



Wake-up call No. 4

August 20, 2024

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Unexpected impressions

Report of our trip to Russia from July 24th to August 7th, 2024

We were invited to hold seminars on future prospects for education, agriculture and economics in six different locations.

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1. Impressions of the external conditions

We applied for the visas online a few days before departure and received them within three days.

We flew from Belgrade to St. Petersburg. We flew back from Moscow to Belgrade, as there are no flights from Switzerland and Germany due to the sanctions.

There were no problems entering or leaving the country.

The airports, highways and subways in Russia are spacious and practically designed, everything was remarkably clean.

You hardly see any beggars or homeless people on the streets, we didn't see any drunk people. The police were hardly present even in the big cities, only in the event of a car accident.

We experienced the old town of St. Petersburg (5-6 million inhabitants) as a very beautiful and culturally lively city with many water canals.

It is far cleaner and more beautiful than Venice (just watch one of the many YouTube videos of the city).

Most people live in purely functional suburbs in apartment blocks 15-30 stories high. There is no beauty in the city planning, only small parks at the foot of the gigantic buildings provide some space to stay and play. It was tidy there too.

The night train to Moscow (approx. 700 km) was well-kept, functional and tidy, the people friendly and peaceful. We paid around €30 for a place to sleep in a four-person compartment.

Most Russians, however, travel at night in open-plan sleeping cars with 50 beds.

In Moscow (12-13 million inhabitants), the overall cityscape is not very

beautiful, but the cathedral, Red Square, the Kremlin and the artistically designed (communist-Bolshevik) metro stations and public squares are outstanding.

A taxi ride in Moscow of around 12 km in 30 minutes costs around €13.

Petrol and diesel cost around 60 cents per liter.

Wages in these two cities are around €1000 per month, in the countryside around €500.

A three-room apartment in Moscow costs around €600, in St. Petersburg around €500, in the countryside around half that.

In contrast to the cities, the countryside looks very different.

On our tour to the northeast of Moscow (approx. 800km), we saw mostly flat land and huge distances.

Villages are often 30 to 50 kilometers apart.

The landscape is mainly characterized by former agricultural areas that are now overgrown with bushes. There are trees in them that are no higher than 15 meters. We didn't see any grazing animals at all. There were only rarely large, old agricultural buildings that probably used to house livestock. There is huge potential lying fallow.

We were told that most agricultural activities today takes place in the south of Russia because the climate is more favorable there.

Large country roads are in good condition and are kept clear of trees and bushes 30 meters to the right and left. The small roads, on the other hand, are often in very poor condition.

The villages mainly stretch along the roads with old houses that must date back to the pre-communist era. Fine wood carvings on gables and windows are true works of art.

The slightly larger towns also have uniform, two-storey stone houses that date from the communist era. It was noticeable that the older population is mainly found here, as the young people move to the cities. There is hardly any beauty to be found in these places, and order and cleanliness are only partially present. The people live in very simple, poor conditions. Almost every house has its own "banya" - a small shed that serves as a sauna.

On the land trip we did not see a single plane, the sky was always blue and clear. The lakes in northwest Russia are also fresh and clean. We visited two very large monasteries that contributed to the Christianization of Russia, are now lively and are now receiving state support for restoration work. In the villages we saw Orthodox churches that were used for practical purposes during the communist era, such as supermarkets or community meeting places. Some of them are now being restored with state support.

2. Impressions of the local people

We noticed that in the cities people are well dressed and well groomed, good education is normal and politeness is a matter of course.

Women often dress in a very feminine way and less revealingly than in the West, men dress in a simple and masculine way.

Fashionable clothing was hardly ever used.

We did not see any extravagant outfits such as colorful hair or showing off an ideologized gender attitude.

In general, people are cautious and almost shy at first, but very nice and courteous. When complete strangers meet each other and ask for directions, they speak to each other as if they had always known each other, in a familiar, natural and familiar way.

Through the seminars, cultural visits and our travels we have

spoken to many people from different social classes. Wherever we were, we sought a lot of contacts and also asked people questions about critical things.

Whether taxi drivers, salespeople, waiters, teachers or doctors - we were always given willing and open answers. We did not find the people intimidated in any way. A great deal of hospitality awaited us, everyone was willing to pay for food and drink.

Everywhere there was a great deal of interest, almost gratitude, in getting in touch with us. We, as Germans were practically revered (although the Germans killed over twenty million Russians in the last world war). A German culture (Bach music, understanding of Goethe, questions about Nietzsche, Schiller) lives in many people there and is actively studied and cultivated.

A Russian friend said to us:

"The Russians are like the young people who need their parents: the Germans!"

Many Russians speak German, especially those over 40. You can communicate with the younger generations in English.

We were astonished that, despite the sanctions, you can actually get everything you need in the shops.

Locals told us that the sanctions had given the Russian economy a boost. The Russians became creative and now produce what they need themselves.

3. Questions about the war, Putin and history were answered openly

Our questions about the war with Ukraine were also answered openly.

On the outside, life seems completely normal and relaxed. Only strict baggage checks at the subway stations make you feel a little nervous.

After talking to many people, it became clear that the question of the war is on everyone's mind.

What did we learn about it?

We did not notice any hatred towards Ukraine anywhere. On the contrary:

Many people pray for both sides because they see the Ukrainians as their brothers. They also have nothing against the western, American-dominated population.

But they are very aware that this war and others have been repeatedly initiated by the Anglo-Saxon, capitalist backers. They also know that they cannot loose as a country because they stick together in the event of a threat, no matter how many sacrifices they have to make. But they regret having to do so.

Even a pacifist told us that if his country was really threatened by the Western powers, he might defend it, even with weapons.

But in fact they are neither warlike nor aggressive, let alone want to conquer other land.

We were repeatedly amused by the West's claim that they wanted to conquer territory.

They definitely don't need land, on the contrary, they have too much of it!

Why would they want to take over other countries when they don't even have enough population to populate their own?

We also heard that many people were shocked by the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 and opposed it. Numerous men then left Russia for fear of being drafted.

After following the events and their history further, most have now returned. Today they see it as a necessity to clearly counter Western encroachments.

Nevertheless, the military action upsets them greatly and they reject it in itself. That was also one of the reasons why we were welcomed with such open arms. They were grateful for real contact and do not want war.

The West's refusal to expand NATO into the former Soviet states after the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact is very depressing for them.

They ask themselves, among other things:

Why did America initiate the demonstrations on the Maiden in Kiev in 2014 and depose the legally elected government, only to then use the new government they installed to spread propaganda against the Russian-speaking population and even ban their language.

Since then, the Russian-speaking population in eastern Ukraine has been subjected to massive shelling, with thousands of people losing their lives.

Because the Minsk agreements were not being complied with and more and more Russian-speaking people in eastern Ukraine were being killed by the new government in Kiev, the Russian government repeatedly called for the Kiev agreement to be complied with and the killing to be stopped.

But it not only continued, but increased while the West was arming Kiev!

After neither negotiations nor warnings were heeded, the Russian government put a stop to the killing of Russians by military intervention.

Today they are described in the West as aggressors.

Many Russians are asking themselves why they are repeatedly portrayed as the bad guys, both in history and now.

They are asking themselves what they should have done?

Because they do read what is being written in the West one-sidedly about Russia and the war.

Access to the Western media is free.

Access to Russian reporting in the West is difficult. For example, RT Russia is banned in Germany.

Why?

When asked how many of the Russian soldiers had fallen, only estimates could be given (e.g. 200,000), as these are not publicly known.

However, the deaths are reported openly in the newspapers and each family receives around €80,000 for a fallen relative.

We sometimes saw military advertising posters offering volunteers €30,000 to join the army. The monthly salary is around €2,000 for a soldier. We were told that the army has no difficulty in getting soldiers. No one is forced. You see a lot of young men in the streets, although it seems that women are in the majority.

When asked how people feel about Putin and how they assess him, we received a consistently positive picture.

Only once did we meet someone who spoke out strongly against Putin. We met with great goodwill throughout, as he has brought economic and cultural prosperity to the entire country, crime and alcoholism have fallen massively since he was in power, and people feel much free and safer.

The fact that he is increasingly curbing corruption in the country is very much welcomed.

We were told that Putin is balancing between, defending the country externally on the one hand and cleaning it up internally on the other.

He is gradually putting a stop to the oligarchs in Russia who are acting for the West and/or selfish self-interests. He is increasingly purging the often Western-influenced authorities of foreign interest groups.

We heard that the medical sector in particular is very much under the influence of the pharmaceutical-dominated WHO and that he is therefore limited in his scope for making decisions for his country.

As the population has little trust in the authorities based on their experiences and knows that not everything good comes from them, the orders were not followed or at least freely addressed during the Corona period, for example.

We also asked several times whether Putin's Christian attitude should be seen as genuine or feigned.

In response to this question, we were generally told that he was very credible in this regard. One of our course participants was able to confirm the sincerity of his Christian efforts through contacts with Putin's immediate circle.

4. History

We were amazed to see how many people in Russia know European and Russian history.

This was so painful for the Russian soul that it is not allowed to enter into their daily consciousness.

It is as if they knew that they were betrayed and raped by their neighbors, but cannot accept this out of shame and pain.

The cooperation between the Slavic and German-speaking peoples began around a thousand years ago.

It was Otto the Great in particular who brought the very down-to-earth Slavic peoples together with the culturally and technically more advanced German-speaking peoples.

This resulted in healthy, sustainable agricultural organisms that joined together in village communities around a church.

In the west they grouped themselves around the Catholic churches and in the east around the Orthodox churches, which rejected leadership from Rome and sought a much deeper relationship with Christ.

For many centuries, German-speaking farmers in Russia inspired life there with technology and culture, i.e. German intellectual property. Together with the uniqueness of Russian culture and its loving connection to the earth and spirit, both were able to help each other to develop further.

This German-Russian cultural connection was a thorn in the side of the rising English rulers with their global expansionist ambitions.

Early on, Freemasons in particular began to think about how this increasing, mutual cultural fertilization could be prevented.

It is significant that Tsar Peter the Great (1673-1725), who was educated in Holland and came to Russia to build the city of St. Petersburg into a center of power with a Western mindset, did not even speak Russian!

This beautiful, Western European-influenced city was built at the expense of the entire country, with the sweat of the Russian people.

From then on, the entire country was de facto led by the West.

The diplomats from England, France and Holland came and went and from St. Petersburg, through (their) Tsars, led the entire country like a colony.

Anyone who did not conform to their ideas was eliminated (e.g. Peter III - 1762, Paul I - 1801, Alexander II - 1881, Nicholas II - 1917).

The diplomatic language in Russia was French for a long time.

Time and again, the Russian people were sent from there and later from Moscow into various wars that served the power interests of the West.

The Austro-Hungarian multi-ethnic empire was also a disruptive factor for them, as the German-Slavic connections there were leading to a wide range of economic, technical and cultural

developments that they would not have been able to keep up with for long.

As a result, a manipulative policy of division was also pursued underground there and the multi-ethnic state was finally destroyed in the First World War.

In this context, Russia's entry into the First World War was demonstrably orchestrated by the English, and the Slavic and German-speaking countries in particular lost many millions of people in this war.

The “communist experiment” was also planned by the West long in advance. Most Russians know that the dissident Lenin was promoted and supported in the West in developing Marxist theories into a political system and then introducing it into Russia.

He was brought from Switzerland through Germany to Russia in a sealed railway carriage with a lot of money, where he was first to overthrow the Tsar with the socialists and then to destroy the socialists.

In this “communist experiment”, the Russian people were severely attacked and mistreated from two sides:

Firstly, the independent peasantry, including the self-functioning villages, was destroyed by forcibly expropriating them and forcibly relocating them and forcing them to build collective farms for controlled mass production.

Over 10 million peasants lost their lives in the process.

At that time, the farmer was called “Cristianjen”(Christians) in Russian. With their extermination, the word was also destroyed. It was replaced by the American “farmer”. The Russians were thus separated from their beloved Mother Earth, with whom they were completely connected.

Then they were robbed of their Christian Orthodox Church in order to cut off their spiritual ties. It was banned. People continued to practice their faith only secretly and especially in the countryside.

They were thus robbed of their earthly and spiritual identity. They were forced into pure materialism.

It is a real miracle that the "Russian soul" was able to survive this.

During our visit we were amazed at how strong this national soul is after what has been and is being done to it.

(Authors' note: The whole of humanity is currently being robbed, from two sides. also in capitalism, Chinese communism and Arabism: of its soil, Mother Earth, and on the other hand of its spiritual abilities! In order to strengthen these two pillars of life again, enormous spiritual endeavours are needed. Hardly any nation will be able to muster this strength, as we have all degenerated to such an extent. The soul is the link between body and spirit. For the worldwide reconstruction of earth and spiritual culture, we will certainly have to rely on the enormous abilities of the "Russian soul".)

It is also painful and incomprehensible for the Russians to understand that, although they played a key role in bringing about the victory over Hitler with enormous sacrifices for the entire people, they are now being excluded from the victory celebrations in Germany and Normandy.

After the Second World War there was an arms race between the Warsaw Pact and NATO, which the communist countries with their state-controlled economies could no longer cope with. The economy was effectively on the ground.

After Gorbachev, Yeltsin won the election with massive Western support. He basically sold his own country to the West for a song and a sandwich. The Russian economy continued to collapse.

It was only under Putin that the Russian people were able to slowly get back on their feet. He wanted to lead his country to economic, cultural and political independence in order to work fruitfully with the West and Germany in particular from an independent, strong position.

Just remember his speech to the German Bundestag on September 25, 2001. A certain sigh of relief went through the German-speaking and Slavic nations at the time. This was opposed by the English and American capitalist leaders and was gradually undermined, to the point that Putin was gradually built up through the media as a dictator who wanted to attack Europe and thus the whole world.

NGOs were then increasingly founded in Russia to build up an opposition to Putin. Soros was at the forefront of this. The suppression of these organizations by Putin was then portrayed in the West as a dictatorial measure. (This approach of declaring a statesman a "dictator" is always used by Western leaders with the

media they own if and where a government is not subservient to them.

The government is then to be overthrown in order to "save" the respective people. This is a recurring principle in which the opposition is first massively supported and built up.

Just look at Yugoslavia, Iraq, Syria and Libya and the catastrophic situation they were brought into after their supposed rescue.

In Ukraine, the same thing happened again with the previous government of Viktor Yanukovych. He did not want to turn unilaterally to the West, but to remain equally connected to Russia. He too was declared a dictator worldwide before his fall.

5. Impressions from our seminars

We were invited to six locations by groups that were already working on setting up Waldorf education, agriculture or community projects.

What they all had in common was that they were looking for further perspectives because they lacked people in charge and competent members as well as finances.

They gratefully accepted our practical experience and solutions in all these areas. They were particularly open to working on village organisms, as this allows problems to be overcome holistically.

Through our joint work and our practical examples, they were able to see why projects that are too one-sidedly conceived and organized hardly make any progress. It was particularly nice to see that their projects almost naturally pursue goals that benefit society and go beyond personal interests.

Their inner motivation is not self-sufficiency as a solution, but the well-being of society as a whole.

We did not expect such a broad-minded attitude.

It seems to us an ideal combination to combine this attitude with the organizational forces of the West.

Since there are no healthy agricultural or village organisms and there is hardly any idea of them anymore, they are grateful for any help in this direction.

There is an urgent need for help to build up entire village systems with education, agriculture and health. We have been asked several times to help with this, including by finding skilled workers from Germany.

At first they were astonished by the idea that the financing of education and agriculture must be borne by as many people as possible in order to free them from the state and the powers of capital.

They are used to the state financing everything.

The initial surprise quickly gave way to a real sense of liberation.

They felt that a healthy social order could be established very quickly in this way.

The practical, three-part social order that we presented was obvious to them, and they seemed to find in it a social equivalent of their mental attitude, while they feel that both communism and capitalism are damaging to their social and mental life.

We were faced with people who simply felt understanding of the social order, instead of getting the impression that they had to achieve something new. What really speaks to them in this regard is

1. that the economy must be organized in a fraternal, associative manner,

2. we need equality on the legal and political level,

3. that culture, education, health care, the churches and journalism must be freed from the state and the power of capital.

They have now experienced two of one-sided systems first hand:

First, communism, in which the state controls all three areas.

Second, capitalism, in which capital (misunderstanding economy) controls all three areas.

(Note: Even if religion dominates all three areas, a social order is not healthy, e.g. Islam.)

The fact that social and economic conditions can only be healed if the pillars of agriculture and culture are healed, it was then easy to

understand from the overall context.

The practical experiences we shared with them were absorbed by them like sponges.

At all six locations where we gave seminars with this content, they definitely want to continue working on the topics and involve many people.

It has been confirmed again and again that they highly value the connection to the practical and idealistic side of the German-speaking peoples and are desperately looking for it.

6. Summary

After all these concrete experiences, encounters and experiences, what appears in the media in the West about Russia is downright far-fetched and grotesque.

Why this war propaganda from the West?

Are the warmongers even aware that by harming the Russians they are causing widespread damage for a long time, not just in Europe but worldwide?

By separating Europeans from one another, especially the separation of German-speaking, Slavic and Russian tribes, the Russians are being forced into cooperation with the Chinese. But the Chinese have a completely different culture.

The opposed tensions between the West, especially the Americans, and the East, especially the Chinese, are growing ever greater. And as a result, Europe is being crushed in the middle, driven to the sidelines and, above all, not fulfilling its task.

A united Europe with Russia and the Balkan countries could ensure detente between the polarities in the East and West and at the same time bring its economy and culture back to an exemplary level.

What interests or forces exactly want to prevent this possible European culture of peace?

We should reconsider whether any organization or country in the world has the right to act as world police?

Just imagine if Putin were to set up such an organization and use it

to "clean up" Mexico on the border with the USA because there are sections of the population there who simply speak English instead of Spanish.

After all, he would ban them from speaking their native language, English. How would the USA like that?

How is it that the Russians are not afraid of Germany, even cultivate their culture and seek unification, even though they were attacked by them in the last two world wars and suffered tens of millions of deaths, while large parts of the German population believe that the Russians are aggressive and want to attack them?

It is very likely that one or two readers will say that we are "Putin understanders" or something similar - with an unmistakable derogatory undertone.

We would like to ask: Why?

We are trying to describe what we have actually experienced.

It is almost impossible to find the full truth in these contexts.

But doesn't it make sense to look at reality, observe, gather impressions, think for yourself, instead of forming "opinions"?

We base our opinions on information that we have received from the media, regardless of which side.

Most media are not free because they "belong to someone".

Shaping your opinion by these, means being subservient and ultimately spreading and representing the interests of the owners.

We do not know the full truth. We are looking for it. Opinions are nothing compared to the truth.

They only lead to confrontation and do not serve the truth.

They lead us into hardening, lead to an end to thinking and separate us from one another. But if we seek the truth, even if it is painful or we do not find it, we remain open to all people and alive inside.

Development is taking place.

That is why we are simply describing what we have experienced.

May everyone who wants to integrate it into their thinking and continue to remain alive inside.

We experienced that in Russia the search for truth takes precedence over opinion-forming; it is still a great asset there, as it is for the German idealists.

One could get the impression that some of them are taking on what the Germans can no longer do.

We expressly allow this peace letter to be distributed unchanged. It can also be translated into other languages.

We ask you to send a copy to office@uweburka.eu. With warm regards,

Anneke Schammann

and

Uwe Burka