**Neutral Switzerland and Transatlantic Security from the Cold War to the 21$^{st}$ Century**

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While benefiting from NATO security production and being part of the West in geographic and ideological terms, Switzerland has traditionally preferred to stay on the sidelines of transatlantic security. In the bipolar setting of the Cold War, it based its security strategy on neutrality and autonomous defense rather than alignment with the Western alliance. Unlike other European neutrals, it has continued to pursue a policy of distance vis-à-vis Euro-Atlantic security governance even in the changed international context since 1989, despite the Western shift of focus from collective defense to cooperative security and international crisis management, and despite the decreased relevance of neutrality as a security strategy. It remains to be seen whether the repercussions of the global economic crisis and the increasing multipolarity of the international system compel the Swiss to gear their foreign and security policy more closely towards the West.

This paper exmaines Switzerland's position vis-à-vis transatlantic security over the past six decades, seeking to identify the main factors explaining the Swiss reluctance to associate with Western security policies.