

Against the pessimism of our time



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Glad Tidings

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Things don't look good for the human race – but better than ever before

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Walter Wüllenweber, born in 1962, studied political science, graduated from the Henri Nannen School of Journalism and has been contributing to *Stern* since 1995. He was awarded the German Social Prize and named the Reporter of the Year.

Things don't look good for the world. But they are better than they ever have been. Never before have people been in such good health, as well educated, as free and as safe from violence as today. Almost all development graphs are pointing sharply upwards. The past decades were the best in the history of Homo sapiens.

Yet the opposite image has taken hold of our minds: violence and squalor are on the increase, everything is getting worse. This message is the mother of all fake news and the basis for the triumphal march of populists. If society is successfully to face such challenges as climate change or migration it should learn not from its mistakes but rather from its successes. Thus identifying and acknowledging improvements in all areas of life is by no means an agenda merely to make us feel good. The glad tidings are the political message of our day.