

Transatlantic Relations The United States of America, Europe and NATO

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Abstract

The article displays the historical background of the transatlantic relations; the way the United States and Europe strengthened their diplomatic ties; how they manage to deal with the leading superpower-the Soviet Union; the emphasis is given to the establishment of the first organization- The League of Nations that was an American concept introduced by the 28th president of US Woodrow Wilson. The league dedicated its policy to cooperation and collective security. Actually, later on, the weakness of the league became quite evident when it was not able to avoid the second tragedy of the world. Nowadays NATO serves the world as the defender of the ancient concept of collective security.

The article analysis the significance of NATO, the mutual cooperation of the United States and Europe in the period of Cold War; it also researches US's leadership position in the contemporary politics; its support and devotion to Europe in times of difficulties. Here are discussed the variety of perspectives and interests of the US and Europe; How they realize their political goals; the differences in the way of conflict resolution are examined;

The article also reveals the balance of "hard" and "soft" powers; and finds answers to the following questions: why the United States is referred as "hard power" and Europe as "soft power"; how they cooperate and influence the world politics; how the universal principles and values that Europe together with the US carries out and attracts other nations shape the modern nations and political environment.

Keywords: collective security, Cold War, hard power, League of Nations, Marshal Plan, soft power, Truman Doctrine

Introduction

The Role of Transatlantic Relations is considered to be extremely important in the global politics. The newly emerged alliances, contemporary European treaties and Union attract developed and developing countries society's attention. How the United States and Europe were thrown into the overlapping alliances? What is the origin of the first unique alliance uniting European nations for mutual cooperation?

The first European alliance serving collective security was proposed by the President of US-Woodrow Wilson, the author of famous 14 points designed to alter the old fashioned diplomacy and shift it to the contemporary American diplomacy based on newly presented values and principles: democracy, liberty, sovereignty, respect to human rights and open diplomacy. In Paris Peace Conference, where the victorious powers decided the fate of Germany, Woodrow Wilson proposed Europe to find the reasons of the Great War and attempt to solve them in order not to let those reasons throw the nations into another huge tragedy. The conference was important due to the first unique European alliance formed between European countries- the League of Nations that after finishing World War II was replaced by the United Nations in 1945. The alliance

that was an American concept, did not involve the United States itself. Perhaps, the later weakness of the league was provoked by the fact that the strongest leading power was not the member of the League of Nations and was unable to avoid the World's second tragedy- World War II.

Europe withdrew from the Greatest War extremely damaged financially and politically. The victory of Russia and defeat of Nazi Germany caused the third ideological war between East- the Soviet Union and West- the United States. As the one of the reasons of starting World War II was Poland affairs the beginning of post war order touched Poland indeed. But, nowadays Poland remains as one of the prominent European country sharing most the prosperities of the European alliances.

In the difficult times of the cold war period Europe counted much more on the United States that, on the response, formed some programs- "Truman Doctrine" and "Marshal Plan" to survive and support Europe. Whatever hard times Europe and the United States experienced they could manage to tighten their relations and overcome the crisis together.

The establishment of NATO is very significant in the history of the transatlantic relations. The alliance that represents the contemporary fabulous agreement was formed in 1949 to survive Europe from the Soviet Union clutches.

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NATO challenged some crises like Korean War and atom bomb. Indeed, nowadays, it remains the leading security organization in Europe. Acting together in the stage of world politics the United States and Europe inevitably possess different political perspectives and interests. When facing the problem resolution both of the powers take contradictory measures. The United States evaluates the current processes in world politics globally while Europe measures these processes regionally; the United States gives priorities to take individual actions if it faces difficulties in some regions while Europe prefers to take actions together with international organizations; the United States does not avoid to confront with strong force like facing conflicts with military actions while Europe prefers to give priorities to the political and economic measures. The differences in US-Europe political steps does not mean to have Europe and SU split apart and take political actions causing offence and trouble for the ancient partners. The politics Europe and the US carry out in most cases are profitable and beneficial for both parties.

The difference is also expressed by the fact when the global politic refers the United States as “hard power” and Europe as “soft power”. Why Europe and the US were put in that frame of politics? World political and security challenges place demands on the United States more than on Europe. The United States struggles against global terrorism; is the key balance to China’s rising military power, has no choice but to lead the way on Afghanistan while Europe dedicates its entire political resources on peaceful diplomacy. All these factors grant the US different types of responsibilities.

Obviously, the most significant point is effective cooperation of the United States and Europe. Both leading powers’ encouragement to reinforce their alliances to influence the world politics in positive way produced advanced and splendid reforms for the nations of the entire continent indeed. These reforms, universal principles and values that Europe together with the US carries out shape the contemporary world politics and inspire European nations to struggle for more to achieve.

US-Europe Relations in the 20th Century; Historical Overview

The significance of Transatlantic Relations is determined through its decisive making functions that the whole Europe and East as well count their foreign, domestic, security and defense policy on. Historically, the alliances that serve the transatlantic security and prosperity aims derive from the 20th century from the Author of famous 14 points designed to alter the old-fashioned diplomacy between European countries after the tragedy of World War I. That great figure in the history of America was the president of US- Woodrow Wilson.

After World War I, as it was very common for European diplomacy, the victorious powers gathered to divide territories, impose penalties and decide the future of defeated countries. They did not come to the point to find out what was the major reason of the war; why the countries experienced such tragedy without knowing how to avoid it? Why these endless summits and meeting were held if the collective security was unachievable dream? Why didn’t the Balance of Power System, that was establish through the Treaty of Westphalia in 1648 after finishing 30 year War, work properly and fulfill its duty it had imposed?

According to Henry Kissinger: “In America’s view, it was not self-determination which caused wars but the lack of it; not the absence of a balance of power that produced instability but the pursuit of it. Wilson proposed to found peace on the principle of collective security. In his view and that of all his disciples, the security of the world called for, not the defense of the national interest, but of peace as a legal concept. The determination of whether a breach of peace had indeed been committed required an international institution, which Wilson defined as the League of Nations.” (Kissinger, 1994, pp.9-10)

As the president of the country that from the emerging in the global politics always stated the defense and respect to “American Values” based on democracy, liberty, sovereignty, independence, collective security, human right and respect to law. In Paris Peace Conference where the fate of Germany was sealed, two-term US president, Woodrow Wilson proposed Europe to find the reasons of the Great War and attempt to solve them in order not to let those reasons throw the nations into another huge tragedy. President Wilson assumed that the war was caused not from self determination but from the fact that European nations experienced the lack of this concept; Balance of power, that was established to avoid and limit the scope of conflicts, was not fulfilled appropriately and precisely and it was considered as the second reason of the Great War. Wilson called the European states to give up the old type of diplomacy and start “New, American Diplomacy” based on open negotiations and conflict resolutions. People have right to know how their fate is decided, who it decides and what the outcome would be like. Europe and the whole world to survive and continuo living in the peaceful homelands the government of the nations should modify their foreign policy to serve collective security.

The Paris Peace Conference, where no agenda had been agreed upon prior to the Conference, delegates arrived not knowing in what particular order the issues would be addressed. The Conference possessed its advantages and disadvantages and it was very significant due to its role in the global politics. It emphasized the European political views and American criticism over this unacceptable policy. This issue arises the question as follows: What were the Advantages and disadvantages of the conference?

Negative fact deprives from the unacceptable European decision to punish defeated adversary- Germany- that even was not invited to the conference to express its complains for putting him in a tough situation. This policy caused no indignations in European powers but the punishment of defeated adversaries was common for European diplomacy. "Squeezing Germany" relieved European powers. "The British and the French demanded that Germany indemnify their civilian populations for all damages. Against his better judgment Wilson finally agreed to a provision that made Germany pay for the pensions of war victims and some compensation for their families. Such a provision was unheard of; no previous European peace treaty had ever contained such a clause. Other economic penalties included immediate payment of \$5 billion in cash or in kind. France was to receive large quantities of coal as compensation for Germany's destruction of its mines during the occupation of eastern France. Germany had to surrender 13 percent of its prewar territory. To make up for ships sunk by German submarines, Great Britain was awarded much of the German merchant fleet. Germany's foreign assets, totaling about \$7 billion, were seized, along with many German patents Germany's major rivers were internationalized, and its ability to raise tariffs was restricted." (Kissinger, 1994, pp.146-147)

All these unjustified attitude of Europe towards Germany caused the World War II; the second biggest tragedy of the world that Europe was unable to avoid. Putting Germany in this crisis later put Europe in the Great conflict difficult to be able to pull out. Leading by Adolf Hitler, Germany revenged for Europe. This was the Negative aspect the Paris Peace Conference brought to European States Relations.

Positive fact of Paris Peace Conference was establishment of League of Nations that was an American concept proposed by Woodrow Wilson's 14th Point: "A general association of nations must be formed under specific covenants for the purpose of affording mutual guarantees of political independence and territorial integrity to great and small states alike - the establishment of a League of Nations." Woodrow Wilson truly played very significant role in transatlantic relations during in extremely important time. In spite of the fact that the League of Nations was American idea and the real peacekeeping program for the post world order, the United States was not a member of the League. Perhaps, functioning without a Leading Power the League of Nations was quite weak to play major role in avoiding and abolishing the Second Great War. It was unable to serve the national principles of Europe and support collective security of world. The political weakness of the League of Nations was expressed in great many cases. For instance, when Germany began to breach the Treaty of Versailles the League of Nations besides European countries started to carry out the policy of appeasement in stead

of confronting Germany's actions. Later on, in 1945 after finishing World War II the League of Nations was replaced by the United Nations. In World War I and in World War II involvement of US lead the Great Wars to the end. Without the United States' intervention the results of the Great Wars would be unbearable. "President Wilson failed in transforming transatlantic relations into peaceful diplomatic relations. What Wilson lacked was an understanding of European conditions." (Jesperson, 2010)

One of the reasons US could not understand the transatlantic relations was the geopolitical factor. Namely, the United States was surrounded by 2 vast oceans, having no strong neighbor to balance the power with. As for Europe, it always faced struggles for domination. France, Germany and the Great Britain- European dominant powers never found themselves in peace but always confronting and defending their leadership position.

Beginning of Cold War - Pre-Period of NATO Formation

Europe being unable to avoid the Second World War pulled out from the Tragedy extremely damaged financially, economic and political sphere. The victory of Russia and defeat of Nazi Germany caused the third ideological war between East and West. The Soviet Union gaining territorial rewards as compensations for its loss in the war threatened Western power. In the East nations faced Communist ideology and in the West they faced American-Western ideology. As the one of the reasons of starting World War II was Poland affairs the beginning of post war order touched Poland indeed.

"During the last half of 1945, concerns began mounting as it became increasingly clear that Stalin was not going to live up to Western understandings of the agreements of Yalta and Potsdam. The West originally hoped that Poland would be allowed to live under democratic rule and that the Soviets would merely exercise a benign: "sphere of influence" in that nation. Germany would be reunited under terms acceptable to both sides. By 1946 Poland had fallen completely in the USSR's orbit, and many were to fear that the Soviets intended to communize and militarily occupy East Germany as well. But Western allies continue negotiating with the Soviets in a spirit of compromise and accommodation" (Chitadze N., 2008)

The fate of Poland became very important for Western powers but the Soviet Union that had great intension over Poland was not ready to give up its claims and cede it to West. Europe counted on American involvement in European security affairs. Europe started to find its shelter in the roof of the United States and supports itself from falling into the Soviet Union's clutches.

In 1947 Poland was officially communized when the Soviet Union declared Poland as the Soviet Union's satel-

lite. In 1948 the communist party gained governance over Czechoslovakia; in the same year the Soviet Union spread its influence over the whole Berlin and put the nations into a great catastrophe. The tension in Europe was increased. The Role of the United States to survive the Europe from communization became very crucial. Besides the United States, the Great Britain took some important measures. For instance, "It is remarkable to point put the Role of the former Prime Minister of the Great Britain- Winston Churchill. On May 5, 1946 Winston Churchill made a speech in Fulton (USA, Missouri). The Prime Minister emphasized on "The Iron Curtain" between the East and the West and offered the United States to establish American-British Military Alliance to confront their adversary; to struggle against "Eastern Communism".

To defend the principles and values of western democracy European countries and the US began to take decisive measures. In the US there was drawn out two important doctrines: "Truman Doctrine" and "Marshal Plan" (Chitadze N., 2008, pp.22-23)

Unfortunately, the Soviet Union established dictatorial communist regime in the central European countries as well that it had supposedly "Liberated": North Korea, North Iran, Chinese Mainland, and Manchuria; although, Greece, Norway and Turkey faced the fact of losing independence.

In the crisis of the Cold War the question "How should the United States react?" prevailed in Europe. To assist Europe America launched its policy; established two doctrines that reflected America's diplomatic, friendly relation to Europe. Of course, on the one hand, America possessed its own interests in helping Europe but on the other hand, the United States' hard work framed the contemporary democratic values that the nations face today. What does "Truman Doctrine" and "Marshal Plan" mean? What kind of help did the United States assist to nations?

"Truman Doctrine" was named under the 33rd president of US Harry S. Truman. He presented the doctrine on March 12, 1947 in US Congress where the threat of Communization of Europe, Greece and Turkey became apparent. President Truman proposed to provide these countries with financial aid-400 000 000 USD in order to save them from Soviet expansionism. With this doctrine US gained allies to confront communist ideology. So, this doctrine the foreign policy and national security of US was also involved.

"One of the primary objectives of the foreign policy of the United States is the creation of conditions in which we and other nations will be able to work out a way of life free from coercion. To ensure the peaceful development of nations the United States has taken a leading part in establishing the United Nations. The United Nations is designed to make possible lasting freedom and independence for all its members. I think it must be the policy of the United

States to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures. I believe that our help should be primarily through economic and financial aid which is essential to economic stability and orderly political processes. Should we fail to aid Greece and Turkey in this fateful hour, the effect will be far-reaching to the West as well as to the East. We must take immediate and resolute actions" (Truman H., 2012)

"Marshal Plan"- From the World War II America pulled out more advanced in the field of Economy. This fact encouraged the Secretary of the United States, George marshal to propose the plan of European economic prosperity. Within this plan the European countries received 17 Billion USD financial aid from 1948-1952. "Marshall aimed to get Europe working again. He instructed the State Department's Policy Planning Staff and other agencies to report on Europe's needs for economic assistance. In the spring of 1948 the US Congress passed Marshall's far-sighted proposal as the "Economic Recovery Act". One of the largest aid programs in America's history and the most successful peacetime foreign policy launched by the United States in the 20th century, the Marshall Plan was praised by many. One of the most eloquent voices was Sir Winston Churchill's, to whom it represented "the most unsordid act in history". British Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin, in turn, considered it an act of "generosity ... beyond belief". (Pa-doan, 2012)

This program linked European countries and US together. It contributed Europe and US's hard work to achieve prosperity of European nations. The effort to create economic and social stability was a shared goal. Actually, the United States analyzed the result of providing Europe with financial aid. If America helped Europe to integrate and unite against Soviet threat then the hegemony of US in the global politics would be easily accomplished. European countries standing altogether besides US, attempted to overcome postwar economic and financial crisis. For that reason Europe formed "Organization for European Economic Co-operation and Development" that focused on Economic issues. It emerged from the "Marshal Plan" and aimed for proper division of financial aid within the "Marshal Plan". The strength of the Soviet Expansionism and Soviet threat made it obvious that only financial stability could not survive Europe but it required European Defense and Security organization to protect the safety of the European nations. On March 17, 1948 European countries: the Great Britain, Luxemburg, Belgium, Netherland and France came to the point to form European Alliance. The foreign ministers of the above stated countries signed the social, economic, cultural and collective Security co-operation agreement and established European Defense Organization in Brussels. But it was clear that Europe that was totally collapsed, damaged and exhausted in WW II was not able to confront the Soviet Union on its own even

though it was launching its anticommunist policy with European joined forces. Just Europe, even united, was too weak for defeating communist expansionism. American help was very crucial and inevitable. "Vandenberg Resolution", passed on June 1948, proposed by and named for Senator Arthur Vandenberg, let the United States commit to the defense of its North Atlantic allies. At the early years of Cold War period, the United States and Europe formed the alliance of mutual cooperation in the sphere of defense and Security. Twelve European countries: the Great Britain, France, Italy, Luxemburg, Belgium, Denmark, Canada, Norway, Portugal, Iceland, Netherland and the United States signed the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) on April 4, 1949 in Washington DC, United States.

NATO and US in the Cold War

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, consisting of 28 member states, was established to safeguard the freedom, common heritage and civilization of Western nations built upon the principles of democracy, individual liberties and the rule of law. "The North Atlantic Treaty Organization comprises the following political element:

1. The member states are obliged to regulate international conflicts with the help of collective security negotiations not to threaten the international peace and stability;
2. The member states should encourage the development of diplomatic relations to establish stability, prosperity and strong independent institutions;
3. The Attack of one or more than one member states of the organization is considered as an attack of all the member states of the organizations. In this case members are obliged to confront the adversary and support the collective security of the organization;
4. Strong commitment to transatlantic relations;
5. English and French version of agreement is preserved in the United States Archive. The copies of the agreements are given to the leaders of the countries who signed the document; (Korepanovi K., 2012)

The document includes some other articles that member states are responsible for but there are provided some important points that underline the security responsibilities of NATO and US priority in the organization as well. As is mentioned above in the article, Europe come to the point that only economic alliances to reinforce ties to US was not enough and Europe needed stronger connection America related to the security and defense policy and on the response of this necessity the United States and Europe formed the NATO alliance serving collective security. This organization was the guarantee of defense from outside threat; the threat from the Soviet Union. This poses the question: Who did NATO function in the period of the Cold War?

The biggest challenge NATO faced in the cold war period was creation of nuclear weapon. In 1949 the Soviet Union shared the United States monopoly on nuclear weapon. Before the Soviet Union created Nuclear weapon, at the Potsdam Conference in 1945 "Truman took Stalin aside to inform him of the existence of the atom bomb. Stalin, of course, already knew about it from his Soviet spies; as a matter of fact, he had known about it well before Truman did. The Russian Premier, showed no special interest. All he said was that he was glad to hear it and that he hoped we would make 'good use of it against the Japanese'" This would remain the Soviet tactic with respect to nuclear weapons until it had developed its own" (Kissinger, 1994, pp.410-411)

And when the Soviet developed its own A-bomb Europe started to take specific security measures to defend itself from Soviet threat. At that time the United States took leadership position in the Europe and donated great financial resources to help Europe avoid Soviet threat. In 1952, meeting at Lisbon granted NATO the status of constant organization headquartered in Paris. Besides atom bomb NATO challenged some other crises like Korean War. "Truman administration assumed that Stalin had incited the North Koreans to test NATO's resolve. Rather than abandon NATO and Europe, the United States embraced the alliance and intended to fortify it and reshape as a military organization." (Kaplan, pp.26-27) The United States sacrificed all its resources to Europe to contain the Soviet Union; of course, Europe was thankful but at the same time some disagreements took place between US and Europe. For instance, in Korean War (1950-1953) Europe denied to involve in this conflict; the United States also refused to take part in the Suez Canal conflict resolution, where the Great Britain and France had their military actions. Economic conditions also had great impact on Europe-US relations. After 60s, social and economic development occurred in Western Europe and it was a big challenge for the economy of United States. Now, Europe was able to compete with US in the World Economic Market. Another significant fact in US-Europe relation crises was the president of France, Marshal de Gaulle's policy related to the reinforcement of Europe and weakening geopolitical role of US in the continent. In 1963 France and Germany formed alliance calling for Europeanization of nations. It caused indignation of US facing its European ally's inappropriate actions. In spite of disagreement between Europe and US the main factor was that, the cold war encouraged Europe to strengthen their resources with the help of US that, as the strong power, provided all the support for Europe that was required. Overcoming cold war difficulties led Europe to the victory of western ideology. In 1991 The United States officially faced the disintegration of Soviet satellites from the empire and tested the victory over the Soviet Union. "When the cold war ended in Europe, many observers ex-

pected that NATO's demise would soon follow. Even if the alliance did not disappear altogether, it would become an empty shell, no longer performing any useful functions. In its place would emerge either a largely institution-free anarchy characterized by much looser, shifting alliances and a significantly greater risk of conflict¹ or possibly other European security institutions that were better suited to the needs of the post-cold war environment. Contrary to such expectations, however, NATO has not become moribund. Indeed, it remains the leading security organization in Europe, even as the initial flurry of post-cold war institution building winds down. As a result, few analysts now expect the alliance to wither away soon" (Duffield, Winter, 1994-1995)

American and European Perspectives and Interests

Serving the world famous organization for US and for Europe is not just a matter of time or duty to follow contemporary way of political life but in the transatlantic relations the interests and perspectives of Europe and the United States are determined and involved there. It is interesting to know what the geopolitical perspectives and interests of the United States and Europe are?

When the cold war was over and the European countries were no longer facing the challenge of the mutual adversary- the Soviet Union, the world suspected that the European alliances and strong commitments to each other may not take place in the continent any more. But the defeat of Soviet Union was not enough for European passive politics. Europe began to confront other challenges on the bases of democracy, liberty, sovereignty to achieve European mutual interests. It was expected that after defeat of Soviet Union every single European country would carry out their own foreign policies without cooperation and coordination even with the United States. The doubt was somehow real but unrealized. Sharing democratic values and principles European countries stood together to challenge other important crisis and confrontations. Europe did not abandon its basic mutual foreign policy even integrated it with American introduced values of democracy. In spite of Europe-US mutual cooperation they still possess 3 types of significant differences in their strategic perspectives: "The United States, as the superpower leading country, evaluates the current processes in world politics globally while Europe measures these processes regionally; the United States gives priorities to take individual actions if it faces difficulties in some regions while Europe prefers to take actions together with international organizations; the United States does not avoid to confront with strong force like facing conflicts with military actions (in Afghanistan, Kosovo and Iraq) while Europe prefers to give priorities to the political and economic measures" (Chitadze N., 2008, pp.35-36)

The differences in US-Europe political steps does not mean to have Europe and SU split apart and taking political actions causing offence and trouble for the ancient partners. The politics Europe and US carry out in most cases is profitable and beneficial for both parties. In 1990, in Maastricht, Nice and Amsterdam summits Europe passed a number of reforms in the fields of security and defense for strengthening Europe. The reforms in the military and economic sphere that were also carried out by Europe gave European countries opportunities of acting the role of independent player in the global politics apart from the United States. If Europe as an independent player performs the political steps that it considers appropriate and exact, it does not mean that Europe declares political conflict on US and the friendly, political ties with US melts away. From the "Marshal Plan" that the United States invented for assisting Europe in hard times, Europe-US cooperation was desired and beneficial for both sides. But at the period of the cold war Europe was unable to take political steps totally acceptable for US because both Europe and the US were confronting the superpower that was extremely difficult to defeat even with joined forces. But when the cold war was over, Europe let itself be more independent and sometimes more radical making political decisions and taking political moves that might not be coordinated with US.

It means that nowadays, Europe and the United States have ability to carry out their own policies, have their own political priorities and perspectives and their own political interests in the global world. Obviously, the differences may be seen in very few political actions but generally Europe and US still possess mutual global policies in spite of the differences in their political interests.

What are the distinctions in political interests of Europe and US? First and foremost, the Energy factor plays major role related to Europe-US interests. US is more actively involved in Near East conflicts and supports Israel furiously than Europe. The United States is ready to confront with military and army forces to satisfy its interests in the East, attempts to struggle for realization of its goals and aims even though it would require a great commitment of all its resources. Europe, on the contrary, dedicates its entire political means to avoid military confrontations even if it has great interests in energy sector as well. The development of energy is a central aim of European energy policy but the Europe is committed to reaching its foreign and financial policy goals through diplomacy by the force of its arguments and ideas. Economic sections and military operations are considered only as a last resort to be used when diplomacy has been exhausted. The differences in carrying out their interests lead us to the point of determining the parties as soft and strong powers; prosperous leader countries with their own ways of conflict resolution and negotiation; should we define Europe as soft power and grant the status of hard power to the United States? What

document or political condition gives us confidence to convince nations of political “softness” of Europe and political “hardness” of the United States?

Contemporary “Hard Power” and “Soft Power”

Discussions over the balance of power dominate the contemporary political world. Why the US is referred to the “hard power” and Europe is regarded as “soft power” global player? Perhaps, world political and security challenges place demands on the United States more than on Europe. The United States remains principal target to other nations’ and groups’ policies and aspirations in ways that Europe is not. The United States struggles against global terrorism; is the key balance to China’s rising military power, has no choice but lead the way on Afghanistan while Europe dedicates its entire political resources on peaceful diplomacy. All these factors grant the US different types of responsibilities.

“America seems to be hard power incarnate and Europe the embodiment of soft power. America has military capabilities second to none. It is not just that the US defense budget is equal to the sum of the defense budgets of the next twenty countries – or more since it grows all the time; nor that its supplementary estimates often turn out to be greater than the total defense expenditure of some of its more capable partners. The sum of defense expenditure is always greater than its parts: economies of scale and the ability to focus resources mean that the United States possesses military assets that others cannot dream of. The military world divides neatly into two classes: the USA and everyone else. And the gap between the two is growing” (Cooper R., 2004)

Obviously, the United States spends much on the military capabilities than any other country and that’s why the US has no potential candidate country to compete with. While critics regard the US as strong power Europe is perceived as soft, civilian power. In spite of the fact that Europe does not possess as strong military army as the US, it still preserves the advantage to be efficient and influential union. It disregards the strong military actions emphasizing its foreign policy priorities more on law, perfect democracy, negotiations and multilateral organization. The some of the reasons the US is regarded as hard power is that The United States resorts to force more quickly and, compared to Europe is less patient with diplomacy. Americans generally see the world divided between good and evil, friends and adversaries, while Europeans see a more complex picture. When confronting real or potential enemies, Americans prefer the policy of coercion. They demand the problems to be solved, threats to be eliminated. At the same time America tends to act unilaterally in international affairs while Europe facing crisis rely on international institutions, international organization, in-

ternational law and mutual perfect diplomacy. The origin of Europe’s “passive” policy derives from the experiences of both powers. Europe endured great many wars; pulled out from the two world tragedies defeated and had no ability to recover to the point to start confronting again in the contemporary world. As the countries of Europe became significantly dominant in the continent they started exercising their powers. For instance: due to remaining on the dominant position France challenged enormous European struggles, conflict and wars; was always ready to confront any European power contending him on the continent. Before World War I, Germany appeared on the world political stage. Filling readiness for domination he could not find its place in the world order and provoked unbearable and unprecedented European wars that the history will never forget. Before World War II, Europe truly served as a “hard power” and even more than “hard power” more equivalent to “dangerous superpower”. World War II destroyed Europe as global powers. European countries withdrew from the Great War extremely weak, financially and economically damaged and let the US take the responsibility of supporter of European nations. As the time passed Europe developed and reinforced its policy and performs its role as the dignified player on the global stage.

In closing, whatever kind of powers- hard or soft- the United States and Europe are referred to, the most significant point is how their mutual cooperation influences the global politics. If Europe and the US favor controversial foreign policy goals and priorities then it might have negative impact on the West, on the South and on the entire continent. The universal principles and values that Europe together with the US carries out and attracts other nations, shape the modern nations and inspire them to struggle for more. Both powers’ cooperation produced the splendid reforms regarding education, medicine, humanitarian aids, human rights, international law, etc. Both, working together, fulfill the universal aims and goals; create comfortable environment for future generation. However, of course, being superpower leads to have a huge responsibility towards the nations and it requires hard work not to exit and lose the right pass that leads to the perfection.

Conclusion

From the time on, the United States and Europe joined their forces and tighten their relations to occupy the proper place on the continent a lot of alliances and agreements were formed. The mutual policy they pass influences the new world order greatly. The cooperation of both leading powers plays important role not just to these two nations but the influence of the cooperation is spread even farther. Most of the developed countries account on European and the United State’s mutual or separate political viewpoints. They adjust the principles and values the transatlantic al-

liance offers them. The differences in the political actions and measures the US and Europe perform is also quite significant. For instance, in case of direct political step and conflict resolution that “hard power” may take the “soft power” may call him for peaceful negotiation and overcoming the crisis by negotiation and diplomatic relations.

If we look back to the history contradictory attitude of conflict resolution can be found. Previously, experiencing great many struggles and conflict for domination Europe based its foreign policy on “realpolitick”, namely, Bismarck’s Germany, that even caused two greatest tragedies of the world. The United States which now changed its foreign policy called for the respect of the values like: open diplomacy, negotiation, compromise and mutual concession. Contemporary foreign policy of both powers proves just one: Europe got tired and exhausted of extremely huge conflicts and tries its best to do everything beyond its ability to avoid any disagreement that can be resolved. The United States that withdrew from World War I and World War II in much more advanced position takes more direct political steps.

Currently, one of the primary goals of the United States and Europe is guarantee of stability, prosperity and collective security of nations through NATO formation. The alliance that nowadays still challenges some serious conflicts and crisis manages to take security measures to avoid future biggest conflicts that may be provoked by a crisis. Of course, in some cases the transatlantic relations foreign policy and global perspectives does not coincide but these different approaches towards foreign policy balance the political attitude of transatlantic relations.

If Europe as an independent player performs the political steps that it considers to be appropriate and exact, it does not mean that Europe declares political conflict on US and the friendly, political ties with US melts away but the fact is that the Europe and the United States have ability to carry out their own policies, have their own political priorities and their own political interests but they should shift these differences in a way that the nations felt comfortable in a atmosphere created by transatlantic relations.

In closing, whatever interests, power, politics and attitudes the United States and Europe have, the main goal and aim of these powers should be the responsibility to form the diplomacy guaranteeing peace, security and defense of the continent. These two powers possess all the recourses to influence the world politics and they should implement these recourses in a proper way to encourage the development of diplomatic relations and peaceful negotiations. “Leaders on both sides of the Atlantic need to build upon areas where Americans and Europeans do agree, like democracy promotion, to pave the way forward for transatlantic relations.” (Craig Kennedy Quotes, 2012)

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