

KÖNIGSWINTER CONFERENCE

Vom 23. bis 25. März 2006 fand im New College, Oxford die 56. deutsch-britische Königswinter Konferenz zum Thema „Europe – Leaderless and Drifting?“ statt. Was das Besondere von Königswinter ausmacht, kommentiert Lord Watson, Vorsitzender des britischen Lenkungsausschusses des Königswinter Konferenz:

In their joint message to the 56th Königswinter Conference held at the end of March at New College Oxford, Tony Blair and Angela Merkel wrote: *“never have relations between Britain and Germany been more important in today’s world. We share common objectives including the modernization of the European economy to build a competitive future. We wish Königswinter, as the forum for Anglo-German dialogue, our very best wishes. It makes a major contribution to the European debate”.*

To describe Königswinter as the forum for Anglo-German dialogue is flattering but inaccurate. There are many events and organizations providing opportunities for Anglo-German dialogue. Yet Königswinter retains a unique significance. In the decades since World War II, it has reflected and charted the progress of British-German relations. For a time the Germans were in awe of the British democratic achievement. In the 1960’s the British reciprocated deeply impressed by both the parliamentary and economic progress of the Federal Republic. The German Wirtschaftswunder with its consensual features of *Mitbestimmung* seemed to provide the UK with a model to envy and emulate through the 70’s and 80’s. But reunification was to take Germany into a long and painful period of readjustment under the double impact of globalization and the costs of unity. In the first Königswinters of this century the Germans were often gloomy – admiring

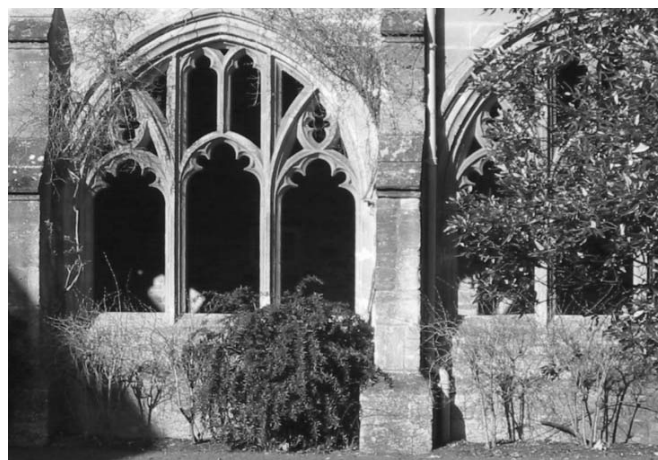
British labour market flexibility, low unemployment and relatively high growth.

This year there was a new note. Angela Merkel is clearly no Teutonic Margaret Thatcher, but she is different and there is a new optimism. A Grand Coalition led by two East Germans seems to have restored morale. This year’s conference title “Europe: leaderless and drifting” wasn’t quite right – at least not for the Germans. The Federal Republic may be recovering a sense of direction. At the very least Germany’s performance was compared flatteringly to that of France.

Königswinter is a structured conference with plenary sessions and breakout groups from Thursday afternoon until Saturday midday. As British Co-Chair, I have been eager to innovate and both the British and German Steering Committees have striven to maintain the best of the Königswinter tradition and at the same time introduce new perspectives and methods of dialogue. Thus for the second year running, Sir Robert Worcester of MORI presented startling data on British and German attitudes to issues, to each other and to the rest of the world. As last year, the British emerged as somewhat more pro German than the Germans are pro British. Sadly too many Germans believe that the Sun and the eternally rerun war movies of British television reflect contemporary British attitudes. It is all too understandable but demonstrably wrong.

Nik Gowing of “BBC World” led the first plenary discussion in the style and with the edge of first rate television studio debate. Dr Constanze Stelzenmüller of the German Marshall Fund and Timothy Garston Ash of St Anthony’s Oxford analysed and illuminated current issues and provided the best conceivable introduction to the four group

discussions of the following day. They focused on competitive challenges, the fragility of our societies, the international order and transatlantic relationships and the challenges of national self definition at a time of mass immigration, global competition and EU enlargement. All were excellent.



New College
in Oxford

Oxford’s new Chancellor, Lord Patten spoke provocatively and brilliantly at our closing dinner and the final Saturday plenary heard the best ever summaries from the four breakout groups under the witty, but also wise chairmanship of Sir Malcolm Rifkind. Dr Rudolf Adam concluded our conference with a brief “tour de force”.

All in all it was a really good conference – reflecting and tracking British German relations. It did so with frankness, good humour and shafts of exceptional illumination. Baroness Symons, attending for the first time, wrote to me afterwards *“it is not often one has the opportunity to discuss international issues with such a broad spectrum of well informed people – or that one is able to listen to, and offer, opinions in such a frank and open way”.*

That is the purpose and justification of Königswinter. It indeed makes it a uniquely valuable forum of Anglo-German dialogue. ---

▶ ROWENA ARSHAD'S VISIT TO BRANCHES OF THE DBG

Rowena Arshad OBE, Director of the Centre for Education for Racial Equality in Scotland, visited the DBG in April and lectured on racial issues in Frankfurt, Heidelberg, Hamburg, Essen and Freiburg. Heinz-Gerhard Wilkens, chairman of our Hamburg branch, interviewed Rowena, who is also a Senior Lecturer at the University of Edinburgh.

What lessons can be learnt from Scotland in the area of equality and diversity?

I think there is a strong government lead with the positive message of celebrating diversity but also of challenging racism and discrimination. These two messages allow those who work in the communities to take forward action.

In an interview on the Race Relations Act 2002 you once said: "Developing good race equality practice is part of equality practice and can benefit all pupils". Could you please expand on this?

I think that as we are growing up in a world that is diverse, we have to prepare our children to be comfortable with diversity, and to be capable of having dialogues, challenges and debates without feeling restricted. As our young citizens may not always live in Scotland, the acceptance of diversity means preparing them as global citizens and competent workers for the global market. If you have communities of unrest, because you are marginalizing minority communities, it becomes a threat to majority communities as well. Bridging means ensuring cohesion: as a nation, as a community, as a society.

In November 2005 you went to Auschwitz with 100 young people on a day trip from Glasgow.

Do you regard this experience as a way of making them understand to which extremes racism and xenophobia can lead?

History should not be forgotten because you can learn from it. A day trip to Auschwitz takes pupils from the theoretical to a much more living experience of the issues. They can maybe conceptually understand racism, but they do

not feel it unless they have friends who have been victims of racism. When it becomes personal, people seriously learn about it. This trip is personalising some of these issues. We have Jewish survivors who give talks the night before. So young people who came with us lit candles for one particular survivor and for his family members who did not survive. Therefore it has become a personal action. I also think that these young people will never forget this trip and some time in the future they will teach their children what they have learnt.



Rowena Arshad

How can we tackle violence among various immigrant groups, for example between Muslim and Turkish youths in Germany, who regard themselves as being excluded from the job market?

Firstly, there are some aspects that you probably cannot tackle other than through a crime and punishment route, because these are people who are anti-social or behave in an anti-social way. Therefore, there needs to be a law which deals with that. However there are many who, you rightly say, are themselves victims of poverty or exclusion. I think the poverty issue is separate to the interracial issue. You have to look at anti-poverty strategies, at creating potential jobs or finding a route back to education. In Scotland we have introduced the Education Maintenance Award (EMA). The Government will pay for young people who are on the brink of leaving school because their parents are so poor that they just have to go out and find a job.

The EMA helps them to get some qualifications. Apart from this, we are using quite a lot of apprenticeship schemes where youngsters come under the tutelage of a firm or a small company and learn the job from somebody who is already in the trade. Offering these opportunities might help some, but not all. Yet those who are affected will become the ambassadors for their community, and you have to make the break somehow. Inter-ethnic violence is hard to tackle. You have to work at community worker level with the community leaders and also with women. What we found in terms of religious rivalries is that women have built the bridges. They tend to take a less violent approach. In Northern Ireland the women have taken the lead on peace initiatives, therefore nurturing them so they grow in strength in this area may be one solution.

Is the British approach to immigration – multiculturalism – more successful than the French model, where citizenship requires assimilation?

In short, I think so. The dominant approach in Britain in the 1970s was the assimilationist model which expected immigrants to leave behind their distinctive identity in order to fit in with the values, attitudes and behaviours of the host culture/nation. However, this approach was discarded in the mid 1980s as a deficit approach given the plurality of British communities. Instead, a multicultural approach was preferred. This led, for example in the area of school education, to the adoption of multicultural education. This is an educational approach, which positively seeks to acknowledge diversity in culture, faith, language and ethnicity in relation to school ethos, curriculum and home-school-community partnerships. However, it would be fair to say that in Britain we have not stopped at a multicultural approach but also combined our multiculturalism with an anti-racist approach in order to challenge racism at all levels – the personal, cultural and institutional. ---

➤ RÜCKBLICK: BERLIN-BESUCH DER BRITISH-GERMAN ASSOCIATION (BGA)

Vom 28. April bis 2. Mai 2006 besuchte eine Gruppe der British German Association (BGA) die Hauptstadt unter dem Motto „British Imprints on Berlin“ – sie wollten den Einfluss britischer Architekten auf das neue Berliner Stadtbild mit eigenen Augen sehen.

Die Mitglieder der Landesgruppe Berlin-Brandenburg waren zu den verschiedenen Führungen und Besichtigungen von Bauten eingeladen. Nach dem Empfang in der Britischen Botschaft (Michael Wilford and Partners) folgten Führungen durch den Reichstag und die Philologische Bibliothek der Freien Universität (Foster and Partners) und eine Besichtigung der Baustelle des Neuen Museums (David Chipperfield Architects) auf der Museumsinsel.

Gerne weisen wir auf folgende Veranstaltungen der BGA hin:

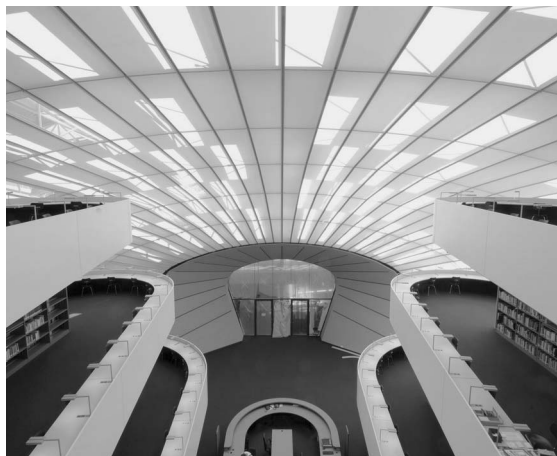
11. bis 12. September 2006

Network Germany Conference in Portsmouth
Die Veranstaltung soll der Intensivierung der deutsch-britischen Städtepartnerschaften dienen.

15. November 2006

The Nutcracker Ball 2006
At the Ballroom, Grosvenor House, Park Lane, London W1
Wie in jedem Jahr veranstaltet die BGA diesen prächtigen Fundraising-Ball zugunsten ihres Projekts „Youthbrige“.

Weitere Informationen zu den Veranstaltungen und zur BGA erhalten Sie über:



FU-Bibliothek
in Berlin

BGA Office
34 Belgrave Square
London SW1X 8Q
www.britishgermanassociation.org
info@britishgermanassociation.org ---

➤ VORTRAGSPROGRAMM

Unser Vortragsprogramm
im 2. Halbjahr 2006

18. September 2006

Sir Jeremy Greenstock
Director, The Ditchley
Foundation
*Iraq, Iran and Their Geopolitical
Implications*
▶ Berlin

5., 6., 18. September und November 2006

Tom Levine
Autor, Journalist
Lesung: *Die Windsors.
Glanz und Tragik einer
fast normalen Familie.*
Erschienen im Herbst 2005.
▶ Dresden, Leipzig, Freiburg, Essen

25. bis 28. September 2006

Dr. Jonathan Grix
Senior Lecturer in German
Studies and Research
Methodology, European
Research Institute,
University of Birmingham
*Constructing Germany's Image
in the British Press*
▶ Flensburg, Münster, Düsseldorf,
Heidelberg

10. Oktober 2006

Andrew Gowers
Head of Corporate Commu-
nications for Europe and
Asia at a global investment
bank, Former Chief Editor,
Financial Times
*Europe and the market:
reflections from the worlds of
business journalism and finance*
▶ Berlin

16. bis 20. Oktober 2006

Corinna Gardner
Assistant Curator The Victoria
and Albert Museum
*The Museum as Shop/
The Shop as Museum*
▶ Hamburg, Bielefeld, Essen,
Bonn, Schwerin

15. November 2006

David Willetts MP
Conservative MP for Havant,
Shadow Secretary of State
for Trade and Industry
(Thema wird noch bekannt
gegeben)
▶ Berlin

13. bis 17. November 2006

Dr. Ian Archer
Fellow and Tutor in Modern
History, University of Oxford
*From Satellite City to World City:
London 1550-1720*
▶ Flensburg, Bonn, Frankfurt,
Bamberg, Stuttgart

27. November bis 1. Dezember 2006

Anthony Cragg
Senior Associate Research
Fellow at King's College
*British security policy –
from the Cold War to Iraq*
▶ Hamburg, Gütersloh,
Düsseldorf, Frankfurt, Stuttgart

Zusätzlich zu den Vortrags-
veranstaltungen bietet die
Deutsch-Britische Gesellschaft,
je nach Region, weitere Vor-
träge, Theater-, Musikveranstal-
tungen und Exkursionen an.
Mitglieder erhalten zu all diesen
Veranstaltungen separate
Einladungen. Der vollständige
Veranstaltungskalender mit den
genauen Orts- und Zeitangaben
ist unter www.debrige.de unter
„Die DBG“ vor Ort abzurufen. ---

BUCHHINWEIS

Dr. Jürgen Ruhfus, Botschafter, außenpolitischer Berater des Bundeskanzler und Staatssekretär im Auswärtigen Amt a.D. war von 1993 bis 1998 Vorsitzender der Deutsch-Britischen Gesellschaft (damals noch Deutsch-Englische Gesellschaft).

Er war Botschafter in London zu Zeiten Margaret Thatchers und Botschafter in Washington zum Zeitpunkt der Wiedervereinigung.

ZUM GEDENKEN AN SIR JULIAN BULLARD, KCMG, GCMG †1928-2006

Die DBG erinnert an Botschafter Sir Julian Bullard, herausragender Diplomat Großbritanniens, Freund der Deutsch-Britischen Gesellschaft und Förderer des deutsch-britischen Dialogs, der am 25. Mai 2006 verstarb. Er war ein aktiver und engagierter Teilnehmer vieler Königswinter Konferenzen. Besonders setzte er sich auch für die Jung Königswinter Konferenzen ein, die er viele Jahre selbst leitete.

Deutschland war ein Mittelpunkt seiner diplomatischen Karriere. Insgesamt 11 Jahre verbrachte er in Bonn, von 1984 bis 1988 als Botschafter. Er war ein profunder Kenner und geschätzter Gesprächspartner zu allen Fragen des Ost-Westverhältnisses.

1988, kurz vor dem Fall der Mauer trat er in den Ruhestand. Während seiner ganzen Karriere hatte er einen substantiellen Beitrag zu dieser Entwicklung in Europa geleistet. Nach seiner aktiven Zeit im Foreign Office wurde er Co-Director des Foreign Policy Studies Programme des All Souls College in Oxford und später Pro-Chancellor of Birmingham University, wo er das Institute for German Studies mit aufbaute.

Die DBG wird ihm ein ehrendes Gedenken bewahren. ---

Nun hat er seine Erinnerungen an vier Jahrzehnte im diplomatischen Dienst veröffentlicht. In „aufwärts“ kommt zu der Schlussfolgerung, „dass die außenpolitischen Grundlinien, die die Deutschland in wenigen Jahrzehnten aus Zusammenbruch und Zerstörung zu Ansehen, Wohlstand und Einheit geführt haben, auch für die Bewältigung der großen Zukunftsaufgaben wichtig und hilfreich bleiben“

▶ Jürgen Ruhfus „Erlebnisse und Erinnerungen eines diplomatischen Zeitzeugen 1955-1992“ 448 Seiten, gebunden 24,80 EUR, ISBN 3-8306 7202-0; EOS-Verlag. ---

DIE ALTERNATIVE ZUM SOMMERLOCH

Magische Quadrate gab es schon in der römischen, babylonischen und chinesischen Kultur, auch von Albrecht Dürer existiert ein Kupferstich mit einem Zahlenquadrat. Alle Zeilen und Spalten und beide Diagonalen ergeben hier die gleiche Summe, darüber hinaus ergeben die Unterquadrate in den Ecken und in der Mitte und auch die Eckfelder zusammen addiert die gleiche Summe. Die Suche nach den Ursprüngen der Variante namens „Sudoku“ führen zu einem amerikanischen Mathematikmagazin, das in den 1970er Jahren so ein Quadrat veröffentlichte, danach zu einer japanischen Zeitschrift, die seit 1984 regelmäßig dieses Rätsel mit der Anweisung „Suji wa dokushin ni kagiru“ („jede Zahl muss einzig sein“) veröffentlichte, woraus die Kurzform „Sudoku“ wurde.

Der neuseeländische Richter Wayne Gould lernte das Spiel auf einer Japanreise kennen und entwickelte ein Computerprogramm, das neue Sudokus automatisch generiert. Diese Rätsel bot er im Jahr 2004 der **Londoner Times** an, die damit den weltweiten Sudoku-Boom auslöste.

Das Prinzip des Sudoku: die Felder müssen so ausgefüllt werden, dass alle Zahlen (1-9) in jeder Spalte, jeder Zeile, und in jedem 3x3 Kästchen stehen. Es gibt nur eine Lösung. Viel Vergnügen!

MITGLIEDSBEITRÄGE

In diesen Tagen wurden die Rechnungen für die Mitgliedsbeiträge verschickt. Wie im letzten Newsletter erläutert, hatte sich der Beirat entschlossen, die Mitgliedsbeiträge verbindlich festzulegen.

Die Beiträge belaufen sich auf

- ▶ 25 EUR (ermäßigt für Auszubildende, Studierende),
- ▶ 50 EUR (regulärer Mitgliedsbeitrag) und
- ▶ 75 EUR (Ehepaare).

Bei Fragen zu Ihrer Beitragsrechnung steht Ihnen die Hauptgeschäftsstelle gerne zur Verfügung. ---

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Ende August finden Sie die Lösung dieses Sudokus auf unserer Internetseite (www.debrige.de).

Wir wünschen allen Mitgliedern einen schönen Sommer!

IMPRESSUM

HERAUSGEBER

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