

Constant criticism of Putin and the „Crimea accusation“ – The Facts at a Glance

Zusammenfassung / summary:

The western, politically conform leading media miss no opportunity to vehemently criticize the Russian President Wladimir Putin . Although Putin is - according to recent surveys in Russia – more popular than ever before. One accusation never fails to be mentioned and repeatedly brought up: Russia supposedly annexed Crimea - meaning: illegally taking it - and like this started a war in the Ukraine.

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The western, politically conform leading media miss no opportunity to vehemently criticize the Russian President Wladimir Putin . Although Putin is - according to recent surveys in Russia – more popular than ever before. Even Swiss radio and TV-station “SRF” had to admit on October 06, 2015 – he is constantly being accused of “abusing his power”. One accusation never fails to be mentioned and repeatedly brought up: Russia supposedly annexed Crimea - meaning: illegally taking it - and like this started a war in the Ukraine. This is what German East-European historian Karl Schlögel claimed, for instance, on Swiss radio - SRF - on October 02, 2015. In several of our broadcasts Kla.tv referred to the counter-statements which refute this accusation. Due to it's current relevance we summarized the most important counter-voices here in this broadcast: First: Concerning the accusation that Russia started the war in Ukraine by annexing Crimea: The military conflict in East-Ukraine started in Kiev just after the revolution there in February 2014. After overthrowing President Viktor Janukowitsch on February 22, 2014 the new government ordered troops to the Eastern cities Donetsk and Lugansk. These areas did not accept the nationalist coined government power-transfer and proclaimed their independence as “People's Republics”. According to diverse historians the USA was behind the coup: Victoria Nuland, representative of the US foreign minister unintentionally made public in an intercepted telephone call that the USA invested five billion dollars to put a new government in power in Ukraine. However Janukowitsch's overthrow clearly was an unconstitutional coup. According to article 108 of the Ukrainian constitution removal from office is only allowed in case of resignation, of death, for health reasons or through an impeachment. The three-quarter majority in the parliament which is necessary for an impeachment – was not reached despite invalid, illegal multiple votes. Consequently, the unconstitutional government overthrow must be seen as the trigger of the war in Eastern-Ukraine. The course which the crisis in the Ukraine has taken together with various counter-statements can be found in other Kla.tv broadcasts on the topic Ukraine crisis.

2. Concerning the accusation that Russia has annexed Crimea:

- Karl Albrecht Schachtschneider Prof. and Dr. of law summarized his detailed investigations of whether this is about an illegal annexation or about a legal integration of Crimea - as follows: “The right to self-determination of the citizens of Crimea cannot be repealed by international agreements or by the constitution of Ukraine. Crimea had and has the right, as autonomous republic, to go its own way and to separate itself from Ukraine. The support from Russia for Crimea's integration process was relative and no breach of international law.” -The United Nations Charter – chapter 1, article 1, paragraph 2 – says in relation to international security, as follows - I quote: “(it is the purpose) to develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples” End of quote. This right to self-determination – by the way for the peoples not for the countries – is what the citizens of the Crimea made use of through the peaceful referendum on March 16, 2014. The population voted with over 96% for the accession to the Russian Federation. Crimea made use of this right to self-determination for the peoples through the referendum on March 16, 2014. This request by Crimea was consequently accepted by Moscow which is not contrary to international law according to Prof of Law, Dr. Reinhard Merkel, an expert for international law. This was accepted worldwide for Kosovo some years ago as well. The separation of

Crimea from the state-entity Ukraine was not against international law but at most against the Ukrainian constitution. It remains outstanding, after the unconstitutional coup d'état in Kiev to what extent the constitution can still be called lawful. - According to the so called "Final act of Helsinki" the borders have to be accepted such as they existed after the Second World War in 1945. However, Crimea was only given to the Ukraine in 1954 due to the resolution of former Soviet Head-of-State Nikita Chruschtschow, without asking the population of Crimea about it. The last head of state of the Soviet Union, Michail Gorbatschow, said the following concerning this. I quote: „Now the people of Crimea have decided to correct this mistake.“ The Final Act of Helsinki was signed on the first of August, 1975 by 35 heads of states - of Organization for Security and cooperation in Europe - short OSCE - member countries. Annexation means illegally and forcefully taking control of foreign territory. This accusation can certainly not be made against Russia: no forceful takeover happened. According to statements by police spokesmen Crimea's separation from Ukraine only cost two lives. One member of the people's militia and one Ukrainian soldier were killed by an as-of-yet unidentified sniper. The American Congressman Alan Grayson already denounced the groundless accusations against Putin on March 25th, 2014. The Russian military, which has been stationed legally - according to a lease from Ukraine from 2010 - took over the role of peace-keeper in Crimea during the separation process. Grayson said - I quote: „In fact the Russians did assist - they assisted by disarming the local Ukrainian army and navy. That's what they did. They did it virtually bloodlessly. They did that so that the Ukrainian army and navy could not interfere in the referendum that was held. That is the fact of the matter. Why are we pretending otherwise? Why are we speaking about „naked aggression“? Why are we speaking about „stealing Crimea“. Why are we speaking about „bullying“ or „the new Soviet Union“... or „audacious power-grabbing“ or „bully-bear Putin“ or „Coldwar 2“.“

These were the relevant, most important facts and counter-voices to the accusations that Russia annexed Crimea. Judge for yourself if these constantly repeated accusations are even anywhere close to the truth.

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Autor / Author: dd.