

Op-ed: A new Gaullism in Europe versus the US and Russia?

Perhaps a return to the European Economic Community with a touch of Gaullism. Purely based on economic cooperation and a European counterweight to the Wolfowitz doctrine, which has been in place since the 1990s and only promotes US interests.

Time and again, US/EU sanctions have proved ineffective and are therefore not an adequate remedy. Resulting in rising inflation and recession in Europe. The dependence on gas and oil? How so? Russia and Europe had a gentleman's agreement. Purely business. Now Europe is paying 4 times more for US LNG which can not even replace Russian gas. Business blunder of the highest order and only now there is dependence.

In short, Gaullism stands for grandeur, independence, and national unity of the state. Now that this need not apply only to France, this principle can apply integrally to all European countries. The EEC, not to be confused with the federative EU principles, fits perfectly into Gaullist thinking.

De Gaulle, who was so fanatically opposed to the United States during the Cold War, must almost have sought rapprochement with the Soviet Union, right? No way!

For practical and principled reasons, he rejected the division of the world into two ideological blocs. The first objection was that it restricted countries' diplomatic freedom of movement. Individual countries were expected not to establish relations with countries from the other bloc and to align their foreign policy with the leading country within their own bloc. In addition, he feared a self-fulfilling prophecy. As long as the two blocs assumed that (nuclear?) conflict was inevitable in the long run, the threat of war would increase rather than decrease.

Using ideology to guide international relations is unrealistic. It is more effective to start from the interests of countries, as it is difficult for government leaders to ignore them. Ideologies have been considered temporary phenomena. Views can change and blow over, but the need to keep the country afloat remains.

Military deterrence is necessary, but bilateral diplomatic, economic and cultural relations can eventually create a Europe 'from the Atlantic to the Urals'. And why couldn't European countries do business with Russia on points like they do with the US?

Weakening Europe and strengthening the US is a failed file. Many EU capitals and polls consider the US as the biggest economic threat.