

A mentality excluding children or even an anti-child attitude prevails. Mass abortions in Europe have led to a demographic catastrophe. Millions of children are aborted, because families, states and societies supposedly cannot afford more children, because other priorities have been set. Today the children aborted the last 30 years are missing! Childlessness is hereditary, since children not born cannot have children. For our generation, rather than five minutes to midnight it is already half past twelve!

Let us dare a turnaround, for we need a new re-evaluation of children and family in societal, juridical and financial terms. We need a new appreciation of life and motherhood. As mothers, many women feel neglected by society. Motherhood seems to have become one of the lesser options for women.

A society that does not wish to perish due to childlessness, must not only acknowledge the efforts put into raising and educating a child, but also remunerate it financially! And this is not a form of alms or a kind of social politics, but rather justice in regard to parents' efforts and political rationality. Demographer Prof. Herwig Birg says *„The removal of economic exploitation of families is a necessary condition for the wish for children to become again an understood model of development of personality.“* („Die ausgefallene Generation“, S. 147).

Despite all public alms it is the parents who bear five-sixths of all costs in raising children. But 100 % of the senior citizens profit by this investment, the ones without children just as well as those who rendered the input. One can hold the opinion that raising children is simply a private pleasure, a luxury enjoyed by some couples. But if having children is indeed a private pleasure, if parenthood has nothing to do with society, so then for justice sake financial security in old age must be privatized as well. It cannot be just to privatize the costs of some matters (in this case, raising children), but at the same time socialize the benefits of it for everybody.

We have to learn again to take up responsibility; for our own lives, for children and the future of society. If Europe does not want to perish in its self-realisation egoism, then we need a new appreciation for mothers and fathers. Namely those people who personally take up responsibility for the future, that is, for children.

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Further literature:

- Frank Schirrmacher, „Minimum. The Fading and Re-emergence of Our Community“, Blessing 2006, ISBN: 978-3-89667-291-9.
- Stephan Baier: „kinderlos. Europa in der demographischen Falle“, MM-Verlag, Aachen 2006.
- Herwig Birg: „Die ausgefallene Generation. Was die Demographie über unsere Zukunft sagt“, C.H.Beck Verlag 2005.