

TEXT ZUM VORTRAG UND SEMINAR AM 9./10. MÄRZ IN BERLIN

The Gateway to Tomorrow's Economy

Despite the obvious horror of the event and its profound geo-political significance, when the Twin Towers fell in New York, was this a sign that a new modality is needed in the social and economic life of our times? No longer the upwards assertiveness of power over others, but a listening to the deeper aspects of modern economic life? Can we look behind the outer events to deeper layers of economic and monetary history in order, in particular, to understand the world beyond the dollar?

For it is this fact, the inability of the dollar to continue as the centre and motor of the world economy, that, to use Rudolf Steiner's term, is the crucial symptom of underlying history. It is linked to the dominance of the Anglo-American people that Steiner said would begin after World War 1 and continue for a time. Is that time now over? Or did the destruction of the World Trade Center and subsequent events mark a deepening of that dominance, a refusal to relinquish it at a moment in history when its historical validity had come to an end?

Quite apart from the military adventures of the 'new imperialism' in Afghanistan and Iraq and elsewhere in recent years, Anglo-American dominion remains the central feature of two powerful developments – the increased influence of the corporation and the gradual introduction of accounting standards that favour unconstrained capital.

Can we find in Rudolf Steiner's work an antidote or alternative to these developments? Can we look at accounting and the evolution of the corporation in a way that would give to both a central place in a world view based on the threefold order and associative economics and thus provide the basis for their expression in our times?

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