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Megatrends and Future Changes as Opportunities or as Threads for Christian Politics?

5th ECPM Congress

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11:20 – 11:50
Bern

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www.swissfuture.ch
www.weiterdenken.ch



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Introduction



We live in dramatic times



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Will there be an end?

Is this "the" END?



Glance at the Media

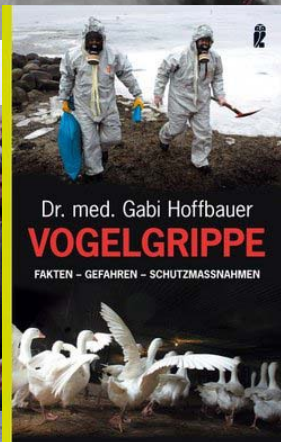
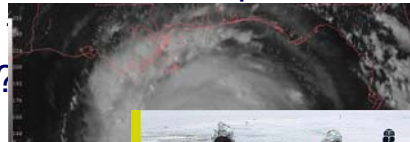


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Do we live in THE age of crises and catastrophes?



Do we live in
„end time“?





Theological Basis Specific View of the World Models of End Time and Apocalypse



Central Questions



- Do we live in **THE** „End Time“
and are we glancing at the „Apocalypse“?
- Are these **“just another”** turbulent times?



Time Frame?



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Time Frame?



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Pregnancy:

- Golden hamster 16 d
- Bunny 30 d
- Cat 60 d
- **Human 267 d**
- Giraffe 420 d
- Elephant 750 d



Time Frame?



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3 –7 y. new model of a new car



Time Frame?



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7 – 10 y. time to build an aircraft carrier



Time Frame?



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10 -15 y. new drugs



Time Frame?



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37 y. „Nordtangete“



Time Frame?



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> 40 y. Scenarios for Energy



... Exotic Prophets ...



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Old Chinese Saying:

- Do you plan for a year?
• Sow grain!
- Do you plan for a decade?
• Plant trees!
- Do you plan for a century?
• Be parents of many children!



- *Do we have a time frame?*
- *What is our time frame?*



Bible and Timeframes

- 360 x OT and 59 x NT Fathers
- 1837 x OT and 149 x NT Children
- 721 x OT and 25 x NT Sons/daughters
- 15 x OT and 1 x NT Children's children

- Fathers and Forefathers
- Children and children's children

- **“Thinking in generations” is a biblical time frame**



Thinking in Generations



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• Only makes sense, if

• We believe in a future for our children

• We want to have a future for our children

• We have children ...

That's sustainability



Thinking in Generations ...



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As Christians
Do we want to have a future?



Stress Test for Christian Politics



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- *Do we want to have a future?*
- *Do we want to impact the future society – as Christians?*
- *Or do we have fixed theories about the apocalypse and have we already capitulated?*



Fear and Hopelessness as Christian Skills?



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And now these three remain:
faith, hope and love. ...
1. Kor. 13.13

„Hope“,
„Don't be afraid“ ...
> 250 x in OT
> 100 x in NT



Models of „End Time“



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	A-Millennialismus	Prae-Millennialismus (Dispensationalismus)			Praeterismus	Post-Millennialismus
		Prae-tribulationismus	Mid-tribulationismus	Post-tribulationismus		
Entrückung		Vor Beginn	Während	Am Ende		
Grosse Trübsal	Trübsal hat schon lange begonnen – Christenverfolgung ist Realität	Christen werden leiblich davor bewahrt	Christen müssen sich bewähren, manche fallen ab	Christen müssen sich bewähren, viele fallen ab	Viele Aussagen Offb., Matth.24 waren aktuell für das 1. Jh. – ihr werdet es erleben ...	
Antichrist		Erwartung eines konkreten, personellen Antichristen (Papst, Dalai Lama, Gorbatschow, Khomeini ...)			Nero? Rom?	
1000-jähriges Reich	Kein irdisches 1000-jähriges Reich, nur symbolisch – Jesus regiert schon jetzt im Himmel	Jesus kommt am Ende der grossen Trübsal, er wird das 1000-jährige Reich aufrichten und regieren – Israel wird dann eine neue Schlüsselrolle erlangen			Das 1000-jährige Reich wird durch Kirchengeschichte, Mission, Evangelisation Realität werden – Jesus kommt erst danach	Jesus kommt erst nach dem 1000-jährigen Reich

Evangelische Volkspartei

„When“ will Jesus return?



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When will Jesus return?

1. In 7 minutes ?
2. In 7 hours ?
3. In 7 days ?
4. In 7 months ?
5. In 7 years – We and our children ?
6. In 70 years – Our children and grandchildren ?
7. In 700 years – Grandchildren of the grandchildren?

Do we act in an authentic way?

Year 2000

...

17th Century ⇨ Thirty Years' War

14th Century ⇨ Black Death

...

Year 1000

...

1st Century (Emperor Nero, destruction of 2nd temple in Jerusalem, banishment of the Jews)



Stress Test for Christian Politics

- *What are our theological models about time frames and about the future?*



Credibility

**I am saying what I am doing
and I am doing what I am saying.**

Glaubwürdigkeit umfasst Aufrichtigkeit, Ehrlichkeit, Transparenz und Verlässlichkeit. Ich sage, was ich tue und tue, was ich sage. Ich bin glaubwürdig und nehme Abstand von taktischen Ränkespielen. Was ich vertrete, entspricht meiner inneren Haltung.



Accountability

**I take care of my own life –
I take accountability.**

Ich schaue zu meinen Mitmenschen. Verantwortung zeigt sich im Umgang mit Mitmenschen und natürlichen Ressourcen.

Die Schöpfung als Ganzheit von Mensch, Tier, Pflanze und Umwelt ist ein mir vom Schöpfer anvertrautes Gut.

Dafür bin ich ihm über mein Tun und Lassen Rechenschaft schuldig.



Target orientation I know what I want.

Zielorientierung hilft durchzuhalten,
auch bei äusserem Widerstand.

Wenn ich mein Ziel kenne, erwächst mir eine innere Kraft, die nicht von der
Gunst des Augenblicks abhängig ist.

Mein Ziel verfolge ich allerdings behutsam und mit Augenmass.



Sustainability I take care of the environment in responsibility for coming generations.

Nachhaltigkeit bedingt Ordnungen,
die auch in Zukunft tragfähig sind.
Nicht der kurzfristige Gewinn,
sondern der langfristige Nutzen;
nicht der materielle Profit,
sondern das umfassende Wohl
auch für die kommenden Generationen ist mein Ziel.





- *Do we have moralistic rules ordering life in an old fashioned way, taking past times as a benchmark?*
- *Do we have values enabling future life?*



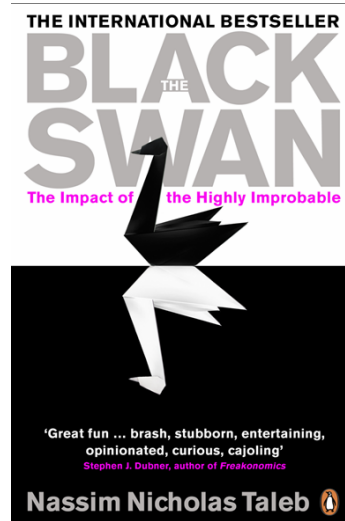
Megatrends



Insecurity – There are much more Black Swans



There are much more Black Swans



There are much more Black Swans



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- Fall of the Berlin Wall 1989
- High Tech Bubble 2001/2002
- 9/11/2001 World Trade Center
- Tsunami December 2004
- Hurrican Catrina August 2005
- An Afro-American US-President 2008 ...

- Non-European Pope?
- Grounding of UBS?
- No more banking secrecy in CH?
- Pandemic flu?
- Climate change?
- End of a "US-oriented World"?
- Comeback of borders and nations?
- New wars?



Stress Test for Christian Politics



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- *What are the black swans
for our Christian politics?*



New Fearfulness



Europe in 2030

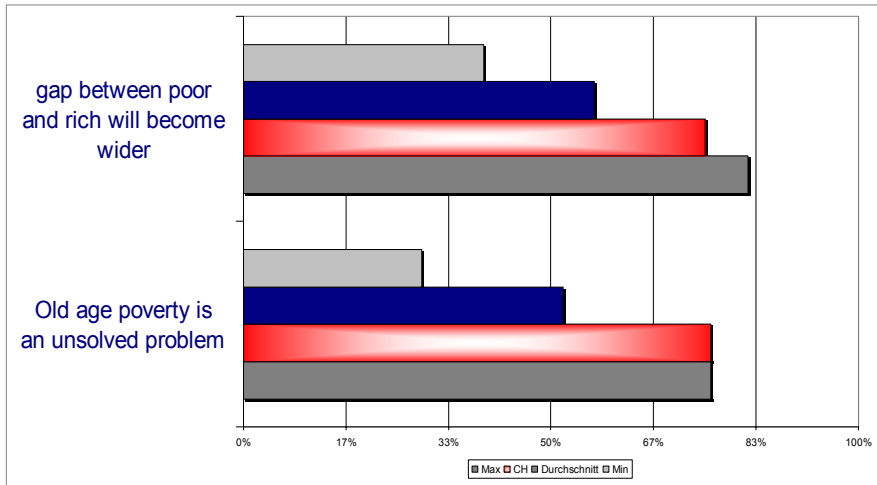
STIFTUNG FÜR ZUKUNFTSFRAGEN
EINE INITIATIVE VON BRITISH AMERICAN TOBACCO

European
futurists
conference
Lucerne

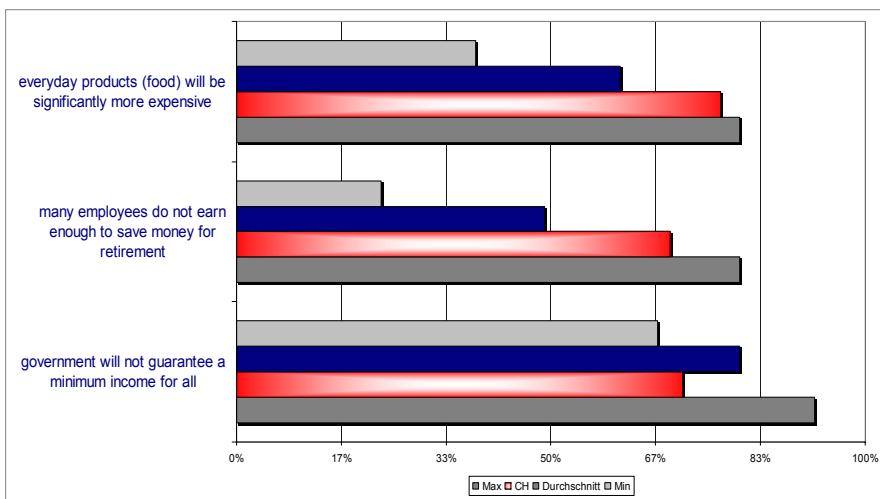
- “Future Expectations for Europe”
- June / July 08:
Representative survey
11'000 Europeans in nine countries
- CH, A, SF, F, D, I, Ru, E, UK
- November 08 Conference Lucerne



1/2 of Europeans > 2/3 of Swiss are afraid



1/2 of Europeans > 2/3 of Swiss are afraid





- *Do we have specific fears?*
- *How to handle our fears?*
- *How to handle apocalypse – fears?*



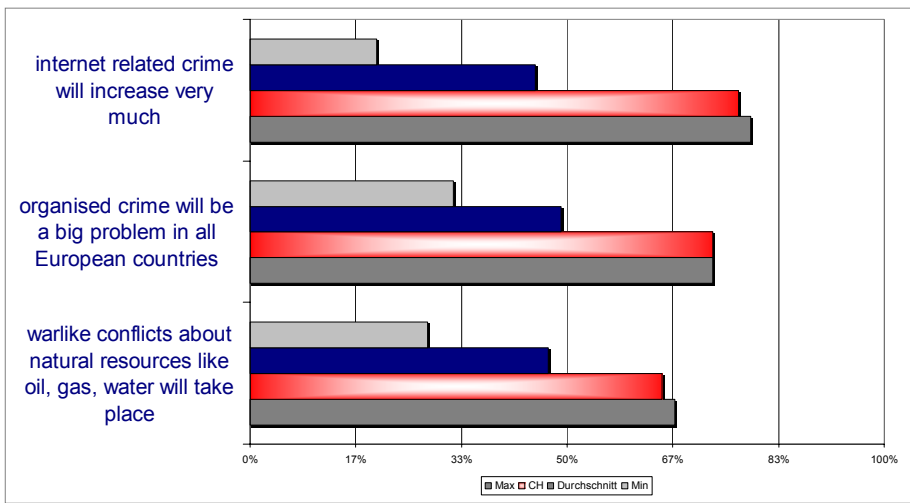
Megatrend



New Fear of Future Crime



½ of Europeans > 2/3 of Swiss are afraid



Stress Test for Christian Politics

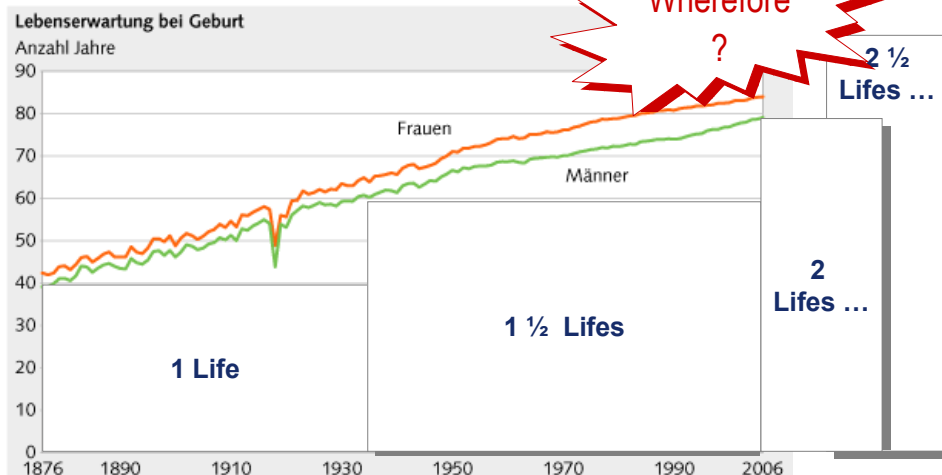
- *If there will be a need of much more “inner security” in Western Europe?*



Longevity



Longevity



Quelle: BFS, Daten 1876-1996 aus "Deux siècles d'histoire démographique suisse", dann ESPOP und BEVNAT

© BFS

To get to the Point



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Already now
more > 60-y Seniors
as < 20-y Juniors
in Switzerland



To get to the Point



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In 5 years
> ½ of Swiss population
> 50 years



- *Conciliation between the generations, between fathers and sons?*
- *How to handle the political and financial power of the seniors (Western Europe)?*



Megatrend

World 2.0



Competence to handle New Medias



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- 6-year old children have spent one year in front of TV (D 2006)



Competence to handle New Medias



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- 36% of school kids have an own TV in their room (D 2006)



Competence to handle New Medias



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- Teenagers spending 7 1/2 h a day in front of a “screen”
(D 2006)



Competence to handle New Medias



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- 1/3 of TV viewers
 - TV addicts
 - > 6,5 h a day
 - Older than 50 years(D 2006)



Citizens of the Future (?) Politicians of the Future (?)



Stress Test for Christian Politics

- *Are we competent handling new medias?*
- *Do we have a strategy for the “virtual reality”?*
- *ecpm 2.0? ecpm 3.0?*



The “appearance” The “corporate design” of the “Christendom” will change



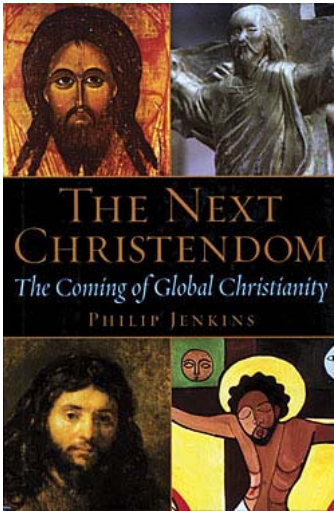
The Next Christendom?



Our image of Christians?

- White
- European or US
- Evangelic





Christians of the Future?

- Catholics or Pentecostals?
- Africans or Latin Americans or Indians or Asians?
- ... very conservative in moral questions but only few understanding of macro ethical questions ... ?
- ... culture area without period of enlightenment... ?
- How will Christendom look like?

Megatrend



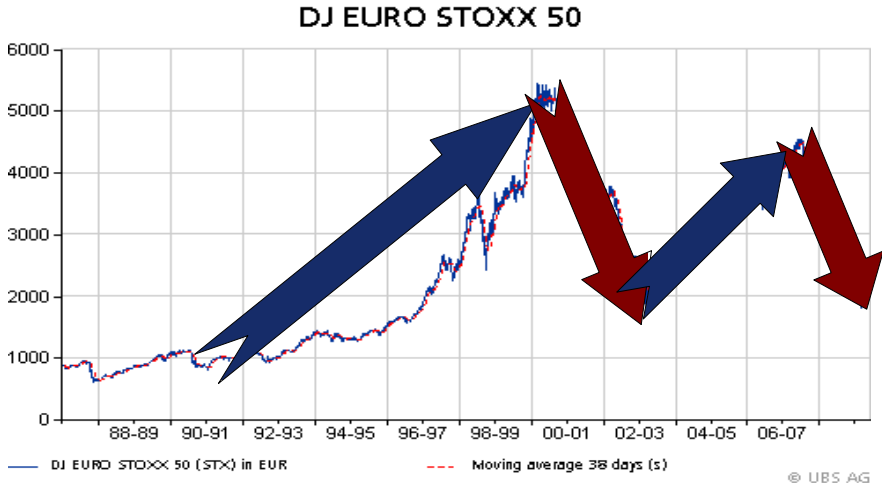
Globalization has a Prize ...



Stock Markets „without Borders“



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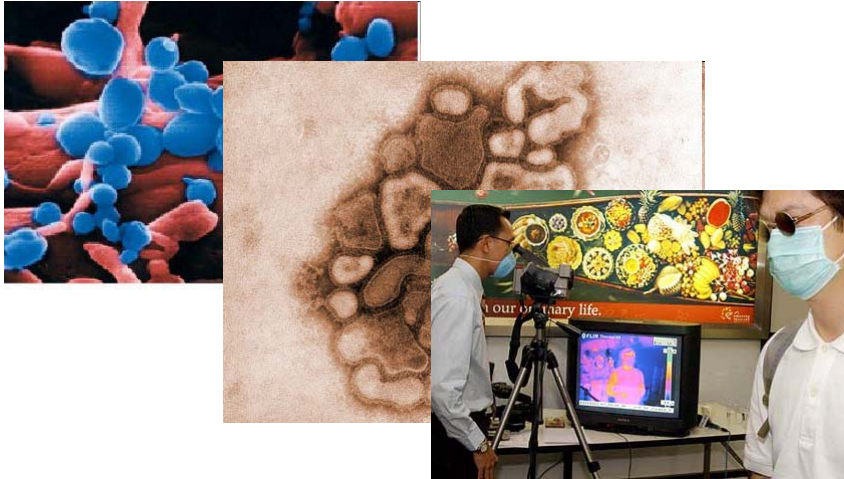


Prize of Globalization



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Stress Test



- *Are we willing paying the prize?*
- *End of the US-American dominated globalization?*
- *Comeback of borders and of power struggle between the nations?*
(BRIC - Brasilia, Russia, India, China)





As Christians
Do we **want** to have a future?



„When“ will Jesus return?



When will Jesus return?



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Do we act in an authentic way?



Take care of our Future
Or the future will take care of us!

If we don't take care of humanity's future
Who else will do it?



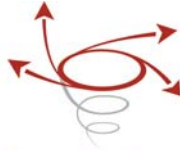
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