



Dublin European Institute
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Transatlantic Relations

Brigid Laffan



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Paradise and Power

On major strategic and international questions today, Americans are from Mars and Europeans are from Venus

Robert Kagan





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Legacy-Mutual Interdependence

- US helped create European integration
- US Nuclear Umbrella and NATO
- Co-operation
- Competition
- Asymmetry of Power/capacity



1990s

- Transatlantic Declaration 1990
- New Transatlantic Agenda 1995
- Enlargement of NATO
- Balkans
- ‘Europe will miss Bill Clinton. He has been a good friend to this continent’
Patten



European Developments

- Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) into the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP)
- Different groups (Atlantist, European, Neutral)



Early Bush

- Realist Foreign Policy
 - Missile Defence
 - Kyoto Protocol
 - International Criminal Court
- 9/11
- ‘We are all Americans’ *Le Monde*



US Response

- State of the Union January 2002
 - Axis of evil
 - Rogue states
 - Weapons of mass destruction
 - War on terrorism



Iraq

- Deep divisions in Europe
- Public opposition to the war
- Old Europe V. New Europe
 - Shift in German Policy
 - France/UK(St Malo 1998)
 - New member states





Tensions

- Hard Power
versus soft power
- Regional Interests
versus global
interests
- Multilateralism
versus
unilateralism
- War on terrorism/
Middle East



Trajectory

- Pessimists
- Imbalance in military capacity
(5:1 spending ratio)
- * Threat perceptions
- * Means
- Optimists
- Cycles of tension
- Convergence of interests and values
- Winning the peace



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Mars and Venus
must re-write their
marriage contract?