

**DL E-tivity 2 Assessment**

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**Module title:** Post Cold War World Order

**Module code and presentation:** PL7508 S09

**Date:** 14 October 2009

**Marker:** N. Wright

**CONTENT****Article chosen**

Lewis F. (1990) 'Bringing in the East', *Foreign Affairs*, 69:4 (Fall)

**Analysis**

Lewis starts by positing that the East European regimes collapsed because communism failed to live up to its promises and popular discontent could no longer be contained. The precipitating factor was the fall of the Berlin wall and the effect was a Europe suddenly faced with the task of having to envision and organize a new and inclusive continental system.

She then proceeds to describe how and why the structures of Cold War politics were replaced in a rather ad hoc manner with a new economic and security architecture meant to achieve wider European integration by seizing the historical opportunity to bridge the East-West divide.

From the outset, integration was made difficult by the dilemma of how to embrace the countries of the former eastern bloc into the European Community (EC) without alienating the Soviet Union and/or destabilizing the West. The initial step was to welcome the dislodged East into the Council of Europe, whose admission requirement of democratic government offered **a symbolic rather than substantive membership**, and, for all intents and purposes, was merely an antechamber to EC membership. In the meantime, the task of profoundly reorganizing Europe to accommodate the newcomers fell on the European Commission, which immediately

set out to coordinate funds, through the Bank for European Reconstruction and Development, and expertise, through the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, to ensure the East's conversion to a market economy.

Much of the EC's initial focus, both in economic and security terms, was on East Germany and German reunification. West Germany took the lead and negotiated the Soviet Union's acceptance of a united Germany in the European security structure and its membership in NATO. Through the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) agreement, the orderly and gradual removal of Soviet troops from East German soil was agreed upon and funded, while at the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) new arms control and security arrangements were forged, which provided a continuing function for NATO.

The remaining article discusses the diminished U.S. and Soviet roles once the military dimension lost prime significance in European affairs and the transition from containment to integration began. It concludes that while Germany became the prime mover and Britain faded into the background, the U.S. found new purpose as a catalyst for European consolidation.

**Comment [r1]:** Could you say more on this?

#### COMMENTS

(381 words)

**You have met the criteria by posting the citation for an article correctly and writing an analysis of another.**

**This is generally an extremely well-written and cogent analysis of Lewis's article. You display a solid command of the material, identifying the major arguments and propositions. You might perhaps have said a little more in the final paragraph regarding the diminished US and Soviet roles, particularly as you were not quite up the word limit.**

**This is an excellent start.**

OVERALL E-TIVITY MARK

5/5