

The background of the slide is the European Union flag, featuring a blue field with twelve five-pointed gold stars arranged in a circle. The flag is shown waving, with a light blue sky and a white horizon line at the bottom.

The EU and the World

**Agent of International
Transformation or Irrelevant Shadow**

**Beverly Crawford
OLLI: Europe's Destiny
February 15 2012**

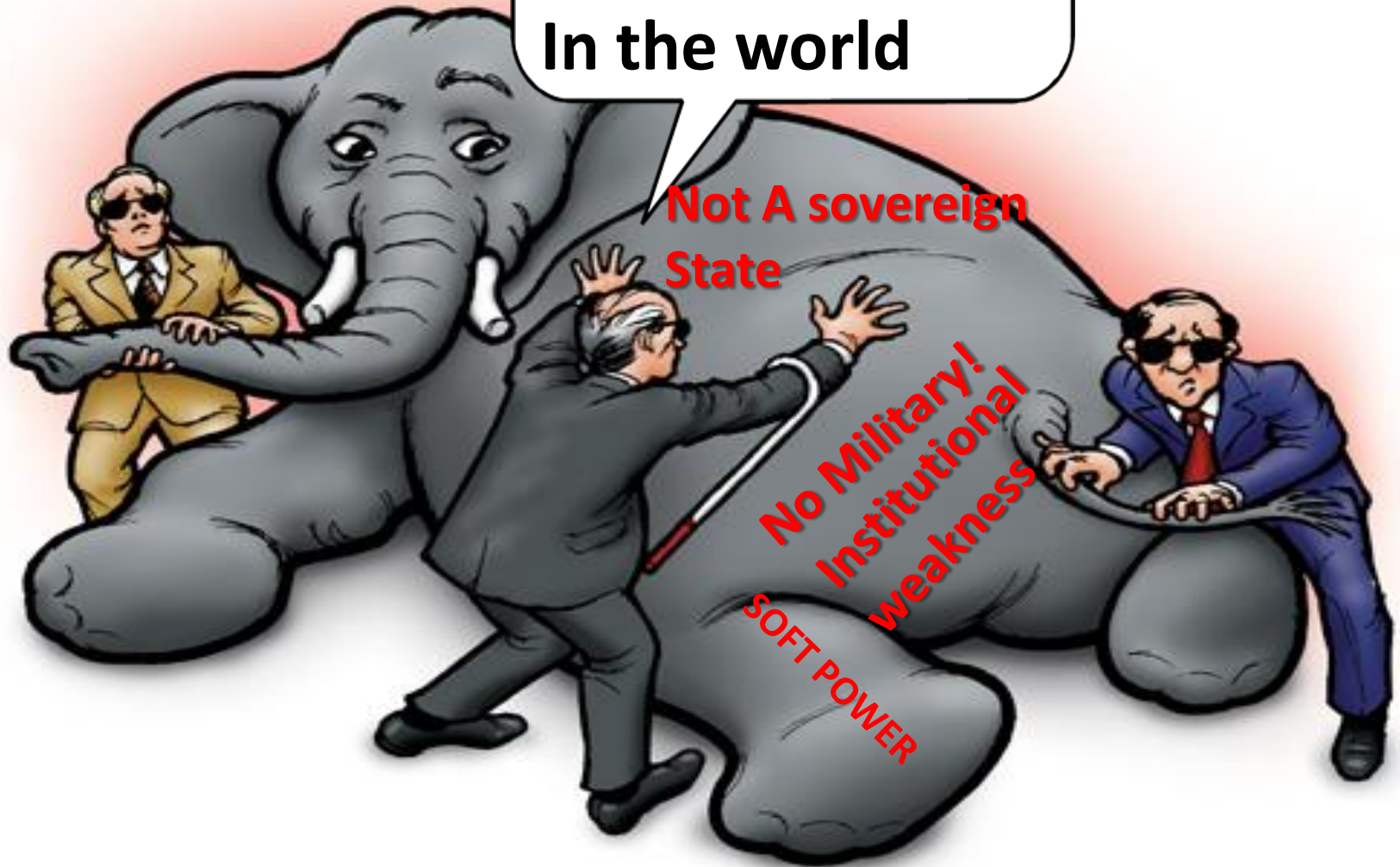
Session 3: Europe and the World

- **Myth or Reality?** The EU will always remain irrelevant in global politics
 - Europe and the US are parting ways -- the US must do the heavy lifting
- **Myth or Reality?** The EU has the potential to become the most important actor (or one of the most important) on the world stage
 - Europe must lead the transatlantic partnership



Myth or Reality?

The EU is weak
And irrelevant
In the world



Sources of Europe's Foreign Policy irrelevance

- **The European Union is not a sovereign state**
 - Foreign policy is primarily a responsibility of national governments
 - All European countries still want their own foreign policies
- **Institutional Weakness**
 - It takes all 27 to agree to a foreign policy decision
 - The External Action Service (Foreign Ministry/"State Department") is not backed by accountability in EU Law
 - Currently Foreign Ministers of the Great powers are politically weak—heads of state make foreign policy
 - And heads of state are often in conflict



More institutional weaknesses

- Lady Ashton is (rather) weak
 - She has to cover three jobs:
 - who is actually its voice in foreign affairs?
- internal struggles over the financial crisis crowd out other issues



Why the EU uses “soft Power” and not “hard power”

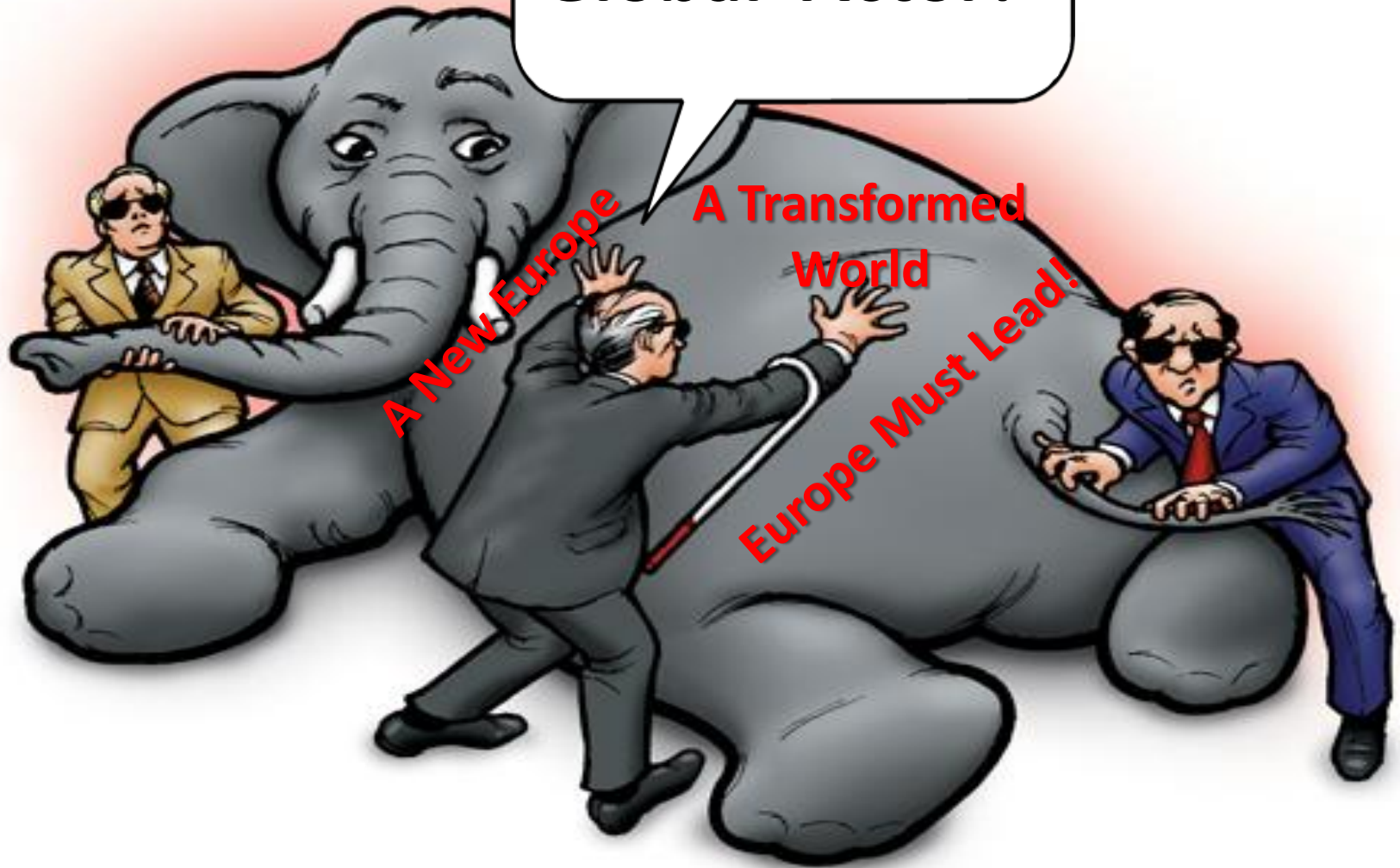
- **The EU is pursuing the “soft power” policy goals**
 - (development, environment, etc.) NOT because it is visionary but because it is weak.
 - Power determines foreign policy interests and strategies
 - This is easy to see when we look at Europe and the U. S. historically
 - Europe and the U.S. have traded places
 - Europe now depends on the United States

EU policy is not only weak...it is duplicitous: Europe and the Arab Spring



Myth or Reality?

**The EU is a
Global Actor!**

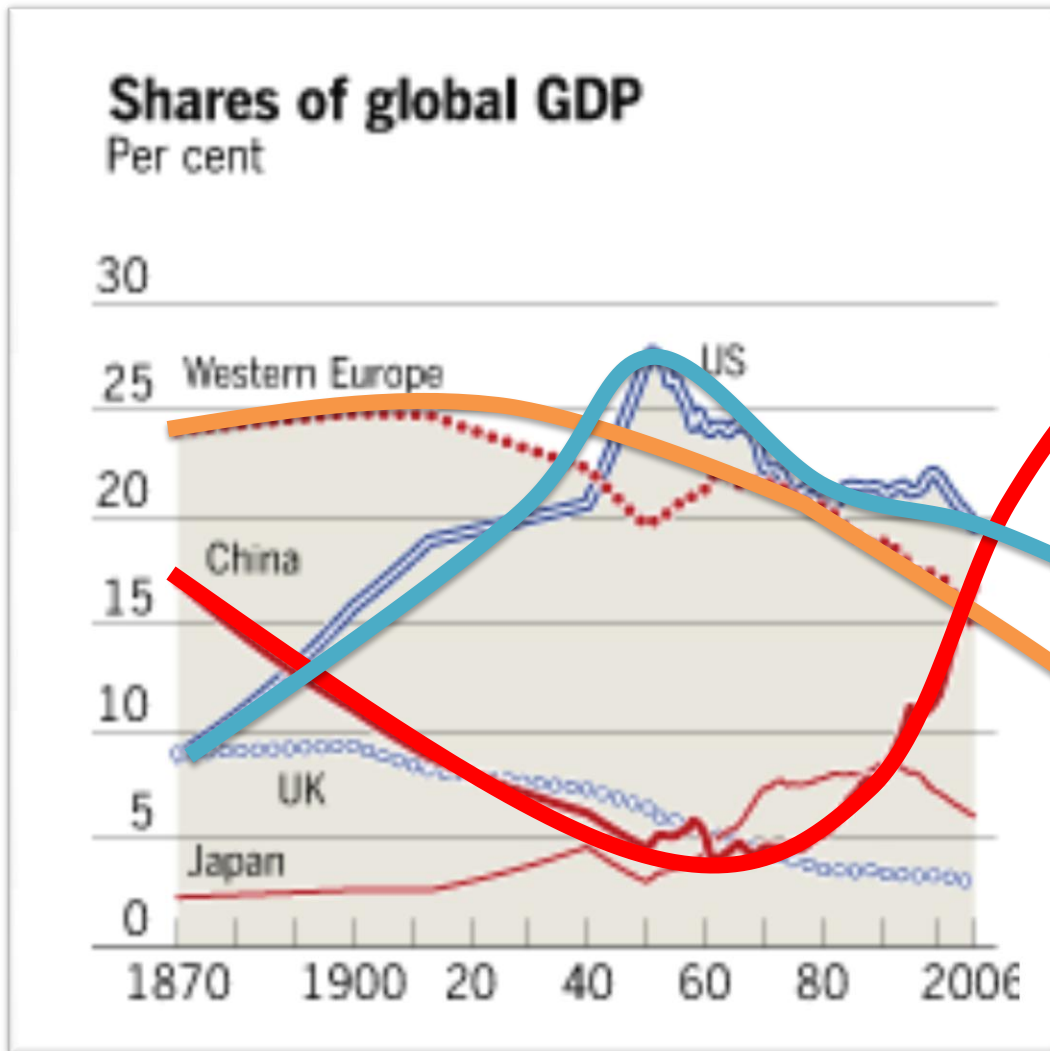


1.The New World of the 21st Century:

- 1989: Communist Dictatorships Fell
- from stable confrontation to uncertainty
- A world in which the material power of the West can no longer mitigate danger.
- Three Transformations:



Global Power Shifts: GDP Trends

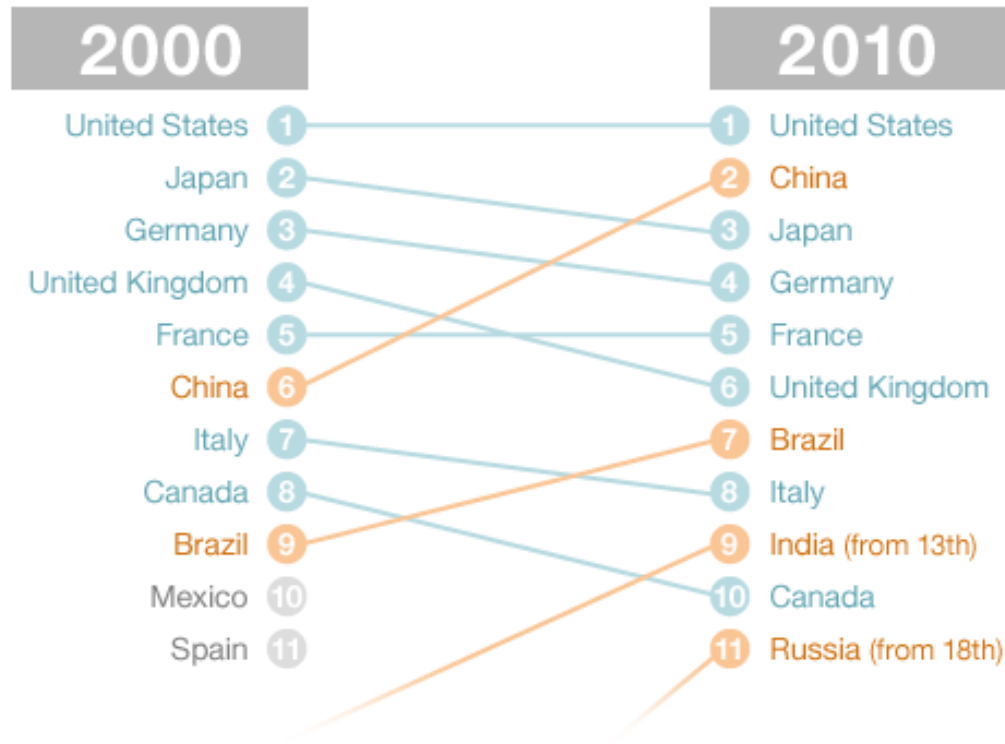


Growth of the BRICS

Top economies

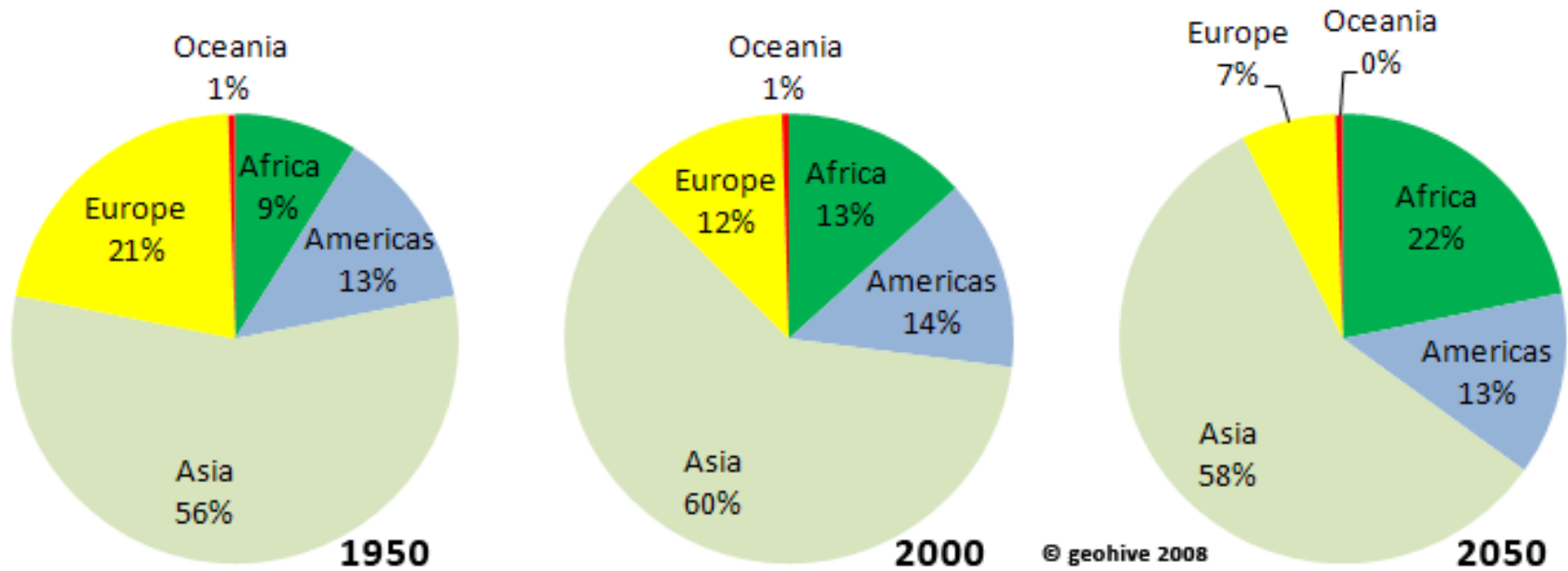
G7

BRIC



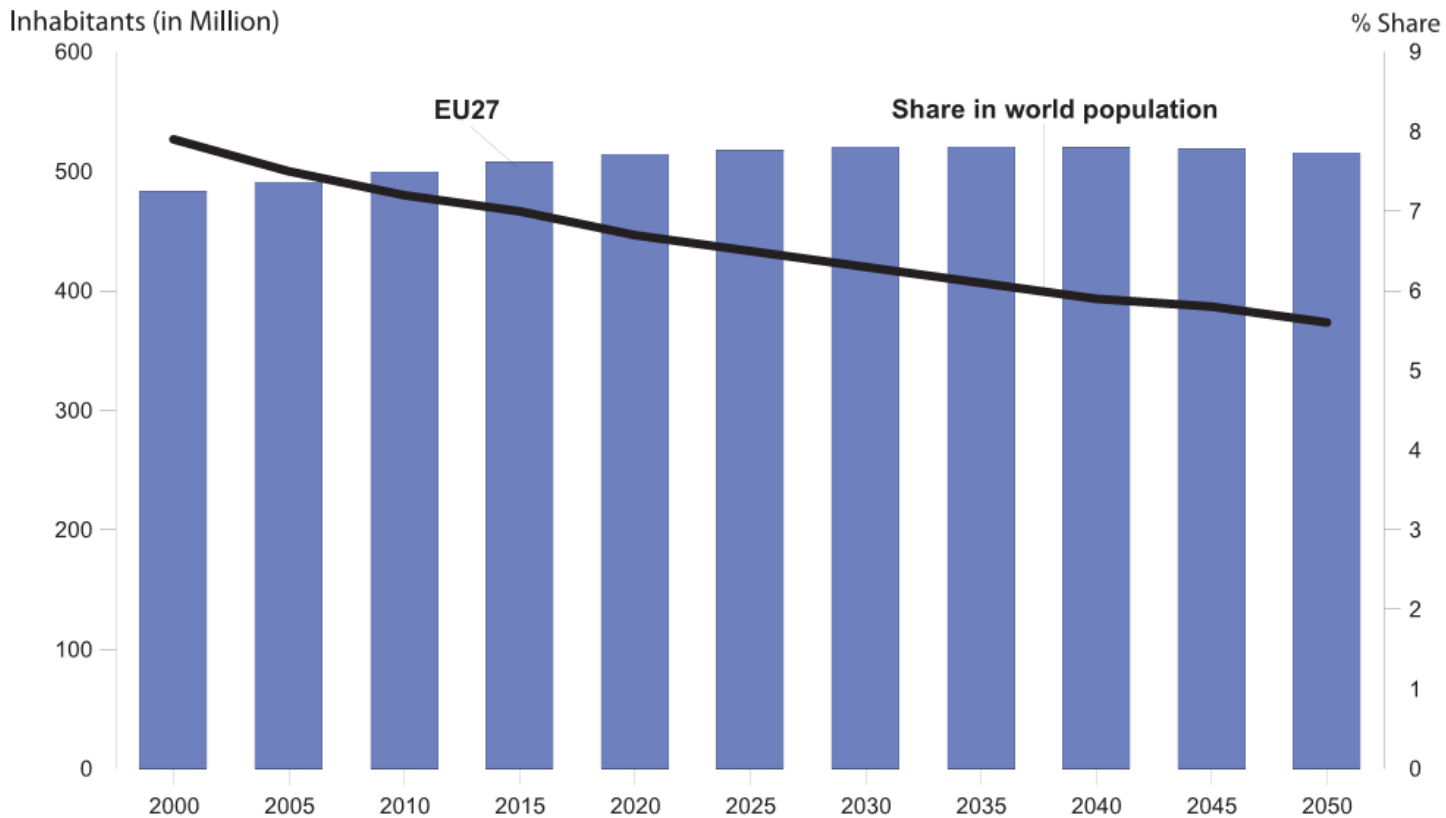
Source: World Bank - GDP in current US\$

Demographic Transformation



Share of EU in global population

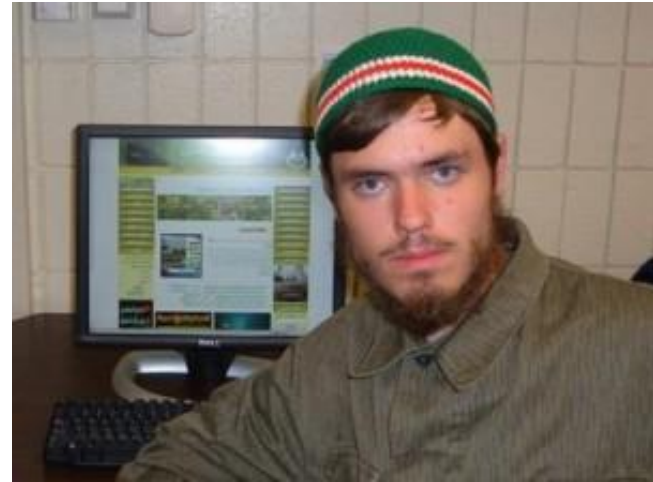
Development of European population 2000 to 2050 and share in world population



Source: Eurostat population projection; UN Population Prospects (2008 Revision)

Technology Transformation

- virtual networks, social media
- The decline of government's ability to use force to protect its citizens or control them.



The Reasons for this Failure: Four False Assumptions

All no longer true:

- Material Power can mitigate danger
- States know their interests
- Power can balance and balances can be worked out with clarity
- Threats can be known

What Europe is Doing Differently: Transforming the Meaning of Power

- **European Policies:**
 - “ring of friends”
 - Euro-Med Partnership
 - Aid for Development
 - Conditional Trade Strategy
 - Combating Climate Change
 - Institutional strengths
- **What Is Normative Power**
 - the ability to attract states and non-state actors as partners
 - A “culture of restraint” and a vision of “cooperative security”
 - A culture of Anti-militarism

Euro-Med Partnership and the Arab Spring



The Lisbon Treaty Strengthened Normative Power

- External Action Service
 - centralize decision making
 - give leaders more continuity
 - enable the EU to aggregate its political and geopolitical will better than it has in the past.



What This means for the Transatlantic Relationship

- The U.S. needs a partner
- The U.S. is stuck in the 20th Century Paradigm
- Europe must take a leadership role in the Transatlantic Partnership

The EU is a “work in progress” (even in the traditional sense)

- The EU has grown through crisis
- Recent agreement on Arab oil embargo

What Europe should do:

- **1. Fashion new modes of international cooperation**
- **2. Admit Turkey into the EU**
- **3. Develop responsible Arms export policies**