

**2050 - The Year I Died**

## **Preface**

Yes, the day I died, yesterday, was August the sixteenth, 2050. And before anyone starts now to interpret, no, no this day has absolutely no special meaning, just the day I died. And now?

Well, I thought, it would be maybe interesting to look back, even if not pleasant, on the past years – which years? Well, I could start with my birth, but this would be boring for different reasons. Especially, there was this other place to do this. So, I decided to concentrate on the years 2024 until 2050, better, June the thirteenth, 2024 until June the thirteenth, 2050. Would mean the time, between my fifty-ninth and eighty-fifth birthday. The days before uninteresting to mention here, as said, the last days until my death were not relevant either. I should possibly say something about me first.

Born in Germany, I still lived in Germany at the beginning of the regarded timespan. Exactly, Bad Friedrichshall-Kochendorf, a smaller town near Heilbronn in Baden-Württemberg, Southern Germany. Later, with the year 2030, I moved to Matosinhos in Portugal, a town near Porto in Northern Portugal. This is insofar essential as that the reader should know, from which ankle of view I will write my texts. 2024 until 2050? Well, let's have a look at the first year of our timespan and the last one.

2024: A year where everything seemed to develop positively, after some very difficult years. Worldwide, Europe, the USA, everywhere, the pandemic was finally over! No restrictions anymore, from now on, everything could become forgotten again – well, at least until the next pandemic, but this is not the moment to talk about. Ukraine won the war, the Russians had even to withdraw from Crimea. The war ended with a total defeat of Russia, Putin became history, a democratic Russian opposition arose. Europe started to close ranks, a new powerful European movement started. Later in the year, in the US, Hakeem Jeffries achieved a historic win over Ron DeSantis, the American democracy seemed to stabilize, seemed to. Yeah, at this moment, all seemed to point to a better future, what a misinterpretation! 2050?

2050: Twenty-six years later, what a difference! The remains of the EU a citadel, a not very democratic one. The USA no longer, better, three different nations now, that all claimed to be the real successor of the old USA. All began, the "New Civil War", or as some said, the "True Civil War", the "Holy Civil War", and so on, with the win of Ron DeSantis in 2028. Russia no longer, lost in its own civil war, even more brutally waged as in the former USA. Split now in numerous larger or smaller fragments, often ruled by oligarchs, dictators, warlords, often assassinated after years or even months. China still relatively stable, but caused by the destroyed global markets severely hurt, self-isolated again, like in ancient times. But these were only the political and economical troubles, the not so severe troubles.

The next pandemic, only to mention it shortly, this time with countless millions of deaths, was not the major problem. To make it simple? The global target of one point five degree Celsius? Well, in 2050 the reality was a plus of tree point five degree Celsius – was more to say? Millions worldwide had no longer a place to live, larger parts of Earth simply uninhabitable, even in the US, or what was left therefrom. Well, I died in that year, would not know how all this would develop further on – to be honest, I was not interested in! The last twenty-six years of my life, every year it became shittier, even that all started in such a hopeful way. I died, and it was good so. Interested in details? Sure? Let's see.

## **Some More Details**

More details? Well, where to start? The nearest to me, Germany and Europe? The most significant? But what would be the most significant? So much was significant, so much interacted with each other, it would be a Herculean task to unravel everything, to follow all the tracks. But we need a starting point, give me two. One human, one environmental.

The USA, not that Russian was less important, but the downfall of the USA was more significant for the global life than the downfall of Russia. As said, Jeffries defeated DeSantis, in 2024 - no, he did not simply defeat DeSantis, he destroyed DeSantis! It was an overwhelming win for Jeffries and the Democrats, it seemed that the GOP would never ever be able to win any election again. But, it only seemed so. This is not the moment to dive deep into details, but the far-right started a campaign. And they were capable, together with institutions like the politicized Supreme Court, to help DeSantis to a win over Jeffries in 2028. A win with a very, very slight margin, but a win. The next four years were a time of rising tensions, DeSantis used this time to undermine every democratic institution, better and much more effective than his predecessor between 2016 and 2020. It happened, DeSantis won again in 2032, again versus Jeffries, this time it was a trashing victory. Well, polls, as far as still reliable, predicted a clear win for Jeffries, but.....let's look at the following developments. Already before, states like California had announced, should DeSantis win again, they would declare independence - it happened. California and Oregon started and formed a new nation, Washington, Idaho or Nevada for instance hesitated. At the East Coast strong independent movements especially in the New England States. Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire and New York started. This development led to the "New American Civil War", but it was not that easy. On one hand, DeSantis announced to attack every state that would declare independence. On the other hand, within the states, right-wing militias started guerilla warfare. A brutal and bloody civil war destroyed what had been the USA before. Whereby, it was often hard to say who combated whom. The result? The former USA fragmented into three new nations. One nation consisted of western part of the former USA, one of the regions of the former New England States and the region around the Great Lakes. Lastly, the third nation consisted of the southern and the middle part of the former USA. This was more than a decade ago now, but until today the three nation had not come to a rest. One of the reasons was climate change.

My second starting point. All the disruptions, the USA, Europe, Russia.....caused that climate change became a "not so relevant problem". At least as long until the consequences got that brutal, that they caused more deaths and disruption than every war, pandemic or whatsoever. We missed every chance to avoid any tipping point, instead, it all got even worse than any pessimistic prediction. Today? Snow fall? Ice on the mountains? Greenland more than green, larger parts of earth, even in the former USA or Europe, not to talk about regions around the equator, uninhabitable. Caused this, for instance the new three American nations, would start to work together again? Gosh, we are humans, one time greedy, every time greedy. The less to satisfy your greed, the greedier one got, this was the ultimate human rule. Even today, wealthy people, poor people, some would never changed.

## **Even More Details?**

Yes, I see, you would like it to get more details, specific details about preferably everything. But to do this in a chronological order, especially in every detail, enfolding all the connections, interferences, parallel developments.....would be a never-ending story. Boring for the reader, and not very interesting for me. Therefore, let's do it differently.

I will provide you information in a way, just like shorter or longer paragraphs of a novel. Some will be very detailed, some more like review articles. Most important, they will be not in a chronological order. But I should begin with something very essential, me. I gave you some of the basic information in the preface, but I should dive deeper. Me in the years 2024 until 2050. Me, my life

circumstances, my feelings, and thoughts. Not in every detail, but differential enough for the following steps.

## **My Life From 2024 Until 2050**

Well, let's start with my birthday in 2024. I was satisfied, six years more, and I would live in Portugal, Matosinhos, at the ocean. Okay, not everything was ideal, but the last two years or so had yielded good progress.

COVID-19, nearly forgotten. Russia had lost its bloody war in Ukraine. In fact, some real measures got acted to fight climate change. Sure, be never too confident, but all pointed to a win of Jeffries, DeSantis would not get enough votes nationwide. The American people, in a majority, had gotten sick of the Orange Monkey. And soon exactly this happened, Jeffries won by a landslide. But, a step back, I lived in Germany.

Olaf Scholz was still our chancellor, the next elections would be next year. We had not been very compelling during the Ukraine war, but helped with a lot of money now. Just the old German way to deal with suchlike.

But my private life? Well, I had a job, earned enough money to make my living, to be able to save some money, to finance a private pension scheme. I had a small car, enough for one person, looked forward to living at the ocean in some years. I was satisfied that far, it seemed as that the coming years would be again more sorted, not like 2020 until 2023, but like the years of youth. Sure, some of that clouds at the horizon, those, not looking very threatening. And yet, over the coming years they would evolve to an all devouring tempest.

But not in 2024, not in 2025. A first cloud darkened as Russia destabilized more and more, the harbinger of the Russian civil war. But not in 2024, not in 2025. The destabilization of Russia reached a point in 2026 where the development could not stop anymore. The civil war started, but it affected the world lesser than maybe expected. Russia was no longer that interesting for the USA, Europe or China. They simply decided to ignore Russia as much as possible. Sure, behind the scene, they all were very active. And I?

I had a job and my income, and with every year, the ocean came nearer. I stayed in Matosinhos twice a year, my Portuguese got better and better. Russia impacted also me not so much, they had begun the fucking war. What did impact me more?

The first shock came in 2028, as DeSantis defeated Jeffries. Also in 2028, Russia fragmented into several parts. I had still my job and income, and for us in Europe not more than the European part of former Russia was important. It became definite in 2029, we could not comply with the one point five degree climate target, the death penalty for larger parts of the world. I moved to Matosinhos in 2030.

And then, everything good, now living at the ocean? Well, the ocean was wonderful, and the Portuguese people very nice, the food fantastic. I had my pension and could give of myself to my biggest passion. In 2032 DeSantis got reelected, and as not enough, the next pandemic. The American civil war started in 2034 and lasted until 2037, the year the UN declared parts of the world as officially uninhabitable. I lived in Matosinhos, had my pension, drank a chá branco, and lived out my passion. And today I'm dead, in 2050, the global warming three point five degree Celsius.

If I look back to 2024, then I have tears in my eyes. Like an adult who remembers the days of childhood, those innocent days. But okay, and it's relieving, I'm dead today. For twenty years I lived in Matosinhos, what should I say? Something like: 85. That is 20 years past 65. 20 more than I needed or wanted.....? No, this wouldn't be my words, would be stolen words, lied words, gonzo words.

Ironically, as the world around me moldered, I had the best years of my life. "Querida meia-de-leite, por favor," I said and soaked in the salty air. It was a wonderful day, the day I died.

## **Always On The Bright Side Of Life**

My life until 2024? Well, boring and eventless, living in secure Germany, a job, an income, not rich, but definitely not poor either. But hey, a pandemic, a war in Europe, wasn't that nothing?

Sure, such "incidences" affected also my life, in a way, no longer totally boring and totally eventless, now a bit "exciting" and "eventful". But what should that have meant when living in Germany? We managed the pandemic more or less good, what if living in Brazil, India, not to mention the USA? The war was in Ukraine, there they died, not in Germany. We feared to freeze a bit in winter, in Ukraine they froze to death, had nothing to eat, died as soldiers or civilians, as children, in a brutal war. We flattered oneself when having endless sophisticated intellectual discussions about climate change, not able to implement even a speed limit on freeways. No, it was a life, holier-than-thou, resting in the lap of mother Germany. And, did this change in 2024, 2025,.....2036,.....2042,.....2050?

Not really, to be fair and honest. Not in Germany, not in Portugal. I sat on the mountain top and could not understand what I saw, felt, like I would not be one of them, down in the darkness, at the foot of the mountain. "Crowds and Power", Elias Canetti, attracted and repelled by the crowd, he was. Humans repelled me, a crowd caused sickness and vomiting. But this was easy, living in Germany and later in Portugal. Even the last years of my life? Yeah, sure, the summers hotter and hotter, wildfires, the second pandemic.....but, living in Portugal, Europe?

No, even if life much more difficult than, limitations, not very livable, I had still a life. And this was more to say, one could say, at the end of my life, than most of the humans on earth could say about their situation. Most people had no longer a life, nothing what would have been worth to name a life. But I lived still in Europe, this citadel, surrounded by high and deadly walls at its external frontiers. It was difficult to live inside, outside it was hell. Well, had been a fucking lucky bastard my whole life, until my very last fucking day on Earth, ready to greet the devil, so familiar in shape.

## **An unavoidable Future?**

Looking back, being dead, the question could rise, was all that happened from 2024 until 2050 unavoidable? What a stupid question, nothing has ever been unavoidable, there have been always alternatives.

DeSantis could have lost the election of 2028, and the civil war could have started earlier? Not three point five degrees of global warming in 2050, but only three degrees, or even four degrees? No new pandemic, but why not an erupting supervolcano? No, nothing has ever been unavoidable, always alternatives, I could have chosen Los Angeles.

Too negative? As I was young, my parents owned a book, the topic was the future. There were some graphics at the end of the book. The first was, what would happen if we continued with our behaviors – economically, exploiting earth, suchlike. The result was, it would end in a disaster – I talk about a book from the 70s! Then they changed, in every following graphic, one of the parameters. The result always, it did not help to change "something", it would always end in a disaster as well – we talk still about a book from the 70s. The last graphic? The question was, could be the disaster avoided? And the answer was: Yes! The only problem? We would have to change our behavior completely, only that would give us a chance to avoid the disaster. Was this answer enough?

Yeah, maybe no DeSantis, possibly no new pandemic, potentially even no civil war in the US or Russia. Okay, the one point five degree aim was already dead in 2024, but what if it have been only two degrees of warming? Well, it did not function to change "something", the disaster perhaps somewhat later, differently, but still a disaster at the end. Too much for the humans, the humans became the determinant factor in an undetermined universe. Well, the universe as such was not much interested in the fate of the humans, not more than in any other pettiness in it.

## **Putin's Death**

Well, he died, the rest of the story? After Ukraine had won the war, the Russian opposition, the Russian pro-democracy movement, had its moment. Putin weakened, that could have been the chance for the Western nations, the democratic nations, but then they would have had to act bold and coordinated. Instead, as always, hesitation and economic interests. China warned "us" not to interfere in Russia, as they interfered massively, and we reacted as always, we discussed everything so long, until facts had been created. But I wanted to talk about Putin's death.

Putin is dead, it was of course the breaking news, not only on CNN. He died because of what? Well, an excellent question, no answer. Of course, an official statement, since a long time ill, died because of a heart attack – really? Interesting was, who not died, not immediately. Medvedev, Prigoschin, Kadyrov, some others, all suspected to be the person behind Putin's death. Maybe, maybe not. Medvedev disappeared fast and suddenly, some said he absconded, seen in near very every region on Earth, like Putin together with Elvis at the Copacabana. Some said, one can find him in Siberia now, some that he would be dead either. Kadyrov easy, a car bomb, some say the Russian intelligence, some say the Ukrainian intelligence, in any case, he died. Prigoschin suddenly ill, died in a hospital, have we to talk about the official cause of death? One could add many other names, the most likely was, that among the Russian "political elite" the huge cleaning-up was on its way. And the democratic opposition? Well, ask the Kurds in Iraq, ask the European global economic players, constrains, especially the fear of losing your personal living standard, to be no longer able to bestow these wonderful bonuses, disappointing your shareholders. Putin dead, was it a blessing or a curse? Well, both or neither, we had had all the chances, we had screwed it all.

## **The Former Donald Duck**

Well, maybe it's time to talk about the time earlier than 2024 in respect to the republican primaries. Sure, we all remember the "drama" about the disgraceful former president, a.k.a. Donald Duck, and the clever strategy of Ron "I'm Also A Swine But A Clever One" DeSantis.

At the beginning of 2023, Donald Duck became a first time indicted, and, of course, it became his great show, willingly accompanied by the media, and not only FOX is meant. DeSantis started at this time, still not officially a candidate, playing his clever game.

It seemed, for the first moment, as that Donald could use the indictment for his purpose, his run for a second term, but a second indictment regarding his Georgian phone call changed the dynamic. Now the pressure rose, and the list of names got longer, and a "save yourself" mentality started. And just right at this moment, DeSantis announced his candidacy, of course not to harm Donald, he always fought for him, but to rescue the GOP. His argumentation was: I always stood for Donald, all these trials are a political farce, but they will distract too many moderate Republican voters and independent voters from voting for the GOP. Therefore, we need another candidate to beat the Democrats, we need me.

Of course, Donald wasn't happy about that, but he acted more and more aggressive and impulsive. This delighted a MTG, and Jordan found no end in his rage, the group around Donald got extremer with every day, but also smaller. DeSantis presented himself as the new savior of the GOP, and they followed him only too willing. He won the primaries effortlessly in the end, but for 2024 it would not be enough to become president in the end. Maybe a look at the Democrats would be good.

## **Biden And Jeffries**

Biden, it seemed, for a long time, as he would run again, and it was for many a surprise as he

announced that he wouldn't. Sure, he gave a statement, but many weren't satisfied with it, and questions arose. This should not be the place for speculations, and therefore I will not do so, maybe it was a mix of simply being old and the wisdom of old age. Whatever, at the end of 2024 everybody congratulated him for making this decision.

Hakeem Jeffries, the new charismatic hopeful for the Democrats. He was not the first who announced his candidacy, but as he did, the Democratic primaries immediately got a new dynamic. Sure, he was a man, again a man, but a young black man. Sure, he was no Asian American or a Latino, but he seemed like an explosive mix of Barack Obama and JFK, a person who could be the bringer of real change. He won the Democratic primaries effortlessly, he simply won them.

Three debates between DeSantis and Jeffries, and he stripped down DeSantis, let him look like the paragon of a dumb redneck Southerner, not electable for many moderate Republicans, not to mention independents. On the other hand, he was literally able to motivate every Democrat to vote for him, and many independents in addition. His win was a triumph, he even won Florida – okay, with a very slight margin – but what more one would have to say? A picture conquered the whole world. Hakeem Jeffries on a stage, together with his wife and his two sons, celebrating his victory.

I saw it live, in Germany, and it reminded me for a moment of a black man, his black wife, and their two daughters. I got, for a moment, a strange feeling – but hey, it was 2024! All turned good in 2024, and the good guy had defeated the bad guy, by a landslide win! Be somewhat more optimistic, Peter, be somewhat more American!

## **Russian Roulette**

Russia lost the war in Ukraine, this could have been a chance for Russia, at least theoretically. What went wrong? Too much in any case.

Putin no longer, the internal fight for power exploded. Medvedev was a name, but not for long. It became difficult to follow the changing names, it was like the French Revolution on heroin. The one who eliminated "A" today, was tomorrow the one who got eliminated by "C". And as various autonomous republics started to declare their total autonomy, as they broke with Moscow, not to talk about that regions started to break with Moscow, it all escalated. Who started which military conflict, operation, civil war, war.....when and why? It was not to overlook.

And Europe, the USA, China, what did they? Well, Russia was exhausted to such an extent after the war, it was no longer even any kind of power, not to name it a super-power. The Russian state was simply ruined, and the others looked for their advantages. Europe no longer needed Russia, now that they got their fossil fuels mainly for the United States and the Gulf States. They simply watched and waited.

China used the momentum and started, at the Russian-Chinese border, therewith, to "rescue" and "liberate" all those regions who wanted to be no longer a part of Russia. Of course, they all became welcomed to join the People's Republic of China, what many did with "joy". Well, sometimes thanks to some Chinese troops, and after eliminating "a few enemies of peace".

Europe? Well, Europe was not so much interested in what happened that far away, also that suddenly the nation of Mongolia was no longer. Europe had to concentrate on the "European" part of Russia, to get their fair share.

The USA? They were interested in having nice relations with Europe as well as with China. You can get the land, we get the economic deals, that was their motto. Well, it all could have become such a pleasant friendship and new world order, if not.....yes, not the nuclear weaponry of Russia. But a next pandemic and especially the too long ignored climate change destroyed all their wet dreams. But, what about the Russian nuclear forces?

Well, immediately as it became obvious that Russia would fail totally in Ukraine, in a preliminary stage, but especially later, as Russia more and more fall apart, the USA and China "shocked" the world. In a multilateral communiqué they made it clear in round terms. Every use of any nuclear weapon, should it be Moscow or any kind of regional leader, would trigger a joint nuclear strike of

the USA and China. The aim would be to annihilate those, in full, who have used the nuclear weapons. Every use of a nuclear weapon would imply automatically the death of those who have used it. And?

What does it tell us about the humans? No nuclear weapon got used, by no party, at no time. But, soon a time came, and the US and China had to realize, nature laughed about such a threat! But as this time came, everything was too late.

A short sidenote about the USA and China, suddenly buddies. The USA, the DeSantis administration, "asked" Taiwan, if it wasn't better to accept the "invitation" of China to "join" it. Yeah, it's good to have friends, friends you can rely on.

## **The German Mastery**

Have I to talk about Germany? Of course, I have, but I was happy to leave Germany in 2030 to move to Portugal.

We still had the coalition of the SPD, the Green Party, and the FDP in 2024 – and we should have it until the end of the term. This was no matter of course, looking at all the difficulties they had with each other. But yet, one could assume that the SPD and the Green Party would be in conflict with the FDP. The FDP, the typical party of one special clientele, the party that killed a speed limit on German freeways, always chattered about e-fuel for cars. Well, one could say that it all was for their leader, Christian "I Drive Porsche" Lindner and his Porsche friends. They would be able forever to drive as fast as possible on German freeways with their Porsche cars, of course, still with a combustion engine. Hey, otherwise it's no fun for a real man like Christian "I'm A Badass, I Have A Three-Day Beard" Lindner. The fun point?

Well, it was SPD and FDP vs. the Green Party at the end! Why? Well, Olaf "I'm The Leader" Scholz feared that in 2025 the Green Party could become the winner of the election and his days as chancellor would be over. Very clever Olaf, to undermine your own policy therefore, to damage the Green Party. What have I to say? Let's have a look at the past.

Sixteen years of Helmut Kohl, a short interlude named Gerhard Schröder. Sixteen years of Angela Merkel followed, a short interlude named Olaf Scholz. Yes, he lost in 2025, no longer chancellor, but also not, as he feared, the "guy" from the Green Party. Thanks to him and his fucking tactics, the next long period of a conservative chancellor began – Friedrich Merz!

Sixteen years of Helmut Kohl had been devastating for Germany, sixteen years of Angela Merkel killed every progress in the nation, especially regarding the energy transformation. Sixteen years of Friedrich Merz stood for the last casket nail for Germany – but hey, I was happy to leave the nation in 2030.

And in Portugal? Well, also Portugal changed much in these years, but some stayed. Even in 2050, on my last day, I could get a nice coffee at one of these nice small cafés, Portugal was able to keep more humanity, even in those rough and tough times.