The Atlantic Alliance Under Stress

Can the political institutions of the transatlantic alliance endure the demise of the Soviet enemy? Did the Iraq crisis of 2002–3 signal the end of the Atlantic partnership? If so, what are the likely consequences? In this book, a distinguished group of political scientists and historians from Europe and the United States tackles these questions. The book examines the causes and consequences of the crisis in Atlantic relations that accompanied the invasion of Iraq in March 2003. The authors’ collective focus is not on the war itself, or how it was conducted, or even the situation in Iraq before or after the conflict. Instead, the crisis over Iraq is the starting point for an examination of transatlantic relations and specifically the Atlantic alliance, an examination that is crossnational in scope and multidisciplinary in approach.

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The Atlantic Alliance Under Stress

US–European Relations After Iraq

edited by

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Preface

This book arises out of a series of seminars hosted by the European University Institute beginning in spring 2002 and concluding in spring 2004. These seminars were organized by the Transatlantic Programme of the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, with generous funding for the series provided by BP. The seminars addressed the political, economic, cultural, and ideological dimensions of the crisis in Atlantic relations associated with the 2003 war in Iraq. The seminars benefited from the contributions of distinguished participants from both sides of the Atlantic.

For an American, the EUI is an unusual vantage point from which to observe Atlantic relations. As Senior Research Fellow in Transatlantic Relations, I was in residence as the Atlantic relationship sharply deteriorated in the months immediately before the war. It was from this self-consciously European institution that I witnessed the rising tensions that accompanied the final move towards hostilities and the mutual recriminations that later accompanied Iraq’s occupation. During the seminar series that addressed these topics, the views expressed were sometimes controversial and the discussions often vigorous. Always, however, the seminars were marked by a seriousness of purpose, an attention to intellectual rigor, and a generosity of spirit. These qualities are in the best tradition of academic discourse, and I commend both our visitors and my Institute colleagues for adhering to such high standards.

I was especially grateful for the intellectual leadership demonstrated by Yves Meny, President of the European University Institute, and Helen Wallace, Director of the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies. Thanks go as well to the entire staff of the Schuman Centre, and in particular to Mei Lan Goei, Filipa de Sousa, Angelika Lanfranchi, Catherine Divry, Laura Jurisevic, Francesca Parenti, and Laura Burgassi. Able research assistance in support of this and related projects was provided by Melinda Baker, Monica Boduszynksi, Jennifer Boyd, Elizabeth Hillman, John Reilly, and William Talbott. I am also grateful to Scripps College, and especially to Michael Deane Lamkin, for arranging a leave of absence allowing me to be in residence at the EUI.
Finally but most importantly, I am grateful to the contributors to this project. Hailing from six nations and a variety of disciplinary backgrounds, their commitment to this project was a model of transatlantic cooperation.