European Integration and Government: Dangers for the United States

By

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for the President of the USA

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The case for a step-change in US foreign policy towards the European Union.

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Bill has a long and close affinity with the United States, having toured the country as MP of the Year when invited by the US Federal Government in 1990. His forbears include John Bright MP, the foremost supporter in Europe of President Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War. In 1998 he was the Keynote Speaker at the College Republicans' Annual Convention in Florida on the subject of Europe and America.

Bill studied History at Oxford University.

Introduction

America has vital trade, defense, and foreign policy interests in Europe. It is therefore in her own national interest to reverse the European Union's accelerating drive towards a socialist, protectionist, anti-American United States of Europe. At the same time, it remains important for America to encourage fair and free trade in and with Europe and all the advantages of the Single Market. In short, *European trade: yes, European government: no.*

i) American interests in Europe

From the First and Second World Wars, through to Marshall Aid, the Cold War, and most recently to Kosovo, America has consistently shown herself willing to expend her wealth, and even her citizens' lives, to bring peace to Europe.

Yet the Americans long to be relieved of the burden of rescuing Europe. They would rather co-operate and trade with a continent as free and democratic as their own. Over the course of the post-war period, Washington has come to regard moves towards ever-closer European Union as a means to that end.

The view of the State Department has been—at least since John Foster Dulles and Robert Kennedy—that the best way to achieve peace in Europe is by uniting Europe. This explains why the US has long supported and encouraged the European Union—but what type of European Union? Times and circumstances have changed, particularly since the end of the Cold War, and deepening European integration is now having negative consequences for vital US interests.

The reason for this is straightforward. The European Community has been evolving into a European government since the Maastricht Treaty in 1991—a government pursuing policies that depart from the historical attachment of the UK and the US to the principles of free trade, democracy, and the Atlantic Alliance. The eventual aim of many European leaders is a United States of Europe with one currency, one body of law, one supreme court, one flag, one anthem, one defense policy, and one frontier.

These developments are negatively impacting the United States in several ways:

1. As most European political leaders admit freely, the Franco-German alliance is the motor of European integration. This alliance becomes more entrenched as majority voting displaces the veto in the arena of European government decision making, and as the countries that disagree with France and Germany are either outvoted or forced in their own (perceived) national interest to bow to such domineering neighbors.

2. Franco-German foreign, defense, and trade policies, and therefore EU foreign, defense and trade policies, depart significantly from US interests.

3. The potential savings to the US of Europe establishing its own defense forces are outweighed by the damage that those forces, through the trade and foreign policies that they would underwrite, would inflict upon US interests.

4. Britain, until now more closely allied to the US than to either France or Germany, should therefore as far as possible be dissuaded from joining the Single European Currency, a Common European Foreign and Security Policy, and other integrationist projects.

ii) European Union: anti-American

In 1997, former German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt made clear the motivation in Berlin and Paris behind European integration: to create a superpower capable of challenging the United States.

> "[The] European Union will have the political, economic, and financial weight to exert an influence on global affairs equal to that of the superpowers. This perception is gaining ground among the leaders of the EU, and it provides an additional strategic motivation for European integration.
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> It was only natural that during the Cold War West Germany maintained a close relationship with the US, since Germany's security ultimately rested more on the US than on its European allies. Because of this basic strategic reality, de Gaulle never succeeded in enticing [Germany] away from the US.
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> [Post-Cold War] Germany will remain part of the [NATO] alliance, but European integration—further development of the EU and close co-operation with France—is increasingly important. The US must understand that in the next century Germany will not automatically take its side in disputes between Washington and Paris." [1]

French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin most recently echoed Helmut Schmidt's view, when last year he described the US as an "unchecked hyper-power". Former President François Mitterrand went further, stating that

> "France does not know it, but we are at war with America. Yes, a permanent war, a vital war, a war without death. Yes, they are very hard the Americans, they are voracious, they want undivided power over the world."[2]

President Jacques Chirac revived his predecessor's bellicose anti-Americanism, proclaiming last fall that "the object of the European defense identity is to contain the United States."[3]

German support for the EU can be just as anti-American. Chancellor Gerhard Schröder proclaimed only last December that "whining about US dominance does not help, we have to act."[4] The German Foreign Minister, Joschka Fischer, went even further, stating that "[w]e ought to work on a common constitution to turn the European Union into an entity under international law—that is my goal. It is the decisive task of our time."[5]

Dr John C. Hulsman, Senior Analyst at the Heritage Foundation, recently dissected the anti-Americanism fueling European integration:

> "[The US] needs to stop thinking that French rhetoric isn't serious, that it's just a cultural eccentricity. Rather, it reflects the honest beliefs of a people that have a very different political and economic agenda from ours. Britain will not play a decisive role in what becomes of the EU (as always, that will be left to Germany and France), but it can play a

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[1] Helmut Schmidt, 'Miles to Go: From American Plan to European Union' in *Foreign Affairs* (USA: May/June 1997).
[2] Quoted by Georges-Marc Benamou, *Dernier Mitterrand*, and as cited by Conrad Black, "Britain's Atlantic Option—and America's Stake", National Interest (US: Spring 1999), p.22 (as translated by Dr John Laughland, European Director of The European Foundation).
[3] 'Blair's Plan for a Euro-Bomb', *The Spectator* (London: 22 January, 2000), p.10.
[4] "Schröder to Europe: Unite vs. US", Associated Press (Paris: 28 December, 1999).
[5] Joschka Fischer (Berlin: 25 November, 1998), cited www.europeanfoundation.org/euroquotes.html .