

Size Matters

I was delighted to read Richard Rosecrance's revival of the Atlantic federalist ideas of Clarence K. Streit ("Size Matters", July/August 2008). As an economist, I share his view that: "[t]he economic scale of political units whether countries as traditionally defined or still unsettled agglomerations like the European Unions, is growing because contemporary globalization rewards the big and punishes the small."

I also agree with his concluding analysis about the necessity of creating a bigger compound (with the European Union) if the U.S. economy is to grow steadily and briskly. Rosecrance recalls Clarence K. Streit's *Union Now*, a seminal book that called for a federal union of the North Atlantic democracies on the eve of World War II. This was a vision that helped propel the birth of NATO and the OECD, which at least halfway integrated the Atlantic powers militarily and economically, although less so politically and diplomatically.

The Atlanticist ideas of Streit are as relevant as ever if we want to achieve "horizontal growth"—that is, the expansion of the economic and strategic possibilities of the West. The concrete, initial steps that the author advocates are the coordination of the Atlantic monetary authorities and the creation of an Atlantic Free Trade Area that "would comprise about 60 percent of the World's production and 13 percent of the world's population." These are worthy goals for policymakers in Europe and the United States. In my opinion these measures should also be complemented by the creation of a customs union.

Rosecrance's call for further Atlantic integration is being matched by a prominent voice on the other side of the ocean, that of former French Prime Minister Édouard Balladur. A close associate of President Sarkozy, Balladur published in November 2007 *Pour une Union*

Occidentale entre l'Europe et les Etats-Unis, which is now being translated into English.

The work toward an Atlantic Union has never died out. The non-profit, non-partisan, Streit Council continues the work of the earlier Federal Union, the Atlantic Union Committee and the Association to Unite the Democracies, all recalled in Rosecrance's piece.

Today, as when *Union Now* was first published, the Atlantic democracies still have the preponderance of power and influence in the international system whenever they work together. Their wider and deeper integration continues to be the key to the stabilization of a rapidly evolving world.

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*The views expressed in this letter are solely the author's and do not represent the World Bank.

The Task of the Jews

When I shared Bernard-Henri Lévy's latest article ("The Task of the Jews", September/October 2008) with a friend, he agreed with me that the article was superb, but he lamented that Lévy did not mention the failed attempt by the Grand Mufti, in 1944, to poison the water system of Tel Aviv, as recounted in Michael Bar-Zohar's and Eitan Haber's 1983 book, *The Quest for the Red Prince*.

Although the plot was foiled, the intent was certainly there, an intent so vicious, some mention of it deserves a prominent place in any counteroffensive effort against the new anti-Semitism.

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