

ASEVARUSTELUSTA JA VUOROPUHELUSTA
Nro 117
2.6.2026

Arvoisa ministeri!

Vaiennetaanko länsimaissa nykysotien todelliset syyt? Viranomaiset sulkevat silmänsä ja korvansa. He kuuntelevat ainoastaan sodanlietsojia sen sijaan, että kuuntelisivat todellisia tarinoita.

Linkeissä on paljon kuunneltavaa ja tärkeää lukemista.

MAAHANTULOKIELTO

* Iso-Britannian maahantuloviranomaiset kielsivät kahden yhdysvaltalaisen poliittisen kommentaattorin maahan tulon. Yhdysvalloissa Aaron Terr, joka on yleisen edunvalvonnan johtaja Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression -järjestössä, sanoi, että "maahanmuuttovaltuuksien käyttäminen puhujien sulkemiseen konferenssista poliittisten mielipiteidensä vuoksi on huolestuttava käytäntö". Linkki 1

PALESTIINA

* Kirurgi ja professori Nick Maynard erittelee Gazan todellisen kuolonuhrien määrän Tucker Carlsonin ohjelmassa. Linkki 2

"YHDYSVALTOJEN JA ISRAELIN PUOLUSTUSTEKNOLOGIAN YHTEISTYÖALOITE"

* Ehdotus, jonka nimi on Yhdysvaltojen ja Israelin puolustusteknologian yhteistyöaloite, on osa Yhdysvaltain puolustuspolitiikan lakiesityksen (NDAA) pykälää 224. Pelottava kehitys. Linkit 3 ja 4

NYT OLISI VUOROPUHELUJEN AIKA

* Taloustieteilijä ja diplomaatti Jeffrey Sachs kehottaa Saksan liittokansleria Merziä aloittamaan välittömästi neuvottelut Venäjän kanssa. Avoimessa kirjeessä Merzille hän sanoo: "Aloittakaa vuoropuhelu presidentti Putinin kanssa. Lähettäkää ulkoministerinne Moskovaan tai kutsukaa Venäjän ulkoministeri Berliiniin. Avatkaa uudelleen Etyjin kanavat, joiden Saksa on antanut kuihtua. Käskekää Kiovaa lopettamaan iskut siviilikohteisiin." Linkki 5 (tämän kirjeen lopussa on Jeffrey Sachsin Avoin kirje kokonaisuudessaan)

MIELENOSOITUKSIA MILITARISOINTIA VASTAAN

* Alankomaiden hallituksen ehdottamaa pakollisen asevelvollisuuden palauttamista vastustettiin Utrechtissa. Ranska otti käyttöön vapaaehtoisen asevelvollisuusohjelman nuorille ja Puola pyrkii laajentamaan reservejään massiivisilla vapaaehtoisilla sotilaskoulutuskampanjoillaan. Linkit 6 ja 7

SODAN ESKALOITUMINEN JA SYITÄ SIIHEN

* Professori Pascal Lottazin kaksi haastattelua: Professori Glenn Diesen sanoo mm., että NATO:n sijaissota Ukrainassa on muuttumassa suoraksi EU:n ja Venäjän väliseksi sodaksi. Ja tohtori Jonas Tögelin keskustelussa käsitellään Saksan sotilastyöstä kouluissa, nuorten vastarinnasta, NATO-narratiiveista, Yhdysvaltojen ja EU:n roolista. Linkit 8 ja 10

* Geopoliittiset jännitteet, poliittinen paine ja rahoituskriisit vaarantavat monenvälisen rauhanturvaamisen elinkelpoisuuden, sanotaan Tukholman kansainvälisen rauhantutkimuslaitoksen (SIPRI) analyysissa. Linkki 9

* Norjalainen Thomas Fazi kirjoittaa artikkelissaan: Kuinka Washington sabotoi moninapaista maailmaa ja uhraa Euroopan. Linkki 12

* Euroopan militarisointi lisää silmiinpistävää sotilaallisen voimanrakentamista maailmanlaajuisesti, mikä lisää suurten konfliktien riskiä. Uudelleenaseistautumisella on myös haitallisia ympäristövaikutuksia ja uhka siitä, että liiallinen militarisointi syrjäyttää Euroopan keskittymisen ei-sotilaalliseen turvallisuuteen. Linkki 14

* Saksalla on keskeinen rooli Euroopan tavanomaisessa uudelleenaseistuksessa. Linkki 15

- Albert Einstein

"You cannot simultaneously prevent and prepare for war."

Ystävällisin terveisin

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1)

The Guardian - June 1 - Two US political commentators banned from entering UK

Home Office says presence of Cenk Uygur and Hasan Piker in UK 'may not be conducive to the public good'

"I've been banned from the UK," Uygur said on social media. "I tried to get on a flight to London to attend SXSW London and give a speech at Oxford. I've been banned for criticising Israel. Are we free any more? This is oppression of western citizens by our own governments on behalf of a different country."

Responding to his post, Piker said: *"The UK has revoked my visa as well. All at the behest of Israel. The west is betraying 'liberal values' for a genocidal fascist foreign government. Soon we will all become Israel."*

<https://www.theguardian.com/media/2026/jun/01/us-political-commentators-say-banned-entering-uk-cenk-uygur-hasan-piker>

2)

YouTube/The Young Turks – May 31, 2026- Tucker EXPOSES The VERY REAL Devastation In Gaza

Surgeon and Professor Nick Maynard breaks down the real death toll in Gaza on Tucker Carlson's show. Cenk Uygur discusses on The Young Turks.

"These latest findings that we published yesterday show that Israel has built 25 of earth barriers physically dividing Gaza along Israel's line of control. And much of this barrier runs west of the yellow line and goes even deeper into Palestinian territory. ..."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tW-gXyqo2gE>

3)

PRESS TV – May 30, 2026 - US Congress quietly voting on legislation to integrate American, Israeli militaries: Report

The US Congress has decided to vote on a sweeping new legislative proposal that integrates the American and Israeli military forces to an unprecedented degree, a report says.

According to the report published on Friday by Responsible Statecraft, the plan to combine the two militaries is embedded in the House of Representatives' version of the 2027 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

Section 224 of the NDAA is devoted to the military integration with the name "*United States-Israel Defense Technology Cooperation Initiative*," according to the report, which said the US has contributed an inflation-adjusted \$200 billion in military assistance to Israel since 1948. ...

<https://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2026/05/30/769517/US-Congress-quietly-voting-on-a-legislation-to-integrate-American,-Israeli-militaries--Report>

4)

ALJAZEERA – May 30, 2026 - Congress advances US-Israeli military integration plan

A provision in the 2027 draft US defence bill could bind the two countries' weapons industries closer than ever.

The proposal, titled the United States-Israel Defense Technology Cooperation Initiative, appears as Section 224 of the House Armed Services Committee's version of the fiscal year 2027 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), the annual US defence policy bill. ...

If enacted, the provision could mark a significant change in one of the world's closest military relationships, shifting the two countries from a partnership centred largely on US military aid towards one in which their defence industries are more deeply intertwined. Section 224 would require the US defence secretary to appoint an "*executive agent*": a single official to coordinate military cooperation between the US and Israel. ...

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/5/30/us-congress-advances-american-israeli-military-integration-plan>

5)

Berliner Zeitung – May 27, 2026 - Jeffrey Sachs: An Open Letter to Chancellor Friedrich Merz

Economist and diplomat Jeffrey Sachs is calling on German Chancellor Merz to begin immediate talks with Russian

When I wrote an open letter to you a half year ago, I urged Germany to pursue diplomacy with Russia rather than the normalization of war. Six months later, the situation in Europe is dramatically worse. Europe and Russia are slipping into open war. And in that drift, Chancellor, your responsibility is singular. No European leader — not in Paris, not in Warsaw, not in Rome — holds the position that Germany holds, or has the power that you personally hold, to interrupt this catastrophe. Will you

try for peace? ...

Chancellor Merz, more than any other European leader, the question of whether Europe descends into general war, or returns to negotiation, and to economic sanity, rests with you. The hour is very late. Yesterday's formal message from Moscow to Washington says so explicitly. Please open a dialogue with President Putin. Please send your foreign minister to Moscow or invite Russia's Foreign Minister to Berlin. Please reopen the OSCE channels that Germany has allowed to atrophy. Please tell Kyiv to cease its strikes on civilian targets. ...

<https://www.berliner-zeitung.de/article/jeffrey-sachs-an-open-letter-to-chancellor-friedrich-merz-10038768>

6)

YouTube/Vertex – May 26, 2026 - "Conscription? No, Thanks"! Protesters Rally In Utrecht Against Dutch Military Draft Plan

Dozens of demonstrators marched through the streets of Utrecht on Monday to oppose the Dutch government's proposed return of compulsory military service. Protesters carried banners reading "*Conscription? No, thank you*" and criticised plans to increase defence spending amid growing tensions within NATO. Organisers argued that expanding military readiness at the expense of social programmes would escalate conflict rather than promote peace, as several European countries consider new military service measures following renewed security concerns across the continent.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OFoXODpIYII>

7)

Viory – May 26, 2026 – If govt gave me a gun, I know who I'd point it at... and it wouldn't be someone from a different country! - Utrecht rally condemns 'aggressive and stupid' conscription

Dozens of demonstrators took to the streets of Utrecht on Monday to protest against the Netherland government's proposed plan to reintroduce compulsory military service. Footage shows protesters chanting and marching with banners among others reading: '*Conscription? No, thank you*' and '*We do not want to die for the profit of big capital*'. ... France introduced a large-scale voluntary national service programme for youth to increase the number of military reservists. Poland is aiming to expand its reserves with the massive voluntary basic military training drives and nationwide training programmes for adults. ...

https://www.viory.video/en/videos/a3061_25052026/if-govt-gave-me-a-gun-i-know-who-i-d-point-it-at-and-it-wouldn-t-be-someone-from-a-different-country-utrecht-rally-condemns-aggressive-and-stupid-conscription

8)

YouTube/Neutrality Studies – May 26, 2026 - Massive ESCALATION: Europe Uses Ukraine to Expand War | Prof. Glenn Diesen

NATO's proxy war in Ukraine is morphing into a direct EU-Russia war. And the war hawks in Brussels are further escalating by attacking civilians in the Donbas and Russia proper. The doves in the Kremlin, including Vladimir Putin, are running out of options to keep their own hawks under wraps. As things stand now, an all-out EU-Russia war is not only a possible, but by now a likely scenario. But to what end? I'm joined today by my colleague, Professor Glenn Diesen, to discuss what he has learned from his many

interviews with top-notch IR scholars in Russia and the West, and where things are headed.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Opljeij3WvU>

9)

SIPRI – May 25, 2026 - Peacekeeping in peril amid plummeting troop numbers and geopolitical deadlock: New SIPRI report

(Stockholm, 25 May 2026) Geopolitical tensions, political pressure and funding crises are putting the viability of multilateral peacekeeping in jeopardy, according to a new analysis of developments and trends in multilateral peace operations released today by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). The number of personnel in peace operations at the end of 2025 fell to its lowest point in at least 25 years. ...

'If things continue in this way, we could see a dramatic weakening of multilateral conflict management and the near-complete sidelining of institutions like the United Nations, due to a perfect storm of funding, political and geopolitical factors,' said Dr Jaïr van der Lijn, Director of the SIPRI Peace Operations and Conflict Management Programme. 'The is likely to be more conflicts, and these conflicts are likely to have even graver impacts on civilians as states abandon long-established norms.'

<https://www.sipri.org/media/press-release/2026/peacekeeping-peril-amid-plummeting-troop-numbers-and-geopolitical-deadlock-new-sipri-report>

10)

YouTube/Neutrality Studies – May 22, 2026 - Brave Researcher EXPOSES NATO Targeting EU Citizen's Brains | Dr. Jonas Tögel

The War-Hysteria in Europe is not accidental. It has been prepared and seeded in the continent's population for a long time through war narratives, propoaganda and actual cognitive warfare plans. Today I speak with Dr. Jonas Tögel, a German propaganda researcher and author. We discuss war messaging in Europe, German military outreach in schools, youth resistance, NATO narratives, the role of the US and EU, the collapse of antiwar politics, and the way propoaganda, fear, and media overload shape public opinion. They also discuss public resistance, self-care, and keeping a peace movement alive.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ckFvBGxHwug>

11)

Schiff & Hafen – 21. Mai 2026 - Pistorius: Kiel wird maritimes Innovationszentrum der Bundeswehr

In Kiel soll ein neues maritimes Innovationszentrum der Bundeswehr entstehen. Das hat Boris Pistorius, Bundesminister der Verteidigung, angekündigt. Das neue Zentrum soll den Transfer moderner Technologien in die Streitkräfte beschleunigen und insbesondere maritime Systeme in den Fokus rücken. Im Februar 2026 war mit dem Innovationszentrum der Bundeswehr im bayerischen Erding eine erste Einrichtung dieser Art eröffnet worden, die als Vorbild für die nun geplante Erweiterung dient.

Künftig sollen in Kiel Unternehmen, Start-ups, Hochschulen und die Bundeswehr gemeinsam an neuen Lösungen für die maritime Sicherheit arbeiten und diese unter möglichst realitätsnahen Bedingungen erproben.

Das neue Innovationszentrum in Kiel soll voraussichtlich noch dieses Jahr errichtet werden.

<https://www.schiffundhafen.de/nachrichten/schiffbau/detail/kiel-wird-standort-fuer-maritimes-innovationszentrum-der-bundeswehr.html>

12)

steigan.no – 20. mai 2026 - Kontrollert kaos: Hvordan Washington saboterer den multipolare verden og ofrer Europa

... Ja, jeg mener at Washingtons strategi ikke er målløs, men snarere en bevisst konstruksjon av permanent kaos og uorden. USA er ute av stand til å beseire sine rivaler direkte, og søker å forhindre at en stabil alternativ orden konsolideres. Logikken er enkel: en multipolar verden krever per definisjon en viss grad av internasjonal orden og forutsigbarhet. Ved systematisk å demontere denne ordenen – forkaste traktater, bevæpne sanksjoner, starte ulovlige kriger, destabilisere perifere stater – sørger Washington for at intet stabilt, sammenhengende alternativt internasjonalt system kan slå rot. ...

<https://steigan.no/2026/05/kontrollert-kaos-hvordan-washington-saboterer-den-multipolare-verden-og-ofrer-europa/>

13)

the Grayzone – May 20, 2026 - Max Blumenthal: The Israeli plot against Thomas Massie exposes US oligarchy

Max explains how the campaign to defeat Rep Thomas Massie reveals how Israel's lobby network is shamelessly buying U.S. politics, laundering influence through Trump-world, and pushing war and censorship. But the public is finally breaking through the propaganda, and a backlash is building.

<https://thegrayzone.substack.com/p/max-blumenthal-the-israeli-plot-against>

14)

THE CONVERSATION – May 13, 2026 - Europe is rearming itself without addressing the political consequences

... The security debate should now move into a new phase in which European governments grasp the complex political implications of rearmament.

These are gradually becoming apparent. Examples include a sharper trade-off between spending on defence and social programmes, and the prospect of Germany gaining military superiority as well as economic dominance.

There is also the danger of rightwing populist parties taking power with hugely increased military arsenals. Such parties are currently leading polls in France, Germany, the UK and several other countries, on agendas that sit uneasily with longstanding European security cooperation. European militarisation adds to the eye-watering military build-up globally, which is increasing the risk of major conflict. There is also the harmful environmental impact of rearmament, and the threat of over-militarisation crowding out Europe's focus on non-military security – an approach rooted in social development and conflict prevention.

These challenges show that rearmament represents a foundational shift for the European order. Simply grafting this defence build-up on to unreformed EU and Nato structures is likely to create new imbalances. ...

The EU risks losing its value as a peace project if it morphs into a security union without a more balanced and comprehensive political settlement.

<https://theconversation.com/europe-is-rearming-itself-without-addressing-the-political-consequences-282516>

15)

COUNCIL on FOREIGN RELATIONS – May 12, 2026 - The Future of American

Strategy-Europe Rearms

... Europe does not need to match U.S. military capabilities to deter Russia, as long as the U.S. nuclear umbrella remains intact and Anglo-French nuclear cooperation is strengthened. The latter partnership could take the form of some broader commitment to using those weapons to defend Europe as a whole, as France has indicated it will do. Coupled with the development of the continent's indigenous conventional and long-range precision strike capabilities, that type of nuclear commitment could assist Europe in deterring Russia, and will also reduce the risk of nuclear proliferation on the continent. Germany will play an essential role in Europe's conventional rearmament. Berlin plans to more than double its defense budget to €162 billion (\$190 billion) by 2029, reaching the NATO target of 3.5 percent of GDP before the end of the decade—more than the combined defense budgets of France and the United Kingdom today. Europeans by and large welcome this development as a boon to their conventional deterrence ambitions. ...

<https://www.cfr.org/articles/europe-rearms>

16)

YouTube/Dialogue Works – May 8, 2026 - Amb. Chas Freeman: Israel's Agenda Is Falling Apart

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= HTvSIymOg8>

An Open Letter to Chancellor Friedrich Merz

Economist and diplomat Jeffrey Sachs is calling on German Chancellor Merz to begin immediate talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin about peace in Europe.

Jeffrey D. Sachs, May 27, 2026, Berliner Zeitung

Chancellor Merz,

When I wrote an open letter to you a half year ago, I urged Germany to pursue diplomacy with Russia rather than the normalization of war. Six months later, the situation in Europe is dramatically worse. Europe and Russia are slipping into open war. And in that drift, Chancellor, your responsibility is singular. No European leader — not in Paris, not in Warsaw, not in Rome — holds the position that Germany holds, or has the that you personally hold, to interrupt this catastrophe. Will you try for peace? You yourself, with Prime Minister Meloni and President Macron, called in January 2026 for Europe to restart relations with Russia and described Russia as „a European country.“ Yet you did not pursue diplomacy. With the future of Europe at stake, this is an extraordinary abdication of leadership. Have you, in your months as Chancellor, attempted one substantive dialogue with President Putin? Has your foreign minister attempted one substantive dialogue with Foreign Minister Lavrov? Real conversations, the kind that ended the Cold War. The answer, as far as the public record reveals, is no. Not once. And not for want of recognizing the urgency.

The past days have brought a dangerous acceleration that should focus every European mind. Both capitals are now under sustained attack: Ukrainian long-range drones have struck deep into Moscow, including civilian sites; Russian missile and drone strikes against Kyiv have greatly intensified. Ukrainian drones have crossed into the airspace of

the Baltic states, raising the immediate prospect of an incident that could pull Europe directly into the war. A horrific Ukrainian strike on a boys' school in Lugansk has further eroded what little remains of restraint. And on May 25, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, acting on Secretary of State that the Russian Armed Forces are now launching „systematic and sustained strikes“ on facilities and decision-making centers in Kyiv, and the Russian Foreign Ministry has advised that the United States and other countries „ensure the evacuation of their diplomatic personnel and other citizens from the capital of Ukraine.“ That message is the prologue to a major escalation. Diplomacy is more urgent than ever.

The way to defend Ukraine is not continued slaughter, but peace on terms that are agreeable to all parties. Instead, we face escalation, with more deaths, more destruction, and the real prospect of a war that expands beyond Ukraine. By calling for ever more weapons, ever greater war-fighting capacity, and ever louder demonstrations of „resolve,“ and by signaling that Germany is preparing for war rather than working to end it, you have allowed Berlin to become an accelerant rather than a brake to a European-wide war.

Germany's Responsibility: Six Particulars

Germany bears profound responsibility for the situation it now confronts. Before German policy can be reset toward peace, Germany's record must be confronted honestly. I set out below six serious failures of German foreign policy vis-à-vis Russia since German reunification in 1990.

First — the 2+4 Treaty and NATO's eastward expansion. On 12 September 1990, in Moscow, Germany signed the Treaty on the Final Settlement with Respect to Germany — the „2+4 Treaty“ — that completed German reunification. That treaty was secured because Mikhail Gorbachev was given solemn assurances, by Hans-Dietrich Genscher, by Helmut Kohl, by James Baker, and by other Western leaders, that NATO would not move eastward. The declassified record — including the now-public memoranda assembled by the National Security Archive of George Washington University — is unambiguous: those assurances were given and were clearly meant at the time to apply beyond the territory of the former GDR to Eastern Europe. These assurances were reaffirmed through 1990 and 1991.

The 2+4 Treaty restricts the placement of NATO troops in the former GDR, and recalls the principles of the Helsinki Final Act, which emphasizes that no nation's security should come at the expense of another's. Does any serious person believe that the Soviet Union cared about Western troops on the territory of the former GDR but was indifferent to NATO armies in Warsaw, Vilnius, or Kyiv? Of course not.

The matter of NATO enlargement was discussed in detail and explicit assurances of non-enlargement to the East were given by Germany to the Soviet leaders — and then were broken. Germany was the principal beneficiary of those assurances, which were the quid pro quo for Germany's reunification. Yet as early as 1993, German leaders began to promote the violation of those assurances.

Second — Chancellor Merkel's own testimony. In her memoirs, Angela Merkel writes with striking candor that she understood at the time of the 2008 Bucharest Summit that

inviting Ukraine and Georgia into NATO would be tantamount to a declaration of war on Russia. She knew Russia's red line. And yet she gave in to American pressure, accepting the compromise communiqué that Ukraine and Georgia „will become“ NATO members. That single sentence set in motion the catastrophes of 2014 and 2022. Merkel's later candor is a gift to her successors: she has told you, plainly and in her own words, what was understood at the time. Germany should not now pretend otherwise.

Third — the betrayal of the February 21, 2014 agreement. On 21 February 2014, in Kyiv, Germany's then-Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, together with his Polish and French counterparts, brokered an agreement between President Yanukovich and the opposition. The agreement provided for a return to the 2004 constitution, the formation of a national-unity government, and early presidential elections. President Putin was consulted; the agreement was confirmed. It was a serious diplomatic achievement under conditions of intense violence. Yet within twenty-four hours Yanukovich was forcibly overthrown by a violent coup. Germany did not insist on the agreement it had just guaranteed. Instead, following the U.S. lead, Germany backed the new government, as if there had been no agreement in place. That decision persuaded Moscow that Western signatures could not be trusted.

Fourth — Minsk II. In February 2015, Chancellor Merkel personally negotiated Minsk II in the Normandy Format and pledged Germany's political backing through the Declaration of Support adopted in Minsk on 12 February 2015. For seven years, the key political provision — autonomy for the Donbas regions within a sovereign Ukraine — was never implemented by Kyiv. Germany did not press Kyiv to implement the autonomy provision it had championed — and Merkel later acknowledged that the agreement had been used as a holding action to allow Ukraine to rearm. President Hollande said the same. The guarantee, in other words, was not a guarantee at all. It was a stratagem — once again at Washington's behest. Once again, the message to Moscow was that Western signatures cannot be trusted.

Fifth — Nord Stream. On 7 February 2022, in the East Room of the White House, President Biden announced — with then-Chancellor Olaf Scholz standing beside him — that „if Russia invades... then there will be no longer a Nord Stream 2. We will bring an end to it.“ Asked how, he replied, „I promise you, we will be able to do that.“ The pipelines were destroyed seven months later in an act of sabotage in the Baltic Sea. The available evidence — investigative reporting in the United States and Germany, the trail followed by the German federal prosecutor, and the public statements of former officials — points overwhelmingly to a joint Ukrainian-American operation. The German government has long known this. And yet Germany has permitted the public blame to fall on Russia, against the direct evidence, while an act of industrial sabotage against the German economy has gone unprosecuted and unanswered.

Sixth — the April 2022 Istanbul agreement that was within reach. Just weeks after Russia's invasion in February 2022, Russian and Ukrainian negotiators converged in Istanbul on the terms of a peace agreement: Ukrainian neutrality outside NATO, multilateral security guarantees, agreed troop limits, and the political resolution of the Donbas and Crimea questions over time. The agreement was within days of signature. Former Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, one of the mediators, has confirmed publicly that the deal was close and that the West — the United States and the United Kingdom in particular — moved to block it.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson's mission to Kyiv in April 2022 to instruct Ukraine not to sign is a matter of public record. Hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian and Russian lives, and the wider European order, have paid the price for that US-UK intervention. Germany has not raised its voice on this — even though Germany, more than any other European state has borne the economic consequences.

The Second Catastrophe: Germany's Economic Self-Destruction

Your first concern must be peace. Yesterday's message from Moscow tells us how late the hour is. But there is a second catastrophe unfolding alongside the first: the willful destruction of the German economy, with Berlin as both author and victim.

Germany's industrial economy was built on trade with Russia. The destruction of Nord Stream and the subsequent severance of Germany's trade relations with Russia have left Germany buying natural gas from the United States at prices several times higher than the Russian pipeline gas it replaced. This is industrial suicide. Germany's chemical sector, its steel sector, its glass industry, its energy-intensive manufacturers — the very foundations of the Mittelstand — are losing international competitiveness day by day. Skilled jobs are draining out of the German economy. And the German taxpayer and the German consumer are making a transfer of national wealth from Germany to American gas producers at a scale unprecedented in postwar Europe.

On top of this, the German government is now pledging an enormous defence build-up — hundreds of billions of euros over the coming decade — to arm for a war that diplomacy can easily prevent. This is a profound misallocation of national resources. The fundamental challenge facing Germany in this decade is competitiveness in the digital age. Every euro spent on tanks, missiles, and artillery shells is a euro not spent on Germany's AI capacity, its chip-design and chip-fabrication capability, its energy infrastructure, and the high-speed digital networks that Germany needs to remain a top global economy.

The hard reality, Mr. Chancellor, is that there is no security to be bought with these arms that diplomacy cannot buy at a tiny fraction of the cost, and there is no prosperity to be had without the digital and energy investments that this arms buildup will crowd out.

My Appeal

Chancellor Merz, more than any other European leader, the question of whether Europe descends into general war, or returns to negotiation, and to economic sanity, rests with you. The hour is very late. Yesterday's formal message from Moscow to Washington says so explicitly. Please open a dialogue with President Putin. Please send your foreign minister to Moscow or invite Russia's Foreign Minister to Berlin. Please reopen the OSCE channels that Germany has allowed to atrophy. Please tell Kyiv to cease its strikes on civilian targets.

Most importantly, please tell the German public the truth: that a negotiated peace based on Ukrainian neutrality is the realistic path out of catastrophe, and that restoring a normal economic relationship with Russia is the realistic path out of Germany's industrial decline.

The terms of an acceptable agreement that Germany could propose are clear. The fighting would stop on an armistice line. All sides would renounce any future resort to violence on the question of borders. Ukraine would restore its neutrality, and NATO would permanently renounce further eastward enlargement.

Europe and Russia would restore economic relations and would stop the warmongering. The OSCE would once again become the central forum for European security, with the fundamental precept that European security is indivisible, not based on military blocs dividing Europe. Alongside this peace, Germany would redirect its national resources toward the digital, AI, semiconductor, and energy investments that Germany's economic future demands.

History will record what you do in the weeks ahead, and what you fail to do. So will the German public. So will the peoples of Russia, Ukraine, and Europe generally. It's time for diplomacy, Mr. Chancellor. The choice is yours to make.

Respectfully,

Jeffrey D. Sachs
University Professor of Columbia University