



JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY



Brandenburgisches Institut für Gesellschaft und Sicherheit

## **Terrorism in the Transatlantic Context: Cultural and Economic Implications and Solutions**

**Haus der Brandenburgisch-Preußischen Geschichte  
Kutschstall  
Am Neuen Markt 9  
14467 Potsdam  
Germany**

**Monday, December 7, 2009**

8:30 -9:45am

Opening Remarks

Jack Janes, AICGS

Dieter Wagner, Universität Potsdam

10:45-11:15am

Panel One: A Culture of Terrorism?

*The question of whether there is a specific religion, culture, or set of values that has a greater likelihood of producing terrorism is highly contested. Is this question permissible and if so, can it be answered? Can Western and Islamic cultures co-exist, especially in integrated societies with increasing contact between immigrants and host communities? Or are Western values (for example, separation of state and religion) and Islamic values and religion mutually exclusive? What are the German and American views on this topic and how do they influence the respective foreign policy? Are there possibilities for cooperation between Germany and the U.S. vis-à-vis the Islamic world?*

Speakers:

Jocelyne Cesari, Harvard University

Bassam Tibi, Universität Göttingen

Olaf Müller, Humboldt Universität

Moderator:

Jack Janes, AICGS

11:15 – 11:30am

Coffee Break

*AICGS is grateful to the Fritz Thyssen Stiftung  
and the Brandenburgisches Institut für Gesellschaft und Sicherheit (BIGS)  
for their support of this event.*

1:30am -1:00pm

Panel Two: Attack on Western Culture or Western Culture as a Solution?

*The more stringent counterterrorism and immigration laws implemented after the attacks on September 11 caused heated debates on the balance between security and liberties, not only in the U.S., but also in Europe. How much has the West changed in the past decade through the impact of terrorism? Does the debate on the balance of security and civil freedoms differ in the U.S. and Germany? Cultural exchange programs between the West and Islamic countries are intended to increase each country's respective awareness and lay the foundation for a peaceful coexistence. Do concrete experiences support this? Do not the biographies of the September 11 attackers contradict this hypothesis? How can the West win the 'War of Ideas' and gain the support of public opinion in the Middle East? What role does the media play? In what areas would transatlantic cooperation be feasible?*

Speakers: Michael Bauer, Centrum für angewandte Politikforschung (CAP)  
Paul Finkelman, Albany Law School  
Alexander Ritzmann, European Foundation for Democracy

Moderator: Jessica Riester, AICGS

:00-2:00pm

Luncheon

:00-3:30pm

Panel Three: The Financing of Terrorist Organizations

*One of the major challenges in fighting terrorism is the financing of terrorist organizations. Banking confidentiality and other privacy laws protect private citizens, but they are also exploited by terrorist organizations. Non-profit organizations in the West are sometimes established as front organizations to recruit members and funds. Are the existing laws in Germany and the U.S. sufficient to limit the financing of terrorist organizations? How do common-law countries like the U.S. combat financial ties of terrorist organizations in comparison to civil-law countries like Germany? How can Germany and the U.S. cooperate despite their different legal systems? Does the EU play a role or should its role be expanded? What role does the Hawala banking system and other culturally influenced customs play?*

Speakers: Marissa Fenech, Deutsche Bank  
Joachim Kaetzler, CMS Hasche Sigle  
Stefan Leins, Universität Zürich  
Matthew Levitt, Washington Institute for Near East Policy

Moderator: Kirsten Verclas, AICGS

:30-3:45pm

Coffee Break

:45-5:15pm

Panel Four: The Economy: Problem or Solution?

*Terrorist attacks usually aim not only at harming civilians, but also at causing financial and economic hardship. Terrorist attacks on economic infrastructure could play a bigger role in the future. How can economic and financial interests be better protected and how could the impact of a possible terror attack be better absorbed? What role can transatlantic cooperation play in this? What anti-terror measures have economic consequences, such as more stringent immigration laws or increased security measurements to protect critical infrastructure (such as ports)? Economic problems are often cited as a cause for terrorism. Are economic problems really a breeding ground for terrorism? Why then did most terrorists who participated in the September 11 attacks come from the middle class? Can economic aid be a suitable anti-terror measure? How can the West prevent economic aid being funneled to terrorist organizations or to supporting corruption, as in Central Asia or Bosnia? Are there different views on the right*

*balance of economic and military measures in the U.S. and Germany? Is that changing under President Obama? What kind of transatlantic cooperation is possible?*

Speakers: Tilman Brück, Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung (DIW Berlin)  
David Fisher, Embassy of the United States of America  
Dieter Urban, Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Technologie

Moderator: Tim Stuchtey, AICGS/Humboldt Universität

5:15-5:30pm

Concluding Remarks

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