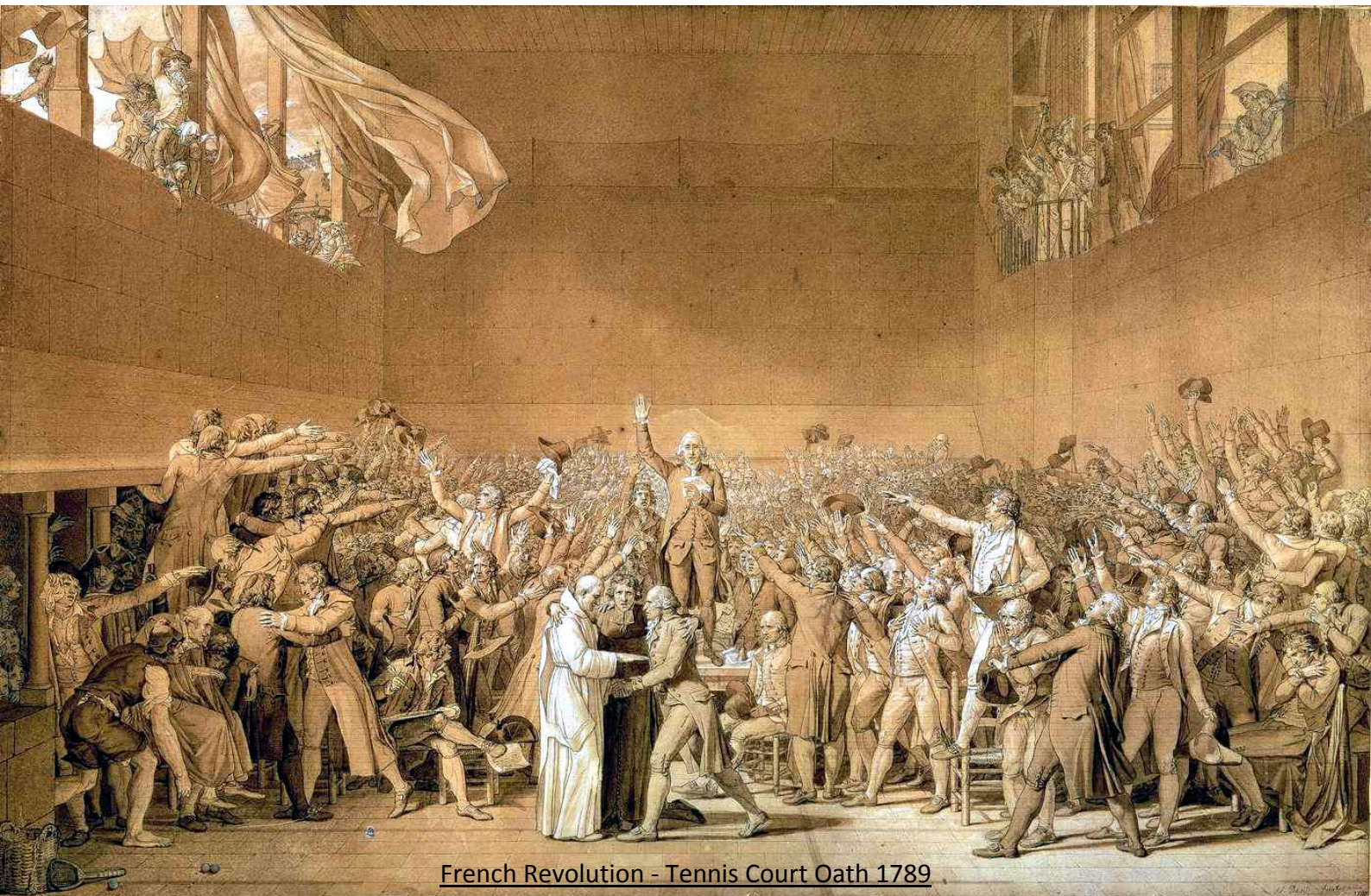


REBELLION



French Revolution - Tennis Court Oath 1789

AN ESSAY

by

MARC. GUIOT & AXEL JÜRGENS

EYES OF EUROPE

EUROPE

MORE THAN 200 YEARS OF REBELLIONS

- 1789 FRENCH REVOLUTION
- 1848 GERMAN REVOLUTIONS
- 1848 MANIFESTO
- 1953 EAST-GERMANY (GDR)
- 1956 HUNGARY
- 1968 FRANCE GERMANY ITALY etc
- 1969 PRAGUE
- 1989 EAST-GERMANY (GDR)
- 2004 UKRAINE
- 2018 EU

IT NEEDS:

A MODERN CONSTITUTION
FOR EUROPE'S NEW ERA

ESSAY ↓

R E B E L L I O N

GUIOT | JÜRGENS

WILL CIVILIZED MANKIND HAVE THE GENIUS, THE INTELLIGENCE AND ABOVE ALL THE WILL AND WISDOM TO RESIST AND TURN THE TIDE?

A film of vaporous mist is floating on the river Meuse. The sky hesitates, sometimes blue, sometimes pink. I enjoy my early morning tea in small sips listening to the doves coo in the trees, as on the first morning of the world...And yet this millennial land has begun to burn resulting from the proud imperity of the human/inhuman race. It has been predicted by some that by the end of this century the earth may have become uninhabitable. After the flood, the plagues of Egypt, the countless wars and the nuclear fire, here comes the era of the great desert.

The climate is getting hotter and we are very unlikely to take refuge on Mars where water has been detected in masses under the surface of the planet. It is far too "*complicated*" as they say now.

Arctic and Antarctic glaciers are melting like snow in the sun. The oceans gorge themselves with fresh water, swell and they threaten to drive the exotic insular inhabitants northwards. Trump sees nothing but fire. Isn't he an avatar of Hitler, an incarnation of that antichrist of whom the scriptures speak with terror or simply an opportunist? I reread Thoreau's texts written in his solitary cabin on the edge of the Walden pond in the shade of the century-old douglas firs. He and Emerson that no one read anymore have suddenly found new colors. I also revisited Krishnamurti the Anglo-Indian sage and Eckermann's conversations with Goethe, the European magician. I am aware of living here full amazement of mother nature in an oasis threatened by an ogress civilization that devours man while reducing it to recycled waste.

California is being affected by the biggest fire in its history. Two separate huge fires ravaging northern California have just joined to form the largest fire in the history of this American state. More than 14.000 firemen are mobilized. Nine people died. These foolish Californians have wasted all the water in the area to water their lawns wit a catastrophic result: drought, heat waves, and

destruction of trees. Man failed to hold back ancient disasters. Islands like Malta have been ravaged by the cutting down of trees that were used to build boats. *Trump promised an Apocalypse to Iran! Fate decided California.....*

Foretaste of the summers of the future? The current heat wave clearly shows what may prove be normal in the future. And it could get much worse: Italy would then be a desert warns Joachim Laukenmann. *Nobody wants to hear about the dusty fields and brown meadows that the farmers complain about provided you could finish your own existence comfortably . But what will be in 50, in 100, in 150 years? Especially if the climate targets set in Paris are not achieved, the current US President never had any goals in this regard and only a few million people have just added a few numbers to their ecological footprint.*

What will our children and grandchildren say when they look back on us and see how damn carelessly we have dealt with the earth? Or is that no longer carelessness at the end of the day, but resignation? *Do you wonder, while floating on a plastic swimming animal over the swimming lake, which took you two hours this Sunday, because bumper after bumper on the highway. While the farmers shower their afflicted cattle, the concrete on the motorways breaks down. History will judge us*

HOW THE EARTH COULD SHIFT TO AN UNCONTROLLABLE CLIMATE

Even if humanity manages to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as foreseen by the Paris agreement, the planet itself could disrupt human efforts and fall into an unsustainable state of oven. With such a scenario, the average temperature of the Earth could stabilize at +4°C or +5°C compared to the pre-industrial era, well beyond the objective of the Paris climate agreement (+2°C maximum), according to this study by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS).

Greenhouse gas emissions have already caused the Earth's average temperature to rise by 1°C, increasing the likelihood and intensity of heat waves, droughts or storms.

HUMANITY ENCROACHES ON FUTURE RESOURCES

Since Wednesday August 1st, humanity has exhausted all the natural resources that the Earth is capable of regenerating in a year, according to the international research institute Global Footprint Network, which calculates each year the "day of overtaking". If the whole world were to lead the European way of life, the deadline would fall on April 2nd.

The ecological costs of human pressures on the earth are increasingly evident: deforestation, soil erosion, loss of biodiversity, accumulation of carbon in the atmosphere, etc. *"It is said that humanity needs 1.7 planets to live as it does today,"* summarizes Global Footprint Network. Carbon emissions account for more than half of the bill.

To reverse the trend, profound changes in the way we consume and produce energy are needed, argues Global Footprint Network. *"For example, a 50% reduction in global animal protein consumption could push back the date by five days. Similarly, halving the global carbon footprint would save 93 days,"* the institute says.

LET'S CHANGE OUR WAY OF LIFE!

"All these mechanisms are interconnected, according to the authors of the study, and one of them could trigger another, then another. These cascading events could push the Earth system as a whole into a new mode of operation."

This harmful warming is clearly the result of man and his civilization. What's the point of denying it?

The only question is whether civilized man will have the genius, the intelligence and above all the will and wisdom to resist and turn the tide.

Everything started with the "steam" energy that led to the industrial revolutions that resulted into to the plundering of the planet's carbon resources. My new neighbours have deliberately chosen to live differently: without cars, without electricity, without a fridge and essentially heated with wood like the Quakers of yesteryear.

Quakers once practiced this simplicity in their dress, language and lifestyle. Like many other aspects of Quaker life, the practice of "*simplicity*" has evolved over time, although the basic principles have remained valid: simplicity, equality and integrity are their guiding values. Gandhi, without being their disciple, advocated sobriety and the obligation to "change" oneself in depth. Today, Pierre Rabhi proposes *to live better with less*. he is advocating *happy sobriety*.

Voluntary simplicity is a way of life consisting in deliberately reducing one's consumption, as well as its impacts, in order to lead a life more centered on values defined as "*essential*". This personal and/or associative commitment stems from multiple motivations."

How can we, ordinary citizens of the world, "*be the change we want to see in the world*" as Gandhi so rightly said.

In particular by asking us the following questions:

- how to distinguish the necessary from the superfluous?
- Do I have enough time to enrich myself not materially, but intellectually, socially, spiritually?
- am I happy in what I do?
- do I agree with my values, my expectations, my life prospects?
- how can I reduce my environmental footprint to best preserve our living environment and pass it on in good condition to future generations?
- how not to participate in the exploitation of men and not to support it?

Let us not forget, we are "*consumers' actors*" and our powers are numerous and powerful. A lot more than we think.

Breaking out of the mould of society is not easy, and we will certainly face many difficulties. This requires courage and perseverance. We must not shy away from the mockery of those who do not understand this approach, which is that of my direct neighbours. This requires infinite patience and above all pedagogy to get out of the consumerist model that guides our lives and our societies. There is an alternative to the race for growth. Infinite growth in a finite world makes no sense. Let's change it!

It's quickly said, of course. Some would even say that goes without saying. Nothing could be further from the truth. On the contrary, it is going against the current, as my neighbours do, young Flemings who fled Bart De Wever's Americanised Flanders to settle on the banks of the Meuse Wallonne in a beautiful ruined shanty where they live sparsely but happily in happy sobriety.

In the long run, we will all have to do like them or humanity will soon disappear in the face of the *triumph of death* as in the prophetic painting of Pierre Bruegel, the great whistle-blower.

One of the most dramatic consequences of global warming, rising temperatures and rising waters is obviously the explosion of immigration from African countries to the Northern Hemisphere.

THE TRIANGLE OF EXTREMES (By Jacques Attali)

In a world that is increasingly fascinating and dangerous, whereby the most beautiful promises coexist with the worst threats; during this summer time, while a pause that is infinitely brief settles before the endless streams of fake news, shoddy scandals, neglected great discoveries and discarded acts of bravery resume, there is still time to calmly observe the strange geometry of forces that threaten democracy today.

Three forces, which are a priori unrelated to each other, and relatively powerless separately, are in the process of overtaking the powers in place by their alliance, implicit at first, but also explicit when it becomes possible.

The first force brings together all the proponents of the nationalist right-wings, hostile to the ruling class and taxed with frenzied globalism, xenophobic (or, at least, hostile to any non-European presence on their soil), supporters of a strong government, willingly close to the circles that are most threatened by modernity, and reliant on regional movements.

The second force brings together all the most radical leftists, hostile to capitalism and to the financial elites, the technocrats that are supposed to serve them and the frantic globalization of the markets, and reliant on globalist movements such as human rights and environmental movements that are hostile to capitalism.

The third force is of a very different nature, because it brings together, on social networks, those who, frequently protected by anonymity, insult, assault, slander, mock, insult, threaten, all those who whether near or far, have the least ounce of power, celebrity or influence.

These three forces have a priori nothing to do together or with each other. They are, nonetheless, united against essential matters, such as the attitude towards money and democracy, capitalism, migrants, ecology, globalization, xenophobia. However, more and more, these forces are allies and triumphant in various circumstances, thus creating what I call here, “the triangle of extremes.”

In the United States, these forces were discovered at the end of the campaign, in support of Trump, against the establishment that represented Hillary Clinton. In Great Britain, these forces allied to form the coalition that won in the referendum on Brexit. In Italy, their alliance led to the ascendance of an unnatural coalition between the League and Five Star movement. The same path is found in Austria, Hungary and Poland.

In France, these three powers had remained openly opposed, until strangely we’ve recently found them allied during a ridiculous controversy; united in the mad hope of bringing down power, without having the slightest idea of what they would do, together or separately, if they succeeded.

And tomorrow? Will these powers continue to oppose and insult each other? Or will they unite more and more openly? In fact, if they feel that together they can put an end to what each one indistinctly labels « the system, » they will unite, hoping, deep down, that the other two are only “useful idiots” for them. Experience shows that “useful idiots” are usually on the left wing and true winners usually on the right wing. In reality, in all cases, the true losers are the democratic regimes.

Because, basically, what these three forces really have in common is not only the hatred of the ruling classes, but the hatred of democracy and what it implies: the compromise, the half-measure, nuance, and tolerance vis-à-vis the point of view of others.

If we want to prevent them from triumphing, and prevent the triangle from imposing its laws, there is only one solution: do everything so that the elite remains open, so that everyone can have access to the various forms of power; so that, disappointed cohorts may never have an interest in allying themselves against endogamous leaders, cut off from people, their values and their dreams.

*Isn't it high time we began to resist the excesses of capitalism, *the market and the forces that drive it are mechanisms; not easy to eliminate or weaken. And those who, in the tribunes, in Parliament, in books or stubborn invectives, use the rhetoric of the people**

We must look for causes. What matters is neither to knock off the leaders, who are already more or less interchangeable, nor the leading figures of a triumphant plutocracy, but rather to change the mechanisms by which democracy and the market are organized, which have led to the current disaster, including the ecological one.

Isn't it high time to change the ideology of the world, and to change the rules of the game. To do otherwise would not change anything in the world, except that it would open the way to new totalitarian powers, not necessarily more pleasant than those of today. All anger, all rage is welcome in these fights, provided that you understand the stake and do not misappropriate the hopes.

The battle lines are now drawn for Europe's ultimate test: the [May 2019](#) elections for the European parliament.

The [migration](#) issue is the starting point of a continental power struggle pitching two very different versions of the principles that should bind Europe together. One is liberal democratic, and attuned to the notion of an open society; the other is fortress-minded, illiberal and intolerant. This has global implications:

anti-EU leaders in [Washington](#) and [Moscow](#) want to reap their own rewards from the mayhem – which they are playing their own part in fomenting. June 2018 shook Europe's liberal order in unprecedented ways. First, there was a far-right show of strength in Italy (the first EU founding state to be run by a far-right dominated government), as the [Aquarius migrant rescue](#) ship was turned away.

Next, the 31-year-old Austrian chancellor, Sebastian Kurz, who governs alongside the Freedom party, an institution created in the 1950s by former Nazis, heralded the creation of a new "*axis of the willing*" in Europe, comprising [like-minded populists](#) in Italy and Hungary. Then came an assault on the power of [Angela Merkel](#) in Berlin.

To top it all off, from across the Atlantic Donald Trump decided the occasion warranted one of the most provocative tweets of his presidency. Trump appeared to relish the possibility of Merkel's downfall, [writing](#): "The people of Germany are turning against their leadership as migration is rocking the already tenuous Berlin coalition." Trump had earlier given the nod to irredentism in Europe, in claiming: "[Crimea is Russia](#) because people there speak Russian."

Seehofer, Orbán, Salvini and others are keen to get rid of the liberal order within the EU. They want to mould it according to their conservative Christian, nation-centered beliefs, and they see the west as being under assault from non-white and Muslim threats and migration. This was a vision also laid out by Trump in his [2017 Warsaw speech](#).

They don't want to break up [Europe](#), they want to take control of it.

The "axis" will grow branches in Poland's populist-led government and in parts of the Balkans. These people may not agree on everything, (for example, Salvini wants compulsory EU relocation plans for refugees, which Orbán rejects) but their interests are sufficiently aligned to make this the perfect moment to launch a common assault on EU institutions.

The "axis" aims to get rid of Merkel and seize control of the European People's party (EPP), which has dominated the EU parliament for years and encompasses all the mainstream rightwing forces. The EPP has been a vehicle for Merkel's hegemony over the EU all these years, which is one of the reasons she has always refrained from [chucking out Orbán](#) and his Fidesz party.

These leaders are now uniting to attempt a national-populist takeover of the EU as we've known it. Merkel is only the first target in a wider endeavour.

Orbán, who's arguably the most outspoken about this, made the strategy abundantly clear in a recent speech. He suggested the EPP would need to change if it wanted to survive, and threatened to set up a new, "[pan-European anti-immigration formation](#)" if the EPP isn't ready to be renewed on his terms. What's to be done? The French president, Emmanuel Macron, and Merkel will try to peel away some parts of the "axis".

For the democratic-minded across Europe, it is the time to make a clear choice. Surely anti-far-right forces must unite. A wide movement of civil resistance must be organized.

EUROPE'S DEMOCRATS MUST UNITE TO PREVENT A FAR-RIGHT TAKEOVER

The battle lines are now drawn for Europe's ultimate test: the [May 2019](#) elections for the European parliament. That's when far-right and populist parties will attempt to complete their [power grab](#) in the EU. In the elections of 2014, they made gains. Next year, they'll seek to dominate. The dramatic events we've witnessed recently, in [Germany](#) and [Italy](#) have been a mere foretaste of the showdown that lies ahead. ([Natalie Nougayrède](#) in the Guardian)

The [migration](#) issue is the starting point of a continental power struggle pitching two very different versions of the principles that should bind Europe together. One is liberal democratic, and attuned to the notion of an open society; the other is fortress-minded, illiberal and intolerant. This has global implications: anti-EU leaders in [Washington](#) and [Moscow](#) want to reap their own rewards from the mayhem – which they are playing their own part in fomenting.

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Surely anti-far-right forces must unite. We need to get their priorities right, before it's too late.

The revolt nowadays consists basically at most of letters to the editor, or "demonstrations of others".

A common "getting up" and "doing" does not concern the generation of "40+", they creep away in esoteric groups or "psycho-commemorations", and refers in things politics and social change - like the "60+ers" did before them - to the "Yongsters", i.e. to the "Teenies" and the 20+ers. who will have to solve the problems resulting from the "new world order", which the 40s and the 60s leave over to them. Some out of lethargy and ignorance, others out of greed. and the addiction to (all)power. Maybe a very powerful kick in the buttocks will bring movement into the inert mass:

One should take away something symbolical from this mass in order to tear it out of its inertia in order to enrage it enormously.

But what could one take from an ideologically completely supersaturated society to make it and proactively participate in the restructuring of the world community? The football game? Television? The car? Surveillance?

None of this is going help. The only thing that helps is education! (Joint) education arouses curiosity, makes angry, frightening...(A. Jürgens)

HOW COULD A WIDE MOVEMENT OF CIVIL RESISTANCE BE ORGANISED?

During the summer we have reached a point of no return. The world is falling apart, civilization is decivilizing. Europe is questioning its future. The climate is going crazy. Democracy is distorting itself. Chaos threatens democratic order. Immigration is exploding and threatening to happen together worldwide. Islamist radicalism threatens social cohesion. Exacerbated individualism, inevitably jeopardizes organized solidarity.

Multiculturalism jeopardizes the social contract and the social climate. Culture and religion, the cement that holds the bricks together, crack: the stones space and the bricks move apart. Education, whose aim is to unify, no longer succeeds.

Colonization, a clumsy attempt to civilize the developing peoples, proved to be a failure followed by disaster, especially in Africa, which has great difficulty in ensuring its autonomy against the giants of the United States, Europe and China.

Africa is tempted to undertake an upside-down colonization, towards Europe. Can we envisage reversing such a process that global warming is obviously accelerating? There is only one answer: education!

European colonization was certainly ambitious but it ended in cultural failure, especially as regards the transmission of values and the democratic system. In many African countries, and even in Asia, dictatures were set up leading to an exodus of the most gifted and well-trained subjects. Paradoxically, it is the most devastated African states that tend to lose their educated elites to the European diaspora.

Humanity had its most critical hour when the great European war of 1940 turned into a world conflict. It is then that a reckless initiative in the form of a powerful radio transmitter emerged from the distant United States: Voice of America.

V.o. A. was to embody the defence of democratic values in the face of triumphant totalitarianisms. More modestly, the BBC which allowed the English to stand up to the Blitz lent its microphones to General de Gaulle who organized from the BBC London studios the resistance to the Nazi occupation. Voice of America has kept the libertarian flame alive by tirelessly proclaiming on the airwaves the superiority of the values of freedom and democracy. The operation proved most beneficial.

In face of the new threats facing humanity, it is up to Eyes of Europe to federate a vast resistance movement on the airwaves and screens. The aim is to launch an appeal to the youth of Europe and the world in the form of daily teaching with a pan-European dimension.

National and regional education systems have failed. They made a major contribution at the dawn of the 1914 war and again in 1940 to maintain and exacerbate nationalist tensions.

Europe and undoubtedly the world as well need a platform for self-active European education capable of transmitting to European teenagers the democratic values and cultural treasures accumulated by the European genius. Eyes of Europe is the best way and perhaps the only one to train a critical European citizen consciousness capable of facing not only the nationalist “galimatia” but also the radical preacher of the Salafist Islamists very present on the net.

We have been saying this since 1997, but we have been stubbornly refused to get listened.

But now, at the heart of this summer 2018 drama, Europeans, without exception, take the urgent need to react.

In 1939 after the *Munich agreements* Churchill declared to Neville Chamberlain "*You were given the choice between war and dishonour. You chose dishonour, and you will have war.*"

Today we have the choice between nationalist temptation
and a collective resistance to the mediocrity
of the dictatorship of the markets...

MAKING EUROPE FIT FOR THE WORLD

It must be clear, however, that Europe cannot isolate itself from the rest of the world, like an island in the middle of the ocean.

Perhaps is it time to move away from Uncle Sam and his nuclear umbrella to get closer to the Russian giant our close neighbour, our first source of energy and better bulwark against a possible invasion from distant Asia.

Perhaps this is the time to forge new ties of good neighbourliness and cooperation with distant Africa and the fascinating East.

Why is it more important than ever to cover the entire "Middle East" and all North African states interactively to the completely new ones to be built and newly networked "United States of Europe?"

How and what is the best way to do this?

That would entail that Eyes of Europe gradually may turn itself into Eyes of the World. But that is an entirely different story as Katja Kipling would say.

[MARC GUIOT](#) | [AXEL JÜRGENS](#)

AUGUST 2018