

Economic Ties, Economic Differences and the Future of Transatlantic Relations

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The current period of transatlantic relations is one of turbulence. Notwithstanding the recent attempts of reclaiming common ground, the Iraq war is the latest and most visible sign reflecting different perspectives between Germany/EU and the present U.S. administration concerning the role of the international community and multilateralism.

Arguments to explain the current rifts have concentrated on personalities and on political differences. But what about the role of the economy? Strong economic ties have led the business communities on both sides of the Atlantic to call out for preserving and strengthening transatlantic ties. Still, marked differences persist in the market models between continental Europe and the U.S. .

My paper will focus on the deeper currents at work within the political fall-out. In particular, it will elaborate on economic differences, both in substance and in attitudes, and on their consequences for the future of transatlantic relations.