



China as an epoch-defining challenge for us:
About the importance of national reserve forces for the perseverance

The historical Eurocentric focus of the European nations has clouded the view of politics for other theatres of the world! The emergence of more and more trouble spots in Europe and the Middle East favors the seemingly undetected actions of a distant, formerly local power: **China**.

For too long, the countries of Europe and America have cited their economic interests as the reason for their silence. China has immensely increased its power in the indo-pacific region and has now overtaken even Germany as the former "export world champion". The continuous growth of economic and political power naturally also arouses desires in China.

Two Chinese states have existed since 1949. On the mainland, the communist People's Republic of China was formed after years of civil war, whereas on the pacific island of Taiwan, around 2,000 kilometers away, the democratic Republic of China has emerged. The People's Republic has never renounced its claims to the island of Taiwan or recognized the Republic of China as a state. This status remains to this day.

Since Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and the resulting weakening of the "West", tensions in the South China Sea have also increased, threatening trade routes. China is presenting the West with ever greater challenges. This not only the USA has recognized this – keyword "pivot to Asia" – but also Europe has.

In view of China's growing influence of China, further tensions seem inevitable. A stronger Western involvement is necessary to secure the freedom of trade routes and reduce dependence on China. NATO must provide a lasting, credible deterrence and signal defence capabilities, also to prevent an ever-closer war between China and Taiwan.

The renewed focus on national and alliance defence must not, however, be accompanied by a loss of the ability to be present in joint international missions.

Here, too, reservists will once again be called upon in all functions - in operations, when filling vacancies in the troops at home and in protecting their own country from threats.