



EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

“The idea that Germany needs to take more responsibility for the world should not always be reduced to new weapon systems and increased military expenditure.” This was former German President Christian Wulff’s statement in a speech given on the occasion of the 30-year anniversary of *KAS International Reports*, which we commemorate in this issue. And he is right: Assuming responsibility in the world cannot be limited to the military sphere. Of course Germany must be prepared to fulfil its responsibilities towards its allies and deploy soldiers if the need arises. In light of the international threats, Germany must not abdicate its responsibilities in this area. But assuming responsibility means more than that.

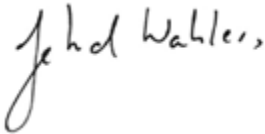
Among other things, assuming responsibility means to face up to one’s own past, as Germany has pursued for decades since World War II and should continue to do. Just how difficult this process can be, particularly when dealing with darker chapters in one’s own history, can be seen in the case of Japan, which Paul Linnarz examines in his article for this issue.

But of course assuming responsibility also means to remember moments in one’s history that are less dark – even uplifting – and to draw appropriate lessons from them. There can hardly be an event in German history that illustrates this better than German reunification. As Germans, we appreciate how fortunate we count ourselves to have achieved unity in peace and freedom when we follow Norbert Eschborn and Andreas Kindsvater in turning our gaze towards Korea, which has been a divided country for 70 years now.

Finally, assuming responsibility means to reassure one’s allies and partners. The USA remains one of Germany’s closest friends. Consequently, developments there are also of great significance for us, on this side of the Atlantic. We must bear this in mind when reading Alessandro Scheffler Corvaja’s article, which provides a critical appraisal of President Obama’s foreign policy legacy.

Georgia is one of the countries that has joined the circle of Germany's partners relatively recently. After gaining independence just under 25 years ago, the country has pursued a distinctly Western line in its foreign policy and has repeatedly had to fend off Russia's efforts to impose its hegemonic influence as explained by Canan Atilgan and Florian Feyerabend in their article. Continuing to support states such as Georgia, which are looking to the West in terms of their value orientation, on their path towards democracy, the rule of law and a social market economy also forms part of what Germany's responsibility in the world encompasses.

Coming to terms with the past, the culture of remembrance, the Transatlantic Partnership and support for young democracies – all areas to which the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung makes important contributions thereby supporting Germany in fulfilling its international responsibilities. Christian Wulff's speech on the occasion of the 30-year anniversary of the *KAS International Reports* acknowledged these contributions as well.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gerhard Wahlers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial 'G'.

Dr. Gerhard Wahlers
Deputy Secretary General

gerhard.wahlers@kas.de