

September 2020 BlackRock Tribunal:

## **Verdict**

### **I.**

The company BlackRock Inc. with its legal seat in the financial district Wilmington/Delaware/USA and operational headquarters in New York/USA will be dissolved. This also affects all subsidiaries in the USA and abroad. In Germany, this mainly affects BlackRock Asset Management Deutschland AG. The economically useful parts are transferred to public administration and will be reorganized democratically. The assets will be transferred into the property of the respective states, state subdivisions and municipalities.

### **II.**

The Company of BlackRock and all its subsidiaries are sentenced to publish all their business particulars and documents. This concerns among other things:

- the intricate construction of BlackRock itself with all its owners and subsidiaries
- all shares in companies, banks and financial service providers, including legal constructions in financial havens for the benefit of capital owners
- all names of paid influencing agents in all states, including related contracts, money flows, government and political contacts as well as protocols of arrangements and agreements
- all donations and comparable benefits granted to political parties, individual politicians, media, lobby groups in the USA, the EU and worldwide
- particulars on all law-suits which were and are carried on against the company itself as well as against its subsidiaries, influence agents, providers of capital and companies it holds shares in, especially those concerning corporation law, law on securities, on finance, on cartel, on data protection, on labour and on tenancy. This sentence is to be applied to global production and supply chains as well.
- records on all fines and penalties (paid or not paid) in any country imposed on BlackRock itself as well as on companies, banks and financial services companies in which BlackRock holds or held shares.

### III Reasons

#### 1. Economic superpower: violation of democracy, international law, cartel law

BlackRock violates the essential principles of democracy, international law and human rights as well as national laws, or is abetting violations.

For the democracies of the USA, Asia and Europe the fixed assets of 8.4 trillion euros (status 12/ 2019) are dangerous, often power- and market-dominating. They are incompatible with basic human rights. BlackRock's influential management of 30 DAX corporations, its simultaneous invisibility at shareholder meetings, the diagnostic systems of the "Aladdin" type, its connection with all American secret services, as well as the formative role of BlackRock in the American system of bank regulations, suggests a stifling preponderance in the financial market industry. There is a structural complicity of politics and economy, and an undercurrent tendency to silently abolish democracy.

#### 2. Violation of the human right to housing and the human right to Trade union activities

By their very selling off apartments in public property the responsible political authorities have given rise to the buying power of enterprises like Deutsche Wohnen and Vonovia. With stock returns of 21% on BlackRock's subsidiary Deutsche Wohnen, a situation of exploiting the tenants in large cities has developed. Unavoidably, it precludes balanced relations between tenants and owners. The blocking of the increase of rent currently valid in Berlin – even if not, at least partially, deemed unconstitutional by the law-courts – will be no more than a symbolic remedy. Apparently, the ruling class can remove the issue of any imminent expropriation largely from their agenda.

#### 3. Armaments: violation of international law, aiding and abetting wars

The jury has examined BlackRock's involvement in the armaments industry worldwide. The example of Rheinmetall was used to demonstrate how BlackRock can easily and effectively undermine European and German arms export regulations using Rheinmetall's worldwide locations. Here, too, the German government is looking just the other way and simply acts as an accomplice of Rheinmetall and BlackRock.

#### 4. Environment/climate: violation of climate agreements

BlackRock violates the interests and the survival chances of the majority of the world's population, for BlackRock provides diverse continuous forms of aid in environmental

destruction and global warming, as well as in deforestation and destruction of the world's largest forest area in the Amazon region. The other major cause of climate change, i.e. the unchecked consumption of fossil fuels such as heating oil, gasoline, natural gas and coal, is being promoted by the activities of the fossil industry. BlackRock is a major shareholder in the world's largest oil and gas companies Exxon Mobil, Total, Royal Dutch Shell, BP and Chevron, as well as the largest shareholder in seven of the world's ten largest coal producers - Coal India Ltd, Peabody Energy Corp, Glencore PLC, Arch Coal Inc, Murray Energy Corp, BHP Billiton and BHP Australia - and a major shareholder in Germany's largest coal and lignite companies RWE AG and E.On.

As a major shareholder in the German car industry, BlackRock has neither criticized nor tried to prevent the environmentally destructive frauds of Daimler, Volkswagen or BMW with regard to their fake exhaust gas values.

The "Environmental Alliance" co-founded by BlackRock allegedly to save the environment is no more than a conscious deception. A few hundred million dollars are to be invested in a few new wind turbine and solar projects, while the multi-digit billions invested in the fossil industry are just remaining. At the same time, the "One Planet Summit" is an attempt to establish a global secondary government instead of strengthening the UN.

#### **IV. Prospects**

The economic-political-bureaucratic rule of BlackRock & Co. at present can hardly be contained by legal instruments. BlackRock must be abolished or restricted by a worldwide movement "from below". It needs pressure on the institutions and politicians. Size, power and influence of BlackRock are incompatible with the basic principles of democracy as a limitation on absolute rule. The US should return to the path of the Roosevelt years to curb such enterprises. In Europe, too, the power of the big corporations must be contained. Controls must become real controls and must not be suffered to degenerate into institutions with the task of systematically looking away (CumEx scandal, Wirecard, Warburg Bank Hamburg).

States worldwide are failing with their instruments and are just ignoring the ensuing damages. They have largely given up control and no longer dare to exert control. In the USA, Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia there are no longer any powerful, efficient state controls of the financial markets. Even ECB and IMF do no more than administrate what global corporations like BlackRock, Google, Amazon and others wish to be done.

Therefore, civil society and citizens are called upon to stand up for their rights and set into motion a long-term process.

As a platform for movement, tribunals similar to those in Berlin, in Christchurch (New Zealand), New York, Vancouver and Paris should take place. They could be the start of an international movement and networking.

The jury is fully aware: The abolition of BlackRock will remove, with signal effect, an important power in the current system. This will be an important step towards abolishing a financial capitalist institution at the top, with its gigantic technical infrastructure, about to monopolize the financial-capitalist foundations for the foreseeable future and perpetuate the hegemony of financial capital over the real economy and society. The jury is aware too, however, of the danger that a new financial monopoly might arise to take over the place of BlackRock at any time.

For, since the 1970s, the political elites of global capitalism have succeeded in significantly reducing the social progress achieved after World War II, i.e. building the welfare state, democratically containing predatory capitalism (eight-hour day, wage autonomy, humanitarian working conditions, co-determination, control of the financial markets and much more). All these achievements have been smashed by and by with the liberalization of trade and financial flows, the privatization of public goods, the abolition of collective wage agreements and the disempowerment of trade unions in the factories. The protagonists of total market freedom were given powerful instruments, both in terms of propaganda and of economy, to achieve that mass unemployment rose drastically in global capitalism, working time rules were broken and permanent jobs were converted into temporary ones, wages were cut considerably and the wage share in GDP was noticeably reduced. Trade Unions' power was dramatically weakened by the strong countervailing power of capital, and fears about the future and general insecurity were made the guiding principles of action for all disadvantaged groups.

The ensuing redistribution in favour of the corporations and the rich by several thousand billion euros/dollars meant a targeted repression of the real economy in favour of a gigantic and unproductive financial sector that blocked the social and ecological development of national and international economies. Instead, it meant free rein to the destructive anti-social and anti-ecological forces of predatory capitalism, unequal distribution of income and concentration of wealth in but a few hands.

Therefore, the jury calls on civil society forces and sociopolitical oriented parties to do everything in their power to fight for drying up the sources of speculative financial capital and for submitting financial market capitalism under the rules of the real economy. This

implies overcoming mass unemployment by the introduction of the 30-hour/four-day week and the revival of the unions.

Jury: Professor Dr. Peter Grottian (Chair), Karin Baumert, Professor Dr. Michael Krätke, Privatdozent Dr. Lutz Mez (FU Berlin), Professor Dr. Mohssen Masserrat (Berlin)