

Hans Mouritzen, 9 Nov. 2004 (hmo@diis.dk)

Dear FORNET participants,

My talk on Friday will focus on the European Iraq-conflict 2002-03 and how the states' positions can best be accounted for. It is an outgrowth of a forthcoming volume, I have co-edited with Anders Wivel ('The Geopolitics of Euro-Atlantic Integration', Routledge 2005), and of an empirical wp in Danish (with Anna Hedegaard, DIIS, 2004). However, my talk should also be the first step towards a future article. Therefore, your comments will be highly appreciated with this purpose in mind. The provisional structure of my presentation (and, perhaps, issues for discussion) should be the following:

Atlantic Predispositions in Europe

- case selection: the value of an 'extreme' case
- descriptive phase: foreign policy action (pattern) as indicator of (Atlantic) predispositions;
- explanatory phase: from the structural (=geopolitical) to the dispositional dimension
- broader focus than the EU; also would-be insiders and outsiders (synchronic comparison)

The European Iraq Conflict 2002-03

- belligerents vs. material supporters vs. diplomatic supporters vs. war critics
- overview of state distribution

Candidate explanations (rejected) for the pattern:

- 'small state' vs. 'great power'?
- government ideology?
- public opinion?
- other?

Past and present geopolitics as explanation

[The future (symbiosis vs. bifurcation scenario)]

Theoretical lessons