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# Human Rights and European Energy-Policy.

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The ideas of Human Rights and Democracy has after World-War II been an important part of the European Ideology. It is an important element in the European Council and The European Court. Its also behind the European Union, where it is a requirement for new member states. In the proposed European Constitution Treaty, it was an important part of the Preamble. Also in the OSCE-Treaty from 1975, the human rights part had important political consequences, in that it allowed support for human rights activists in the communist countries, and by that played an important role in the fall down of the communist system.

After 1991 there was great hope that these European values would be generally accepted in the former Soviet Union countries, especially Russia itself. In the first few years of the Yeltsin period, it looked as that would be the case, but already in 1993 when Yeltsin used the army to win his quarrel with the Duma, it was clear that democracy not has firm roots in the new Russia. The events in 1999, when Yeltsin made the former KGB officer, Wladimir Putin, his designated successor, and when the certainly KGB-arranged blowing-up of apartment buildings was used as an opportunity to start the second Chechen war, definitely showed that Russia was sliding back into a totalitarian regime, modelled on the Soviet Union, only with a capitalist economy instead of a pseudo-socialist one.

Why did the European Union and the European great powers don't react against that, especially the very grave violations of human rights that accompanied the war in Chechnya? There were several reasons for that. One is the idea that capitalist economy and democracy is intimately connected. This idea, that have its origin in American politicalology, had shown itself to be wrong, but it was popular in the nineties, also in Europe. Another reason is that after the fearful period of the cold war, the Europeans was so happy by having escaped the threat of nuclear war, that they adopted the wishful but wrong thinking that the new capitalist Russia was a peaceful and democratic society.

This reason is to a certain extent still valid, but now a third reason is the most important one. During the Putin period Russia had evolved to be a very important energy supplier for the European Union countries, e.g. 40% of the German gas-supplies come from Russia. The Putin-government has wisely used this for their own power. At first they have used the high oil- and gas-prices for paying part of the Russian population, so they willingly accept Putin's totalitarian system, and secondly

used the European dependency of Russian energy to suppress any official critics of the human rights violation in Russia.

This is a real moral problem for the EU countries. They have sold their ideas about human rights and democracy for Russian energy. They have, by a policy that resembles the policy of England and France in Munich in 1938, sold the existence of the Chechen people for having access to Russian energy, and they have also betrayed the democratic forces in Russia.

It's not only an immoral policy, it's also an unwise policy. The Khodorkovsky case has shown that the Russian energy-companies are not normal capitalist companies, but are political tools in the hand of the Kremlin. They have been used to bully Ukraine and Georgia. We betray these countries, but which will be next, The Baltic States? Poland? Are we sure that to feed the bear will be the best policy in the long run.

It's also unwise because a totalitarian Russian state is not a stable political system. Are there any guarantee that the Chechen war will not spread to the whole Northern Caucasus? That the small West-Siberian people will forever accept to have their land and life destroyed by the oil- and gas-companies, while the income goes to the elite in Moscow. They have the potential for interrupting the vulnerable oil-installation, and thereby make a stable supply illusory.

What then can the European countries do? They can stick to their pronounced ideals of human rights and democracy and demand of Russia to obey the same rules and ideals. They can do it in the conviction that they have the rules of the European Council and the OSCE treaty behind them. They can do it knowing that the Putin government is more dependant on Western money than we are on Russian energy. They can be convinced of that in the long run this policy will be the best not only for Western Europe and the Russian neighbouring countries, but also for the Russian people.



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