

	Ally	Friendly, not an ally	Unfriendly	Enemy	No opinion
2003 Mar 14-15 ^	20%	36	32	8	4
2000 May 18-21	50%	40	4	1	5

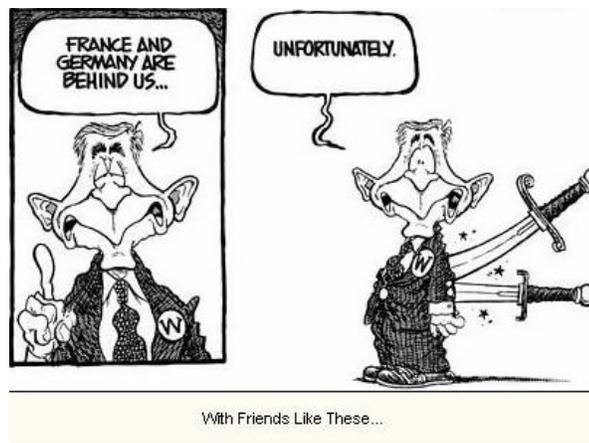
Do you, personally, think France is being reasonable or unreasonable in its approach to United Nations policy on Iraq?

	Reasonable	Unreasonable	No opinion
2003 Mar 14-15	24%	68	8

Source : Gallup poll

Method: Results are based on telephone interviews with 1,007 national adults, aged 18+, conducted March 14-15, 2003. For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the margin of sampling error is ± 3 percentage points. In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion polls.

ANNEXE V



Source: The Washington Post.

Source: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/international/story/0,,893119,00.html>

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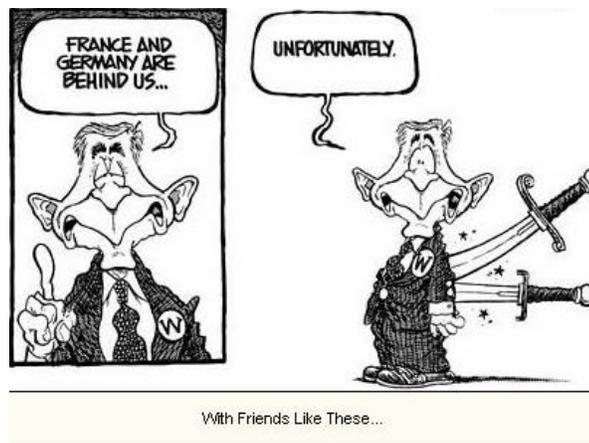
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Wimps, weasels and monkeys - the US media view of 'perfidious France'

Dissenters in Europe become the first victims - of a war of words

Gary Younge in New York and Jon Henley in Paris Tuesday February 11, 2003 The Guardian

The "petulant prima donna of realpolitik" is leading the "axis of weasels", in "a chorus of cowards". It is an unholy alliance of "wimps" and ingrates which includes one country that is little more than a "mini-me minion", another that is in league with Cuba and Libya, with a bunch of "cheese-eating surrender monkeys" at the helm.

Welcome to Europe, as viewed through the eyes of American commentators and newspapers yesterday, as Euro-bashing, and particularly anti-French sentiment, reached new heights. In a barrage of insults and invective which ranged from the basest tabloid rants to the loftiest columnists on the most respected newspapers, European-led resistance to America's war plans in Iraq was portrayed not as a diplomatic position to be negotiated as a genetic weakness in the European mindset which makes them reluctant to fight wars and incapable of winning them.

The front page of Rupert Murdoch's New York Post yesterday shows the graves of Normandy with the headline: "They died for France but France has forgotten." "Where are the French now, as Americans prepare to put their soldiers on the line to fight today's Hitler, Saddam Hussein?" asks the pugnacious

columnist Steve Dunleavy. "Talking appeasement. Wimping out. How can they have forgotten?" A cartoon in the same paper shows an ostrich with its head in the sand below the words: "The national bird of France."

If such language is proving a headache for the diplomats, then spare a thought for the French translators, who have struggled for words to convey the full force of the venom. "Cheese-eating surrender monkeys" - a phrase coined by Bart Simpson but made acceptable in official diplomatic channels around the globe by Jonah Goldberg, a columnist for the rightwing weekly National Review (according to Goldberg) - was finally rendered: "Primates capitulards et toujours en quête de fromages". And the New York Post's "axis of weasel" lost much of its venom when translated as a limp "axe de faux jetons" (literally, "axis of devious characters").

American wrath has been reserved for those nations which oppose their leadership, particularly following the decision to oppose shifting Nato resources to Turkey. "Three countries - France, Germany and their mini-me minion, Belgium - have moved from opposition to US policy toward Iraq into formal, and consequential obstructionism," argued the Wall Street Journal in an editorial yesterday. "If there is a war [the Turks] will face the danger of direct attack that is not feared in the chocolate shops of Brussels." The front page of the National Review blares "Putsch" with a sub-headline: "How to defeat the Franco-German power grab."

While the jibes may be puerile, the possibility that the Bush

administration and commercial outlets might follow them up with punitive measures has struck some as pernicious. An ad, due to come out soon, shows three German-made cars, including an Audi and a BMW, driving towards the camera with a voice saying: "Do you really want to buy a German car?"

If there has been any European country that has attracted more contempt than others, it is France. In the Wall Street Journal, Christopher Hitchens described Jacques Chirac as "a positive monster of conceit _ the abject procurer for Saddam ... the rat that tried to roar". In the Washington Post, George Will opined that the "oily" foreign affairs minister, Dominique de Villepin, had launched France into "an exercise for which France has often refined its savoir-faire since 1870, which is to say retreat - this time into incoherence".

And in the New York Times, Thomas Friedman argued that France should be removed from the security council and be replaced with India: "India is just so much more serious than France these days. France is so caught up with its need to differentiate itself from America to feel important, it's become silly." The Wall Street Journal editor, Max Boot, argues: "France has been in decline since, oh, about 1815, and it isn't happy about it." What particularly galls the Gauls is that their rightful place in the world has been usurped by the gauche Americans."

At its ugliest, the transatlantic bile is becoming increasingly personal. When France Inter radio's correspondent in Washington, Laurence Simon, started to explain

her government's position to Fox News (owned by Murdoch) she was interrupted by the presenter. "With friends like you, who needs enemies," she was told as she was taken off air.

The following was printed the Guardian's Corrections and Clarifications column, Thursday February 13 2002

The description of the French as "cheese-eating surrender monkeys" was not coined by Bart Simpson. It comes from the Simpsons character Groundskeeper Willie, the Scottish immigrant who takes care of custodial matters at the elementary school.

Nato rift: world press review

A split has appeared within Nato over Iraq after France, Germany and Belgium blocked a move to send missile batteries to defend Turkey in the event of a war in Iraq. Here is reaction from the world's press to the latest developments

Tuesday February 11, 2003

New York Times (US)

The Nato alliance is facing what may be its greatest crisis in a generation: an unnecessary argument about whether to fortify Turkish defences in advance of a war in Iraq.

Obviously, Turkey should get what it needs. But this has become a charged debate, because it is a proxy for another more fundamental argument: whether our allies should be expected merely to accede to American policy.

The question of war in Iraq has turned into far too personal a dispute over American leadership. The French, who are leading the rebellion, are showing poor judgment. But the fault lies as well with the Bush administration's destructive "with us or against us" approach, which is being foolishly applied to some of our most important allies.

Nato meets again today to consider a more narrowly-drawn Turkish request that would allow the alliance to provide Turkey with the help it needs while deferring larger questions of diplomatic strategy on Iraq. That approach deserves unanimous transatlantic support.

Source: New York Times

New York Post (US)

The arrogant leaders of France have clearly forgotten the sacrifices Americans made here in Ste Mere Eglise.

They might take a short break from their favourite pastime, stabbing America in the back as it prepares to rid the world of Saddam Hussein, and talk to Howard Manoian. He'd be happy to remind them how he and his friends saved France from Adolf Hitler.

Those guys had true grit. They were men of war. And men of honour. The turncoats making policy in Paris and Berlin don't know the meaning of the word.

Howard, 76, a former cop from Lowell, Mass, and Derry, NH, remembers why our young men went to war. "France was in trouble, and all of us had to do something about it. Simple as that."

He has lived here for 18 years. Why did he settle in this town? "I feel I was baptised here. OK, it was under fire, but this is where I was baptised."

And what does he say to those who no longer care what happened back then? "With this anti-American thing going on, I tell people loud and clear, I'm an American, first and last. You got a problem? I think we all did our bit back then."

Take note, appeasers and apologists for terror.

Source: New York Post

San Francisco Chronicle (US)

The Bush administration must attend seriously to the strain in the Atlantic alliance, which was aggravated by defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld's offensive dismissal of the "old Europe".

The US, even as the lone superpower, needs these old democratic friends in a world where the war against terrorism is far from won, and may or may not have much to do with the threat of Hussein's arsenal.

Almost a week after secretary of state Colin Powell's presentation to the UN security council of our government's case against Hussein, ambiguities remain in the record about Iraq's real intentions.

The chief inspectors will make an updated report on Friday about Iraqi cooperation, and that could bend further security council deliberation in the direction of more diplomacy, or toward the use of force.

This is a moment for the US to be persuading its allies, not alienating them.

Source: San Francisco Chronicle

Washington Post (US)

France and Germany have finally responded to Iraq's flagrant violation of UN disarmament orders by mounting an offensive.

Yet the target of their campaign is not Saddam Hussein, but the US, and the proximate casualties look to be not the power structures of a rogue dictator but the international institutions that have anchored European and global security.

Yesterday in Brussels, the two European governments, seconded by tiny Belgium, blocked the Nato alliance from making preparations to defend Turkey in the event of a war, even though the planning was supported by the alliance's 16 other members.

That their slogans are being mimicked by Baghdad's thugs ought to trouble French President Jacques Chirac and the German chancellor, Gerhard Schröder.

And perhaps they would be uneasy if their priorities were to eliminate the threat posed by Saddam Hussein, restore the credibility of Nato and the security council, and steer the Bush administration into a multilateral approach to global security.

More and more, however, the two leaders behave as if they share the same overriding goal as the Iraqi dictator: thwarting US action even when it is supported by most other Nato and European nations. They have next to no chance of succeeding, but could poison international relations for years to come.
Washington Post

Economist (UK)

After the terrorist attacks of September 11 2001, a new role for Nato seemed to emerge, as a bulwark against global terrorism.

The subsequent war in Afghanistan was not officially a Nato operation, though most member countries sent troops. The alliance is growing - seven former Eastern Bloc countries will join next year, and three Balkan nations have been invited to apply - but bigger will not necessarily mean stronger.

Eastern Europe is as split as the west, with Russia (a Nato observer) apparently leaning towards the Franco-German line while Poland (a full member since 1999) recently joined Britain and six other countries in signing a letter backing America's position.

Lord Robertson says he hopes that, as Nato members consider how serious are the implications of failing to overcome their split over Turkey, this will give them the impetus to reach a solution. But much damage has already been done.

Source: the Economist