



## The rift between the United States and Europe

Several recent Carnegie Council speakers have commented on the widening gulf between the United States and Europe, as evidenced by France's attempt to face down the United States in the UN Security Council debate on Iraq. [Robert Kagan](#), who has visited the Council twice in the past year, proffers a "Mars vs. Venus" analysis. Europe wants to be left alone, he says, to concentrate on the European Union. It feels it is "beyond war," and it constantly questions whether American behavior is legitimate. Americans, on the other hand, still believe in power and in the need to use it against our enemies. How real is this gulf, is it still widening, and what if anything can be done to bridge it?

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## Discovery Channel is airing "Does Europe Hate Us?"

*mlcox (no login)*

April 5 2005 at 11:42 AM

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on Thursday April 7 at 8 p.m. The program features the ideas of New York Times columnist Tom Friedman.

You can preview it on Tom's NYX page:

<http://www.nytimes.com/top/opinion/editorialsandoped/oped/columnists/thomasfriedman/>

A critic in the Los Angeles Daily News has this to say:

"Does Europe Hate Us? Thomas L. Friedman Reporting" (Discovery Times; 8 p.m. Thursday)  
Think: **The New York Times' Pulitzer Prize-winning foreign-affairs columnist speaks to ordinary citizens in France, Germany and England about their attitudes toward America or, more specifically, President Bush. He discovers Americans abroad are shocked at the current level of animosity; one even goes to Iran to get a temporary respite from European anti-Americanism.**

Don't think: Love the B-roll footage of Friedman play-acting at rolling his luggage through Parisian streets or nodding thoughtfully during interviews.

In a nutshell: "We miss the America that made us dream," opines a young French woman. "We have to wait four years for someone else to give us back the country we knew and liked," says a German man. Sobering portrait of a world that four short years ago rallied around America and now largely has fear and loathing for us.

<http://www.network54.com/Forum/296163/message/1112965202/No+Need+to+Apologize+for+Being+American>

## **No Need to Apologize for Being American**

[Lawrence Kogan](#) Lawrence Kogan (no login)

April 8 2005 at 9:00 AM

Response to [Complex Issue](#)

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I watched with great interest April 7th's airing of this documentary. As an international lawyer and businessman for more than 16 years, I have worked extensively with European business owners and visited many European cities. The perspective towards America revealed in Mr. Friedman's documentary is neither new nor surprising. It merely reflects a long simmering envy and fear of the United States, its potential, its opportunities and its capabilities.

America's international behavior since 9/11, while controversial and unsettling to some, is not, by historic standards that unusual. There is NO need for our government or our people to apologize to Europe and Europeans for being American or for pursuing American values - free enterprise, rule of law, entrepreneurship, individualism, technological innovation - which, coincidentally, have underlied the international legal and economic systems since the end of WWII, with America, not Europe bearing the economic and human costs . It is about time that we let the Europeans pay for their own defense which, amusingly, they could not even address without U.S. assistance in Yugoslavia.

If we owe any people an apology, it would be to those who have unnecessarily suffered under brutal, tyrannical regimes in developing countries that America mistakenly maintained in order to ensure a perceived national or regional stability - the status quo. Europeans prefer the status quo to change because change threatens the rule of European elites (demagogues) in France and Germany (and the British left). Yes, Europe for all of its high-minded rhetoric is not free and equal -

there is an unstated caste system that survives in Europe which the common European man and woman on the street (not born into aristocracy) is largely unable to transcend. That's often why they immigrate to the U.S. One need only ask the Muslim immigrants in France and Germany how free they really are.

The growing tensions in the transatlantic relationship are mostly attributable to an expanding Europe's (the European Union) global aspirations. In a nutshell, Europe seeks to create a global governance regime to which all countries would be subject, even the U.S. Like the lilliputians in Gulliver's Travels, they seek to tie down Gulliver in order to subjugate him to their rule.

The growing confederation of sovereign nation states that comprises the EU aspires to become a global power - an influential counterweight to U.S. hegemony; but through the use of 'soft power' not military power. And they seek to do this by rallying the developing world to their cause through deceptively generous aid programs that deliver significantly less than what they promise. The EU should no longer be taken for granted as a devoted American ally. Rather, we would be wise to consider Europe an opportunistic ally and vigorous competitor, at best.

Europe's global vision significantly challenges American values. Globalization is a pejorative European term - it singles out 'immoral' American capitalism and anti-environmentalism as the source of the world's ills, and seeks to replace it with an enhanced 'accountability' social welfare state modeled after that existing in Europe. In such a society, all economic actors (businesses) would be held accountable ('kept honest') to society by the ideological green and social movements which claim to represent the best interests of the masses. Mr. Friedman's documentary accurately reflects Europe's pride in its welfare state and in its popular movements.

As Mr. Friedman's documentary reveals, it also reflects the growing influence of an unaccountable European civil society on regional and global social and economic policy. Unfortunately, this civil society movement is not held accountable to the national law, but instead reflects broader global notions of human rights and sustainable development articulated in heady United Nations political declarations. The growing rhetoric and activities of the European environmental and social movements shows this to be true.

Mr. Friedman's segment on disguised trade barriers (e.g., cosmetic products, chemical products, etc.) is also very accurate. It reflects European industry's desire to gain a global economic competitive advantage vis-a-vis U.S. industry by masking overly restrictive environment, health and safety regulations and technical product standards as absolutely necessary to protect the public welfare. Unfortunately, there is growing evidence to show that this is merely a subterfuge for trade protectionism. Yes, Mr. Friedman was once again correct when he said that cosmetics and chemicals are only but the 'tip of the iceberg'.

I have performed extensive research and have prepared several white papers during the past two years that substantiates these claims. I would be pleased to share them with you and Mr. Friedman...

...Based on my research and experience, the current state of European-American affairs is largely the product a resurgent European continent that is pursuing a defined global political and economic agenda. America should not think twice about apologizing to Europe for its actions, no matter who our president is.

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