

## **Don't turn your back to anyone**

*What would you have done 1933 if you lived in Germany?* That has to be a relevant question for everyone, and it has occupied me for at least 7 years. Germany was vibrant, the Nazi party promised happiness and many happy people were engaged in the party and at their meetings. I have been afraid that I would have been carried away by the positive energy. And then found myself in the party, doing things that everyone would regret. Afterwards, 1945!

I have found peace in mind after these years of reading and thinking. I think I would have been at a working camp, due to my endless tendency to oppose, to question, to debate. I adore people's movements and I would like to be part of them. But I always end up outside since I never accept a statement.

After meeting a German professor at the European Accounting Association conference, I have now a new question. And a more important question since it really concerns present time.

*When it is too late to realize?* That is the question that everyone should ask themselves today. In 1933 Germany they had knowledge. Knowledge about the party's ideology, the book *Mein Kampf* could be read, the Nazi terror against the Jews were in the streets, and Hitler was not silent. Yet, I am sure that people thought that these things were small matters. It will change. It will go away, they thought. But at a certain point in time, it was too late to act against those ideas and actions. So, when should they have realized?

Today we have the immigrant aggressive party of Sverigedemokraterna (Sweden democrats), that would like to have Sweden Swedish, implying the old traditions and only with the blonds living in the country. They are meeting a very aggressive and violent left that fight them and call them racists. In this year's EU election, the immigrant aggressive party got 24% of the votes in my municipality. That is terrifying.

But what is even more terrifying is that unicef managers and representatives of Swedish teachers publicly demand that the open society of Sweden has to be closed, that Nazi parties and openly racist parties should not be allowed to present their ideas at the Swedish schools.

The reaction to the extreme right wings success is repression! Silence, repression, forbidding free speech's is the reaction, and accepted reaction. To be true, we live in a Hegelian time, where opposites are driving each other.

We all see this. We all have knowledge about the polarization, about the violence both sides develop, the confrontations. We can hear elite politicians and managers talk about repression.

My eye opener was when the former socialist party leader, Mona Sahlin, talked very aggressively against the extreme right wing. When she, that should be used to deal with conflicts, that should try to convince people of socialism, that should be the inclusive one, stands on confrontation against the right wing, that probably is from her own people, the working class youths, then our society is crackling.

We have to stop here. We should not try to beat them. We should not try to win over them. We should try to win them to our side. We do it through being open, through being democratic, through meeting them. Not through repression, closing schools, forbidding people to have an opinion.

Eva-Lis Sirén, chairperson of the teachers association would like to close the schools for Nazi parties. I have to use strong language here. I can image one person supporting Siréns principle, to forbid ideas that do not support your own ideology. Goebbels in his hell/heaven hails your action in principle. Repression and exclusion. Excellent action. Our policy!

But when exclusion and repression becomes normal policy, accepted policy, so accepted that it can be published in a normal newspaper (<http://www.dn.se/debatt/stoppa-alla-partibesok-pa-skolor-tills-reglerna-andrats/>) then it is time to realize. That we are going towards less democracy. But maybe even more important, towards a more excluding society. The one that the right wing wants. The triumph of dialectics.

You never win people when fighting against them, when excluding them. You beat them. And beaten people will never come back. Maybe they will be silent. But not because of beliefs but of your repression. And the ideas will still be there. They will grow stronger. And one day, maybe, they will be so strong that there is no defence against them. Then it is too late to realize.

So, please, realize now!

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