European Union and the Use of Military Force

Uncovering the Myths

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About the Project

• Research project on the discursive space of the EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) (forthcoming, Ashgate Publishing Ltd. 2016)

• European Union relationship to its use of military force

• More about *how* than *why*
Chapter 3: The CSDP in the Light of Myths


• EU: a particular sensitiveness in efforts to engage in military enforcement because of the pacific nature of the most compelling myths narrating its history and background.
Chapter 4: Use of Military Force in CSDP
Key Policy Statements

• Focus: the development of EU key security policy statements from 1992 to 2015

• Mixed signals on the EU's military credibility

• An interplay between the enduring narratives of Europe and intrusive outside world (wars in Yugoslavia, the 9/11 strikes, economic crisis, Arab Spring...)

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Chapter 5: Use of Military Force in CSDP Operations

- Focus on four CSDP operations (Artemis [2003], EUFOR Tchad/CAR [2007-2008], Atalanta [2008-2016]; EUFOR RCA [2014-2015])

- How incidences of physical violence have been portrayed by the EU

- Technocratic speaks on stabilisation and management

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Chapter 6: Use of Military Force as It Appears in the Unofficial Debate on CSDP

- Focus on unofficial think-tank reports

- Enduring relevance of grand narratives. Yet also new, more explicit and alternative readings of the European Union as a military actor and user of military force.

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Conclusions: In Search of Credibility?

1.) Position of military credibility within CSDP discursive landscape is **unstable**

2.) Official 'threats' of CSDP: **no** clearly articulated subject or human agency

3.) CSDP as a **platform** on which the European Union talks about itself and defines itself
Thank you!