

# America in Context

*A publication intended to create a historical and cultural context in which to read contemporary issues in the United States.*

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## A Vital Partnership: Europe and the U.S. after the Presidential Elections

This issue of *America in Context* focuses on the future relations between Europe and the United States.

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### **Serfaty, Simon. VITAL PARTNERSHIP: HALF AFTER BUSH.**

*Center for Strategic and International Studies - Initiative for A Renewed Transatlantic Partnership*, November 3 2004, pp. 1-6.

"The transatlantic partnership is at risk. For the first time since the United States of America assumed, on behalf of the West, a leadership it had earned the old-fashioned way, many of its European allies do not recognize the threat identified by the United States, do not condone the methods used to defeat that threat, and do not endorse the goals that motivate the United States. For both sides of the Atlantic, this is a critical juncture—a defining moment that parallels the start of President Truman's second term in office, in January 1949, when decisions and the events that prompted them were to shape the history of the following four decades.

The strategy put in place by Truman between 1949 and 1953 was neither an American nor a European strategy. It was a Western strategy that relied on American power to shape an institutional order in the name of which the Cold War was waged and won. While a Western strategy may today be a goal that the European allies themselves will keep beyond our reach, it is one that deserves to be sought nonetheless...

(Pages 1 -2)

...> **In the Media**

### **..Transatlantic Trade**

**Kogan, Lawrence A. EXPORTING EUROPE'S PROTECTIONISM. *The National Interest*, Fall 2004, pp. 91-99.**

"The basic rules of international trade are simple. The United States and the European Union, the two major trading blocs, have each sought to curb serious

health and environmental risks before they cause substantial harm. Both have promoted industrial policies to enhance the competitiveness of their industries and the global economy along with them. The institutional framework of the GATT and the WTO that evolved alongside the United Nations Charter has kept these competing aims in reasonable balance. It has also reflected the main global priorities of later eras: preserving peace and stability through international commerce and the rule of law. [...] Embedded within this balanced framework is a pragmatic acknowledgement among WTO members that a certain amount of risk is unavoidable in everyday life and that international trade and global stability are good things in themselves. During the past decade, however, the European Union, with assistance from “international civil society” (a euphemism for non-governmental pressure groups), has sought to alter this equilibrium by enacting regional regulations and promoting process-based industry standards that both depart from this practice and have an extraterritorial impact. These proposals reflect what the EU sees as a more pressing global priority than freer trade—namely, achieving sustainable development.”

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