

Seminar Summer Term 2015

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Mondays 2-4 pm, Peterhof HS 3

## European and US Africa Policy – A Comparative Analysis

### Comment:

Contemporary Africa shows a divergent and highly complex picture. On the one hand, negative news from armed conflict and undemocratic regimes as well as current crises such as the Ebola-pandemic in West Africa, the terror of Boko Haram in Nigeria or piracy in somalin waters are predominate in western discourse. On the other hand, Africa has seen dramatic improvements in economic growth rates, democracy, peace-building and regional cooperation over the past decade. In the last 10 or 15 years Africa has become a new and strengthened focus of both US and European foreign policy. Africa is now relevant and that not only in terms of security threats, potential economic cooperation and access to various resources but also because of emerging powers such as South Africa or recent major political changes like the 'Arab spring' or the new state South Sudan. From a strategic point of view, some scholars see at least a competition between China and the West over resources and influence in Africa.

The seminar focuses on US and European (by the EU and partial by EU member states) foreign policy towards Africa and discusses various foreign policy concepts (such as soft power), strategies and problems (e.g. coherence) by studying and comparing different policy fields (e.g. defense, economic, ecologic, development policy). To do so, the policy analysis and the method of structured focused comparison will be used.

Students learn different foreign policy strategies and the problems of their implementation, could compare US and EU approaches to Africa and are able to reflect challenges for national and international actors critically. Other learning goals are the accurate presentation of scientific objects as well as a cooperative and communicative learning within the seminar.

### Overview Literature:

- Adebajo, Adekeye, and Kaye Whiteman. 2012. *The EU and Africa: From Eurafrique to Afro-Europa*. London: Hurst & Co.
- Bates, Robert H. 2008. *When Things Fell Apart: State Failure in Late-Century Africa*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Buss, Terry F., Joseph Adjaye, and Donald Goldstein, eds. 2011. *African Security and the African Command: Viewpoints on the US Role in Africa*. Sterling, VA: Kumarian Press.
- Carbone, Maurizio. 2013. *The European Union in Africa: Incoherent Policies, Asymmetrical Partnership, Declining Relevance?*. Manchester: Manchester Univ. Press.
- Cooper, Andrew F., Jorge Heine, and Ramesh Thakur. 2013. *The Oxford Handbook of Modern Diplomacy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Francis, David J. 2011. *US Strategy in Africa: AFRICOM, Terrorism and Security Challenges*. London: Routledge.
- George, Alexander L., and Andrew Bennett. 2005. *Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Nye, Joseph S. jr. 2004. *Soft Power: The Means To Success In World Politics*. New York, NY: Public Affairs.
- Reus-Smit, Christian, and Duncan Snidal, eds. 2008. *The Oxford Handbook of International Relations*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Smith, S. A., Amelia Hadfield-Amkahn, and Tim Dunne, eds. 2012. *Foreign Policy: Theories, Actors, Cases*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

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Consultation hour: Mondays, 4-5 pm