

– Seminar Description –

Professorship of European Studies and International Relations (Jean Monnet Chair), Institute of Political Science and Sociology, University of Würzburg, Summer Semester 2021

U.S. Alliance Politics under President Biden: Is a Revitalization of the Transatlantic Alliance Possible?

Temporary Lecturer in Political Science/International Relations:

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The U.S. alliance politics within the framework of NATO dates back to 1949. For many decades it was a constant in the transatlantic relationship on which the European NATO members could rely. But under U.S. President Donald J. Trump the alliance was getting increasingly torn, which seriously endangered the cohesion of NATO. Will there be a change under Joseph R. Biden, Jr.? Can his presidency bring about a revitalization of the transatlantic alliance?

This seminar provides an overview of the fundamentals of U.S. alliance politics, introduces selected alliance theories, and examines the alliance politics of President George W. Bush, President Barack Obama and President Donald Trump. In the face of the Biden presidency, which has just begun, we will discuss the chances that the process of revitalizing NATO could have.

The online event is divided into five thematic blocks:

- 1. Fundamentals of U.S. Alliance Politics: A Historical Review**
- 2. A Brief Presentation of Alliance Theories: Realism, Institutionalism, and Constructivism**
- 3. The Presidencies of Bush, Jr. and Obama and their Alliance Politics: From a Mutual Defense Guarantee to NATO's Two Percent Target**
- 4. The Trump Presidency as a Litmus Test for the Cohesion of NATO**
- 5. The Biden Presidency: A Turning Point in the Transatlantic Alliance?**

Requirements for Seminar Participation:

Basic knowledge of the United States and NATO would be an advantage, but is not required.

Recommended Reading/Literature (a Selection):

- Varwick, Johannes/Woyke, Wichard, Die Zukunft der NATO. Transatlantische Sicherheit im Wandel (Reihe: Analysen Politik – Gesellschaft – Wirtschaft, hrsg. von Klaus Schubert und Göttrik Wewer, Bd. 68), 2., völlig neu bearbeitete Auflage, Opladen 2000.
- Varwick, Johannes, Die NATO. Vom Verteidigungsbündnis zur Weltpolizei? (Reihe: Beck'sche Reihe, Bd. 1831), Originalausgabe, München 2008.

- Giegerich, Bastian, Die NATO (Reihe: Elemente der Politik, hrsg. von Hans-Georg Ehrhart, Bernhard Frevel, Klaus Schubert und Suzanne S. Schüttemeyer), Wiesbaden 2012.
- Hallams, Ellen, The United States and NATO since 9/11: The Transatlantic Alliance Renewed (Series: Routledge Studies in US Foreign Policy), London/New York 2013.
- Varwick, Johannes, NATO in (Un-)Ordnung. Wie transatlantische Sicherheit neu verhandelt wird, Schwalbach/Ts. 2017.
- Böller, Florian/Hagemann, Steffen, Neuordnung der Sicherheitsgemeinschaft. Obama, die transatlantischen Beziehungen und die Bewältigung gemeinsamer sicherheitspolitischer Herausforderungen, in: Jäger, Thomas/Gärtner, Heinz/Wilzewski, Jürgen (Hrsg.), Eine transformative Präsidentschaft. Die USA in der Ära Barack Obama (Sonderheft der Zeitschrift für Außen- und Sicherheitspolitik, Sonderheft 9 | 2017), Wiesbaden 2017, S. 227-244.
- Garey, Julie, The US Role in NATO's Survival After the Cold War (Series: Palgrave Studies in International Relations), Cham 2020.
- Biden, Jr., Joseph R., Why America Must Lead Again: Rescuing U.S. Foreign Policy After Trump, in: Foreign Affairs, March/April 2020, <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/united-states/2020-01-23/why-america-must-lead-again>.
- Koschut, Simon, Das Ende der NATO wie wir sie kennen. Die transatlantischen Beziehungen unter Trump, in: Böller, Florian u. a. (Hrsg.), Donald Trump und die Politik in den USA. Eine Zwischenbilanz (Reihe: Neue Amerika-Studien, hrsg. von Haas, Christoph u. a., Bd. 6), 1. Aufl., Baden-Baden 2020, S. 307-320.
- Remarks by President Biden at the 2021 Virtual Munich Security Conference, February 19, 2021, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2021/02/19/remarks-by-president-biden-at-the-2021-virtual-munich-security-conference/>.