

The Crisis, the Great Game and the EU

Guest Lecture at College of Europe, Bruges

March 25, 2009

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End of unipolarity

- End of “unipolar moment”
- Why?
 - American decline (but more due to policies than absolute power)
 - “Rise of the rest” (incl. non-state actors)
- Shift to the East
 - Except if Russia and EU emerge stronger than forecasted...then Western century

World in transition

- “1+x” world, uni- multipolarity
 - US military hegemony? (yes, but not adapted, overstretched)
 - Economic multipolarity?
 - Political sphere? Culture? (soft power)

⇒ Variable multipolarity

Global Crisis

- Geopolitics do not take place in a vacuum
- “Primary near-term security concern of the US is the global economic crisis and its geopolitical implications” (Dennis Blair, DNI)
- Reshuffling cards, who will come out faster and stronger (or less weak)?
- Impacts of BRIC individually
- Impact on BRIC as a block
- Hence, possible change in global structures (IMF, WB, G20, etc)

Political impacts

- Will EU model of “social-capitalism” triumph?
- Collapse of American model
- Asian models, more authoritarian, could become models

Military Impacts

- Budgets likely to decrease
- Needs to prioritize
- Impact on ESDP, NATO

Security Impacts

- Social unrest
- Less interventionism encourage destabilizing actors
- Feed transnational threats? (when state retreat, non-state actors arrive, cfr Viktor Bout)

Bad perspectives...

- ESDP weakened by crisis
- EU divided
- EU model/soft power diminished
- Growing global instability but no “American protection” anymore
- ...but also a brighter prospect...

EU opportunity: Biden in Munich

- “We will work in partnership whenever we can, alone only when we must”

=reverse of Bush: “we must be prepared to act alone if necessary, while recognizing that there is little of lasting consequence that we can accomplish in the world without the sustained cooperation of our allies and partners” (NSS, 2006)

- “We also support the further strengthening of European Defense, an increased role for the EU in preserving peace and security, a fundamentally stronger NATO-EU partnership”

EU challenges ahead

- Meet US half-way
- Getting out of the crisis
- Promote multilateralism and a new World Order favorable to EU (CAUTION: multipolar vs multilateral)
- Global governance reform (in order to encourage multilateralism)
- Terrorism, climate change (which require global approaches, in which has a leading role to play)

2 scenarios

- Optimistic scenario
 - EU ends crisis quickly, efficiently and becomes a world-model
 - Bolster CFSP with US benediction and become real global actor
- Pessimistic scenario
 - EU loses credibility in Europe and globally
 - End of “EU dream” temporarily