

New CER pamphlet

A EUROPEAN WAY OF WAR

**By Steven Everts, Lawrence Freedman, Charles Grant,
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Europe needs to develop its own ‘way of war’. That is the conclusion that prominent defence analysts from both sides of the Atlantic have reached in a new CER pamphlet. A European way of war would encourage European armies to prepare for more demanding missions than they have performed thus far. But it would acknowledge that Europeans must develop a distinct approach to using armed forces, one that recognises budgetary realities, learns from recent experiences and capitalises on Europe’s relative strengths.

America’s defence policy remains the benchmark for nearly all discussions on European defence. But constant and unfavourable comparisons with America are creating a harmful sense of impotence and resignation among European defence officials. Moreover, the on-going violence in Iraq highlights the need for Americans to, sometimes, learn from the Europeans.

The six authors in this pamphlet argue that:

- ★ Europe’s two pre-eminent military powers, Britain and France, must take the lead in defining a European way of war. A European way of war does not have to be an EU way of war. Some EU governments may balk at having to follow an Anglo-French doctrine. However, it is better to have a sound military doctrine than a meaningless political compromise;
- ★ European armies should continue to be able to work well with American soldiers. However, Europe’s armies do not have to copy US armed forces in every respect. Instead, they should try to complement them. This means that European defence ministries need to retain their traditional peacekeeping skills, but simultaneously build up their war fighting prowess;
- ★ The EU needs to develop the internal aspects of its security and defence policy. In particular, European governments have to think about how to join up their disparate policy instruments for countering global terrorism. This will require EU governments to ensure that their law enforcement, foreign and defence policies work together more effectively.

Notes for editors:

1. Lawrence Freedman is Professor of War Studies at King’s College, London; François Heisbourg is Director of the Fondation pour la Recherche Stratégique in Paris; and Michael O’Hanlon is a Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution in Washington DC. Steven Everts, Charles Grant and Daniel Keohane all work at the Centre for European Reform.

2. This pamphlet can be ordered from the CER website (www.cer.org.uk) or by contacting Kate Meakins at kate@cer.org.uk or on +44-20-7233-1199, for further information please contact either Steven Everts or Daniel Keohane on +44-20-7233-1199.