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Europe - a Role Model for the World

Why was Richard Nikolaus Coudenhove-Kalergi one of the great political visionaries of the 20th century? Because he recognized the First World War as a European civil war and because he also saw that such a catastrophe can only be prevented in the future by a united Europe. In fact, his "pan-Europe idea" has been realized to the extent that our continent can be seen as a role model for the world in many areas.

Of course you can always hear that "Europe is no longer valid in the world" because its military strength is too low. This is often described as "Europeans have to take on more responsibility". But the problems of our time can no longer be solved with tanks and fighter planes, although this thinking is deeply rooted. We already learned from Homer that the one who killed most of the enemies is a great hero. Throughout history, those who won battles, who conquered countries, were considered "great" in order to increase their fame; let's think of Alexander the Great or Frederick the Great. But when Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic attacked his neighbors in the 1990s, nobody said "Milosevic the Great"; but "this man belongs to a court martial".

In fact, foreign policy has been conducted for centuries in terms of „Staatsraison", as „Realpolitik" and as a power policy. Wars were considered a "continuation of politics by other means"; territories and people were divided arbitrarily in peace treaties. Today only the United States pursues this kind of foreign policy; they can wage wars all over the world at will, and through NATO's eastward expansion, political power thinking and new tensions have returned to Europe.

Building on the ideas of Coudenhove-Kalergi, however, Europe became a continent of peace. With the establishment of the Council of Europe after the Second World War, a "revolution in European diplomacy" took first place in Western Europe. The aim and means of foreign policy among European countries changed fundamentally. The traditional power policy has been replaced by a policy of cooperation for the benefit of the citizens. This policy builds on shared values such as democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

Europe became a continent of social welfare. The promotion of the well-being of the citizens became a crucial legitimation for foreign policy action. Today 8% of the world's population live in Europe; the countries of the European Union produce 20% of world GDP; but consume half of all social benefits in the world. There is no doubt that there is still a strong social gap between countries in Europe, but the principle of promoting the well-being of people as a maxim of political action has prevailed. As early as 1961, the European Social Charter was adopted, which defines social rights and freedoms, compliance with which is checked.

In addition, EU citizens enjoy the highest environmental standards in the world. No other region in the world does so much for climate and environmental protection as Europe.

The Pan-Europe Movement can be proud of what has been achieved in our countries. With a certain self-confidence we can say that the rest of the world can use Europe as a model in many areas.

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