

Wallnöfer Doris

## **Mission Impossible**

### **Or the so called War**

#### **Preface**

In an interview with Marianne Brausch, the French philosopher Paul Virilio claims that with the atomic bomb the word “end” was written under the term war. Through the invention of the atomic bomb and the experience of Hiroshima and Nagasaki questions about war and peace have to be asked in a new way. The end of the war in the same time stands for the beginning of this work in which the question, what comes after the end? is a common thread. Certainly the end of the war does not mean that since the end of the cold war we have been living in a world of peace. But the classical model of war was detached from new forms of war. These new wars, as Virilio’s reference to the atomic bomb shows, are connected to science, to techno-science. Through the invention of the bomb, traditionally military terms like attack and defense as well as the act of declaring war do not make sense anymore. The distinction between the military and civilian activities became blurred after the second world war, and we are now faced with an environment which is neither entirely military nor civilian. Finally also Carl von Clausewitz’s theory that war is the continuation of politics by other means does not work anymore. But what is going on instead? Some possible explanations that are more the character of assumptions, will be presented here. My main intention thereby is to show tendencies.