

Europe's War Mentality Goes CRAZY: Switzerland Proofs It | Alberto Togni

Europe is in a collective War Psychosis where every single problem looks like part of a Putin-induced "hybrid war". Even Switzerland is not save of these processes. Alberto Togni, a member of the Council of the Swiss Communist Party, discusses why he supports Switzerland's neutrality initiative. He argues for non-alignment, mediation, opposition to NATO membership and unilateral sanctions, and links neutrality to sovereignty, workers' rights, economic diversification, and Switzerland's potential role in a multipolar world. Alberto's Page: Alberto Togni: <https://noue-nonato.ch> Our Links: Neutrality Studies substack: <https://pascallottaz.substack.com> Merch: <https://neutralitystudies.com/shop> Donation: <https://neutralitystudies.com/donate> Timestamps: 00:00:00 Introducing the neutrality initiative 00:01:25 Why a communist supports neutrality 00:05:45 The "pro-Putin" campaign framing 00:10:40 Switzerland and Europe's war mentality 00:14:35 Does NATO cooperation bring security? 00:19:14 Media propaganda and public opinion 00:23:10 A Marxist case for neutrality 00:30:30 Sanctions, solidarity, and neutrality 00:34:12 Referendum prospects and campaign efforts 00:39:22 A neutral Switzerland in a multipolar world 00:42:01 How to follow Alberto Togni

#Pascal

Welcome back to Neutrality Studies, today again with my friend and colleague Alberto Togni, a member of the Council of the Swiss Communist Party. Alberto, welcome back.

#Alberto Togni

Thank you, Pascal. It's great to speak with you again, and thanks for having me back on your channel.

#Pascal

I'm very glad that you're here because you're actually also the initiator and one of the presidents of something that's very important to me, of a group that says no to the EU and no to NATO and yes to the neutrality initiative that Switzerland will vote on on the 27th of September. So in about, what is that, in about three and a half weeks from now—we are speaking on September the 3rd. And, you know, this is going to be a large public referendum, right? For anyone out there, the Swiss, we're all going to vote whether we want to say yes to writing a rather strict definition of Swiss neutrality into our constitution.

The constitution currently mentions the word, doesn't define it, and we want to change that. Alberto, can you tell us a little bit about your arguments here that you wrote down and why it is that you, as a communist, are supporting this neutrality initiative? Because inside Switzerland, the talk is that this is a right-wing conspiracy of the right-wing party that wants to just use this for business. You know, it's just for business with Vladimir Putin. That's all they say all day long. But you seem to disagree.

#Alberto Togni

Yeah, since day one, they call it the Putin initiative just to avoid discussing it. As you know, we as a Communist Party, we have been in favor of neutrality from the very beginning. Actually, we collaborated with the Swiss People's Party, which is the right-wing party that promotes this initiative. We collaborated with them in collecting the signatures to go to vote. And the reason is actually very, very simple. If we just look at the text we are going to vote on, there are some very clear points. First of all, Switzerland cannot join NATO. Switzerland cannot take part in military conflicts. Switzerland cannot join unilateral sanctions, so sanctions like the ones imposed by the European Union, not United Nations sanctions. And Switzerland has to use its neutrality as a tool for mediation.

So I think that all these things should be part of the DNA of anyone who considers themselves a left-wing person today. Unfortunately, we have seen that this doesn't really seem to be the case, but I'm sure we'll get into that later. But if we also look beyond the text itself, these demands are not the only things that we agree on in principle. For us, they are also very urgent because today the international situation is extremely serious. You know, you talk about that every day on your channel. We have major conflicts breaking out very quickly, and these conflicts could escalate very quickly. We have the European Union getting involved in a dangerous arms race. And then if we look at the medium term, we also have the United States, which will do everything it can to stop China's growth and to stop what is being called the multipolar world.

At the same time, we have the constant stream of propaganda telling us day after day that Russia is going around Europe, carrying out sabotage and trying to influence our political process. So for us, it's obvious that we are living in one of those moments in history where, if something gets out of control, it could cause a chain reaction that could lead us to a collective disaster. So defending neutrality for a communist is not an idealistic position. It's a very concrete choice. It means preserving the country's autonomy. It means avoiding integration into military alliances like NATO, which want war. And so basically, it prevents our conscripts, who are the working class, the working people, from being sent to fight abroad and die. So it's a very clear and simple no-to-war initiative.

#Pascal

Yeah, the other side is framing this now constantly, constantly, as just being an initiative that is supposed to help two men, two men. It's brought it down to two men. One, our right-wing leader of the People's Party, Mr. Blocher, and the second one, Vladimir Putin. The other side, my party—I'm

still a paying member of the Social Democrats—my party calls this a pro-Putin initiative. This is going to help Putin. It's going to make the war better. It's going to make everything better for Putin. They do it for Putin. Putin is everywhere. Actually, all the places, like on Twitter, you barely find an argument that doesn't contain the word Putin, right? Can you explain to yourself how it is that the other side is reducing everything to Russia? And what are you doing at the moment in order to actually, you know, kind of get back to the core of what this is about, the principle that we don't get involved in foreign wars?

#Alberto Togni

Yeah, the debate, it's very crazy. You can't say anything, because if you say that you don't want Switzerland to join NATO, they accuse you of serving Putin's interests. If you talk that you don't want war, they say that you are a pro-Putin person. But for me, the reason from a part of the elite, it's very simple. They simply cannot tell you that they are against Switzerland joining NATO because that's exactly their plan. That's exactly what they want. They cannot tell you that the European Union is putting pressure on our government to adopt European Union sanctions. They cannot tell you that neutrality needs to be dismantled so that one day we can join NATO or the European Union. So instead, they have to destroy the debate before it even starts with this kind of nonsense argument. What is really worrying me... Let me just show you one...

#Pascal

You know, for our audience, just to understand the level of insanity that Switzerland is currently in. I mean, this is the kind of stuff that circulates not only on Twitter; it also circulates in our newspapers. Stuff like little Helvetia on a meadow getting a dove of peace from Vladimir Putin, who's holding a knife behind his back, right? And this is now the common—this is kind of the mainstream discussion today, posted by a local politician in Switzerland, not on the national but on the local level, Mr. Mark Schinzel, and others. I mean, tons and tons of these things, right? And sorry, just for illustration.

#Alberto Togni

The fact is that if a liberal person, which is an Atlanticist person, makes that kind of speech, for me, it's stupid, but it's still okay. It's normal. But for me, the worrying part is that it's the left that is on the front line pushing these pro-Putin arguments. They have, as a left party, the opportunity to introduce a ban on joining NATO, for example. For them, the problem is that the initiative comes from the right side, which is pretty funny because they are the ones that are governing the country every day with the right. And part of the right, the Swiss People's Party, supports this initiative, okay. But pretty much all the rest of the right parties of Switzerland, together with the army, together with the bank sector, together with the business associations, and so on and so on, they are standing on their side. So these arguments, it's really, really nonsense. They just copy and paste the propaganda of the Atlantic media, like the NZZ and so on.

#Pascal

Yeah, and, you know, we also, I mean, in our mainstream media, the Neue Zürcher Zeitung, the NZZ, our version of the New York Times—or, well, the NZZ is downstream of the New York Times, right? I mean, the Germans get it from the New York Times, and then the Swiss get it from the Germans. So it's like—but it's the same kind of mentality. They usually carry around nine articles against this initiative, and every once in a while there's one kind of little fluff piece that is a little bit more positive about it. But overall, the transatlantic opinion is very, very clear, right? This must be sunk. This must be prevented, that Switzerland actually writes its economic neutrality back into its constitution.

#Alberto Togni

Yeah, I read the voting guide published by the Socialist Party section in the canton where I live, Ticino, the Italian part of Switzerland. And in just a few lines of text, they use the word Putin 15 times. And they also use a lot of synonyms like war criminal, oligarch, and blah, blah, blah. The word NATO doesn't appear anywhere in the document. The word mediation doesn't appear. The word neutrality doesn't appear. Putin that, Putin this, Putin blah, blah, blah, blah. For me, the fact is clear. The leadership of the Swiss Socialist Party, not the basic members, but the leadership, is completely aligned with the political position of the European Union, which I think they want to join in the future. And directly or indirectly, they will make it easier for Switzerland to move closer to the European Union and NATO. And that's a serious problem. And it's very sad for our left-wing people like me to see that.

#Pascal

Do you also perceive it as a kind of, you know, a very European moment of Switzerland, right? Not in the sense that everybody wants to join, but that Switzerland actually is going through the exact same mental process as the rest of Europe is, which is everything is reduced and targeted toward Russia. And everything is interpreted as part of Russia. I mean, right now, as we speak, you know, the Germans and the EU actually have, again, this mass hysteria moment because four weeks ago, a drone was found at Leipzig Airport. It didn't explode. No damage was done. There was just an unidentified drone. And now, four weeks later, we have a mass hysteria that this was apparently a hybrid attack by the Russians.

It must be clear: the proof given is none, is that people say it was Russia. There's no proof. I mean, actually, the German authorities say, "We cannot share any intelligence because that is classified," right? So you need to trust us. Trust us. We're telling you so. And the whole of Europe right now, the EU, everybody is chiming in. It's like, "Yes, yes, this must be Russia. This was a hybrid attack. We now need to double down." And that kind of mentality is actually also playing out within our

Swiss context, where we then worry about referendums and so on. But it's the same kind of mentality of the idea that we must join forces to destroy Russia. That just seems to be a European thing right now.

#Alberto Togni

Yeah, the fact is that we are in the middle of Europe, and Europe now is the continent that is pushing more towards this hysteria, hysterical position about Russia and all of that. The fact is that this is a war mentality, which is affecting all of Europe and is also affecting Switzerland. And in Switzerland, there is a big part of the elite who would like to join the European Union in the future. And so there is kind of the same DNA in our ruling class and the ruling class of the European Union. The problem, once again, is that the left doesn't understand this.

And we have to understand today that neutrality is not only what I said before—not to NATO, not to this, not to that—but it's also a kind of defense against this war mentality because war today, of course, doesn't just kill people. That's the worst thing of war, of course. But it also destroys society. It tears down democratic rights, trade union rights, personal freedom. We see every day the propaganda. We have the example of Jacques Baud, our Swiss friend, who lives in Brussels. And he got sanctioned by the European Union for his personal opinion, political opinion.

And so if you want to push Switzerland to join NATO and the European Union, you have to prepare the population to be ready to do that. And that's exactly what's happening. So day by day, they are telling you that you risk being invaded by Putin, that Putin is trying to sabotage Switzerland, that he's attacking the airport and everything. All this propaganda. So people get scared and wish for more security, wish to go closer to NATO, wish to strengthen the European defense, and so on. So it's just propaganda, the main reason being to accept, to renounce our freedom and to vote for the arms race that we are seeing in Europe today.

#Pascal

One of the things that I don't properly understand, and I would like to have that discussion with an opponent, but it's difficult to find them. I tried to invite this Marc Schinzel guy, but he just said, politely, kind of, "Let's not." But it's difficult to find them. But one of these arguments is that, you know, Switzerland cannot defend itself alone. You know, we cannot do it, right? Because apparently, if Switzerland doesn't decide to cooperate, as they call it at the moment, with NATO, then tomorrow the Russians will be in Bern, or maybe the Chinese or the North Koreans, apparently. And I do not understand how it works that these people think that Switzerland has any kind of obligation to join NATO when we are already surrounded by it. Does this make sense to you?

#Alberto Togni

This is clearly what was said before about war mentality, because first you choose to adopt European Union sanctions, you move away from neutrality, and then you tell the population to prepare for war based on threats that have never been proven, and at the very least, if they exist, we have created them ourselves by choosing to side with NATO and the European Union, for example, in the Ukrainian war. This is clearly propaganda because I think that the only way to win this initiative for the opposite side is to tell the population that they have to fear Russia and they need to stay closer to NATO. That's the only reason to do that.

We know very well that there is no reason to invade Switzerland today. We do nothing against anybody. We are not a dangerous country. We don't pose a threat to anyone. And so they have to invent this propaganda that we are weak, we are alone, and that we need to stand side by side with NATO. The fact is that we also see in practice that moving closer to NATO doesn't mean more security. If you look at Finland and Sweden, for example, they joined NATO. And the day after, of course, Russia starts to move troops along the border. And Finland realized, oh no, shit, Russia is treating us... But guys, nobody was trying to invade you.

You decide to join NATO. You decide to host a United States military base. You start discussing hosting foreign nuclear weapons, and then you're worried about—you don't understand why it became a threat. That's ridiculous. You also saw that during the war on Iran, the Persian Gulf countries which hosted United States military bases, they got targeted by Iran, of course, as a retaliation for the United States attack. And the United States did nothing to protect them. So moving closer to NATO, it's exactly the opposite of having more security and having more control, more peace.

#Pascal

Why do you think that this narrative is still so successful? Because, you know, when the Iran war started on February 28th this year, 2026, right? And by started, I mean when the Americans and Israelis attacked Iran unprovoked, right? And started to pound it and bomb it and bomb Tehran and so on. You know, something that I thought would immediately make large parts of the Swiss population think of the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022, right? And they would see, like, oh, wait a second, the other side does very evil things too.

Maybe it's better we keep a distance from both of them, right? But that didn't happen. That actually didn't happen. I mean, in our media, still today, the US-Israeli war against Iran is still framed to this day under, you know, kind of the struggle against the Mullah regime and the evil Mullah regime that then targets innocent Gulf countries because it's evil, right? That's still kind of one of the mainstream discourses here. Why do you think the propaganda is so successful in actually, you know, disconnecting all of these very similar affairs that are going on?

#Alberto Togni

That's a very big and important question. I don't have a simple answer. I don't think it is a simple answer. The fact is that we have all the media, which are day after day talking about that. They, day after day, they talk how Iran is bad, how Putin is bad, how the Western world is the best one you can imagine to live in. And they are kind of preparing the background for a long time. I think that it's like, in the case of Switzerland, it's like since the 19th century that they are preparing the background to dismantle neutrality.

And they start to do that piece by piece, very slowly, in a very logical way, yeah, with the media, with the think tanks, with the political debate, piece by piece. In the beginning of the '90s, we started to say, for example, that sanctions are not against neutrality. Then we started to say that, for example, allowing NATO aircraft to fly over Swiss territory is not against neutrality. So, as I was saying, day after day, you start to normalize this kind of thing. And after 30 years of work in that direction, it's easier to convince the population.

But I'm not 100% sure that this is working as well as in the past. I think that a big part of the population is starting to realize, because of alternative media, that this narrative doesn't work anymore. The problem is often that these people then, when they realize that all of this is propaganda, they don't start to oppose this, but they simply lose all faith, all hope, and they don't struggle against this system. That's the problem. But I think that the propaganda is not working as well as it was in the past.

#Pascal

Yeah, that wouldn't be a good thing. That would be a very good thing, actually. And we will see. You know, the good thing about the Swiss system is we get these kind of reality checks, not just, like, questionnaires and, you know, results of, like, a thousand people that were asked something. We get a national referendum on things, and then we get, like, the hard numbers. And I do trust that these numbers are going to be real. There's no reason to believe that the elections would be or are rigged in any way, shape, or form. The only question is, does the propaganda work on the side that tries to shepherd Switzerland into line with NATO? Which doesn't necessarily mean Switzerland must join NATO, but as long as you're an obedient kind of co-worker, you know, sometimes it's even better to have somebody who's cooperating but not inside. You know, the reason why we can have a war in Ukraine is because Ukraine is not inside NATO. The one thing they never did is make it inside NATO, right?

They never want to extend Article 5 to Ukraine. But, you know, you want to fight the proxy war through Ukraine, not for Ukraine. The question then to me is whether, on our side, we managed to, you know, convince enough people to say that, no, no, no, there's very good arguments, also left-wing arguments, for this neutrality. And as a communist, I suppose we still have this kind of Marxist

interpretation of neutrality, of the international world. And can you maybe give us a Marxist argument why this Swiss neutrality, and also neutrality when it comes to economics, so no sanctions, why that is important?

#Alberto Togni

Yeah, from our point of view today, neutrality also means rejecting the logic of the opposing blocs in this kind of new Cold War, which I hope will stay cold. And so it means deciding our domestic and foreign policy independently. It's a point about national sovereignty, which has always been a left-wing, a Marxist perspective, if you want to improve workers' rights. You have to be a free country, first of all. That's very simple. And the fact is also that today, as we know, we are moving from a unipolar world to a multipolar world. We think that a non-aligned Switzerland will be able to talk to everyone and will be able to act as a bridge between the declining West and the rest of the world.

This means being able to diversify our trading partners. This means, as I said before, having more autonomy and a stronger ability to deal with international shocks. It becomes clear how vulnerable Switzerland is when it's totally dependent on the Western economy. We saw it when we discussed the Switzerland-European Union relationship. We saw that when Donald Trump imposed tariffs. So, in our opinion, the more we diversify our economy, the better it will be for Switzerland and for the working class. And a second argument today is that neutrality also means talking about labor. Because, as I said before, if we don't defend neutrality today, it means moving towards NATO, towards the logic of confrontation between blocs, towards a war mentality.

So if things go very badly, we all die. And this is a problem, of course. But if things go well, the least bad scenario, we will all become poorer. Our personal, democratic, and trade union rights will be dismantled. Social reform will become impossible because we need to spend money on the European arms race. Our economy will be gradually cut off from the emerging world, and it will become increasingly difficult to cooperate economically with the rest of the world because we need to be tied up to the European and NATO countries. So the reason is also to make a link between the issue of neutrality and the issue of the workers at work. Today, defending neutrality also means defending workers' rights, which is a left-wing thing, of course.

#Pascal

Yeah, because the workers are the ones who will be sent to the front. The workers are the ones who have to go and die. And they're the ones who get bombed, right, when things really, really go south. And there is also this one point, which is, of course, that if we use a communist interpretation or Marxist interpretation of the international world, then the whole problem of imperialism is that imperialism is structurally embedded in capitalism, right? You need to increase capital, you need to increase profits, which means you have to grow, which means you have to go abroad, you have to steal resources and labor from below in order to keep making profits.

So an imperial system or a capitalist system must be imperial, must be expansionary, must be military, must create this drive to do what the United States is doing at the moment, actually, which is just constantly bomb everything and expand its sphere of influence. And neutrality is actually a counter-argument to that, right? It puts a brake on this very negative tendency because it says, like, defense, yes, but defense at home. We will not defend Switzerland at the Hindukush. We will not defend Switzerland elsewhere.

In the Gulf of— in the Strait of Hormuz, we will not defend Switzerland in Odessa. That's not what we do. We defend it at home. So no expansionism. The funny thing, though, is that the counter side says, like, this is all about business. You know, you guys, you just want business with Vladimir Putin. There is— that's, I think, why it's rather difficult for us, because the rationales that we are building are based upon quite complex analysis of the situation, whereas the other one has a very simple explanation, which is: if Vladimir Putin tomorrow dropped dead, we would all live in world peace.

#Alberto Togni

Yeah, the fact is that when they talk about business, Switzerland is part of the Western world. It's obvious like that. And it's also obvious that in the past, Swiss neutrality has also been used to cover some kind of dirty things, the cooperation with the apartheid regime or with the Zionist regime. But people would criticize Swiss neutrality because they see it like a cover for questionable activity. They don't take into account that these things will happen even without neutrality. And the fact is that they will not become less frequent if this initiative is rejected. And it's quite the opposite. If this initiative will not pass, the political elite will feel more free and more justified in taking sides and perpetrating imperialistic aggression based on its economic interest, the logic dogma. And the problem with Swiss foreign policy is not caused by neutrality. It's actually caused by the fact that neutrality has not always been respected. And...

#Pascal

Yeah, and that there are people who want to do business and do dirty business. So the problem is that we lack laws that keep dirty business from happening. The problem is not that we have a neutrality platform upon which it's then being done, right? If you don't want weapons trade, you don't need to prohibit neutrality. You need to prohibit weapons trade, right? Yeah.

#Alberto Togni

Which we are going to vote on in November. That's interesting because already the left said, yeah, but with this initiative, you will export weapons to the rest of the world, which is not true. And then you answer them, yeah, but guys, in November, one month later, we are going to vote about this issue, where you can, of course, fight against that, as I will do. And another argument about

neutrality in an international solidarity way is the question about unilateral sanctions. The left, the big left party, want to take sanctions because they say that... They say that unilateral sanctions defend human rights and always target the bad guys, so it's an instrument of solidarity.

And I think this is probably one of the most mind-blowing parts of the whole thing, because I'd really, really love to take the time one day to look carefully and discover when exactly it was decided that unilateral sanctions are something we should defend as left-wing people, because we have to stop with this rhetoric that sanctions defend human rights and so on. We have to have the courage to say that unilateral sanctions are tools of war, just like bombs. They are tools of war, and they are used as a tool of political domination. Sanctions kill. There was this interesting study published by The Lancet that estimated that from the '60s to 2021, around 38 million people died as a result of unilateral sanctions. And now I ask myself, is there a more serious violation of human rights than killing 38 million people, most of them children or elderly people?

#Pascal

Half a million people a year. And that's only U.S. and EU unilateral coercive measures, and not the ones the United Nations imposes. Really, just those. Half a million a year. But for some reason, the humanistic left at the moment says, in Switzerland, they don't only turn one blind eye to it; they turn half a million blind eyes to it. And may I just add one more thing, which is, you know, just as a fun fact for people, you know, the arbiter of international law is, of course, the United Nations, which is founded upon the Charter of the United Nations, one of the most important international law instruments we have.

And the United Nations actually has a so-called International Day against Unilateral Coercive Measures. And it's actually the 4th of December. The United Nations says very clearly that, according to the UN Human Rights Office, the OHCHR, the term unilateral coercive measures, well, it's the sanctions and unilateral coercive measures and legislation are contrary to international law, including international human rights law and international humanitarian law. The Charter of the United Nations and the norms and principles governing peaceful relations among states prohibit coercive measures.

And in Switzerland right now, the whole spiel is that, oh, no, no, we need to do sanctions in order to protect international law. But this is, of course, very difficult for us to communicate to the other side. I mean, the other side is already lost anyhow. But the question to me is, do we still have enough people in the middle? Because we don't need to win everybody. We just need to get across the 50% mark. We just need 51% of people to say yes. So we don't need those who are gone already anyhow, those 30%, but there's a spot in the middle. What's your interpretation so far? Are we getting through to people who are kind of on the fence?

#Alberto Togni

Honestly, I am a little bit pessimistic. From what I can see in Ticino, I think that a lot of people, even from the left, even left-wing people, will vote in favor of neutrality. But from what I can see, especially from the German part of Switzerland, there is very, very strong propaganda. And so I'm not sure that this initiative will pass. And another problem, in my opinion, is that people think, yeah, but we are already neutral. So why do we have to put a more strict form of neutrality in the Constitution if this one works very well and blah, blah, blah? But honestly, I have some difficulty reading the situation properly. And I don't really know how it's going to finish, but I'm a little bit pessimistic.

#Pascal

And it's difficult to forecast this, although at the moment it looks as if we are on the losing end of this battle. But it doesn't matter. We have to plow on anyhow. And you know who gave me a very interesting argument yesterday? I haven't published it yet, but it will be out. Our former Swiss federal councillor, Micheline Calmy-Rey. Micheline Calmy-Rey is also part of the Social Democrats. And I will put out the video soon. We did it in French. And she didn't say whether she would vote yes or no. She said she doesn't like the initiative very much. But she also said, on the one hand, the initiative wouldn't change very much, especially when it comes to sanctions, because there are two exceptions. First exception: when the United Nations mandates sanctions, Switzerland can still continue.

That's true. Secondly, Switzerland can still have measures in order to prevent the circumvention of sanctions by other states. So she said, well, that means we wouldn't actually have to do that very much. She said, if I was still in the Federal Council, which once she was in our government, she would take this as like, well, we can continue. And then she also said, but if you reject the initiative, that would send a very negative signal to the international community. That would be very difficult to explain. She said that creates a dilemma. She didn't say that she will vote yes. She said she doesn't like it, but she also said voting no creates a big problem for Switzerland. I think that's not a bad argument to actually also start using.

#Alberto Togni

Yeah, it's an interesting argument. I've already heard that before. I don't remember where, but yeah, basically I agree, because everybody thinks that Switzerland is neutral, and then suddenly 51% of the population say, "No, we don't want neutrality in the constitution." So yeah, it's a good argument.

#Pascal

But what do you think, what are the other parties? Because there is now a left-wing committee. The communists are also part of it, right? You actually formed an entire supporting committee. I think

this one is the one you're particularly doing from your end: No to NATO, Front for Neutrality and Work. There are other committees right now. Somehow I get the feeling that we are actually starting to at least get organized a bit among ourselves in Switzerland in order to say, like, hey, no, not everybody is okay with the foreign policy, this NATO integrationist and transatlantic foreign policy that's going on.

#Alberto Togni

Yeah, there are still some associations which understand the historic moment. For example, there is also the Swiss Cuba Association, which is part of this committee that we created. So there is hope. There are people also outside the right wing, the People's Party, who will support this initiative. I think that now it's our role to convince our left-wing part of society to support this initiative. We have very strong arguments. We have a very good argument. The opposite side doesn't have arguments. They don't want to discuss this. So I think that, and I'm pretty sure, there are people, as I've already said before, not from the leadership of the Socialist Party, but normal people, that still understand the importance of this topic, still understand the importance of avoiding joining NATO, and still trust a neutral Switzerland and its mediation role in the world. So I think we have very good arguments, and we have to spread that every day to everybody, nonstop until the 27th of September.

#Pascal

And this would be a very nice way to end the discussion. But I want one more thing, which is, let's say we succeed. Let's be optimistic and say we get this through. What do you think this new neutral Switzerland, or this, you know, this reinforced decision that, you know, no, no, no, no, we don't actually want to pick sides—how could we build and work inside the multipolar world? Because the other side keeps saying, like, oh, this is isolationism. You want to isolate Switzerland. But my interpretation is no, no. We would love to integrate Switzerland into the multipolar world and make it useful. What are your positive visions of a reinforced neutral Switzerland, how we can cooperate?

#Alberto Togni

First of all, it's an internal thing. The fact that it's a— this initiative, of course, will not be the last struggle for neutrality. It will be the beginning of a new wave of struggle for Swiss neutrality. First of all, it will be a clear statement: Switzerland is neutral. Switzerland wants to mediate, to be a bridge between nations, and not a tool of war in the NATO-aligned European Union. So I think that in internal policy, it will push the members of the government to be more careful when they discuss with NATO and they discuss with the European Union.

And from an international point of view, yeah, a lot of countries already think that Switzerland is neutral. Not all, unfortunately, because of what we did in the last couple of years. But if you see that the people of that country want to put in the Constitution that Switzerland is neutral, and if you see

that this country cannot join NATO anymore, cannot join war anymore, cannot impose unilateral sanctions, of course, it becomes more trustworthy when you want to talk with this country about peace, about mediation, and so on. So I think there are those two different streets in case of the success of the initiative: one more internal and one more international. Yeah.

#Pascal

And I would hope that if this comes through, we would also increase our cooperation with the Global South, with the already non-aligned countries, with ASEAN, with China, with India, you know, with the others that managed to stay out of these European wars so far, because they have been very successful at that. But we'll see. Alberto, people who want to follow you and support you, I think they should first and foremost find you on your homepage, which is nonato.ch, spelled a little differently. No, wait, noe-nonato.ch, actually. Where else can they find you and support you?

#Alberto Togni

You can look for my name on Facebook and Instagram. I don't have a blog or anything else, but through the website that you just showed and on my social networks, you will see my political campaign, my articles, and whatever I try to do to defend Swiss neutrality.

#Pascal

Everybody, I will put the links to Alberto's homepage in the description box below. Alberto, let's keep pushing the next four weeks. Alberto, Tony, thank you so much for your time today.

#Alberto Togni

Thank you very much, Pascal.

#Alberto Togni

It's always a pleasure.