

Thoughts on crises

(Continuation of the corona thoughts 2020)

| Newsletter 1
01.03.2024

*In Chinese, the word
crisis is made up of
two characters - one
meaning danger and
the other
opportunity.*

*(loosely based on
John F. Kennedy)*

It is difficult to determine whether the quoted statement has been handed down correctly, especially as several characters can have this meaning. Nevertheless, in my opinion, the basic tenor is correct. In every crisis there is also an opportunity.

But perhaps it is just the unshakeable belief of a "baby boomer" based on contingency experiences that there is always a solution. Only this path is rarely straightforward .

The years since Corona 2020 have clearly shown us that crises pass only to be replaced by new challenges.

But what does this realisation mean in concrete terms?

The many crisis events (pandemic, war, inflation, etc.) and their effects lead to economic changes that were thought to have been forgotten. This is felt by everyone who participates in an economic process. Incomes fall, purchasing power is shifted, assets are eroded or redistributed, income falls or is cancelled completely, economic developments slow down, are postponed completely and/or are carried out with new partners.

For our society, which is currently still in a kind of comfortable resting mode, this means continuous change.

The crisis events we have experienced since 2020 are justifiable fears, but at the same time they also show that we are learning to deal with them. We are changing the way we look at the world, our trading partners and allies.

What does this mean for our working lives and our dealings with each other?

In terms of our working lives, we have learnt to work more independently, at least where possible, and to reorganise direct contact with our colleagues, employees and customers. Shifting the workplace to the home office has become more important. Our communication behaviour changed and became more digital, as we had to adapt the acquisition of new orders, the coordination of tasks and the presentation of results to these changed contact options.

Many companies are currently practising this very successfully and a lot has been done to establish these communication structures. Short trips have been reduced, working time is utilised more effectively and has been adapted more closely to the needs of employees.

Nevertheless, there is still a lot to be done, and cross-generational models in particular need to be more firmly established so that valuable knowledge is not lost to the "boomer generation" that will soon be retiring.

Everyone involved must learn to overcome their justified, but sometimes irrational fears and generational prejudices.

Mutual trust and the will to fulfil tasks positively will be the key to success here.

For this reason, we should always see an opportunity in crises, despite all the negative aspects they contain.

An opportunity to rethink and improve processes, but also to define a clear framework for the limits of our willingness to accept change.

Here, too, recent years have clearly shown where we need to draw clear boundaries in our democratic society, which is based on understanding and cooperation.

As a representative of the "boomer generation", I am relying on the contingency principle and the insight of those involved.

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