



## Conference European Foreign Policy ASSESSING EU'S ROLE IN THE WORLD

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### Abstract

Analyses of transatlantic relations suffer from a lack of historical perspective. The conventional view is that transatlantic relations--and its European pillar--are in disarray, as compared to the Cold War, when the two sides are said to have shown greater unity and common purpose. Some Americans add that Europe lacks any serious power projection capability in the modern world, whereas some Europeans maintain that the US is an unreliable ally and call for a Euro-Chinese rapprochement or greater European independence. This view is based largely on a misreading of two salient but exceptional crises: Iraq and the European constitution, plus and a handful of persistent squabbles (ICC, climate change, agriculture). The truth is almost precisely the contrary. US and European policies and attitudes are far more convergent than are the policies of any other regions, and far more convergent than they were during the Cold War, along almost every measurable dimension: "out of area" military operations, NATO policy, European defense identity, European enlargement, trade policy, anti-terrorism policy, intellectual property, environmental and regulatory policy, human rights policy, and policies toward Russia, Africa, China or even the Middle East.