At the Munich Security Conference, Europe's leaders focused on the challenges of the new geopolitical landscape. In this edition of The German Times, we explore the impact of these developments on the European Union and its relationship with the United States, Russia, and other global powers.

**EU-US Relationship in Crisis**

**By Julianne Smith**

The relationship between the European Union and the United States has been complex and often contentious. In the past, the EU was seen as a potential countervailing power to the US, but recent events have eroded this narrative. The Trump administration's unilateral actions, such as a possible re-engagement with North Korea, have led to tensions in the EU-US relationship. The EU also faces challenges in its relationship with Russia, with the US taking a more aggressive stance towards the latter.

**Global Threats and the Need for Arms Control**

**By HEIKO MAAS**

The INF Treaty of 1987 was a cornerstone of arms control, but recent developments have raised concerns about its future. The US and Russia have expressed interest in developing new long-range nuclear missiles, without a formal opportunity to negotiate on the matter. This escalating arms race could lead to a new Cold War and undermine global stability.

**The Case for a European Approach to Cyber Security**

**By Gisela Dachs**

The rise of cyber threats has highlighted the need for a European approach to cyber security. The region is vulnerable to cyber attacks, and the EU must develop a coherent strategy to protect its citizens and institutions. This involves enhancing cybersecurity capabilities, improving information sharing, and working closely with international partners.

**The Role of Social Media in Politics**

**By Bruce Albert**

Social media has become a powerful tool in political campaigns, but its impact is not always positive. It can be used to spread disinformation, manipulate public opinion, and influence elections. This raises questions about the role of social media in democratic processes and the need for greater regulation.

**INF Treaty and Its Impact on Nuclear Arms Control**

**By Dmitri Trenin**

The INF Treaty is a vital element of the global nuclear arms control regime. Its termination could lead to a new arms race and increase the risk of nuclear war. The EU must take a leading role in preserving the treaty and ensuring that it is replaced with a new agreement that can function as a cornerstone of non-proliferation efforts.

**The Future of the EU-US Relationship**

**By John R. Bolton**

The EU-US relationship is facing significant challenges, including disagreements over trade, security, and strategic priorities. The US government's unilateral actions have raised questions about its commitment to the EU, and the EU must work to reinforce its strategic partnerships and develop its own capabilities to respond to these challenges.

**Conclusion**

The Munich Security Conference provides a platform for discussing these issues and exploring potential solutions. The EU must continue to work closely with its partners to ensure the stability and security of the region and the world.
Violence has morphed from a political instrument into an economic resource, but this is only one of five reasons for today’s never-ending conflicts.

BY HERMANN MÜNKEL

Peace treaties have always relied on compromise, even if clear winners and losers are.

In front of a packed audience in Berlin, US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson took aim at China and Russia — two Canadians is far easier than addressing one or two countries. Not that the current US administration is not looking hard at fostering trans-Atlantic cooperation. Instead, US policymakers appear to have reached the conclusion that they alone can leverage the transatlantic relations to their advantage.

This was already the case with the United Nations or the European Union. It is the third reason.

Here’s one more: Europe needs to complete eurozone reform. “Europe needs to have reached the conclusion that they alone can compete with China and Russia. That’s the reason why don’t want to address the populism that is growing up in the world. It is the opportunity to amass great power, to transcend the limits, to transcend the limits of parties to the civil war has multiplied. Herein lies the rub: the longer the war wages on, returning to a peaceful life becomes all the more difficult. When entire generations have grown up knowing nothing but smoldering war and having learned little more than how to use violence to survive this war, it becomes too close to impossible to end an armed conflict via peace treaty. This is the fourth reason.

Not all the factors that are at play here are always visible in the war zones of today. Some are hidden, some play only a minor role while another few have their own share when it comes to the overall, the calculations of factor is subject to change. If classical warfare was marked by the fact that certain notions of valor became elements in the regulatory framework for conducting wars, even if the wartime parties did not altogether defer to this system of order, then new wars were marked by the sheer lack of such regulation, which brings with it a higher level of cruelty and a greater number of atrocities. Breeding revenge and counter revenge, this cannot be dispersed through legal intervention by a neutral third party, as there are no neutral third parties in civil war. Violence must be returned and humilation must be borne before any peace negotiations can begin. There is always one party with a score to settle, which diffusion lead to new scores and new determinations. The most important reason why today’s wars don’t end on their own and indeed have little chance of ending at all.

JULIANNE SMITH

In Berlin. She served as the deputy national security advisor to Vice President Joe Biden.

The Trump administration rightly placed “strategic competition” at the heart of its national security strategies. Where the Trump administrations veered off course was in overestimating the role of the EU more specifically will play no role in that competition. Instead, US policymakers appear to have reached the conclusion that they alone can leverage the transatlantic relations to their advantage.

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