

How Europe Is Quietly Putting ‘Strategic Autonomy’ into Practice

by [Louis Dugit-Gros \(/experts/louis-dugit-gros\)](/experts/louis-dugit-gros)

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS



[Louis Dugit-Gros \(/experts/louis-dugit-gros\)](/experts/louis-dugit-gros)

Louis Dugit-Gros, a 2021-2022 Visiting Fellow at The Washington Institute, is a French diplomat.



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When Ursula von der Leyen last traveled to Washington in November 2021, the European Commission president’s agenda was full of issues that today seem quaint: COVID-19 vaccination rates and a migration crisis in Belarus. On Friday, President Biden will host one of the leading figures of a profoundly transformed European bloc. This time, the agenda will be dominated by the security of the European continent, and von der Leyen will represent a bloc at its most cohesive and powerful in decades. While the EU’s unity today is a clear response to Russian aggression, the tools Brussels has used were not developed overnight. In fact, in a way few observers may realize, the shadow of another conflict hangs over the Ukraine war and impacts how the bloc views its tools and its roles: the Syrian civil war...

[Read the full article on the Hill website. \(https://thehill.com/opinion/international/3890729-how-europe-is-quietly-putting-strategic-autonomy-into-practice/\)](https://thehill.com/opinion/international/3890729-how-europe-is-quietly-putting-strategic-autonomy-into-practice/) ❖

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