

EOE ON THE ROAD

TOWARDS

"COSMOPOLITAN GLOBALISM"

Violence at G-20 was testing the limits of expression in Germany.

NYT: *Every Western democracy struggles with the contradictory demands of permitting free expression and maintaining public order. In Germany, the experience of Nazism and Communism highlights the clamor for free speech and how best to protect it.*

*The violence that marred the Group of 20 summit in Hamburg clearly caught the authorities off guard, despite the deployment of more than 20,000 police officers called in from across Germany and its European neighbors. It has opened a searing if familiar debate about who was to blame for the loss of control in some areas where large groups of people expressed their **anger at the global political and economic system.***

Conservatives blamed troublemakers for the clashes in Hamburg where they said well-organized vandals disguised themselves as "clash tourists."

"These were not demonstrators, they were criminal chaos makers," who rampaged out of control, attacked property and people, looted and burned, the interior minister Thomas de Maizière said Monday. "Chaos makers from Germany and Europe cannot lay claim to political motives," he said, adding that they are not the pacifists some on the left say they are. "They are contemptible, violent extremists, just like the neo-Nazis are, and the Islamic terrorists," he said, adding that anyone who hurls concrete sidewalk slabs at police officers could be accused of attempted murder. Before the G-20, hundreds of would-be protesters were turned back at Germany's borders under special controls imposed in recent weeks, Mr. de Maizière said. At least a few hundred demonstrators who did make it to Hamburg came from elsewhere in Europe and had smuggled equipment into Germany as early as two years ago. Their actions were "organized, prepared and orchestrated," Mr. de Maizière said.

"Of course we hope the protest is peaceful," said Caral Gattas, a member of the Attac group that helped to organize the largest march against the G20. "It should be peaceful — that's what they decided a few months ago."

What happened last night was not part of our plan," she said, referring to the violence and looting that took place on Friday night. "It was irresponsible, stupid people doing this. We want to inform people about the topics and don't want to burn down our own city."

Authorities said 476 police officers and an unknown number of protesters were injured during the violence in Hamburg. Though Ms. Merkel made meager gains for world unity in keeping the G-20 united on all issues except climate change, the authorities could not balance *the right to free expression with the need for maintaining order. The police have two duties in circumstances like these: They must prevent violence, and protect the basic right to demonstrate,"* Mr. Prantl wrote. *"In Hamburg at the G-20, they unfortunately failed at both."*



AUSTRALIAN JOURNALIST DEMOLISHES TRUMP AT G20: 'BIGGEST THREAT TO THE WEST'

Reporter Chris Uhlmann's commentary tearing into American president : *a man with 'no desire and no capacity to lead the world.*

Chris Uhlmann ,Australia's most seasoned political journalist, is well known to viewers of the national broadcaster for his frank opinions added: *"isolated and friendless, his disastrous foreign policy had "pressed fast-forward on the decline of the United States".*

"He is the biggest threat to the values of the west".

"He was an uneasy, lonely, awkward figure at this gathering and you got the strong sense that some of the leaders are trying to find the best way to work around him..."

"Where was the G20 statement condemning North Korea which would have put pressure on China and Russia? Other leaders expected it, they were prepared to back it, but it never came."

Obsessed with "burnishing his celebrity" , he has "diminished" his own nation to the benefit of Russia and China.

He has managed to isolate his nation, to confuse and alienate his allies and to diminish America.

"[He is] a man who barks out bile in 140 characters, who wastes his precious days as president at war with the west's institutions like the judiciary, independent government agencies and the free press."

The Guardian points out that Trump tackled issues likely to cheer his base and frustrate critics, focused on domestic concerns and gravitated toward non-democratic states.

WHAT WE NEED TO REMEMBER OF THE G20 SUMMIT

Climate : 19 against 1

The 19 regard the Paris agreement as «irreversible».

Emmanuel Macron has stated that he still hoped to convince Trump to reverse his decision. He further wishes to organise a new COP21 summit in Paris by 2019.1

Compromise on commerce

In view of Trump's strong statements on protectionism displayed in his electoral campaign, the G20 has produced a window dressing compromise *between free exchange and regulation.*

G20 nations have reasserted their commitment in their struggle against protectionism.



Trump-Putin

The Trump-Putin exchange on Syria, Ukrain, Russian interference in the US election lasted more than two hours. It was described *as vigorous with a positive chemistry*. (Rex Tillerson). Vladimir Putin expressed confidence in a new start of bilateral contacts.

On North Korea

Donald Trump said to Xi Jinping that it was high time to do something in order to settle the North-Korean crisis.

The German press blamed Merkel for the *Hamburg street debacle* a very ominous signal for the september federal election .

All in all, a compromise was attained at the G20 in spite of diverse tensions and various disagreements. There was no such thing as a leap forward towards multilateralism but various bilateral contacts were definitely taking place and therefore the Hamburg summit was more than useful.

The 20 acted their divergences on the climate issue in order to display a willingness to compromise over the remaining issues.

All in all , *the face was saved*. Except of course for Angela Merkel.

POMP AND TOURISM IN PARIS WITHOUT LARGE DEMONSTRATIONS

In stark contrast with Hamburg, US president Trump was spared vision of widespread street protests, despite his unpopularity, in a France weary of political campaigning. (Angelique Chrisafis, The Guardian)

Donald Trump, left Paris smiling on Friday after a 24-hour visit in which he was not troubled by the large demonstrations he had feared if he came to London.

Although some crowds did gather behind riot police lines holding banners with messages such as *"Save the planet, resist Trump"*, they were kept far from any of the locations Trump visited.

Trump's visit to Paris was generally seen as a clever move – a way for a newly elected young EU leader to seize an opportunity to win over an isolated Trump- *"and bring him back into the circle"*, while staying *"frank about their differences."*

Philippe Roger, author of *the American Enemy*, a history of French anti-Americanism, said *Trump's visit will irritate some people in France. But I think they'll take it as a diplomatic coup*

that's worth trying." Macron's audacity may yet win him an extra prize. Having stood by his decision to withdraw the US from the Paris climate change accord in Hamburg, Trump hinted to Macron that there might be some adjustment to the US position. *"Something could happen with respect to the Paris accord,"* he said. Well, maybe that after a two day immersion, even the rough-hewn Donald Trump is going to absorb a little of that inimitable French diplomatic style. In the first two months of his presidency, Macron already has visits from both the US and Russian presidents under his belt. Each invitation was bold and entailed risk. Each used a bilateral occasion as a pretext (the military centenary for Trump, an exhibition marking 300 years since Peter the Great's visit to France for Vladimir Putin). And each in its own way, in the backdrops and the mood – pomp and tourism for Trump; the opulence of Versailles for Putin – was tailored to please and flatter the guest.

Macron, with his university thesis on Machiavelli proved a master in diplomatic arts. The young French president had gambled that he should reach out to Trump and – as one French minister put it – *"bring him into the circle"*, hoping to influence US policy while remaining firm on France's different opinions on climate change and free trade.

French public opinion seems to have accepted that diplomatic endeavour, despite an overwhelming dislike for Trump. But it will fall to Macron in the coming months to show what he gained from rolling out the red carpet to Trump, and demonstrate whether France really does have any power to sway the US on climate action and other points of contention.

The invitation was part of a determined strategy by Macron, who – observing the US president's increasing isolation on the western stage – has sensed an opportunity.

The two leaders are starkly different. Trump, 71, is an anti-globalist nationalist elected on a pledge to put America first. Macron, 39, believes in a kind of *cosmopolitan globalism* and is an ardent pro-European. Yet they share some traits – both were outsiders who challenged their country's political status quo. Trump loves a winner and although he deemed Macron's far-right rival, Marine Le Pen, the "strongest" candidate in May's French presidential election, he has praised Macron's solid election score.

"I think Macron understands very well that with Mr Trump you have to be present – see him and talk to him face to face ... Ambassadors don't exist for Trump ... The only thing is to be in the same room and to talk." commented a French diplomat.

Jean-Luc Mélenchon, leader of the left-wing party *France Unbowed*, said last month that Trump was *"not at all welcome"* on Bastille day.

COSMOPOLITAN GLOBALISM AS A RESPONSE AGAINST ANGER AT THE GLOBAL POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEM?

Fair enough, Macron masterminded a very risky visit of President Trump in Paris without hideous visible demonstration such as those that took place in Hamburg which were discarded as a disaster for Merkel.



So what! The Paris show actually succeeded in containing anti establishment demonstrations that are obviously doomed to break out in september after the summer recess.

The Hamburg street demonstrations came as a violent shock that somehow reminded us of the 1968 demonstrations against established values and structures. What is at stake now is a brutal clash between populist nationalism and *cosmopolitan globalism*. This is undeneably connected to the still increasing immigration pressure from Africa across the Mediterranean sea that might eventually result in the implosion of the west in a way similar to that of the soviet empire in 1989 after the fall of the Berlin wall.

What is badly needed are not military shows and old style diplomatic encouters in luxury restaurants and aristocratic châteaux but plain commonsense pedagogy. The European youth is frustrated. It needs to be educated differently if we want it to accept *cosmopolitan globalism*.

So far every single national educational system in Europe has failed to convey something like a European culture and hence a European public opinion of young European citizens turning them gradually into citizens of the world who stand for *cosmopolitan globalism*. It is therefore time for Eyes of Europe across Europe; for it is high time for *Civilization First* if we want to avoid a dangerous come back of nationalist leaders that were defeated in recent national elections in Europe.

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