

There is ambivalence on the part of the U.S. Administration about where NATO is going. While the U.S. encourages building European capacity to respond to regional crises like Kosovo, it is suspicious about the implications this could have on the viability of NATO.

Notwithstanding the philosophical differences between the Bush Administration and the European centre-left governments (i.e., Germany and Great Britain) relations between the U.S. and Europe are not likely going to change. However, there is a sense in Europe that the Americans are starting to disengage – a trend which will be tested through the new U.S. approach to the Balkans and the Middle East. What seems to be clear is that the Bush Administration is not interested in nation building exercises and supports a hands-off policy.