
Since its creation in April 1949, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has been consistently indispensable to the maintenance of cohesion in political and military relations between the United States and its European Allies. During the Cold War, for instance, NATO served as an institutional anchor through which the United States committed itself to safeguard Western European territory from attack by the Soviet Union and also to prevent any future episodes of German revanchism. The American security guarantee was formalized in the context of Article 5 of the Washington Treaty, which mandates that an attack on any one member state of the Alliance is to be treated as an attack on all of its members. Thankfully, given the destructive potential of the American and Soviet nuclear arsenals, Article 5 was never invoked during the Cold War. Instead—and somewhat ironically—it was invoked for the first time on behalf of the United States rather than the Europeans in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Virginia on September 11, 2001.

The invocation of Article 5 following the tragic events of 9/11 provided the basis for NATO's inclusion in the American-led war against international terrorism, which is the focal point of Lansford's monograph. In order to ensure analytical consistency in these pages, the following review of that work consists of: an overview of the book's contents; a description of its theoretical orientation; an evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the arguments put forth in its main chapters; and suggestions as to its potential readership in the context of a series of concluding remarks on the author's contributions to the study of the evolution of...