



INSTEP-WFU Cambridge

WESTERN EUROPE AND THE USA SINCE  
1918

This course will explore the nature of Atlanticism and ask whether it was a response to a unique set of economic, political and security circumstances which are now in the process of decline. The course will examine European and American approaches to collective security and international organisation, the breakdown of the international economy between the wars, Europe, the USA and the drift to war, the collapse of the European balance of power and the onset of the Cold War. The Atlanticist order including Bretton Woods, the Marshall Plan and the Atlantic Treaty will be considered as well as US attitudes towards decolonisation and US and European integration. Lastly consideration will be given to the emergence, since the 1960's, of tensions with the breakdown of the post war economic order, US unilateralism, European autonomy and the post 9.11 world and its implications.

Week 1 General Introduction to the Course

Lectures will cover the ground chronologically raising key issues

Week 2 The Versailles settlement and the creation of the League of Nations

Week 3 The Inter – War Years: European security, the international financial system and the role of the US

Week 4 The Origins of World War II: Atlantic versus Pacific and appeasement

Week 5 The Onset of the Cold War: historiography

Week 6 The Atlanticist Order: the Marshall Plan and the origins of NATO

Week 7 The Evolution of NATO in the 1950's

Week 8 European Integration, decolonisation and the globalisation of the Cold War in the 1950's & 1960's.

Week 9 The Troubled Alliance: the 1960's & 1970's

Week 10 The Decline of Atlanticism? : the post 9.11 era.

Week 11 Concluding overview

## READING LIST

Berghann, V.R. *Germany and the Approach of War in 1914*  
Bobbitt, Philip *The Shield of Achilles* Catherwood, Christopher *Winston's Folly* Clausewitz, Carl von *On War*  
DePorte, A. *Europe between the Superpowers*  
Dimbleby, D. & Reynolds, D. *An Ocean Apart*  
Gaddis, John Lewis *We Now Know*  
Grosser, Alfred *The Western Alliance*  
Halliday, Fred *The Making of the Second Cold War*  
Haslam, Jonathan *Russia's Cold War*  
Henig, Ruth *Versailles and After 1919 – 1933*  
Howard, Michael *Clausewitz*  
Howard, Michael *War and the Liberal Conscience*  
Joll, James *Europe since 1870*  
Joll, James *The Origins of the First World War*  
Langhorne, Richard *The Collapse of the Concert of Europe 1890-1914*  
Laqueur, Walter *Europe since Hitler*  
McCauley, Martin *The Origins of the Cold War 1941 - 1949* Milward, Alan S. *The European Rescue of the Nation State* Milward, Alan S. *The Reconstruction of Western Europe* Palmer, J. *Europe without America?*  
Roberts, J.M. *Europe 1880 – 1945*  
Robertson Esmonde *The Origins of the Second World War*  
Sharpe, Alan *The Versailles Settlement*  
Stone, Norman *Europe Transformed 1878 – 1918*  
Taylor, A.J.P. *The Origins of the Second World War*  
Taylor, A.J.P. *The Struggle for Mastery in Europe 1848 – 1918*  
Wiskerman, Elizabeth *Europe of the Dictators 1919-1945*  
Yergin, Daniel *Shattered Peace*

## METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

- a) Read around the subject
- b) Attend all classes
- c) Contribute to discussions
- d) Ask questions
- e) Write two essays of 2,500 words