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.

DAVID M. ANDREWS is Associate Professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations at Scripps College, California, Adjunct Professor at the Claremont Graduate University, and founding Director of the European Union Center of California.
The Atlantic Alliance
Under Stress

US–European Relations After Iraq

edited by

David M. Andrews
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Contributors

DAVID M. ANDREWS (EDITOR) is Associate Professor of Politics and International Relations at Scripps College, the Claremont Colleges, and Director of the European Union Center of California. During 2002–4, he was Senior Research Fellow in Transatlantic Relations at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy.

WADE JACOBY is Associate Professor of Political Science at Brigham Young University and Director of the BYU Center for the Study of Europe.

MILES KAHLER is Rohr Professor of Pacific International Relations at the Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies, University of California, San Diego, and Director of the Institute for International, Comparative, and Area Studies at UCSD.

GEIR LUNDESTAD is Director of the Norwegian Nobel Institute, Secretary of the Norwegian Nobel Committee 1990, and Adjunct Professor of International History at the University of Oslo.

LEOPOLDO NUTI is Professor of History of International Relations at the Università degli Studi Roma Tre.

TIM OLIVER is a Ph.D. student in the Department of International Relations at the London School of Economics.

ELIZABETH POND is editor of Transatlantic Internationale Politik and a member of both the US Council on Foreign Relations and the German Council on Foreign Relations.

GEORGES-HENRI SOUTOU is Professor of Contemporary History at the University of Paris IV-Sorbonne.

MARC TRACHTENBERG is Professor of Political Science at the University of California at Los Angeles.
List of contributors

WILLIAM WALLACE (Lord Wallace of Saltaire) is Professor of International Relations at the London School of Economics and Liberal Democrat spokesman on foreign affairs in the UK House of Lords.

HUBERT ZIMMERMANN is DAAD Visiting Professor in the Department of Government, Cornell University.
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.