The Security Times
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February 2020

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As long-time publisher of The Security Times, I am honored to welcome you back to Munich for the MSC. This year’s issue is perhaps our most vital yet.

Detlef Prinz
CEO of the MSC, and German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas kick off our commentary on pages 2 and 3 with their analyses of the upcoming foreign policy season.

On pages 4 and 5, Harvard scholars Graham Allison and Joseph Nye wax south of the wall vis-a-vis China. Share up the defensive line or focus on soft power?

Is Russia a formidable foe or should the US and Europe give-and-go with Moscow and tackle the world’s toughest problems as one team? The International line-up of Ian Bremmer, Dmitri Trenin, and Sylvie Kauffmann sets the floor on pages 12 and 13.

Is peace possible? The Security Times special teams examine the state of play in Ukraine, the Middle East, Libya, and Afghanistan on pages 7 to 13.

And finally, some crunch time heroes by Ivon Kravos on the big league prospects of Europe (p. 29) and Jessica T. Mathews on the US defense budget (p. 35).

I hope you enjoy our forum, and may reading it enrich your debates on the pressing issues of our time.

Sincerely,
Detlef Prinz
Publisher
Europe’s novel-gazing means missed opportunities to gain relevance in the new world order of great-power politics

**Europe, 2020:** A year of world order or crisis? Europe is young again, or is it? Is the EU becoming an international player? Or is it still a sideshow? These are some of the questions that Europe faces as it enters a new decade. Some experts argue that Europe needs to boost its political and security capabilities to become a more influential player on the world stage. Others believe that Europe is facing a crisis of identity and purpose, and that it must find new ways to engage with the rest of the world.

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Europe needs to carve out its identity in a new world order.

France’s Emmanuel Macron is urging “European sovereignty,” the addresser of his demands is Berlin. Macron believes the EU needs more engagement – in Mali, perhaps – and less chaos and timid self-restraint. Macron paints a picture of a multipolar world in which the EU remains marginal and ineffective as the last great survivor of colonial and cold war freedoms.

The EU needs to establish factual needs strategic autonomy, and so does Germany. The EU includes the capability not to implement foreign and security policy in an ever more fragile world. Meanwhile, other “sovereign powers” – China and Russia, are filling the geopolitical void caused by the end of the Pax Americana. They are marching in the direction of authoritarian powers as well as “New Greatness,” as it’s referred to in Moscow. In the new global order defined by them alone, real great powers strengthen their military power and recognize their influence and their role in the Security Council. They can grab alliances based on the laws of might, with little regard for democratic principles, the rule of law or democracy.

Europe and particularly Germany are in danger of becoming a plowland in this development. Although the upheaval could hardly be greater and the challenges harder, German and European foreign and security policy seems almost placid.

The status quo, however, is no longer an option. An alliance of multilateralists must be based on more than just consultation and reassurance. The Germans must at last engage in a earnest debate on security and defence. For decades, the commercially prosperous Federal Republic profited tremendously from the rules-based – if never perfect – liberal world order of the USA. But Europe is important for Germany, too. In this context, the EU’s financial support for democracies and the proliferation of human rights, comfort and shower and the peaceful division of German and European sovereignty and its post-war reconstruction differ, including a free ticket to further prosperity through its role as an export nation in plus.

In this scenario, the country’s valuable foreign policy has very much stood in the way of its economic interests.

Security policy proposals like that of German Defence Minister Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, who argues for engagement in northern Syria, could provide a piece of the puzzle. But proposals thrown into the mix lead to – with no recognition of strategy and without consultation – are counterproductive.

German foreign and security policy is always European policy; it considers the interests of other European countries to be as important as its own. Grounded in its intractable and some would say “brain-dead,” Germany’s mainly self-evaluating “European model” continues sometimes approaches a denial of reality.

Many countries in Europe regard the country as more of an epithet proto to dual moral standards than as Europeanism in solidarity with their neighbors. This conflict in perception was most recently on display in the debate over the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline. As spelled out in the EU’s Energy Union, “solidarity and trust” were to be the critical ingredients for achieving climate goals, protect Europe, and avoid the proliferation of human rights and democracy, the rule of law and the rights of minorities.

The Security Times – Strategy

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**KATJA GLOSER**

**KATJA GLOSER** is a political science holding, specializing in Russian history and politics. Her latest book, Fremde Freunde (Foreign Friends), published in 2019, explores the history of German-Russian relations.

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**The Security Times – Strategy**

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