

## From Global Chaos to a New World **FRESACH WORD ORDER**

### **The Old West**

After the Second World War, far-sighted politicians built a rules-based world on mutual respect and cross-border cooperation within the framework of the United Nations. Prejudice, hatred, and extreme nationalism were to be a thing of the past, Europe should gradually grow together and become an equal partner of the United States of America, which saw itself as the guardian of this post-war, peaceful order based on democracy and human rights.

The collapse of the communist sphere - with Moscow at its center - in the early 1990s led many Central and Eastern European countries to find their long-desired democratic and economic home in this new Europe. This gave hope that a united West could serve as a shining example to other parts of the world of how to live together peacefully and resolve conflicts through compromise.

Even though the West did not always act according to its own principles and values, even though the USA and some Europeans in its wake intervened in foreign countries in violation of international law, thereby triggering chaos and destruction, the developments and social progress, the move towards freedom and equality, were nevertheless a model for many people who had to live under the pressure and coercion of autocracies and dictatorships.

### **Then Imperial Powers**

The decisive breach of this long-standing rule-based world order - at least from an European perspective - was Russia's brutal bloody attack on Ukraine, which had already been preceded by numerous border violations against its Russian neighbors. Despite previously recognizing Ukraine's borders and independence, the Kremlin rulers launched a devastating and inhumane war that showed no intention of sparing even its own population.

A further blow to the geopolitical order that had functioned well for decades came from, of all people, the most powerful standard-bearer of the free world. The current US president's tariff and trade war threatens the previously successful Western alliance; international obligations no longer apply, and trust has been broken. The US security guarantees for its partners - including those in Western Europe - have reached their expiration date.

This loss of trust is leading to considerable uncertainty and is causing some states to consider nuclear armament for their own security. In the shadow of power, the principle of the might of the law is giving way to the de facto right of the strongest. In Putin's Russia, as well as in Trump's America, dangerous systems of corruption thrive. Such oligarchic structures stand in stark contrast to the principles of democracy and equal opportunities enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

## The New World Order

A united Europe is called upon to confront the current chaos and develop solid, independent paths to a new, fairer future. Europe must enforce adherence to treaties and insist unyielding on the rule of law. It must not tolerate autocracies at home and abroad, and must provide support to those who stand up for peace, freedom, and human rights, those who demonstrate for democracy in countries like Serbia, Turkey, and Georgia.

This resistance, too, creates chaos. But it can bring about and accelerate the transition to a just and democratic order. The European Union must actively and consistently represent its values; it must find allies around the world so that a new world order without wars and bloody conflicts can succeed. It must contribute to the effective functioning of international organizations and a more equitable distribution of power within them. This is how Europe can bring hope and confidence in the future!

## A Europe of Opportunities

To play the new role under changed conditions, Europe needs to renew itself economically and promote a climate of innovation and creativity by reducing bureaucracy and excessive legislation. Only in this way costs can be saved, friction avoided, and new dynamism unleashed. Especially in education, science and research, there are many opportunities for cross-border cooperation to pool intellectual resources, motivate young people, and attract scientists and researchers from all over the world.

Ultimately, Europe must be determined and willing to seize opportunities, strive for success, and defend its values and norms - against global chaos, disruption, irritating fake news, insults to its culture, but also against hybrid and military attacks, and against terrorism.

But this requires greater unity based on the principles that Europe adopted after the two terrible world wars unleashed on its soil. These values must not be compromised; they must be clearly and persistently advocated to convince other actors of their importance for a just and stable world order based on democracy, freedom and equality.

The upheaval requires a clear perspective; geopolitics is back: But wars over space and resources should be a thing of the past. Along with leading politicians, every individual in liberal democracies is called upon to actively participate in shaping public opinion and social life in order to enable a peaceful coexistence.