

Kommentar zum Anschlag in Boston: Kein Nährboden für Hysterie¹

von Andreas Geldner, 16.04.2013

Assignment

Imagine an American student is staying with your family for a few weeks. This is an opportunity for both of you to learn about your respective countries and cultures.

You would like to ask your American guest if this text from spring 2013 truly reflects the present situation in her/his home country. Therefore, you sum it up for her/him in 150-200 words.

This is what “Stuttgarter Zeitung” had to say on April 16th, 2013. The paper is widely read in the South-East of Germany.

More than 10 years ago the panic and bitterness after the terrorist attacks on 09/11 made unprecedented security measures, surveillance and Guantánamo seem reasonable.

But since 09/11 there have been (very) few terrorist attacks, mostly ineffective and some, amazingly, organised by the FBI in order to convict vulnerable young Muslim Americans.

Nowadays, Americans understand that total security is an illusion and are getting tired of awkward security procedures.

Moreover, since 09/11 more Americans have been killed by deranged fellow citizens using firearms. This, however, has not resulted in more gun control.

Since 09/11, war casualties and the curtailing of civil rights have had a sobering effect. Although news of a home-grown right-wing terrorist behind the shootings in Boston would have caused a public outcry, for all the shock and the gore of the massacres, Americans have learned not to overreact again.

(163 words)

¹ Veröffentlicht mit freundlicher Genehmigung der Stuttgarter Zeitung