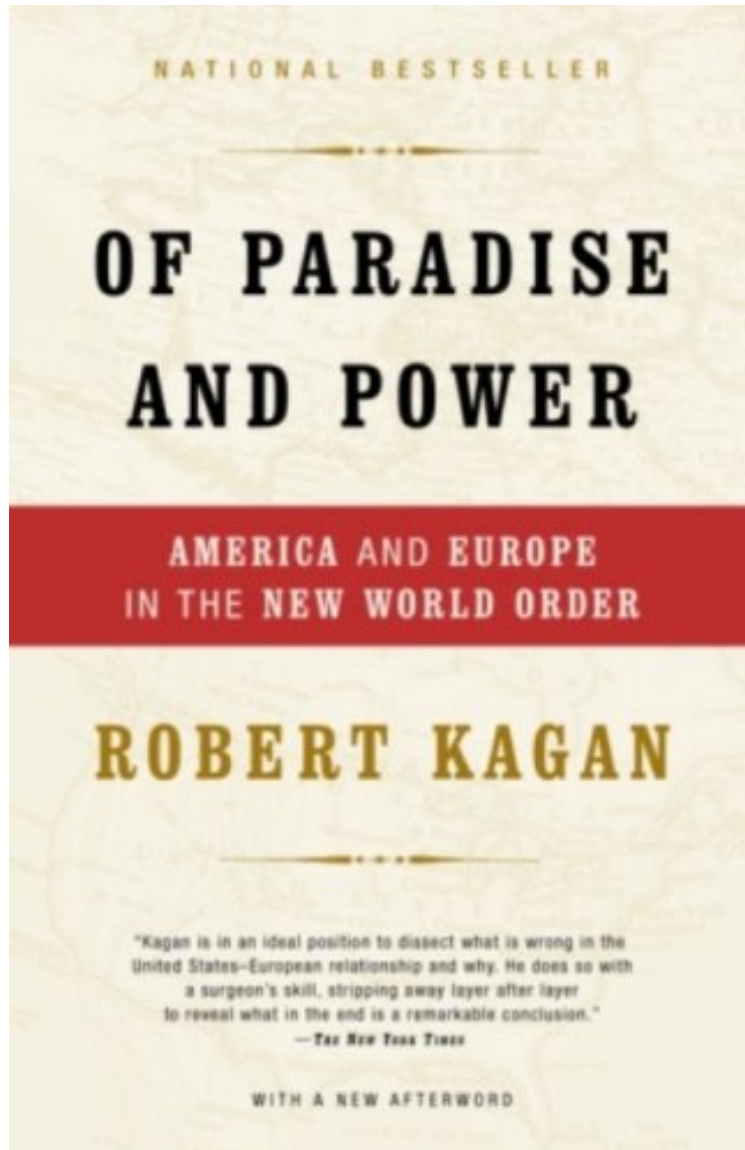


(Download) Of Paradise and Power: America and Europe in the New World Order

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Von Robert Kagan

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Von Robert Kagan : Of Paradise and Power: America and Europe in the New World Order before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Of Paradise and Power: America and Europe in the New World Order:

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enlightened diplomacy or military force? Von Werner D. Robert Kagan not only had his monthly column in the Washington Post, but also served in the State Department under Reagan. As the title already indicates, he compares Europe's and America's different conception of the new world order. Within a caricature he encompasses a psychological dimension on why both protagonists perceive and act differently. A man holding a rifle is America's projection, while a man only armed with a knife personifies Europe. Both feel a different degree of empathy and hate for the approaching bear. While Europe hides and does not feel in any way threatened, America tends to view the bear as potential threat and therefore is more likely to shoot the innocent bear. Consequently the basic hypothesis for Kagan's reasoning is that power alters and influences political perception. Referring to history the columnist states that the United States and Europe have "traded places" and therefore perspectives. When the thirteen States were threatened by old Europe, they argued in favour of an universalistic approach to foreign affairs. Kagan is further able to underscore his thesis by referring to the gap in military strength, that has increased since the fall of Communism. While the States increase their military spending, Europe cuts down its defence spending. Furthermore Kagan refers to Europe's inability to intervene in Bosnia and Kosovo without the help of mighty America. Through weakness Europe defines Kant's principle of "Entire Peace" as its vision of the new world order and therefore laying emphasis on the role of the United Nations. By contrast America, according to Kagan, more and more accepts his position as only remaining Superpower, able to intervene and protect where needed. This also implies to act unilaterally if allies are not willing. Undercutting Europe's vision of enlightenment Kagan describes the appeasement politics of the Nazi regime. On the other side he defends America's approach by neglecting the differences between the Clinton and Bush administration. As a result Clinton's second term was supposed to have started the unilateral paradigm, as in the rejection of an international court of justice and the '98 bombing of Iraq. Bush only followed the strategy Clinton invented namely "either with or without the United Nations" and did so previous to the terrorists attacks of 9/11. Moreover the American claims that Europe can only afford its pacifistic and economy based integration on the basis of the protection granted by the United States. Although Kagan appears to be objective at first side, his terminology and concept of reasoning foster the image of the Darwin's "survival of the fittest". For he perceives defence spending as a indicator of strength. It is far fetched to criticise politics of integration and diplomacy on the basis of them symbolising weakness. If the Second World War has not led to insights and a different more pacifistic approach in the mind of Europeans what else could have done so? Certainly not weakness, but rather experience. Why does he not refer to economic trends or the strength of the euro? 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Europe: Superior Moral or just weakness Von Stephan Haux Everybody watching news recognizes the friction between Europe and USA. No future visit of DubYou in Berlin or London will make a difference. But why is this so? Kagan explains this in a simple way: USA is perceived as a "Cowboy" acting unilaterally based on their superior power as the only remaining superpower. This is perceived very bad by many Europeans. We (Yes I am one of them) are favoring UN, negotiations and other methods. We are rock solid on this approach. Kagan opened my eyes: Europe is weak and pretty much busy with itself working on the integration. And as a weak region - weak compared to the US - there is no other way than relying on negotiations and the beauty of international law. With having understood the European motivation to the global power game the other side of the pond can be understood more easily: The US isn't against multilateral work (it means sharing the death) or they aren't against international law and institutions, but experience with the Cold War taught them that it will be their people who will defend democracy etc. It is not the time to tell the book here and anyway Kagan's language etc is by far better and more intriguing than my. So I close in recommending this book to anybody who is interested into politics and is disturbed by the current (?) state of the Atlantic relationship. 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Paradise and Power - A Choice? Von M. Ziegler This is one of the better works on current affairs to emerge from the United States lately. Mister Kagan's attempt to find the roots of the current conflict between the United States - and within NATO - is laudable. It is refreshing to read a balanced, clear-eyed thesis like this one amid the strident "you are either for us or against us" climate that is the tenor of US-European political "discourse" since the current administration came to power in America. Based upon an essay, this little book is a must read for students of political science and proof to all that simplicity need not mean shallowness. His prose is to the point, his language precise and clear, and although some of his arguments lack depth and background, this is not because of lack of grounding but more because of the brevity of this work. It helps if the reader is well versed in the history of nations on both sides of the Atlantic ocean, however, as many of Mister Kagan's arguments take that as a given. However, compared to Huntington's "The Clash of Civilizations", this book is without doubt founded on firmer foundations.

Kurzbeschreibung From Robert Kagan, a leading scholar of American foreign policy, comes an insightful analysis of the state of European and American foreign relations. At a time when relations between the United States and Europe are at their lowest ebb since World War II, this brief but cogent book is essential reading. Kagan forces both sides to see themselves through the eyes of the other. Europe, he argues, has moved beyond power into a self-contained world

of laws, rules, and negotiation, while America operates in a Hobbesian world where rules and laws are unreliable and military force is often necessary. Tracing how this state of affairs came into being over the past fifty years and fearlessly exploring its ramifications for the future, Kagan reveals the shape of the new transatlantic relationship. The result is a book that promises to be as enduringly influential as Samuel Huntingtons *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order*. .deFrom its opening-line salvo "It is time to stop pretending that Europeans and Americans share a common view of the world, or even that they occupy the same world" *Of Paradise and Power* announces a new phase in the relationship between the United States and Europe. Robert Kagan begins this illuminating essay by laying out the general differences as he sees them: the U.S. is quicker to use military force, less patient with diplomacy, and more willing to coerce (or bribe) other nations in order to get a desired result. Europe, on the other hand, places greater emphasis on diplomacy, takes a much longer view of history and problem solving, and has greater faith in international law and cooperation. Kagan does not view these differences as the result of innate national character, but as a time-honored historical reality--the U.S. is merely behaving like the powerful nation it is, just as the great European nations once did when they ruled the world. Now, Europe must act multilaterally because it has no choice. The "UN Security Council is a substitute for the power they lack," he writes. Kagan also emphasizes the inherent ironies present in the relationship. European nations have enjoyed an "American security guarantee" for nearly 60 years, allowing them to cut back on defense spending while criticizing the U.S. for not doing the same. Yet Europe relies upon the U.S. for protection. This has led America and Europe to view the same threats much differently, as evidenced by the split over how to deal with Iraq and Saddam Hussein. Kagan points out that some European leaders are more afraid of how the U.S. will wield its power in the Middle East than they are of the thought of Hussein or other "rogue state" leaders acquiring weapons of mass destruction. Kagans brevity is as impressive as it is appreciated; most writers would have required thrice as many pages to get to their point. At any length, the book is nothing short of brilliant. This is essential reading for those seeking to understand the post-Cold War world. --Shawn Carkonen.com

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