

– Seminar Description –



Chair of International Relations and European Studies, Institute of Political Science and Sociology,
Faculty of Human Sciences, University of Würzburg, Summer Semester 2022

U.S. Alliance Politics under President Biden: Is a Revitalization of the Transatlantic Alliance in the Face of Russia's War in Ukraine Possible?

Temporary Lecturer in Political Science/International Relations:

Dr. Sascha Arnautović

- Online Course Schedule: Monday 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., 25/04/2022 – 25/07/2022 (Exception: 06/06/2022)
- Office Hours: Tuesday 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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, especially in the face of Russia's war in Ukraine?

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 H. Obama, and President Donald J. Trump. In the face of the Biden presidency, 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.
- Mearsheimer, John J., Why the Ukraine Crisis Is the West's Fault: The Liberal Delusions That Provoked Putin, in: Foreign Affairs, September/October 2014, <https://www.mearsheimer.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Why-the-Ukraine-Crisis-Is.pdf>.
- 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://bit.ly/3ryaQ45>.
- Remarks by Vice President Harris at the Munich Security Conference, February 19, 2022, <https://bit.ly/3Eoibbw>.
- Remarks by President Biden on Russia's Unprovoked and Unjustified Attack on Ukraine, February 24, 2022, <https://bit.ly/3xA0gx7>.

- Chotiner, Isaac, Why John Mearsheimer Blames the U.S. for the Crisis in Ukraine: For years, the political scientist has claimed that Putin's aggression toward Ukraine is caused by Western intervention. Have recent events changed his mind?, in: The New Yorker, March 1, 2022, <https://bit.ly/36mq5p8>.
- Walt, Stephen M., An International Relations Theory Guide to the War in Ukraine: A consideration of which theories have been vindicated—and which have fallen flat, in: Foreign Policy, March 8, 2022, <https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/03/08/an-international-relations-theory-guide-to-ukraines-war/>.
- Statement from President Biden on the Extraordinary NATO Summit, March 24, 2022, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/03/24/statement-from-president-biden-on-the-extraordinary-nato-summit/>.
- Walt, Stephen M., The Ukraine War Doesn't Change Everything: Russia's war marks the definitive end of America's unipolar moment and returns the world to a state best explained by realism, in: Foreign Policy, April 13, 2022, <https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/04/13/ukraine-war-realism-great-powers-unipolarity/>.
- Shear, Michael D., The War in Ukraine Is Upending Biden's Agenda at Home, in: The New York Times, April 15, 2022, <https://nyti.ms/3JT7M8X>.