

The Arab Spring and Syrian Crisis:
International and Regional Dimensions

East and West.
Philosophy, ethics, politics
and human rights

Band 8

ed. by H.-C. Günther

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Azaz, Syria during the Syrian civil war. 16 August 2012, Azaz
residents pick up after aerial bombings. Bombed out buildings.

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Table of Content	
Preface	7
List of Contributors	9
Hans-Christian Günther	
The Syrian Crisis – What has been done, what should we do?	11
Ali Asghar Mosleh	
The Roots of the Middle East Crisis and Alternative Solutions	19
Djavad Kashani	
UN Security Council Approach to the Middle East Events and Developments in the Recent Decade	33
Harro von Senger	
The People’s Republic of China’s Approach to Syria 2011 to 2017	53
Udo Steinbach	
The Syrian Conflict – Its Confessional Dimension	69
Francisco Muñoz Conde	
Die heutige Relativierung des Verbots der Folter und ihrer Anwendung im Krieg und im Kampf gegen Terrorismus	73
Isabella Oldani	
EU Sanctions on Syria: From Approval to Annulment	79
Luigi Sammartino	
The Syrian Conflict and Prohibitions of Arms Transfers: What are States Doing in order to Implement their International Obligations?	97
Chiara Tea Antoniazzi	
The EU-Turkey Statement of 18 March 2016: A Legal Perspective	131

Riccardo Pozzo/ Vania Virgili Towards a Strategic Research Agenda on Migration	147
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Preface

This volume contains some of the papers given at an international conference on the Syrian crisis in 2017. I thank the Meran Academy, its director Ivo De Gennaro and its staff for their usual hospitality and perfect organization.

Müllheim, July 2019

H.-C. Günther

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S. www.36strategeme.ch and www.Supraplanung.eu.

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The Syrian Crisis – What has been done, what should we do¹

Hans-Christian Günther

1. Preliminary remarks

Before I come to the main topic of my talk I think I have to make a few preliminary remarks. First of all, I am not an expert on Syria or the Middle East. That I regard myself fit to speak more or less at the beginning of a conference on the Syrian crisis is due to three facts:

- 1) in order to see where the roots of the problem lie you need not be an expert, you just need a rather mediocre dose of common sense,
- 2) that I deem it necessary to say what everyone who is in his right mind should see is due to the fact that the perversion of the minds of western people, in particular the establishment, including academics, has reached a degree of dementia that only a simple mind like mine, and of someone who looks beyond the comfortable armchair of his living room or office in the European province appears to be able to speak out if it comes to the most simple evident truths,
- 3) I claim to be such a person because I know from proper experience, i.e. from sharing the lives of the ordinary people from the bottom of society in many countries of the globe, thus I know different cultures on the level of lived experience, not academic outside study and I have personal friendships with Muslim people all around the globe. But especially I know by having lived with my friends from the bottom of society many situations which taught me what is more important health care and a full stomach or freedom of speech, a very important lesson if you judge the Syrian and other conflicts.

Thus I shall lose no time trying to refute the silly nonsense of the western state media, and if you want to call me a conspiracy theorist you are free to do so: I take it as a compliment.

You may ask Harro von Senger present here among us: the term conspiracy theory does not exist in China nor I suspect elsewhere save in the west. Only western people are stupid enough to believe what the official truth media tell them and switch off their brains. And in the meantime actually ordinary people in the west don't believe it either, only certain academics or pseudo academics.

¹ I intentionally did not change the language of my talk nor did I revise it in order to do justice to new developments which happened after the date of the Meran conference.

This also means: I shall not speak here about western values even less so of democracy. We have no values, if not that we pretend to be enlightened enough to have enough freedom and dignity to know that we ourselves and not our brains decide how often we get drunk or whom we have sex with. The only real values the western self declared community of values has to offer to the world is ruthless exploitation, colonialism by other means, cryptoracism and mass murder. What in the west is called democracy has nothing to do whatsoever neither with the original Greek concept nor with that what an ordinary mind associates with the word, namely that ordinary citizens participate in political decisions. What ordinary people want counts for nothing, and in fact we are not even ruled by our ridiculous political actors but by powers whose names and modus operandi we barely know.

Of course, I would fully agree if someone points out that here at least we are able to speak rather freely about a sensitive topic: in Turkey where we originally wanted to hold this conference we had to cancel it. Real free speech of course not even we have, but we have more of it than e.g. in Turkey for sure. But if this is so: please let us use the little space we have and not impose upon ourselves the silly slogans of our criminal political class and media. Let us combine the common sense of ordinary citizens with our ability of academic analysis. But as common sense is in short supply, please expect from me rather a lecture on the level of a taxi drivers or construction worker's mindset than an academic's.

2. A Flashback into History

A) The heritage of WW II

Well, if we want to know the root cause of all the conflicts after the breakdown of the SU, of which the Syrian one is only the one which at the moment gets most attention: western or US or Israeli crime is in full bloom all over the world - if we want to analyse the whole series of criminal actions of our so called west we have to go back to WWII and it's aftermath.

Nobody would, I think, contest that the well meant attempts at an international order avoiding a second disaster like WWI were fruitless because egoistic 'Realpolitik' prevailed and thus led to WWII. It's the most often repeated lie or hypocrisy that after WWII it was different and better: it was worse. Two things: 1) WWII was NOT a war good against evil either: it was the the power struggle of 4 (or 5) ruthlessly criminal powers: Nazi Germany, Japanese military dictatorship, Stalin's SU and the alliance of the British empire, the most criminal organization of world history, with its pervert offspring the US who after WWII were definitely destined to replace it.

The Nazi madmen and the megalomaniac Japanese military were stupid and unrealistic too, thus they lost. Roosevelt and Stalin were clever statesmen thus the US and the SU won. Churchill, Hitler's precise mirrorimage, lost too, due to his shortsighted stupidity in thinking the crimes of the British empire could last forever and not seeing that the US' major aim was to destroy and replace it.

The western allies' attempt to definitely put on the mask of the righteous by the ridiculous two show trials of Nuremberg and Tokyo indeed fooled the western public into such a belief - much less so the rest of the world. The rest of the world had to experience that the powers who declared well sounding universal human rights still tried to hold on to colonial power, the US was still a racist apartheid state - as it still is-, to make it short: the rest of the world physically felt that these were white human rights as the human rights of the American Declaration of Independence were rights not for human beings but for a bunch of privileged white males, called insidiously men. The newly founded UN excluded the most populous country of the world, and the still colonized world anyhow; the security council started on the wrong foot by sanctioning without consulting with Russia a criminal war in Korea. The often invoked unprecedented over 40 years of peace after WWII were a peace in Europe, alone guaranteed solely by the contraposition of two huge nuclear arsenals: the rest of the world was plagued first by colonial wars and always by Soviet and American hegemonial desires carried out by brute force, and what the US did was in straight continuity with the crimes of the Anglosaxon imperialistic violence of ever.

In particular the Muslim world was victimized by Truman's and Stalin's installation of the state of Israel, a state based on a racist ideology that concluded once that Jews must act like white colonialists in order to protect themselves and now concluded that Jews must act like Nazis to do that. And this Nazi ideology won on the back of innocent Muslim people who had to pay the price not only for Hitler's but the whole western civilizations over one thousand years of crimes against Jews.

B) The Cold War and the Fall of the SU

In the time of the so called Cold War the balance of lethal power between the two major blocks kept a lid on belligerent violence, however, US terror all around the globe always by far outdid Soviet crime, simply because the US overall was the stronger power, and indeed US arrogance and crime grew ever faster the more the SU began to fall behind in economic power and thus in arms technology as well. Also American policy towards Israel lost ever more any

balance and allowed the latter at the same time to become ever more powerful and slide into a mere and unashamedly racist genocidal state of mass murder, by far outdoing their Nazi model.

When with the inevitable fall of the SU the power balance broke down and Russia was almost brought to the abyss by a foolish drunkard as the head of government the western or US aspiration of world hegemony, driven by the hidden economic forces that had replaced politics by mere greed of a bunch of people so dominated by shameless greed and lust for power that moral barriers simply ceased to exist. Thus it was immediately over with our highly praised peace and the first state that was destroyed in a war of shameless aggression was ex Yugoslavia, a conflict in which Europe played an even more shameful role than the US. In particular, a period began where the western truth media so successfully manipulated the minds both of the western general public and of those who were once Europe's left wing intellectuals that Noam Chomsky rightly talked of a caricature of Stalinism. In fact since then this caricature has become ever more grotesque. In Order to keep a firm grip on the world NATO was established as a criminal alliance for supporting US hegemony by targeting a new enemy, and who could fit the role better than the ageold enemy Islam, anyhow the enemy of what was now the west's racist spearhead, Israel, and a force which since the Iranian revolution had empowered itself as a political entity not willing to submit to US slavery, and successfully surviving the US attempt to bring it down as it had worked with US enemies before.

Thus the next caesura followed suit: the first Iraq invasion whose heritage is above all that the test of the new generations of high tech weapons was successful in so far as it showed brutal warfare with the most advanced technology but with clearly limited damages was possible again. With these weapons what war means acquired a new significance: it was now possible to ruthlessly destroy any single country one set oneself as a target without prompting retaliation. Since then the Cold War has become hot and so to speak exploded in what is de facto WWII, if we realize that warfare has once forever changed its face. In the course of time the ever more criminal US administration adopted a policy of just destroying one state refusing unconditional surrender to US hegemony after the other - of course states in the Muslim world, the new enemy, the enemy of the true successors of the Nazis, the enemy which had replaced what for the Nazis were the Jews.

C) Putin's Russia, the changed UN, International Justice

However in the meantime, Russia recovered from the Yeltsin disaster and under Putin became a power which claimed its place back among the leading powers

of the world and a bit later China too definitely made its silently acquired new weight in the world ever more felt. Georgia should have warned the west that Russia could not any longer just be ignored. But it did not. Thus the west slid after Iraq Afghanistan Libya into its next criminal war of destruction in Syria without realizing that Putins Russia would not allow the country to suffer the same fate as the west's hitherto targets. And if this were not enough the west committed the same suicidal crimes in Ukraine in the middle of Europe too.

In order to complete the description of the present situation: the UN and international Justice could after what I said about their origins be nothing but a Farce. In Soviet times the UN Security Council was at least blocked by the stalemate US - SU, after 1989 it was either used as a tool of US crime or if this was not possible, flatly ignored. Today at least with Putin and the new China the stalemate is back, and not to forget, in the UN plenary and the Geneva human rights council in the meantime the third world has a majority.

Thus the decisions and resolutions of these two bodies show what the real international community thinks, not the criminal bunch of NATO partners called thus by our truth media. Thus even if all this is not endorsed by hardpower, here there is a softpower of a collective international sense of justice. Equally even though the ICC judges only petty bastards from African countries, there is a model how international justice could work were it not blocked by the main perpetrators of crime, the US, the ICC's bitterest enemy. The fact that western and Israeli politicians are not judged by the same standards, at least makes western crimes abundantly evident; it becomes also evident that if in the post WWII trials one bunch of mass murderers judged the other in today's showtrials which the US has to create outside the ICC like the tribunal for ex Yugoslavia the mass murderers and aggressors judge the world's little knivers.

3. What Should We Do?

A) Politicians

With this picture in mind it's easy to answer the questions put in the title of my paper: the cause of all major wars since 1989 is the US' ongoing attempt to dominate the world by all means, if necessary by destroying without any regard for human life or a minimum of civilized standards whole regions in case anyone refuses to surrender unconditionally to US barbarism. This is done already since the sponsorship of the Taliban against the SU in Afghanistan to an ever increasing degree by creating pseudoislamic terrorism with the aid of Saudi Arabia and other fake Islamic states. Since Putin has put Russia in a position to ruthlessly slam the door into US aggression and has formed an ever more strong alliance with China this policy - which was one big failure anyhow - has

become plainly impossible. There is only one way to establish and maintain peace: respecting the most basic rule of international conduct enshrined in the UN Charter: respect for national sovereignty and the principle of non interference. The west must stop the policy of aggression via attempted regime change and return to a world with a healthy balance of power between 3 superpowers and several more or less potent regional powers. All silly talks about democracy and values have to stop: the worst murderers and violators of Human Rights in world history are we, not the others. There is only one power block which commits unbearable crimes against humanity, the west with its pervert appendices Israel and its fake Muslim allies, namely the Saudis.

Of course, the west can only be forced into accepting to share power by being shown that the only alternative is complete destruction. Moreover the Palestinian tragedy has reached a point where world peace is impossible without the extinction of Israel by whatever means this is realistically possible. This lethal cancer on the skin of the world must be removed whatever the cost. Thus what politics is necessary today is as clear as daylight and which side in the Syrian conflict is on the right side of history too: should this side not win history will just cease to exist.

B) Western Citizens and Intellectuals

Having said this it's also clear what we as citizens and intellectuals have to do: damage the criminal power of the west by all means we have, above all by standing up to western politics and Israel at every occasion, speaking out, inform the public as small as our success may be, voting and supporting in our countries anyone who opposes the establishment with a chance to win and be it a Donald Trump or Marine Le Pen: everything is better than the criminal demented NATO and EU establishment. For Putin as master of Europe unfortunately we cannot vote. And if anyone asks why we westerners should do all to destroy western power the answer is: we are in the hands of a political class who does not only destroy the outside world, it ruins social harmony in our countries as well by asocial policies against its own peoples, creates additional problems by immigration, endangers the lives of our soldiers, smears the honour of our armies by misusing them for criminal wars, makes our soldiers die for an unworthy cause and constrains them to become war criminals, and in the end leads as all into the abyss of total war. Somehow this will ring a bell with those who remember history.

C) Muslims

But I will not stop here without appending a brief remark for my Muslim brothers and sisters too. A grave responsibility falls on the Muslim community

as well: Muslims all over the world must realize that they are the targets of a worldwide attempted genocide; they have no friends, in particular the PR China acts not better towards Muslims as the west: it is even worse. The only way to combat this is Muslim unity. That the criminal regimes in the Arab world like Saudi Arabia, the Emirates, Egypt – which to call Muslim is a blasphemy – don't want this, need hardly to be mentioned. But there is an enormous degree of ignorance among ordinary Muslims too who do not realize that their silly quarrels about who has the right or better form of Islam, their petty nationalism or stupid confessional divisions are used by the enemies of Islam to dig its grave. This ignorance must be overcome. I concluded my speech in Meran by referring you to a short speech of Imam Khamenei about that (available on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CQS2VHLYyPI>). I thought then that he is leader of the only Muslim country which so far has really recognized this urgent need. However, in the light of even Iran's shameful support of the Chinese genocide in Xinjiang (<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1159357.shtml>) I must sadly conclude that the Muslim world as a whole is no better than the western world. If Muslims will be going on destroying each other by aligning themselves with the enemies of Islam it's no wonder that disasters like the Syrian catastrophe happen and will happen in the future too.

The Roots of the Middle East Crisis and Alternative Solutions

Ali Asghar Mosleh

Introduction

In order to discuss the present situation in Islamic countries of the Middle East, we should have in mind two kinds of challenges:

1. Historical disagreements and hostilities between Muslims
2. Historical hostilities between Islam and the West

Historically, the potential for internal, cultural and political conflicts in the Middle East has ever existed. Sometimes disagreements between Muslims have led to war and conflict. But the same potential has been used as a weapon in power struggles throughout the world. The present situation in the Middle East, especially in the past two decades, is heavily influenced by this history and the challenges from the past.

Perhaps in order to understand the current situation, we'd better use expressions which have recently gained popularity, and focus on the term "the other". The concept of "other" is a keyword in this regard. The future of the contemporary world is based on our understanding of this expression.

The concept of "the other" in the Middle East has a historical background. The relationship between the Middle East nations and the West is rooted in their experience of the other. The other has had two faces: friend and enemy. Although Muslims have always paid attention to their unity as a whole based on God, the prophet, the Quran and the like, still they have always had challenges. All different sects in Islam have had problems with each other. They have also had non-Muslim enemies. This "other" enemy is Europe. However, with the beginning of the modern era and the new role of the colonial powers, the contrasts and challenges have found a new form.

The concept of the "other" in the Islamic world

Another factor in the formation of the concept of the "other", is the formation of the development of the Islamic civilization. Islam began in the Arabian Peninsula. After its establishment, it spread quickly. The most important developments in this world have always been political. The Prophet founded a state. After his death, rivalry began as to who should replace him. These conflicts were both religious and political. Different sects took shape in the same way. Josef van Ess has discussed these issues in his book, *Theology and*

*History in the 2nd and 3rd Centuries after Hijra*¹, which is a vast investigation about the formation of theological schools, which were also political as these features have always been interconnected in Islam.

In other papers about the relation between truth and power in the Islamic culture, I have discussed this issue. Truth has been understood in different ways in different cultures. In the Abrahamic religions, especially Islam, truth has always had close ties with power. Accordingly, Islam has a more tight relationship with the modern thought (even more than Christianity). In modern thought, as a philosopher like Hegel understands it, truths and transcendent ideas are actualized in everyday life. In Islam, belief in God is the basis of life. But the same God has some commands regarding social and political life. We can find the roots of the conflict between Islam and the West in these similarities in goals. Islam and the West have been rivals. Historical experience shows that they are getting more and more similar. This is true about Europe and Middle Eastern Islam.

Islam as the close “Other” to the West

Middle East has always been a close “Other” to the West, and as such, it has always been engaged in Europe. From the first conquests of the Muslims in Europe to the Crusades, and the long challenge between the Ottoman Empire and the European countries, and then the formation of new states in the Middle East, rivalry and challenge has always been a part of this history. According to Seyyed Hossein Nasr (born 1933), Iranian professor at George Washington University, “During the years of its formation, the only civilization that the West gets to know is the Islamic one. The only “other” is Islam; however for Islam, West was not the only “other”. We (as Iranians) were familiar with China and India. Even one thousand years ago if you went to Isfahan, you could find out that there is a civilization called India and then China just on your right. But at the same time, in Paris, the only thing surrounding you was the Islamic civilization. This is very important. The West takes its identity from its competitive “other”. Western civilization defined itself in opposition to Islam. What we call the Crusades, established this situation. The West has never felt such a thing toward the Confucian civilization. The only thing they cared about was Islam²”. The relationship between Islam and the West, which took shape in

¹ Theologie und Gesellschaft im 2. und 3. Jahrhundert Hidschra: Eine Geschichte des religiösen Denkens im frühen Islam. 6 Bände. De Gruyter, Berlin 1991–1997.

² (گفتگوی مهرنامه با دکتر سید حسین نصر) مهر 1391، شماره 25، سال سوم، ص 15-18.

the medieval times, led to the two parties considering each other close “others”, like an enemy or a rival. With the rise of Europe and America, as new powers, the rivalry and otherness remained, but the West gained the upper hand.

The Middle East Crisis on Deeper Levels

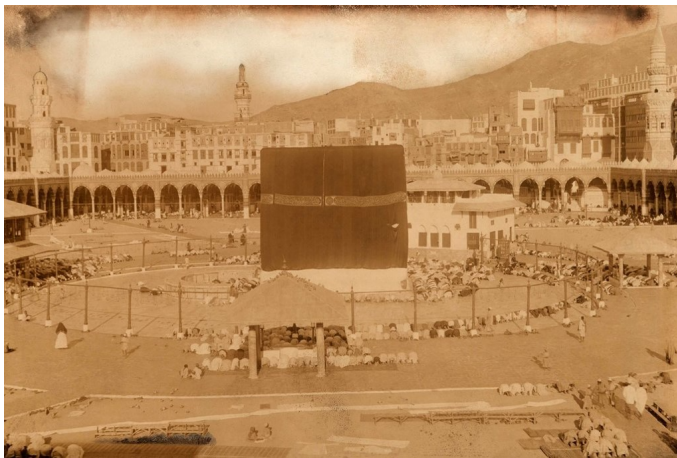
There are different challenges in the contemporary world. But it seems that the Middle East challenge is the oldest one. In order to understand the roots of the present crisis in the Middle East, we should pay more attention to the form of the contact between the West and the Middle East countries. The contemporary German thinker, Joachim Ritter (1903-1974), has done a research on Turkey in the 60s, and he believes that the most important challenge of the Islamic countries to be the conflict between their past and their future³. (Ritter, p. 323-324) According to him, Islamic countries have ever faced this challenge for some decades. For a long time, the orientalist made Muslims think that the way to acquire the modern culture, is the disenchantment of their traditional faith. This thought was later followed by some Muslim scholars themselves.

The continuing challenges between the past and the future has led to psychological problems, which Iranian thinker, Dariush Shayegan (born 1935), calls cultural schizophrenia. The people who are suffering from this malady are pulled in opposite directions. (Shayegan, *Amizeshe ofoghha*, 2010, p.258) The symptoms of such a crisis is more obvious in countries with ancient cultures. The crisis occurs sometimes in the form of opposing social and political movements and sometimes in the form of paradoxical behavior. Turkey has been moving in the way of modernization in the past decades, and then it changed its way towards radical Islamism. In Iran we witnessed the process of modernization after the Constitutional Revolution and then we had the Islamic Revolution with a total Islamist agenda. It seems that we are going to witness more examples of paradoxical behaviors. Accordingly, whoever wants to come up with a new plan in the Islamic countries, should consider the relation between his plan and the opposing poles, i.e. modernization/Islamism dichotomy. Any plan or action could be beneficial for one side and detriment to the other. This experience has led most of the intellectuals to let go of their ideological attitudes.

Today, the West should use an empathic approach toward the Islamic countries. The West is not facing a monolithic Islamic identity. Today, Islam as a

³ *Metaphysik und Politik. Studien zu Aristoteles und Hegel*, Suhrkamp 1969.

civilization and also a belief, is not limited to the violent culture of the West. The confrontation between Islam and the West is an abstraction now. Historical Islam does not exist anymore. I would like to express my opinion using a few imageries. The Kaaba is every Muslim's qibla, towards which they stand to pray. But Kaaba is different from what it used to be. It is no longer located among the buildings which showed its past. All of them are gone. It is as if it doesn't have any ties with the past. Today there is no sign of this Kaaba anymore (Picture 1). There is another image of Islam in the Muslims' hearts which is a sign of their ties with the history of Islam. This picture is made by placing borderlines around the Kaaba (picture 2). But this Islam has also been portrayed as a result of ignoring the facts. The Islam, which is being portrayed in the field of politics and power and in the media, is one which is entangled in western power and technology (Picture 3). Skyscrapers have surrounded this holy site.(picture 4) The profane has encircled sacred. This is not appealing to Muslims, but is a sign of the suffocating situation, which is alien (unbearable) for the Muslims. Most Muslims feel as if they are struggling for freedom inside a cage. This is the situation of Islam in the objective world and this is what upsets the believers.



picture 1