

JUNG KÖNIGSWINTER CONFERENCE 7-12 AUGUST 2007

This year's Jung Königswinter Conference dealt with the questions "Can we Europeans survive, succeed and shape the world?" The five-day conference was opened by Secretary of State Georg Boomgarden from the German Foreign Office who gave an optimistic assessment of the impact of globalisation on Europe. However, while the British seemed to be relaxed towards globalisation with a rather pessimistic view on the EU as a global player, the Germans would rather see global processes controlled, believing that this could be done with the help of the EU.

Hugh Mortimer, Deputy Head of Mission LVO from the British Embassy, stressed his more liberal view. "Why is the EU diplomatically weak when it is objectively and economically strong?" was Mortimer's question towards Europe's future tasks. The EU should embrace globalisation and foster job creation by working towards economic stability, promoting flexible job markets and exercising only a light regime. The two keynote speeches and further talks by Eckart von Klaeden, foreign policy spokesman for the CDU/CSU parliamentary group, Anna Prinz, Commissioner



SIR MICHAEL ANTHONY ARTHUR, KNIGHT COMMANDER OF THE ORDER OF ST. MICHAEL AND ST. GEORGE (KCMG)



Sir Michael Arthur ist seit dem 1. Oktober 2007 neuer britischer Botschafter in Berlin. Er tritt damit die Nachfolge von Sir Peter Torry an, der das Amt seit Mai 2003 innehatte.

Bevor Sir Michael nach Deutschland kam, war er vier Jahre lang britischer Hochkommissar in Neu Delhi. Weitere Stationen seiner beruflichen Laufbahn waren die britischen Botschaften in Washington, Paris and Kinshasa sowie die Vertretung des Vereinigten Königreichs bei der EU in

Brüssel und die britische Vertretung bei den Vereinten Nationen in Genf.

Auch im britischen Außenministerium in London hatte Sir Michael bereits verschiedene Ämter inne: Er war Direktor für Europa und Wirtschaft, Direktor für Ressourcen, Chefinspekteur und oberster Finanzbeamter und Leiter der EU-Abteilung.

Sir Michael kennt Deutschland bereits aus der Zeit von 1984 bis 1988, während er als Erster Botschaftssekretär (Politik) an der britischen Botschaft in Bonn tätig war.

Sir Michael ist verheiratet und hat vier Kinder: zwei Töchter und zwei Söhne.

Am 3. Dezember 2007 stellte Sir Michael sich den Mitgliedern der Deutsch-Britischen Gesellschaft in Berlin vor und hielt einen Vortrag zum Thema "Britain and Germany: A New Partnership in a Globalised World". ---

of the Media of the German Federal Foreign Office, Fabian Wehnert from the BDI (Federation of German Industries), Enno Harks, political advisor of BP Germany, Ulrike Guérot, German Marshall Fund and Manfred Kurz, Würth-Haus Berlin provided excellent food for thought for the three working groups.

The working group on "Survive – Challenges at home" tackled the issues of demography, migration/integration, security policy and 'Europeanness'. The study group called for language classes for migrants and an "ethnic monitoring approach" based on the UK policy. The issue of demographic change could also be approached from within the EU. The EU should set standards for family and gender politics in order to encourage population growth.



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The working group "Succeed – Economic Performance" developed a definition of success: "to improve the living standards and well-being of current and future generations in a sustainable and stable manner with the goal: to create full employment under fair conditions". The steps to be taken to achieve this goal were discussed by the study group in four areas: education, social system, internal markets and energy/environment.



Discussions in the working group "Shape – Political Ambitions" revolved around how Europe could set global standards in environmental politics in 25 years by speaking with one voice, using market-power regulation and an "environmental Marshall plan". The group was certain that in 25 years the Balkans and Turkey would be member states but also posed the question whether enlargement and impact on the world were linked at all. In 25 years, the EU should have the ability to say "no" where necessary.

The full report of the Jung Königswinter Conference is available on our website www.debrige.de/reports. ---

BLAIR AND BROWN: CONTINUITY OR CHANGE IN BRITISH POLITICS?

This was the question that Ian Lucas, Labour MP for Wrexham, set out to answer in his lecture for the Deutsch-Britische Gesellschaft in Berlin on 20 September 2007. The event was a cooperation with the Vertretung des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen beim Bund.

Lucas laid out a vivid picture of British politics in 1992, when the British Conservative Party had every reason to be triumphant and the Labour Party was demoralised. As Lucas put it, the question in the mind of Labour supporters everywhere was: "Can Labour ever win again?"

Although it seemed unlikely at the time, the Labour Party was about to enter the most successful period in its history. As Lucas explained, the unique political relationship between Tony Blair and Gordon Brown is generally seen as the source of this success.

Lucas pointed out that from the time they entered Parliament together in 1983, Blair and Brown were bracketed together, although initially as Brown and Blair. While Gordon Brown was active in Scottish Labour politics from an early stage in his life, Tony Blair arrived at Westminster as a political unknown.

When John Smith, the Leader of the Labour Party, died in 1994, Blair and Brown agreed not to run against each other. Lucas explained the reasoning behind this: Both knew that a contest could damage the Labour Party. Even-

tually, Brown settled for the best possible deal as a prize for not standing for the leadership. The prize he got was unprecedented power in Government.

For Lucas the Blair Premiership was, in essence, a partnership, since Brown was not only responsible for Treasury matters but also for social welfare, family policy and industrial affairs.

Lucas' assessment of Brown three months into his Premiership was that Brown was emphasising the differences between himself and Blair in a carefully crafted way.

As to the question of whether we would see a fundamental change in UK policy, Lucas expressed the view that this would not be the case in domestic politics, where the joint political strategy of Blair and Brown has brought the Labour Party victory in three elections. In the field of foreign affairs, however, Lucas pointed to evident changes regarding the Iraq policy and the relationship of the Prime Minister and President Bush.

As for Gordon Brown and Europe, Lucas' advice was not to hold our breath if we're waiting for Britain to join the Euro as Brown was not a gambler. He had waited 24 years in Parliament to be Prime Minister and would not hold a referendum on this issue until he knew he would win. And in Britain, Lucas concluded, this could be a very long time indeed. CR ---



v.l.n.r.: Tim Arnold, Gebhardt von Moltke, Ian Lucas und StS. Michael Mertes

YOUNG KÖNIGSWINTER ALUMNI

Richard von Weizsäcker meets with the Young Königswinter Alumni of the Deutsch-Britische Gesellschaft and the Young Leaders Alumni of the Atlantik-Brücke



Bundespräsident a.D. Dr. Richard von Weizsäcker

At the same apartment high above Berlin's Gendarmenmarkt where in the 18th century the famous salon of the Jewish intellectual Rahel Varnhagen discussed "ordentliche Dachstubenwahrheiten", the Young Königswinter Alumni and the Young Leaders Alumni came together on 18 October 2007 to talk with Richard von Weizsäcker, the German head of state from 1984 to 1994, about 'Europe and America'. Weizsäcker, who is an honorary president of the Deutsch-Britische Gesellschaft and an honorary member of the Atlantik-Brücke, a network that fosters German-American relations, appeared delighted about the initiative of the Young Königswinter Alumni to bring the two networks together. The Bundespräsident a.D. briefly presented his view on world politics in order to then give room for the 80 guests to contribute.

The ensuing discussion quickly moved eastwards. He could talk about Russia for 20 minutes, Weizsäcker cautioned, and about Poland for half an hour.

Stopping short of that, the former president said that the main task of his generation had been to do something for German-Polish understanding and it remained an important task today. It quickly became clear that Weizsäcker's commitment had been strongly shaped and inspired by his personal experiences of events like the Luftbrücke to West Berlin and the end of the Cold War, by encounters with other presidents like Michail Gorbachev and George Bush.

It therefore did not come as a surprise that Weizsäcker confirmed the leading role of the United States, together with Europe, in forming 'the West'. But today the world's rule was shared by five poles, he summarised – by the USA and the EU, by Russia and increasingly by India and China. In view of this balance of power he highlighted the importance of a direct and clear dialogue between America and Europe, even if it was not always easy.

Above all, Europe should do its homework, he insisted with regard to the ratification of the Lisbon treaty or the handling of regionalisms like the 'extraordinarily painful process' in Belgium, where no government had been installed for four months after the recent elections.

Things looked different when it came to the relations with Russia, a territorial and well-armed world power, rich in natural resources, that did not want to create political bonds with any other state. One should not be so naive, Weizsäcker warned, to believe that a democracy as we like it would be installed only if we cry for it long enough. When he recently met the chairman of the foreign policy committee of the Russian parliament, the

latter asked Weizsäcker in a similar stance: 'Doesn't the West have any interest other than reproaching us constantly that we do not yet have a Westminster-style democracy?' Europe and Russia were different in many aspects, but they also had a number of vital common interests. Historical experiences of the Czech Republic and Poland, two countries which had wanted to become members of NATO after the Soviet Union had fallen apart - notably before joining the EU -, should be taken more seriously.



Most importantly, Europe needed to become stronger. It was fundamental, Weizsäcker concluded, that the European member states recognised their common interests. He joined the urgent call for a common European foreign policy, administered by different regional centres like Paris, London and Berlin. 'We must stand up to the fact that we really are the West' and 'that we as Europeans can be counted on, when a new government will take over in America'. After all, it had been the former British premier Winston Churchill who in 1946 envisioned a United States of Europe: This, von Weizsäcker ended, had been the beginning of a 'great act in world history'. **Nikola Richter**

For more information on the activities of the Young Königswinter Alumni visit their website at www.debrige.de/alumni ---

► **PETER ALTER, WINSTON CHURCHILL (1874-1965).
LEBEN UND ÜBERLEBEN, KOHLHAMMER VERLAG, STUTTGART, 2006**

Peter Alter, Winston Churchill (1874-1965). Leben und Überleben, Kohlhammer Verlag, Stuttgart, 2006

Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill gilt als der größte Staatsmann, den sein Land im vergangenen Jahrhundert hervorgebracht hat. Der sonst eher nüchterne und skeptische Oxford-Philosoph Isaiah Berlin war so von der Gestalt des Premiers gefesselt, dass er ihn in einem Essay aus dem Jahr 1949 sogar als mythischen Held charakterisierte, „der ebenso ins Reich der Sage wie in die Wirklichkeit gehört, der größte Mensch unserer Zeit“.

Während auf dem englischen Buchmarkt zahlreiche Biographien vorliegen und gerade in den vergangenen Jahren eindrucksvolle Darstellungen erschienen – so die vielbeachtete Lebensbeschreibung aus der Feder Roy Jenkins' (2002) – haben deutschsprachige Historiker seit langem kein beeindruckendes Porträt mehr gezeichnet. Sebastian Haffners elegantes Lebensbild aus den sechziger Jahren – immer wieder nachgedruckt und nach wie vor lieferbar – prägt bis heute unser Churchill-Bild: Er sah im Kriegerum Churchills das eigentliche Wesen und in seinem unermüdelichen Kampf gegen Hitler dessen welthistorische Leistung.

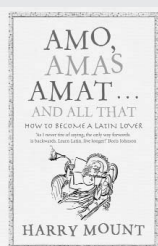
Peter Alter, der zuletzt Neuere und Zeitgeschichte an der Universität Duisburg-Essen lehrte, schließt mit seiner neuen Biographie eine Lücke auf dem deutschen Buchmarkt. Er zeichnet prägnant Churchills politischen Lebensweg nach, würdigt den charismatischen Staatsmann wie den Schriftsteller und Hobby-Maler. Dabei widmet er der Charakterisierung der komplexen Persönlichkeit ebensoviel Raum wie innen- und außenpolitischen Zusammenhängen. Dass der Biograph die historisch-politischen Leistungen Churchills würdigt und zugleich dessen Fehlentscheidungen und Schwächen kritisch beleuchtet, ist ein großes Verdienst dieser wohlthuend ausbalancierten Darstellung.

Seine aus den Quellen gearbeitete, anschauliche und pointiert geschriebene Biographie wählt klug das zum tieferen Verständnis der historischen Gestalt Wesentliche aus der kaum zu überschauenden Material- und Detailfülle aus. Die Befürchtung Haffners, dass Churchill uns nichts mehr angehe und seine Größe den Deutschen unverständlich geworden sei, wird kein Leser dieses ebenso fundierten wie ungemein unterhaltensreichen Buches mehr teilen wollen.

Christoph Selzer, D.Phil. (Oxon) ---

► **BUCHHINWEIS**

Harry Mount, Amo, amas, amat... and all that. How to become a Latin lover, London, Short Books, 2006



Harry Mount studierte Classics in Oxford bevor er als Journalist unter anderem für den Daily Telegraph schrieb.

Mit seinem Buch legt er eine heitere Einführung in die lateinische Sprache vor, die Latein-Kenner und Latein-Neulinge gleichermaßen inspirieren und amüsieren wird. Harry Mount ist Alumni der Jung Königswinter Konferenz und war im Oktober 2007 auf Vortragsreise für die Deutsch-Britische Gesellschaft unterwegs. ---

► **SITZUNG DES BEIRATES DER DBG**

Am 19. Oktober 2007 tagte der Beirat der Deutsch-Britischen Gesellschaft in Berlin. In diesem Jahr wurde der Vorstand neu gewählt. Herr Gebhardt von Moltke wurde in seinem Amt als Vorsitzender bestätigt. Weitere Vorstandsmitglieder sind Herr Sven Rawe (Schatzmeister), Herr Dr. Bernd-Albrecht von Maltzan, Herr Siegmund Mosdorf und Herr Dr. Ludolf-Georg von Wartenberg.

Herr Dr. Heik Ahfeldt stand in diesem Jahr nicht mehr zur Verfügung. Er war insgesamt 7 Jahre lang im Vorstand gewesen. Herr von Moltke dankte Herrn Dr. Ahfeldt für seine aktive Mitarbeit und die vielen Anregungen, mit denen er die DBG in diesen Jahren mitgestaltet hat. ---

► **GRATULATION**

Staatssekretär a.D. **Karl-Günther von Hase** begeht am 15.12.2007 in Bonn seinen 90. Geburtstag.

Die Deutsch-Britische Gesellschaft gratuliert ihrem Ehrenpräsidenten und langjährigen Vorsitzenden (1982-1992) mit den besten Wünschen sehr herzlich. Herr von Hase, der von 1970-77 Botschafter in London war, hat über Jahre unserer Gesellschaft und dem deutsch-britischen Dialog entscheidende Impulse gegeben. Im März 1991 richtete er die Königswinter Konferenz in Dresden aus und leitete damit die Ausdehnung der Gesellschaft und die Gründung von Arbeitskreisen in Ostdeutschland ein. ---

► **IMPRESSUM**

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