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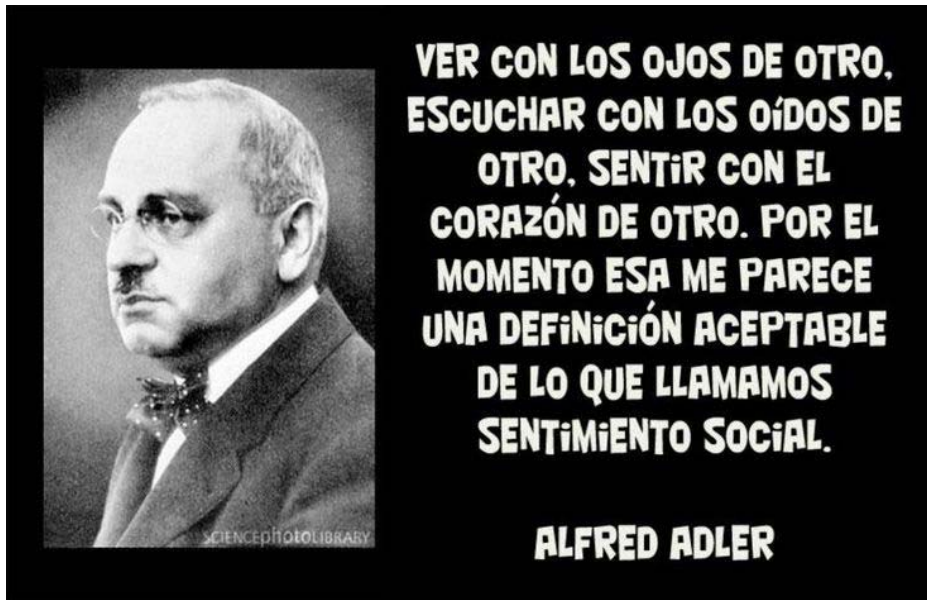
زبانهای اروپایی

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In this war there are only aggressors

It may sound naïve, but it is still true: a better world order starts with peace or it does not come to be peace.



Wars have not been officially declared for more than 50 years and almost never end with an agreement. Weapons are taken up and destroyed as if it were a natural part of politics. Even the "cabinet wars" of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries were more civilized. The war in Ukraine is also – from the point of view of one actor – only a "special operation". According to international law, there is an aggressor and a defender, because the war takes place on the territory of Ukraine. However, if you look closer, only the aggressors can be identified.

Since 2014, the Ukrainian government and friendly Western governments have prevented democratic decisions agreed under international law for greater autonomy in eastern

Ukraine ("Minsk") and instead imposed violent obstructions on the Russian-speaking population in the area. These were not military attacks, but massive civilian attacks. Part of the Ukrainian army reacted to this provocation with a unilateral declaration of autonomy for the Donbass and tried to impose it militarily, with more or less covert help from the Kremlin. This marked the beginning of the military confrontation, to which Kiev, in turn, responded militarily in a massive way. Eight years of armed conflict followed, which cannot be described as a civil war because it took place between sectors of the Ukrainian army, supported by Russian arms aid, on the one hand, and American financial aid, on the other. Following the start of the Russian "special operation" in 2022, Kiev initially accepted a negotiated solution, but withdrew this agreement under pressure from its Western allies.



Since then, NATO has been waging a "covert" war in Ukraine and behind its back, not in, but against Russia. Diplomatic and intellectual lightweights like the German foreign minister do not hide their martial intentions and behave accordingly. Ukraine is being supplied with more and more weapons, which could be taken as justified support for its defense, if previous provocations, violations of international law and the breakdown of negotiations are ignored. But neither on the other side can we talk about defense:

Those who point out that the war did not begin in 2022, but already in 2014, with the military attacks on the Donbass by the Ukrainian army, should not forget the previous armed separatism by other parts of the Ukrainian army. No state would accept such a thing, and the affected population has not been asked by the separatists if they want to be part of and be a victim of such a war. Undoubtedly, this "civil war" of renegade Ukrainian military would not have been possible for eight years without the more or less covert military involvement of Russia; This is clear to anyone who takes a look at the map. Not only has Kiev been waging a war in eastern Ukraine with Western help since 2014, but Ukrainian troops themselves have initiated military actions against the central power with Russian help since 2014. That is not a justification, for anyone, but a description.

At best, the Kremlin's actions could be benevolently understood as a preemptive "defense" (!) of Russia if an attack on Russia by Ukraine or NATO had been imminent. But this was not the case, and even military experts highly critical of NATO, such as Scott Ritter, clearly deny this; according to them, NATO (and even more so Ukraine) could not and would not attack Russia militarily in the foreseeable future. And today it still does not happen.

There is no doubt that the West has long waged an economic, as well as a political, war against Russia. There were and are sanctions that violate international law and equally unnecessary and provocative admissions from Russian neighbors in NATO. There was a pro-Western coup in Kiev supported financially and personally. Imagine, for example, that members of the Russian government had financially supported, i.e. fueled, armed race riots in the US worth billions of dollars and participated in demonstrations there – just as then-US Vice President Biden personally appeared on the Maidan. The massive US interference in Kiev in 2014 is a fact whose international consequences were calculated, if not intended. Deniers portray White House staff in Washington as irresponsible and short-sighted.

But is a provoked military invasion of Ukraine by Russia an obligatory or even justified consequence? Is it innocent who allows himself to be provoked? Could the Kremlin

perhaps have responded to Western sanctions with sanctions of its own without war? Without the Russian invasion, would there have been a years-long war with hundreds of thousands of dead and refugees, cities and landscapes destroyed, hatred alive for generations, and a deepening division of Europe and the world? Would all this or worse have happened without the invasion? Anyone who insinuates that these consequences could not have been foreseen is declaring that Kremlin personnel are also irresponsible and short-sighted. By the way, at the time of the invasion there was a democratically elected government in Kiev, but the Kremlin called it fascist and illegitimate, and its dismissal is cited as one of the reasons for military action.

The argument that Russia, on its current borders, had to defend itself is hardly used, by the way, by the Kremlin itself. Just two months ago, Putin confirmed at a conference in Petersburg that Russia was not under existential threat. Rather, the Kremlin justifies its special operation with the restoration of Russian unity, which, in the Kremlin's view, also includes parts of Ukraine that must be freed from the Western/fascist yoke. Seen through this prism, it is not really an invasion, but the defence of a Russia that is understood to be larger, which unfortunately has too narrow borders at the moment. However, anyone who accepts this "argument," regardless of whether it is historically true, must believe that a permanent world war is the right thing to do, because historically "unjust" borders can be found in many places. But that surely forces humanity to come to conclusions other than war! As a second argument, the Kremlin repeatedly cites a new multipolar world order being built that better preserves the values betrayed by the West itself than the declining Western continent. Not only the facts, but also the speeches prove that the Kremlin is actively offensive and not reactively defensive.

Medvedev's recent proposal to divide Ukraine into an eastern part belonging to Russia and a western part that would be annexed to other EU states fits with this. Only the disappearance of Ukraine as a state would guarantee world peace. He meant it. As much as one would like to see negotiated solutions: this proposal is just another aggressive provocation, but no basis for talks.

The bottom line is that the West is waging a proxy war against Russia on the back of Ukraine and with it as a henchman for the hard stuff, as a complement to its years-long economic war. Russia is waging a war behind Ukraine's back – by its own admission – firstly against the Ukrainian government and state and secondly for a new anti-imperialist multipolar world. With such methods, however, its face will not differ from the old unipolar imperialist world. Does war as an obstetrician need a desirable new world order?

The road to peace, to a better world order, will not be easier if those responsible on all sides consider war as a means of political conduct to be legitimate. But projecting one's own desire for peace on one or the other aggressor side does not help either. Our government and most of our parliament are also part of a machinery of violence and are as unwilling to negotiate as the Russian side. This applies not only to facts, but also to associated ways of thinking and propaganda speeches, which are saturated with images of the enemy on all sides.

It may sound naïve, but it is still true: a better world order starts with peace or it does not come to be peace. When psychologist Alfred Adler was asked by friends in Vienna in 1916 after his time in the war as a doctor what was new, he replied: "It seems to me that what the world needs most today is a [sense of community](#)." A century later, this message is still news.

Christian Fischer, 23 July 2023 Original: [In diesem Krieg gibt es nur Aggressoren](#) Source: Rafael Poch de Feliu, 4 August 2023

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