



New approaches - new horizons



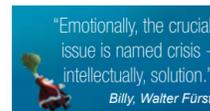
EVERYTHING AS ALWAYS! ONLY QUITE DIFFERENT.

WHAT is different? HOW is it different? And WHY is it different?

At any rate, Christmas this time around won't be "as always", the new year won't begin "as usual", "as normal" certainly won't apply during the months ahead, let alone to the many stereotyped wishes, romanticised goals and expectations of more, better, further, greater and swiftly achievable prospects ... not to mention the feeling that "everything will turn out fine" and blossom into a blissful, carefree future.

Pandemic, climate and war! Shortages, consumer unease and exploding costs! Sacrifices made under pressure, discontent and despair! Inflation, migration and aggression! Existential fears! Declining values, both material and ideal. Isolation and egotism. The "I" taking stage centre. Me first. Then a wide gap before anyone else merits consideration. And, taking bottom place, the spirit of togetherness, society, our community, the state. Speaking of "the State" – it will, IT must sort things out. After all, it's our state, together with "its politicians", that have screwed things up. They're the ones who'll have to take charge if I can no longer handle matters alone or better. Stuck between pressure-plagued expectations and hope: Plans leading nowhere. Handling matters frantically. Pleading and searching as if lost in the deepest forest. Change after change dictated by insecurity, undertaken simply for the sake of change. A winding, serpentine path followed as if in a daze.

This is no voluntary pause in which to think things over, no planned renewal arising from deliberation, reflection, analysis, selfinspired decisions or action,



no selfinitiated new approach or path, but, instead, nothing greater than a short-winded, hectic reaction to the tsunami wave of crises that show no sign of abating, thus leaving us with the sensation of swimming around in permanent crisis mode. Circumstances are driving us onwards ... and it's not particularly inspiring to know that we're simply reacting, not sitting in the "driver's seat" as the initiator, decisively shaping the way ahead. The boat we've missed. Matters botched. Screwed up.

Indeed a pity – but perhaps that's the way things must be, probably this is the only possible course to take. Too many people with too many expectations focused on their own needs and wellbeing – setting high, indeed the utmost demands as far as their own interests are concerned, but not, unfortunately, on themselves.

Upheaval, awakening, normality! Crises as normality! The crisis mode as the new normality? Assuming that's the case, is Life the normal crisis? Not at all! Life means more and is different. Living life means reacting if necessary and shaping if possible. These are the opportunities that we far too rarely take. But it's the necessity of reacting that all too frequently takes priority, all too intensively causes us to simply drift along. In this way Life becomes nothing more than a collection, an accumulation of missed opportunities. Yet it needn't be that way.

Whenever crises have arisen, the maxim all too often has been "Close your eyes and keep going" – things will sort themselves out. But they won't. Not by themselves...! The only remedy available is to "reset", to create the "hot reset" in the mind, in thought and in the heart, analogous to "digital thinking"! But: **IF NOT NOW, THEN WHEN?!** For: Never before have we known so much,

been aware of, been able to accomplish as much as today. Never have so many opportunities, both material and financial, been available to us thanks to vast resources, know-how, technology, raw materials, mobility and infrastructure. There is more than enough for everyone and everything. However: Much of what we know is badly thought out, often enough badly accomplished and, in the main, badly distributed. Some must abstain, others have no intention of abstaining. Things can't go on this way. For that reason, in no small measure, unrest and turmoil are troubling so many places on earth, in all states, in all nations ... Humankind, too. Our planet's population, now totalling over eight billion people, has never been so large, and will continue to grow for some time yet. And the challenges this poses will grow accordingly.

We are therefore faced with a problem. A veritable problem in every sense of the word. An important component of any corresponding solution lies in achieving the "right", at least better, more just level of distribution. And that is only possible through redistribution. Achieving this will be the key to any solution. And should we believe that we are fully prepared for this task, let's think anew – for one factor is in short supply, and certainly not available in the measure required: Time! Therefore: **IF NOT NOW, THEN WHEN?!**

Never before have Freedom and the very symbol of Freedom, Democracy, faced graver dangers than those facing us now. Never before has it been so apparent that, in extending our personal freedom, it must never be allowed to restrict the freedom of others. This can only be countered through awareness, through conviction, through willpower – followed by efficient action, i.e. by acting in full accordance with those principles!



And not by simply adjusting a little here, subsidising a little there, or by creating concepts transposed into the vacuum of the political sphere. Here we still have a damned long way to go. In order to gain this awareness, this all-supportive conviction, we will probably need to experience and endure far more difficulties on the road ahead, although these need not necessarily take the form of catastrophes. Evidence reveals, however, that the learning curve of humankind, both as individuals and per se, is relatively flat. The major crises and catastrophes this world of ours has endured confirm that we have learnt nothing from them; regardless of whether these were economic or financial crises, of a political or social nature, or natural catastrophes caused by humankind itself, the worst revelation of all is crystal clear: even the horrors of war have failed to teach us anything and we instead continue to repeat them.

Nevertheless – quite on the contrary in fact – NOW represents more than just irrational hope, standing out, instead, as a beacon for truly noticeable change. One brought about by the noticeable willingness of the far from few of us who realise that all matters can be adjusted and fixed by the many - and many more to come - who recognise and wish this to materialise, who can tackle such tasks, hand in hand with the many who already now are initiating the steps to be taken, acting and truly getting to grips with the challenges ahead. In this way providing a source of encouragement.

We will have to change the way we view the world. Then the way we view ourselves, both individually and as a community. Or vice versa. Everyone as they can and wish.

But: We MUST change our lives. And, in doing so, live that change.



With conviction. Insight. Willingly. Consequently. Lastingly, over and over again. As one of life's crucial processes.

In the end, for sure, "everything will turn out fine". Just differently, "differently fine" in this case. And should things not yet turn out fine enough – that, by no means, is a dead end. Recognising and appreciating all this, desiring it, progressing onwards together, if not always unanimously, then at least predominantly (with majority backing), that is my most fervent wish for us all. It could all be quite simple. So let's simply get on with it. Simply so. So simple! **IF NOT NOW, THEN WHEN?!**

Here's to a differently happy and good new year in 2023! But troubled by thoughts for all those, wherever they may be in this world of ours, whose lives are far from fortunate, far less fortunate than ours.

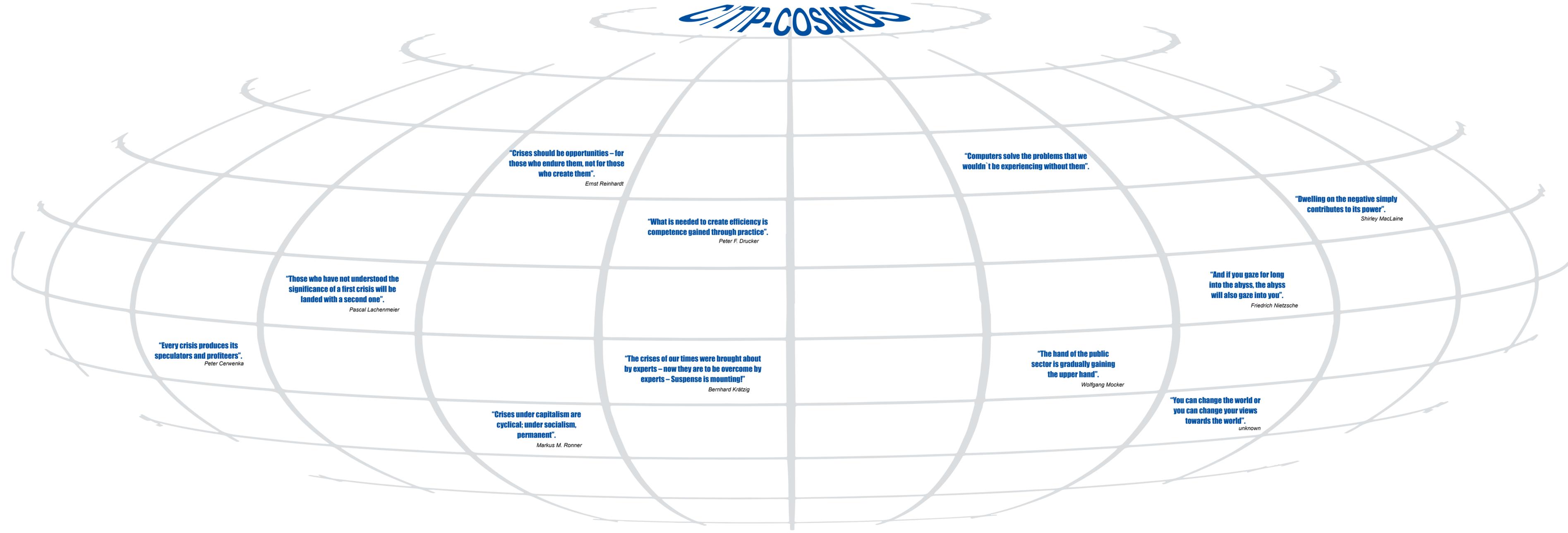
Everything will remain. Different.

With warmest regards

Capt. Thomas Pöttsch - and the entire CIP-Team

REVIEW

2022



2023

PREVIEW