

ENCLOSURE B2

Jonas Stengaard Jensen: "Marie Krarup: Europe, the US and Russia must find common ground in the European cultural heritage".

Ræson. June 6, 2018. Excerpts.

Interview with Marie Krarup, former spokesperson on Defence for the Danish People's Party.

RÆSON: When examining the world, it is hard to miss the "America First"-agenda of Donald Trump and his systematic undermining of the accomplishments of the Obama-administration (free trade with Asia, the Paris climate accord), and now also the US break with the Iran nuclear deal. What has Trump shown us about the US and the world?

KRARUP: I find Trump's strategy of "America First" solid in theory. However, his actions might not always be the right ones. He does not do what he has said he would – which causes problems in a wide range of areas. It is obvious that we in the Danish People's Party fundamentally support the strategy of "America First" as the right strategy for the US, in the same sense that a strategy of "Denmark First" is the right strategy for Denmark. We believe that you should focus on your own country – with due respect paid to your allies; otherwise you will not have allies. When it comes down to it, there IS nothing odious in putting your own country at the centre of things, because this is where you are obligated to your fellow citizens and your homeland.

RÆSON: China also has a very centralized system; it has seen great economic and political success ensuring stability, growth and the bloom of capitalism. If these systems are on the rise and prove increasingly successful, while America gathers around an "America First"-agenda, is it then fair to start talking less about a hegemonic, unipolar world order?

KRARUP: It is inevitable. The US is weakened as others are strengthened. Others are actively working towards this end. The BRICS-countries want a multipolar world in which their influence is greater. The most interesting thing is the fact that those who are in favour of a multipolar world do not want a revolution. They have no desire to change the setup of the UN Security Council. They merely want things to work. This is why I believe it is wrong to call China and Russia "revolutionary" countries, because they have no desire to change the world order. Instead, they wish to stabilize it. They criticize the US for constantly circumventing the Security Council as the Security Council has veto rights. They support the current world order, but what they do want is the US to pay more heed to their voices in the Security Council. In the long run, I do not think the US can avoid this.

In Russia, they have given up on approaching the West – they turn themselves towards China, attach themselves to their "One Belt, One Road"- project and work together on a wide range of areas. This is a sad development, because I do not think that we in Europe are interested in Russia becoming the little brother of China. Russia is the weak party compared to China and risks being dominated. Russia has weak demographics in vast landmasses adjacent to China, while the reverse is the case in China. China and Russia do not share cultural ideas, just the same view of how the world is developing in terms of foreign policy. Europe, however, does share a cultural heritage with Russia, a fact which is overlooked due to the one-sided media coverage of Russia.