

## **Why Trump?**

### **A slightly different interpretation**

Almost half of the US voters chose Trump.

It is no consolation that a very narrow majority voted for Clinton, because the medieval electoral system of the US has given power to the minority candidate. There is no consolation in recognizing that Hillary Clinton was not an optimal candidate of openness and rationality as she was the ideal target for a rage candidate like Trump.

How could this happen? And why does the same danger is threatening us in Europe?

It is the interaction of progress, globalization and social failure of the elites. For a long time, the attentive observer of the global development knew that the technology developed and used in the West would spread. Together with the opening up of national markets, ie globalization, the international division of labour has accelerated the economic development enormously around the world, especially for disciplined societies on other continents, but also for the very disciplined Germany. Poverty in its most extreme forms has been halved in the last decades. It now concentrates on states with evil dictatorships and civil war regions. In many developing countries, development has actually taken place, with or without development help. Countries such as Turkey have achieved these successes during the process of democratization and will now jeopardize them under the new dictatorship.

#### **But globalization is a great success story**

unless there were the losers who are the victims of their own elites. This is especially true for the US, but also for Western Europe. The United States is worst hit by not only accumulating the globalization gains on the rich, but also by the strength and attractiveness of the dollar that makes others work for them. This of course has severely impaired the labour market.

There is a dramatic impact not only from the social failure, which is absurdly due to the attitude of Republican politicians more than the Democrats, but also from the the lack of an active competition, ie anti-trust policy. The share of the 100 biggest corporations in the US GDP rose to 46% (1994 33%), while in Germany it fell from 16% (1978) to 16%.

Now the left behind Whites have chosen Trump, even the despised and offended women. Because the anger against foreign competitors and against coloured fellow citizens are close together.

In Europe, too, the Trump ideology will give additional ammunition to the populist movements, as the Americans are going to hinder import and immigration, and to remove everything that actually or supposedly hinders safe jobs, e.g. climate and environmental protection.

In Germany, which is in a better position in so many areas than its neighbours and the US, it is now necessary to consider how reasonable it is in this situation that the government jeopardizes the German industrial strengths in order to foster climate protection that is going to be sabotaged by Trump. Will there be another

**Wir schaffen das?  
(we will manage that)**

the famous motto of Angela Merkel with respect to immigration from the Middle East. Are we really able to manage the de-carbonization of our energy industry and the motor car industry without massively producing losers? Will we be able to compensate for the lost workplaces in the lignite industry and the power plants by new production facilities nearby the time and space? Are our experiences and achievements in the German East or in the Ruhr region encouraging such optimism?

Of course, it would be nice to be a world champion of climate protection and to compensate at least for a small part of Trump's additional CO2 emissions. But in a world in which selflessness is not any more praised, but despised, the formerly envisaged role of a model would lose credibility.

Now we are waiting for the next shock from France (almost uninteresting whether Sarkozy or LePen would win) and the Netherlands. Then, at the latest, it will be an empty pride to be a citizen of Germany where a lot of things are in a better state than elsewhere.