G8 – A critical presentation

1. What is the G8?

2. What does the location in Heiligendamm look like?

3. Mobilisation to Heiligendamm - the different movements -
G8 Input

1. G8 today – Who is meeting in Heiligendamm?
2. What is the G8?
   2.1. History of the G8
   2.2. Organisation and structure of the G8
   2.3. Topics of the G8
   2.4. The influence of the G7 and G8
3. What is the G20?
4. History of the Protests
## 1. G8 today – Who is meeting in Heiligendamm?

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<td>Präsident George W. Bush</td>
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<td>Bundeskanzler Gerhard Schröder</td>
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<td>🇫🇷</td>
<td>Präsident Jacques Chirac</td>
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<td>Premierminister Tony Blair</td>
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<td>Ministerpräsident Junichiro Koizumi</td>
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<td>Bertie Ahern</td>
<td>Kanada</td>
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<td>Prof. Romano Prodi</td>
<td>EU-Ratspräsident</td>
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1. G8 heute – wer trifft sich in Gleneagles

“Family picture” in Evian, 2003

Official Family Photo: Romano Prodi, President, European Commission; Junichiro Koizumi, President, Japan; Gerhard Schroeder, Chancellor, Germany; Jean Chrétien, Prime Minister, Canada; Vladimir Putin, President, Russian Federation; Jacques Chirac, President, France; George W. Bush, President, United States; Tony Blair, Prime Minister, United Kingdom; Sivlio Berlusconi, President, Italy; Konstantinos Simitis, Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic and President-in-Office of the European Council
2. What are the G8 countries?

- Just the captains of state?

- On what do the G8 have influence, and what kind of influence?
World Population: ca. 6.7 Billion people
G8 countries: ca. 850 million people
Gross national income

- The 7 biggest western economies

- Russia as a geo-strategic partner
But back to the 1970ies …

• 1971 the Bretton-Woods finance system of the solid exchange courses breaks down.

• The arabic oil producing countries (OPEC) let the price of oil rise.

• The world economy goes into a crisis.
2.1. History of the G8

1975 Rambouillet, France: First G6-Summit
Development of the G8

- 1975: Rambouillet
- 1976: Puerto Rico
- 1977: London
- 1998: Birmingham
- 2006: erster RUS-Vorsitz

- G6: USA, DEU, FRA, GBR, ITA, JAP
- G7: + KAN
- G7: + EU-KOM
- G8: + RUS (RUS war schon seit 1994 inoffiziell beteiligt)
2.2. Organization / Structure

Anhang 11: Struktur des G7/G8-Prozesses 2004 (Sea Island)
2.3. Topics

• At the beginning: only economic and finance topics on the agenda (Oil crisis)
• 1983: politics on external relationships included, trade and debts
• 1989: end of the Cold War, finding a new structure for global, environment and international crime
• 1994: Globalisation and new power for international organisations
• 1998: renewing and placing more emphasis on the “internal world policy“

Today: G8 summits as political forum for “Global Governance“
Internal structure of the G8

- No transparent structure or publicly available meeting notes or minutes
- No administration of its own
- Rotation of Presidency every year
- The G8 is an informal alliance of states that takes responsibility for global tasks on a base of common basic values such as “freedom, democracy, human rights, free trade and constitutional legality”
- Decisions are made by consensus
Expert groups

• Financial Action Task Force
  money laundering, drugs

• Rom-Lyon-Group
  fight against (organized) crime

• Nuclear Safety and Security Group
  security of nuclear power plants

• G8-experts on famine

• und so on …
Examples from the G8 Summit 2004/5

• “Climate Change”
  Despite the fact that 2005 G8 President Tony Blair prioritises Climate Change, the G8 meeting in the UK sets no concrete targets to protect the climate.

• “African Poverty”
  Despite the fact that Tony Blair prioritises third world poverty reduction, the 2005 G8 Summit finds no additional funding to reduce African debt.

• “Terrorism”
  Terrorism is the top priority on the 2004 G8 agenda, yet during the G8 Summit in 2005 terrorists attack multiple targets in London even though the cost of G8 security is over €200 million.
2.3. The influence of the G7 / G8

Anhang 8: Anteile der G8 am Welthandel mit Gütern 2002 (in %)

Quelle: WTO, Internationale Handelsstatistik 2003
The G7 countries trade 65% a year of the global gross national product.
The G8 countries control:

- 48% of votes in the International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- 47% of the World Bank votes
The G8 countries have 4 of 5 permanent representatives on the UN Security council.
And what else do the G8 countries do?

- They do nearly 90% of all global weapons trade.
- They produce 47% of the global CO$_2$ emissions.
- They are control most “Third World” debt.
- 80% of medical patents are made from G8 countries, including patents for many AIDS drugs.
- They account for 60% of global military expenses.
- and so on....
3. G 20
What are the G20?

founded 1999

Meeting of the finance ministers & the presidents of the national banks of the following countries:

- G8-countries
  + Argentina, Australia, Brasil, China, India, Indonesia, Mexiko, Saudi-Arabia, South Korea, South Africa, Turkey
  + EU, International Monetary Fund, World Bank
What are the G20 doing?

- constructive Dialog between industrialized nations and “emerging-market economies“
- close partnership to IMF and WB

Aim:
To stabilise the global finance architecture.
History of the Protests against G8-summits
German protests 1985, 1988

1985 G7, Bonn
20,000 protesters

1988 World Bank/IMF Summit, Berlin
30,000 protestors
Bicycle Demonstration
Decentralised Actions
Separate Women’s group
German G7 1992, Munich

20,000 protesters
police use tactics such as “Kettling” protest
Open Borders theme
G7/8 Protests 1997-1999

1997 G7, Denver, USA
• “The Other Economic Summit”
• 15,000 person protest march
• Press Blackout

1998 G8, Birmingham, UK
• Jubilee 2000 calls for debt cancellation
• Blockades organised
• Blair moves summit at last moment

1999 G8, Cologne
• Large protest camp, surrounded by police
• Intercontinental Caravan from India
• Most protests disrupted
2000 Okinawa

- ca. 70,000 protestors
- Total amount of costs for the summit: US$ 750 Million
2001 Genua

- 250,000 protestors
- 1 protestors shot dead
- hundreds of violated and taken to prison
- Total amount of costs: US$ 225 Million
2002 Kananaskis

- 3,000 protestors
- Total amount of costs: US$ 250 Million
2003 Evian

- 100,000 protestors
- Street blockades and Riots
- People got violated and imprisoned
2004 Sea Island

- 300 protestors against 20,000 Police + FBI
G8 Summit St. Petersburg 2006
14 July: Global action day
15-17 July: G8-summit

Three main themes:
Energy Security
Education
Aids/Health Care

Call for free Health Care for everyone, Education for All, an end to the Atomic Age and and end to war.
2007 - G8 in HEILIGENDAMM
1 – 2 – 3 – 4 - Action

Infos
www.gipfelsoli.org
www.de.dissent.org.uk
www.g8-2007.de
www.nog8.ru

Films
www.kanalb.de

Dates to Remember:
Global Action Day / Summit in Russia: 14./15.-17.7.2006