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Book Review: Gross, E, D Hamilton, C Major & H Riecke (eds), *Preventing Conflict, Managing Crisis. European and American Perspectives*, Center for Transatlantic Relations, Washington DC, 2011, 144 pages.

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The publication is an EU supported „joint venture“ of four research institutions (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik, www.dgap.org; Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, www.swp-berlin.org; Institute for European Studies, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, www.ies.be; Zentrum für Internationale Friedenseinsätze, www.zif-berlin.org, published by the Center for Transatlantic Relations in Washington DC.

The book is structured in three sections addressing the most pressing issues and current challenges on the world stage and in the transatlantic partnership, preceded by an introduction discussing *Changing Scenarios in Transatlantic Conflict Prevention and Conflict Management*. The introduction presents normative shifts in international interventions in particular the move towards R2P (Responsibility to protect) and individual security, the changes in strategic cultures towards more comprehensive and integrated crisis response, the expansion of conflict prevention and crisis management cooperation, as well as the lessons learned for transatlantic cooperation and crisis management.

The first section, *EU-US Cooperation in Crisis Management*, is divided in three chapters. The first chapter “Failed States and the International Community 10 Years after 9/11: A Shifting Paradigm” looks at the changes in the conceptual framework that occurred with the 9/11 aftermath and how this framework is evolving today with the events that took place in 2011 in MENA (Middle East North Africa). An analysis is conducted on how the evolutions of the past decade were approached in Europe and the US and the impact of those changes on transatlantic cooperation. The second chapter, “Waiting for Soft Power: Why the EU Struggles with Civilian Crisis Management”, is dedicated to the EU conflict management capabilities and underlines “the crucial importance of civilian instruments for sustainable crisis solution”. The chapter makes an analysis of the CSDP (Common Security and Defense Policy) of the EU and looks among others at national, European and international obstacles to an efficient civilian CSDP, as well as the challenges and cooperation within the structures of the EU itself. Chapter 3, “EU-US Cooperation in Crisis Management: Transatlantic Approaches and Future Trajectories. The

chapter outlines “a number of points that ought to be taken into consideration when thinking through the potential of future EU-US cooperation in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict reconstruction”, including a number of policy recommendations for future cooperation.

The second section, *Case Studies*, looks over the course of 6 chapters at: Afghanistan and how involvement in that conflict has changed Germany, the politics of intervention versus non-intervention in Africa, a Western crisis response to the question of Palestine, prospects for intervention and implication in Sudan, the role of the EU in Libya – from protection to rebuilding, and in the end focuses on “From Afghanistan to the Arab Spring: A Critical Moment for Transatlantic Crisis Response”.

The third and last section presents *The Crisis Management Toolbox*. A pragmatic last chapter looks at issues ranging from “Civilian Crisis Prevention to Peacebuilding: Principles, Actors and Instruments” in an attempt to offer academics and practitioners alike a summing up of tools for a comprehensive task in foreign and security policy, a taxonomy of the “who” and how” of international conflict management.

The thorough structure of the book makes it easy to follow and to clearly understand the issues addressed. Presented more like a “manual” or a “guide” to conflict prevention and crisis management the book offers an in depth analysis of the main evolutions in international conflict and intervention from 9/11 to the Arab Spring and the theoretical paradigms accompanying those changes. Highly recommended for both IR graduate students and researchers.