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Ukraine Crisis: all about Crimea

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Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen,



Welcome to our media commentary. At the annual meeting of the OECD - Organization for Eco-nomic Co-operation and development - on the 4th, of December in Basel, Switzerland, the German Minister of Foreign Affairs Steinmeier and his US colleague John Kerry practiced again using sharp criticism against Russia. Yet again they assessed the incorporation of Crimea into the Russian Fed-eration as being an annexation by Russia and therefore against international law. In his annual speech to the Russian nation shortly before this, President Putin had once again explained the pro-ceedings which had actually happened in Crimea. Putin emphasized that the incorporation of Cri-mea was completely in compliance with international law. Aside from this the Black-sea peninsula has a "great cultural and sacred value" for Russia - as President Putin expressed - comparable to what the temple mount in Jerusalem means to those committed to Judaism or Islam. Which party is right and what exactly does international law express concerning the issue? A look into the United Nations Charter gives clarity. Chapter 1, article 1, paragraph 2, describes how world peace and international security is to be preserved: There should be - I quote: "friendly relationships devel-oped - based on respect of the basic principles of equal-rights and self-determination of the Na-tions." End of quote. This internationally recognized right of the peoples to selfdetermination was applied by the people of Crimea in their peaceful referendum on the 16th of March this year. Over 96% voted for accession to the Russian Federation. Russia merely gave its agreement to this wish to accede, similar to agreeing to a marriage proposal. The detachment of Crimea from the political body Ukraine is therefore not against international law, but at most not complying with the Ukrai-nian constitution. After the violent overthrow in Kiev it is uncertain whether there is even a legal Ukrainian constitution at all. The western powers - especially the USA - continue to vilify the Cri-mean referendum vote as a "violent annexation" by Russia, which would more resemble a rape than a marriage proposal. The sanctions against Russia are up until today, justified by this reputed "Rus-sian aggression". There is no end in sight for the sanctions, rather continually new and sharper sanctions based on these same accusations. The Ukrainian government's intent to reconquer Crimea is completely unacceptable in light of the peace negotiations and the United Nations Charter just cited. This would only be possible through a direct military conflict with Russia which must be clearly condemned as aggressive and against international law. The western massmedia is however consensually keeping silent about this danger and instead with iron tenacity they continue to blame Russia alone for the crisis. Meanwhile the government representatives in Kiev are planning to frame a new version of the national security plan and work out a new military strategy. The key priority in these projects is - in opposition to the peaceful referendum vote on March 16th, 2014 - the reestablishment of Ukrainian political sovereignty on Crimean territory". Ladies and gentlemen, Kla-tv. has already dealt in various broadcasts, this past year, critically and in depth with the con-troversial Crimean issue. By spreading these broadcasts you also can help us make the counter-voice to the western main-stream media heard. Thank you and see you next time at Kla-tv.

from mh./ hm.

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