

Germany Can Do It, —But Germany Must Change!

by Rainer Apel

This article, written for Neue Solidarität, the weekly newspaper of the German Solidarity Civil Rights Movement political party (BüSo), elaborates the ideas expressed in Helga Zepp-LaRouche's [EIR article](#) in the Oct. 9 issue, "In the Face of the Refugee Crisis: Realizing a Grand Vision."

Oct. 10—Is the mood shifting? Is the openness shown in the last weeks towards the refugees definitively over, now that it appears that the total will ultimately reach one million, 1.5 million, or more? Has Germany reached the limit of what is possible? Are federal, state, and local authorities no longer able to handle it? Must the budget be cut somewhere else to pay the costs of the refugees, as Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble and other adherents of the “zero deficit” dogma claim?

Finally: Must a new city as large as Munich be conjured from the ground every year to provide decent accommodation for all of the refugees?

Poor Germany! How far have you sunk, if everything the opinion-making mass media puts out these days is true! How, then—one must ask—did the Germans manage, both in the East and the West, to accommodate and integrate something like 14 million refugees (!) 70 years ago, shortly before the end of World War II and in the immediate postwar period, refugees from the lost East and the Sudetenland? How were the Germans able to rebuild their bombed out cities so quickly?

In the period before and after 1989, how was it possible for West Germany, once again, to take in another three million refugees from East Germany? And then the 750,000 refugees from the Balkan wars in the 1990s, who were also taken in!

How Germany Did It

Germany was able to do it because it had, at that time—and until the introduction of the Euro at the turn of the millennium—a different economic and financial policy, and indeed, into the 1970s, a *completely* different policy. Financial speculation was at best a marginal phenomenon, and the banking system and financial policy served primarily to promote the real economy and productive jobs, and the creation of real values and real growth.

The postwar, government-owned reconstruction bank (Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau), for example, had a policy of promoting the small and middle-sized entrepreneurs (Mittelstand) through long-term, low-interest loans, at least into the early 1970s, a policy applied with great success by the Roosevelt-era Reconstruction Finance Corporation in the 1930s. The



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Some of the more than 14 million refugees from the East, who entered and were assimilated into Germany in the last days of World War II and the immediate postwar period. This photo was taken in Danzig (the still-German occupied city of Gdansk, Poland) in February 1945.

German “Economic Miracle“ was no miracle: It was the result of a wise, long-range policy in the service of the population, a policy that Germany must urgently return to.

Another constructive example: After the disastrous flooding of the River Elbe in 2002, with losses into the billions of euros, Chancellor Gerhard Schröder ordered the suspension of the EU-imposed budget constraints. He ordered that otherwise blocked funds, necessary for rebuilding the flooded regions, be made immediately available. The infamous “zero deficit” policy was not around then, but unfortunately not for long. And it should be eliminated today, definitively, as part of a whole new approach.

Only in this way will Germany be able to build new housing every year on the scale of a big city like Munich, and to repair and modernize the nation’s roads, bridges, railways, school buildings, and other infrastructure, which was all decrepit long before the great wave of refugees arrived.

Rebuilding the Nation

Well-maintained infrastructure and good housing attract businesses and high-paying jobs, so the municipalities can regain financial strength through increased tax revenues, and 82 million German citizens, plus 1.5 million or more refugees, can make a living suited to the Twenty-First Century. It is not just the New Silk Road that must be built. In Germany also, there is an enormous amount to be done, and that would be the case even if there were not a single Syrian refugee!

The costs of providing for the refugees and accommodating them is only apparently high—but strictly speaking, only a small part of what Germany must invest anyway. The purely domestic investment backlog in Germany is at least several hundred billion euros, and probably quite a few more billion.

As for the expenditures for the refugees themselves, the figures given in the *Bildzeitung* daily on Oct. 6 can certainly be revised upwards: Construction of up to 400,000 new homes per year; up to 25,000 additional teachers; 1,000 renovated or completely new



cc/Rebecca Harms

Syrian refugees on their way to Germany, crowding the Budapest, Hungary Keleti railway station, Sept. 4, 2015.

schools; room for 68,000 more children in daycare centers, 10,000 more hospital beds, 6,000 more doctors. Add to that 20,000 new administrative staff positions, 50,000 new social workers, and 15,000 new police officers.

If it is possible to have skilled refugees participate directly in creating a good deal of the needed new capacity and jobs, then the integration process will be largely accomplished. Nothing is more helpful for the refugees in quickly overcoming the suffering and trauma of their journey than actively participating in something productive, which allows them to progress. That is what we experienced in Germany in the post-war reconstruction period.

A negative example is the failure to reconstruct the Balkans after the wars of the 1990s, which left especially young people in Kosovo 80% unemployed, and deprived them of any prospect of improvement. That is what drives them to Germany in the hope they will be better off there.

If we implement the fundamental change in policy outlined above, there will be enough money left to rebuild the cities of Syria, Iraq, and Lebanon, which today look like the cities of Germany in 1945. It will be money well spent; since these and many other countries in ten or twenty years will be counted among Germany’s best trade partners, because the German reconstruction aid granted today will not be forgotten.

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For example: On Sept. 30 EIR's Daily Alert featured Lyndon LaRouche's warning that the action must be taken immediately to remove President Obama in order to not only avoid further provocations toward World War III, but to avoid a disorderly collapse of Wall Street.

"If Wall Street collapses in a debt panic, that chaotic destructive force can lead to death and destruction in the United States and around the world," he said. FDR's Glass-Steagall is needed now.

Russian President Vladimir Putin's recent initiative in Syria has weakened Obama and created the necessary opening to do what's needed. But time is of the essence.

This is intelligence you need to act on, if we are going to survive as a nation and a species. Can you really afford to be without it?

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