

## Foreword

“Revolutions are the locomotives of history” wrote Karl Marx in 1850. Sometimes their speed takes one’s breath away. So it happened in Tunisia and Egypt, where the people freed themselves from despots in just a few weeks. The examples of peaceful protests, disrespectful slogans and bold gestures were followed in neighbouring states. But their dictators also learned quickly. In Libya, Yemen, Syria and Bahrain, they clung to power and used snipers, tanks and grenades against their own citizens.

It may sound trivial, but the revolutionary departures in the Arab world also surprised us. That decades-long autocratic rule and social stagnation create an accumulation of explosives is one thing. When and where a spark will set it off is not predictable. Our preparations for the Peace Report were completed when President Ben Ali fled, head over heels, out of Tunis into exile and proved that one can get rid of dictators through peaceful means. We reacted with a *Spotlight* on the dramatic happenings in Europe’s neighbouring region; it precedes our focal chapter.

The crisis in which Europe finds itself is, at first glance, of a monetary nature. We are not, however, treading on strange territory. If one remembers the driving motive for European integration, the peace policy relationship is obvious: linked with Europe growing closer together was the hope of banishing violence as a means of pursuing political interests from the continent that had been involved in wars for centuries. But is this farewell to war irreversible? No one wants to test this. Thus there is every reason to uncover the cracks in the European peace project and to see how it can be maintained and further developed despite all centrifugal forces.

However, a united Europe was never a blessed island. European governments send soldiers all over the world. We conduct a critical analysis of notions of political order, strategies and means connected with military interventions and stabilization missions. It is not yet clear where Europe will find its place in the complexity of old and new *global players*: as a conglomerate of small medium powers, as a “fortress” or as a force for peace.

The Peace Report is appearing in 2011 for the 25th time. The first three volumes were privately published and then the collaboration with the LIT-Publishing House began. Since then, the book has had a cover picture. This year, for the first time, it shows a self-confident woman, and never before has the number of articles with female authorship been so high.

When the Frankfurt, Heidelberg and Hamburg Institutes began to make plans for a publication that would annually bundle together the available peace science expertise in the Federal Republic of Germany, the East-West conflict was still the reigning topic in peace research. In the three institutions, it was agreed that a periodic academic publication with food for thought for the body politic would be worth the effort. This goal of the first Peace Report, which appeared in 1987, remained unchanged also after the expansion nine years ago of the group of editors to include the Bonn and Duisburg Institutes. We study causes and cause-and-effect relationships of violent conflicts and the possibilities for their prevention or settlement. The level of awareness of the Peace Report has increased since its initial appearance. However, never is the demand for the academic expertise it represents higher than at times of conflict,

when violence prevention has, once again, failed. Peace researchers know that they need a great deal of patience in their profession; seen in this way, twenty-five years is a short time.

The Peace Report, with its findings and recommendations, is aimed at political practice. This year we will again present it at the Federal Press Conference in Berlin, to committees of the Bundestag and in ministries and will discuss it at panel discussions and conferences – in Brussels as well. We intervene in the political controversy, beginning with the commitments of the German armed forces made up of volunteers and extending all the way to Germany's abstention from the Libyan Civil War.

The individual analyses were finished at the end of March, the editors' statement on May 8. The rotating overall editorship of the 2011 Peace Report lay with the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg (IFSH).

Our thanks go to the LIT-Publishing House, above all to Frank Weber for the smooth collaboration even under great time pressure. It is only in this way that our yearbook can be as we wish it to be: informative, critical, current. Susanne Bund provided valuable support with text editing at the IFSH.

In addition we thank the German Foundation for Peace Research (DSF) for its financial support for this project.

Hamburg, Frankfurt/Main, Bonn, Duisburg, Heidelberg  
24. May 2011

The Editors