



Towards a Post-Western West? The Changing Heritage of ‘Europe’ and the ‘West’

**Seminar organised by Tampere Peace Research Institute
As part of the NORFACE* Project:
‘The Transatlantic Relationship and the Struggle for Europe’
Tampere, 2-3 February 2006**

Venue: Scandic Tampere City (Hämeenkatu 1, Tampere)

Description:

The seminar aims at unpacking the discourses pertaining to the ‘West’ and ‘Europe’ and to pinpoint, in this context, the layered nature of these discourses. Arguably, to the extent that the notions of the ‘West’ and ‘Europe’ are evolving and changing in essence after the end of the Cold War and in particular since 9/11, this has fundamental and rather problematic consequences in the sphere of transatlantic relations and world order in general. It has been argued that the collapse of the Berlin Wall marked the end of the old West and, furthermore, signalled the beginning of a profound dissonance between European and American postures. Even if there are still those who remain triumphant about the West, there is nonetheless a growing tendency to be discerned with the West being seen as essentially broken and defunct. The question has been raised on numerous occasions whether ‘the West still exists’. Obviously, the political West that marked unity and commonality in the face of the Soviet threat is up for grabs and similarly, militant Islamism challenges the hegemony of the West. However, this latter challenge appears to have brought about distinct divisions in the Western ‘camp’ in being seen and interpreted rather differently on the various sides of the Atlantic.

The very different takes on ‘Europeanization’ and ‘Americanization’, now discernible in the current debate, amount to arguments about the emergence of two different Wests. In the case of Europe, the idea of bordering the East has for decades constituted a key aspect of self-definition, whilst simultaneously Europe has reached out westward thus contributing to the emergence a broader space, that of a “West” that combines Europe and America. Thus, this ‘westernized’ Europe lost its uniqueness in being subsumed within a broader West, in particular during the 20th century when Europe’s location was peripheralized in between Washington and Moscow. The demise of the bipolar constellation made it mandatory to coin and re-invent a separate European identity, but the strengthening of a European identity has contributed also to an end of the unitary notion of ‘the

* **NORFACE (New Opportunities for Research Funding Cooperation in Europe)** is a partnership between the social science research councils in 12 European countries: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Sweden, United Kingdom.

West'. Enlargement northwards and eastwards has also changed the EU as a result of integrating areas with different historical experiences. It can be argued that the recent northernisation and easternisation of Europe has distanced Europe from the West, with the result being that Europe has transformed and become increasingly post-western, even if not anti-western. Simultaneously America has followed another path, becoming an empire by denial. America's consciousness of being the only superpower has contributed to the emergence of rather different notions of security and international order than those prevailing in Europe.

Drawing these different points together the aim of this seminar is to explore issues related to the changing legacies of the 'West' and 'Europe' and the implications of such changes for international politics. Key themes to be addressed therefore include:

- The challenges that the current questioning of the unity of the West pose for IR theory.
- The historical legacy of the West, with a particular concern with asking 'what is this West' that currently seems to be in process of being divided.
- To what extent do different national legacies of the West impact on how the unity of the West is conceptualised in different places? Or, to what extent should we think of the West as a plural and national based concept?
- How important have the readings of 'outsiders' been in constituting what the West is about? E.g. to what extent do the origins of the West lie in the East/South?
- How has the US conceptualised the West and what role has 'Europe' played in US conceptions of the West? Or indeed, to what extent are the 'West' and 'Europe' losing their constitutive role in US identity discourses and being replaced by notions of Empire?
- What impact have the easternisation and northernisation of Europe, as a result of various processes including those related to EU/NATO enlargement, had on the 'idea of Europe' and its relationship to the West? E.g., to what extent are Russia, Turkey and the states of 'New Europe' able to impact on constitutive discourses of Europe-making?
- What will be the implications of the emergence of 'two Wests'?

Contact and registration:

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Please note that we cannot take more than 60 persons including speakers and that is why pre-registration is necessary even if there is no fee. Desirable deadline for pre-registration is 15th January.

Schedule:

Thursday 2.2.

13-13.30 **Opening seminar**

Marko Lehti (TAPRI)
Christopher Browning (University of Birmingham)

13.30 - 15 **1st Keynote Session**

Chair: Marko Lehti (Tapri)

Gerard Delanty (University of Liverpool):
Beyond the West: Europe and the Rise of Asia

Sophie Bessis (Institut de Relations Internationales et Stratégiques)
Europe and Its South Borders: Western Policy or European Policy?

15 -15.30 Coffee

15.30–17.30 **1st session: *The Diverging Notion of the West***

Chair: Jakub M. Godzimirski (Norwegian Institute of Foreign Affairs)

Dina Khapaeva (St. Petersburg State University)
Crisis of Concepts, Perception of Time and the Concept of the "West"

Noel Parker (University of Copenhagen)
The Old World and the New: a History of Projection and Counter-Projection

Virginie Mamadouh (University of Amsterdam)
Divided we stand: Plural geopolitical visions of the West

Jan Ifversen (Aarhus University)
The West: The End of a concept

Friday 3.2.

9.30-11 **2nd Keynote Session**

Chair: Christopher Browning (University of Birmingham)

Alastair Bonnet (University of Newcastle upon Tyne)
Occidentalism and Plural Modernities

Jacinta O'Hagan (Australian National University, Canberra)
Changing Concepts of the West in the 21st Century

11-12.30 Lunch

12.30–14.30 **2nd session:** *The Transatlantic Rift and IR Theorising*

Chair: Viatcheslav Morozov (St. Petersburg State University)

Patrick Thaddeus Jackson (American University, Washington DC)

Economists, Sociologists, and the West: Legitimation, Social Action, and the Transatlantic Community

Lene Hansen (University of Copenhagen)

Conceptualizing "the West": Building Research Designs from Poststructuralist Discourse Analysis

Marin Hall (Lund University)

Metageographical distinctions and the production of IR knowledge

Pertti Joenniemi (Danish Institute for International Studies)

Iraq War and the Broken West: The Debate among Philosophers

14.30- 15 Coffee

15 -17 **3rd session:** *The West and its Others*

Chair: Nikolai Koposov (St. Petersburg State University)

Pekka Korhonen (University of Jyväskylä)

Asia and the West

Elena Pavlova (St. Petersburg State University)

The Search for Identity of the Western World. Multiculturalism and the Inner Other

Matti Jutila (TAPRI)

Samuel Huntington and the West

17-17.30 Concluding words