

OCTOBER 2017

## EAST IS RED...



Acrylics

Specific colours had always been of importance in politics, either to identify with something, to distance oneself from something or to postulate ideas or world views which somehow got symbolized by a particular colour. White for instance is supposed to symbolize purity, kindness, perfection and peace. White is especially the colour of surrender. But it is also the colour of a godly monarchy as for instance the 'Whites' who, in 1814, made an effort to bring the Bourbons back into power. About 100 years later, in 1918 in Russia, the 'Whites' or the White Guards fought against the 'Red Army' in order to have the Tsar returned.

Red is the most archaic colour of mankind, it is the colour of blood. This anchors deeply within us.

But it is also the colour of warmth, of fire and of war. Mars is the red planet. The red flag, seemingly blood soaked, appears as a war flag all blood again and again at all times and in all cultures.

The Jacobins turned this flag then into the red flag of freedom (1792), in 1848 it became the flag of the labour movement and in 1907 the flag of Socialism and Communism. Hitler, too, used the red background of the swastika flag on purpose to relate to the labour movement.

In Russia 'red' is linguistically related to 'beautiful', a red flag is also a beautiful one. Also in China red is the colour for happiness and wealth, therefore very appropriate for its most important political colour in the reign of the Red Tsars and the multiple billionaires...

Red is often linked to terror and anarchy, too, even their true colour is black which is the colour of death, negative feelings, rejection and hatred. Black is the colour of illegality, and the black flag flies over people who are subject to imminent death sentences.

In 1919 black becomes the colour of a fascist movement. Black as the colour of the brave who do not fear death, and who especially like to have control over the life or death of their political opponents.

The latest example of black flags we witness at the moment in the terror by the fanatic Islamists. Black symbolizes here, amongst other things, the power and terror over unbelievers; the believers carry the colour green in their flags as this is Mohammed's colour which is the colour of the Holy war, of the jihad, and it is the colour of the Arabic unity and of eternal life.

Even the green of the Irish has a religious background, it is the colour of the Catholics. - Whether the green of the ecological movement and environmental protection parties is linked to the green of vegetables, the green of hope or means unripe is difficult to tell. Which or whether, it has to be kind of a religious colour (guaranteed organic)...

That one can choose brown as a political party colour is pretty hard to understand, as brown is known as the colour for stupidity, transience and bourgeoisie; and according to the war song: '...we are Hitler's brown cohorts...' - well then...

Another colour one links to religion is the orange of the Buddhists, the colour of change. This colour got a political meaning through the Dutch royalty, the House of Orange. That this colour also appears as a war flag becomes apparent in football games when the Dutch are on the field. A political party that chooses yellow for its party colour, has to be aware of that yellow had not a good reputation all the time. In the middle ages yellow was the colour of the outlaws and the traitor. That the Jewish star was yellow is no coincidence. From our cultural historical point of view yellow is a 'negative' colour; in China on the other hand one has a complete different view on this colour.

The blue colour in the former socialist countries was the colour of peace. That Europe has chosen this colour for its flag proofs good taste, as the hope for a peaceful living together of all Europeans or all people on this blue planet should never leave us.