of American Empire?

Is it allowed for other countries to have their own national interests in their neighborhood, when the United States interferes all over the world. Are other countries allowed to establish their own internal order, when “Democracy building” has become a basic principle of US foreign policy.

Does the “West turn on itself” because it did not react with another war against Russia?

A diplomatic revolution has taken place in Europe. Throughout the centuries the legitimacy of foreign policy was power politics. In today’s Europe the legitimacy of foreign policy is to promote the welfare of the people. Throughout history someone was considered as “Great” if he or she conquered and devastated other countries and killed people, just to increase his own power, from Alexander the Great to Napoleon.

In recent European history Slobotan Milosevic acted this way. No one called him great, to the contrary, he was sent to an International War Crime Tribunal. It should stay that way.

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