

THE OLD EUROPE VERSUS NEW EUROPE CONCEPTS AND THEIR CURRENT SIGNIFICANCE¹

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Abstract: Present paper aim is to highlight the impact and the endurance of an geopolitical dihotomy, as resulted from Donald Rumsfeld, United States Secretary of Defence, statement in a press conference. He divided Europe in Old and New, depending on the will to support the United States project of invading Iraq ("Iraqi Freedom" operation). Germany and France protested vigorously against this kind of rhetorics (both protested also against a war against Iraq) but Poland, Hungary and Romania, among others, were supporting the United States position. However, the rhetoric decrease in its usage, after further NATO enlargement, appearing only on the occasion of important events, as the NATO Bucharest Summit from 2008 but their existence marked the way in which United States diplomacy referred to Europe, in a particular case, in an complicated European context, in which the Central and East European states made an important option, for their own security: United States (as the most powerful force of NATO) and only after that the traditional European Powers, namely France and Germany.

Keywords: Old/New Europe; US diplomacy; rhetorical speech; second war in Iraq

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