



MWP Multidisciplinary Research Workshop

European Security in an Age of American Restraint

2 May, 2018, Emeroteca

Since the end of the Cold War, one of the central intellectual debates in the United States has focused on the future of *American Grand Strategy*. Prominent scholars such as Barry Posen (MIT), Christopher Layne (Texas A&M), Daryl Press (Dartmouth), Eugene Gholz (Notre Dame), Stephen Walt (Harvard) and John Mearsheimer (Chicago) have proposed that the United States should implement a grand strategy of restraint. Their argument is simple: deep engagement, the strategic posture US governments have pursued ever since the end of WW2, leads to freeriding allies and messy entanglements in the Middle East. It wastes US military capabilities and financial resources and even emboldens US enemies. Scholars such as John Ikenberry (Princeton), Stephen Brooks (Dartmouth) and Bill Wohlforth (Dartmouth) offer the counterarguments: US deep engagement secures US hegemony. During the triumphalist 1990s, the debate was largely academic. Nevertheless, the election of US President Trump and his “America First” discourse reenergized the discussion.

Europe is the most obvious location for the United States to begin its retrenchment. Though EU member states are arguably the United States’ closest allies – sharing the most political-ideological and cultural affinities – they are also the most prosperous, politically stable, and relatively secure.

This workshop hopes to answer the question of what will become of European security in such an age of American restraint. What are the EU’s options if American policy indeed shifts toward retrenchment? Will Europeans try to insist to be kept under the US security umbrella? Or rather, will they strive to take care of their own security? Are any intermediate policy options possible? What political, societal, economic and military factors will determine this choice? Will the EU be united or divided in this policy decision-making process? Moreover, what military-technological deficiencies does the EU need to address when it tries to decide between possible policy options?

Workshop organizers

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Workshop location

European University Institute, Fiesole

Room: Emeroteca

Workshop Schedule

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|-------------|---|
| 09.30-10.00 | Introduction
Marina Henke (EUI / Northwestern) & Paul van Hooft (EUI) |
| 10.00-10.45 | Political/Societal Base for European grand strategy
Stephanie Hoffman (IHEID Geneva); Cyrille Thiebaut (EUI) |
| 11.00-11.45 | European Institutional Capabilities
Richard Maher (EUI) |
| 12.00-12.45 | Europe and Great Power Dynamics
Luis Simon (VUB); Robin Markwica (EUI) |
| 13.00-14.30 | Lunch (upon invitation) |
| 14.30-15.15 | Europe Military-Technological Capabilities
Mauro Gilli (EHT Zurich); Hugo Meijer (EUI) |
| 15.30-16.30 | General Discussion and Next Steps? |
| 19.30 | Dinner in downtown Florence (upon invitation) |