

**EUROPE**

**Europe's Eastern Promise: Rethinking NATO and EU Enlargement**

*By Ronald D. Asmus*

In the early 1990's, after the Iron Curtain lifted, Western leaders seized a historic opportunity to open the doors of NATO and the European Union to post-communist central and eastern Europe. This accomplishment was the result of a common US-European grand strategy that was controversial and fiercely debated at the time. However, Current policy toward Europe's periphery is increasingly out of date.

<http://www.gmfus.org/>

**The Roadmap To Better EU-Nato Relations**

*By Tomas Valasek*

President Sarkozy has recently said that France may re-integrate into NATO's military command. This abrupt change in French policy opens doors to a much-needed improvement in EU-NATO relations. The two institutions have been barely co-operating on important missions like Kosovo, which leaves Europe ill-prepared for security challenges on its borders. But for the EU and NATO to really turn a corner, the UK must first agree with France how independent from the US, Europe's defences should become. The US will need to give France command posts in NATO, and Turkey will have to drop its opposition to Cyprus' co-operation with the alliance.

<http://www.cer.org.uk/>

**Europe's Defence And Its New Security Strategy**

*By Tomas Valasek*

The European Union is starting work on a new security strategy. France's president, Nicolas Sarkozy, wants it approved in the second half of 2008, during his country's EU presidency. The original 2003 European security strategy (ESS) is generally considered to be a good document, but Sarkozy is right to point out that the world has changed. For example, the 2003 ESS says little about Russia, energy security or climate change – or defence.

<http://www.cer.org.uk/>

**Kosovo: What Next?**

**The Cornerstones Of A New EU Policy**

*By Armando García Schmidt, Dominik Tolksdorf*

There is little room for reaching and agreement on the status of Kosovo that is acceptable to all parties. All signs point toward a destabilizing status quo should the Kosovars unilaterally declare independence. Because the conflict over Kosovo threatens to undermine stability and democratic transformation throughout the region, the European Union must use all available political power in pressuring both sides to compromise.

<http://www.cap.lmu.de/>

**Germany And Iran After The National Intelligence Estimate**

*By Philip H. Gordon*

German diplomats argue that tightening sanctions on Iran will lead to greater tensions and make the country even more determined to develop nuclear weapons for its defence. They argue that sanctions outside of the UN would be particularly ineffective, as Russian and Chinese

firms would simply step in where European ones stepped out...

<http://www.brookings.edu/>

## US

### The Case for Larger Ground Forces

By Frederick W. Kagan, Michael O'Hanlon

Kagan and O'Hanlon make the case for a larger military...

<http://www.aei.org/>

### A Moral Core for U.S. Foreign Policy

By Derek Chollet and Tod Lindberg

Is idealism dead? Should the promotion of American values of liberalism, democracy, human rights, and rule of law be a core element of US foreign policy? Where to strike the balance between principles and interests is one of the most enduring debates about America's role in the world.

<http://www.hoover.org/>

### A New Year's Resolution: Implement Visa Waiver Reform by End of 2008

By James Jay Carafano

In December, nine member states of the European Union joined the "Schengen area," a visa-free travel zone. The Schengen agreement comprises efforts to systematically reduce border restrictions across Europe. By finally permitting free travel between states formerly divided by the Iron Curtain, these states are seeking to put the last legacy of the Cold War behind them...

<http://www.heritage.org/>

## RUSSIA

### Putin's Cold War

By Leon Aron

At no time since the end of the Soviet Union in 1991 has the direction of Russian policy been as troubling as it is today...

<http://www.aei.org/>

### In Putin's Past, Glimpses Of Russia's Hardline Future

By Alan Cullison

For much of the 1990's, Vladimir Putin worked side by side with the liberals who were fighting to bring democracy to Russia...

<http://online.wsj.com/>

## CHINA

### Keeping Tabs on China's Rise

By Gary J. Schmitt, Michael Schiffer

With almost clockwork precision, every 50 years for the past two centuries China has appeared to be at a "hinge" moment in its history. Once again that is the case, as China stands poised at the verge of a return to great power status. By all appearances it is already, or soon will be, a dominant player in East Asia (whether on economic, political, or security issues) and is playing an increasing global role. And, in decades ahead, China could even present a challenge to US primacy...

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