

Course Globalisation and Sustainable Development 2025-2026

Lecture 4: 06/11/2025 - Hyperrealism. Europe in a new geopolitical era

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Abstract:

We are living in a new geopolitical era. The rules of the game have changed. The pillars of our security and prosperity – cheap energy such as natural gas from Russia, relative peace at our external borders, growth markets such as China, the comfortable American security umbrella – are being undermined. Without a targeted strategy, Europe will no longer play a significant role in international relations. The doom scenario of a continent that can easily be divided and played off against each other is a real one. The Old Continent needs to redefine itself and its place in the world in geo-economic, geostrategic and geopolitical terms.

Europe must therefore resolutely opt for hyperrealism. Idealistic values such as democracy and human rights remain important. But in global politics, you only count if you develop capabilities in the areas of defence, technology and economics. Regained competitiveness can also secure the social contract. The book essay Hyperrealism offers an analysis of the geopolitical shocks that are inevitably and rapidly approaching us and examines how we can deal with them.

Europa! is a series about the history, present and future of Europe. About the special character of the European institutions, geopolitical relations and Europe's place in the world. About cultural, political and social developments on the European mainland, about European values, customs and peculiarities. About external borders and internal lands. About the great European dream. The Europa! series offers a fascinating insight into the centuries-old continent that reinvents itself day after day, whether out of necessity or conviction.

Bio:

Dr. David Crikemans is a Belgian national, born in Antwerp (1974). Dr. Crikemans is an Associate Professor in International Politics at the University of Antwerp (Belgium), where he teaches 'Belgian and Comparative Foreign Policy' and conducts UN Security Council simulations.

Since August 2012, he is a part-time Assistant Professor in International Relations at University College Roosevelt, where he teaches 'Theories of International Relations', 'Security in the Post-Cold War Era' & 'Geopolitical Analysis'. Crikemans is also a Lecturer in Geopolitics at the Geneva Institute of Geopolitical Studies (GIGS) (Switzerland). At GIGS, Crikemans teaches 'Geopolitical Schools of Thought' and 'Geopolitics of Energy'. Formerly, he also taught Geopolitics at the Royal Military Academy in Brussels (2007-2011), Regional Integration at the Catholic University of Brussels (2006-2007), and a module on Geopolitics & the Geopolitics of Energy at Jacobs University Bremen in Germany (2011-12).

He conducts research on themes such as:

- foreign policy (regional, national, European Union)
- Geopolitics (both theoretical and case-oriented)
- energy and international politics
- multilateral policy and negotiations
- theory and history of International Relations