

DAS FILMSEMINAR GEGEN AUSTRERITÄT ZEIGT

In summer as an open-air cinema on the Von-Melle-Park campus.  
In case of bad weather at the Rechtshaus (Schlüterstraße 28).

- Free of charge -



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On 2.8.2023, from 9 pm near the Philosophenturm (Von-Melle-Park 6)

DAS FILMSEMINAR GEGEN AUSTRERITÄT ZEIGT

# „The Fog of Peace“

A film by Joel Stängle  
(Spanish w/ german subs, COL 2020)

Can wars be ended through negotiations? Of course not, according to the widespread view that in armed conflicts there are two parties facing each other who only accept the military destruction of the other side as the result. However, this view follows the logic of a warring party that is not at all interested in ending armed violence. The complex reality of conflicts usually looks different.

There are always actors on both sides who pursue interests with the acts of war that do not have to exclude each other in principle, and who can therefore absolutely be interested in a peaceful solution.

The art of negotiation consists precisely in identifying these forces on both sides, bringing them together and bringing their divergent interests into a relationship acceptable to both sides.

In this way, a social balance of power can be established on all sides, in which the forces interested in civil development newly dominate over those that profit from upkeeping the violent conflicts. The prerequisite for this is that relevant sections of the civilian public articulate the necessity of such a perspective in a committed manner.

The most impressive recent example of the contradictory success of such a process is the peace agreement negotiated in 2016 to end the civil war in Colombia, which had lasted more than 50 years and had by then cost the lives of more than 200,000 people and deprived the vast majority of the population of an actually rich country of their enormous development opportunities in a deeply inhumane way.

Under the impression of growing discontent among the population over the constant escalation of daily violence and a profound lack of prospects in society, the Cuban and Norwegian governments have succeeded in bringing the key representatives of the warring parties together at one table.

In endless rounds of talks, delegates from the leadership of the social revolutionary FARC guerrillas and the Colombian government under the national conservative President Juan M. Santos struggled over several months in a Cuban hotel complex to formulate a peace treaty, while in the country itself the armed conflicts continued. The paramilitary groups of the ultra-reactionary AUC, officially disar-

med by a questionable amnesty law of 2006, financed for years by influential Colombian landowners, US secret services and local drug cartels, mostly protected by the army and authorities of the previous governments and responsible for more than 80% of the deaths in the conflict, were excluded from the negotiations, but did not miss a single opportunity to torpedo the rapprochement of the negotiating parties by renewed escalations of violence. In the face of all disruptive manoeuvres, sometimes even

*"He who first used a swearword in place of a spear was the founder of civilisation."*

Sigmund Freud, "On the Psychic Mechanism of Hysterical Phenomena", 11 January 1893.

from their "own ranks", the negotiators nevertheless succeeded in reaching an agreement of historic significance.

It includes, among other things a land reform in favour of impoverished small farmers to combat the

enormous social inequality (the real cause of the conflict - still 0.4% of the population own 67% of the country's arable land while 84% of the farmers have to share 4% of the land), the social, legal and physical protection of discriminated population groups of all kinds, the joint fight against drug trafficking, compensation for all victims, the political representation of the FARC in return for their complete rejection, legal and physical protection of discriminated population groups of all kinds, the joint fight against drug trafficking, compensation for all victims of the conflict, the political representation of the FARC in return for their complete disarmament controlled by the UN and, above all, a special jurisdiction to deal with the war crimes.

The film documents the exemplary wise and courageous commitment to this peace process by accompanying two protagonists of the FARC in their negotiation and clarification activities. The "Fog of Peace" describes the constant struggle of this development path, because its success depends decisively on the work of the state and civil society to overcome the causes of the conflict.

The film also proves that civil conflict resolution has nothing to do with naïve camomile tea pacifism. It is the courageous struggle for the only realistic social perspective: a dignified life for all. By the majority, through the majority, for the majority. That can be learned. It is high time.

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