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Peace Without Money, War Without Americans

Can European Strategy Cope?

Sven Biscop, EGMONT – The Royal Institute for International Relations, Belgium and Ghent University, Belgium

'Against the growing ranks of naysayers, quick to confine the EU to the rubbish heap of history, Sven Biscop offers a spirited, beautifully written and powerfully argued defence of Europe's ability to find its own way in a world of power transition, to continue to promote its values, and to emerge as an autonomous strategic actor.'
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Britain and France were surprised at having to convince the US of the need to intervene in Libya in 2011. The French intervention in Mali in 2013 confirmed the picture; Washington will support European action, but only if and when Europe takes the initiative. Just as the focus of American strategy is shifting to Asia and the Pacific, vital interests in the European neighbourhood require resolute action. Autonomy is being forced upon Europe, but it is an autonomy constrained by a lack of means as, following the financial crisis, defence budgets across the EU member states are slashed. The ramifications of the Arab Spring and the crisis in Ukraine pose challenges of an enormous scale for the EU and its members. *Peace Without Money, War Without Americans* is the double challenge that European strategy-makers face. What can be expected from strategy at a European level? Can Europe cope?

Contents: Preface; Prologue: Snow White and the seven fallacies; Strategy-making in Europe: raiders of the lost art; Power struggles in Europe's neighbourhood: game of zones; European defence: support your local sheriff!; Conclusion; References; Index.

About the author: Prof. Dr. Sven Biscop is the director of the Europe in the World programme at EGMONT – The Royal Institute for International Relations in Brussels, which he joined in 2002. Sven teaches at Ghent University and at the College of Europe in Bruges.

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