

ASIEN 91 (April 2004)

Abstract

Warum Japan den Irakkrieg des US-Präsidenten unterstützt hat

Klaus Schlichtmann

The absence of a legitimate, democratic global regulative power with real competencies, which the United Nations was originally meant to be, and the incapacity of the international community, especially the 'West' or rather the Europeans, to put the UN Security System 'into effect', have led to a situation where governments, to guarantee the safety and protection of their respective populations, take recourse to 'self help' and legal remedies. The Japanese Constitution is exemplary, for making a prior concession by renouncing the sovereign right of belligerency in the hope of achieving a future legal order of peace, it sets extraordinarily strict measures. The American engagement as a regulative power ('global policeman') as well as the attempt of the global community to put 'human Security' in the forefront and to codify 'State responsibility', are to be seen as remedies, which, however do not relieve governments of their responsibility, to follow up on their words and good intentions, and create an effective and legally binding order of peace, where general and complete disarmament, distributive justice, guaranties of human rights and Collective Security can be realized. The question why Japan supported the Iraq War has to be answered to the effect that on the one hand the island monarchy doesn't want to give up its basic pacifist stance, but on the other hand also can't keep aloof from its responsibility to contribute to global security and order.