



PRESS RELEASE
Atlantic Community Initiative
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Vermont Expert's New Book Warns of Dangers for Transatlantic Relations, US Interests

Richmond, Vermont. The recent US presidential campaign that brought to power businessman and political neophyte Donald Trump raised doubts about the president-elect's support for NATO and even for Western values. He has expressed appreciation for Russian President Vladimir Putin and for a style of leadership that many have considered verging on authoritarianism.

The bottom line question is whether illiberal political tendencies in America combined with similar tendencies spreading in Europe, interacting with the threats posed by Russian revisionism and Islamic State threats, are now producing a perfect storm that could blow away the transatlantic alliance that has provided the main defense of Western values and interests for the past seven decades.

A new book authored by Vermont native and former executive and congressional branch intelligence and policy analyst, Stanley R. Sloan, fills in the facts often missing in today's discussion of US interests in Europe. The book, *Defense of the West, NATO the European Union and the Transatlantic Bargain* (Manchester University Press, 2016), is now available.

The book states the challenge in these terms: "In considering the future of transatlantic relations and "defense of the West," it is important to take into account both the external threats that NATO and the EU will face, as well as the internal challenges confronting Western nations – which will affect their ability to deal effectively with those external threats." The author concludes: "Perhaps the future of the West comes down to a very fundamental choice: should the United States and its European partners acquiesce in Russia's geopolitical demands for a buffer zone between Putin's kleptocracy and the democratic west, or should they assert, with actions as well as words, the liberal values that they hoped would shape post-Cold War Europe?"

As for the threat posed by ISIS and other radical Islamic groups, he asks: "What should the United States and its allies do about the threat posed by ISIL and other radical groups that are determined to attack the foundations of Western values and interests when there is little taste in Europe or the United States for participation in more Middle Eastern wars?" The book's final chapter ties together the interpretative history of the alliance with the contemporary internal challenges and external threats.

On January 17, 2017, the author will lead a panel discussion open to the public at Middlebury College on how the Trump administration could affect transatlantic relations. He is scheduled to give a talk on the same topic as part of the Vermont Humanities Council First Wednesday program at the Kellogg-Hubbard Library in his hometown of Montpelier on March 1, 2017.

Mr. Sloan, having retired from government service in 1999, will be teaching in his 13th Winter Term at Middlebury College this coming January. He is a Nonresident Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council of the United States, a Visiting Scholar at Middlebury College and directs the Vermont-based Atlantic Community Initiative. He has lectured regularly at the NATO College in Rome for the past 25 years. During the recent primary season, he coordinated European security issues for the Presidential candidate Bernie Sanders.

Mr. Sloan is available for book signing opportunities and conversations with local academic and civic groups, as schedules allow. He can be reached by email at srs2@wcvr.com. He tweets at @srs2_ and the website of his organization can be found at www.atlanticcommunity.org.