

# The USA and Europe

## Basic differences and reasons for Anti-European and Anti-American attitudes

### *Reasons for Anti-European sentiments in the USA:*

- Tourists coming back from Europe have the feeling, that Europeans 'don't like them' → *emotional*
- Europe is an economical rival now → *economy*
- Policies of certain European nations e.g. their attitude to the war in Iraq → *politics*

### *Reasons for growing differences*

- The end of the Cold War and the emergence of the European Union → no longer a common enemy → follow their separate interests → *politics*
- Disagreements between the US and Europe increased significantly by Bush-administration → *politics*
- trade wars: Europeans didn't want genetically-modified food from America, EU vs. US bananas, ...

### *Reasons for Anti-American attitudes in Europe*

- Bush unilaterally pulled the US out of the Kyoto protocol → *politics*
- America favours forceful approach in international affairs (war, military threats)
- America unilaterally launched the war in Iraq
- Bush openly criticised European nations that rejected this war → *politics*
- Americans are arrogant
- Europeans seen as weak and unwilling

# The USA and Europe – too different to be friends?

USA	Europe
Freedom = autonomy, safety → need wealth → belongings	Freedom = embeddedness, choice who/what you belong to
<b>American dream</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• personal wealth, independence</li> <li>• love to country and patriotism</li> <li>• inseparable from religion -&gt; deep faith</li> <li>• assimilation, separate from ethnic ties → become American</li> <li>• property and civil rights</li> </ul>	<b>European dream</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• quality of life, interdependence</li> <li>• international, cosmopolitan less territorial</li> <li>• secular dream</li> <li>• preserve cultural identity, multicultural world</li> <li>• Social and universal human rights</li> </ul>
military force a normal way to protect essential self-interests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 09/11 → Loss of security, feeling of vulnerability</li> <li>- feel forced into unavoidable war with terrorism</li> <li>- Fear/attacks led to belief that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction (WMD) + there was a connection between Al-Queida and Sadam → war!</li> </ul>	centuries of European wars → antipathy to military force <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Diplomacy</li> <li>- Economic assistance</li> <li>- Prevent conflict</li> <li>- Keep peace</li>   <li>- most Europeans doubted this connection and the existence of WMDs ...</li> </ul>
<b>Economic growth</b>	<b>Long term development</b>
Misconceptions about Europe: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Old-fashioned government</li> <li>- Euro-crisis</li> <li>- Aging population</li> <li>- inflexible labour policies</li> <li>- Huge welfare bureaucracies</li> </ul>	Reality in Europe: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bigger economy</li> <li>- More physicians per people</li> <li>- Higher life expectancy</li> <li>- less poor people</li> <li>- More vacation time per year</li> </ul>
<b>→ BUT:</b> Today's problems in Greece and Portugal could change that!	