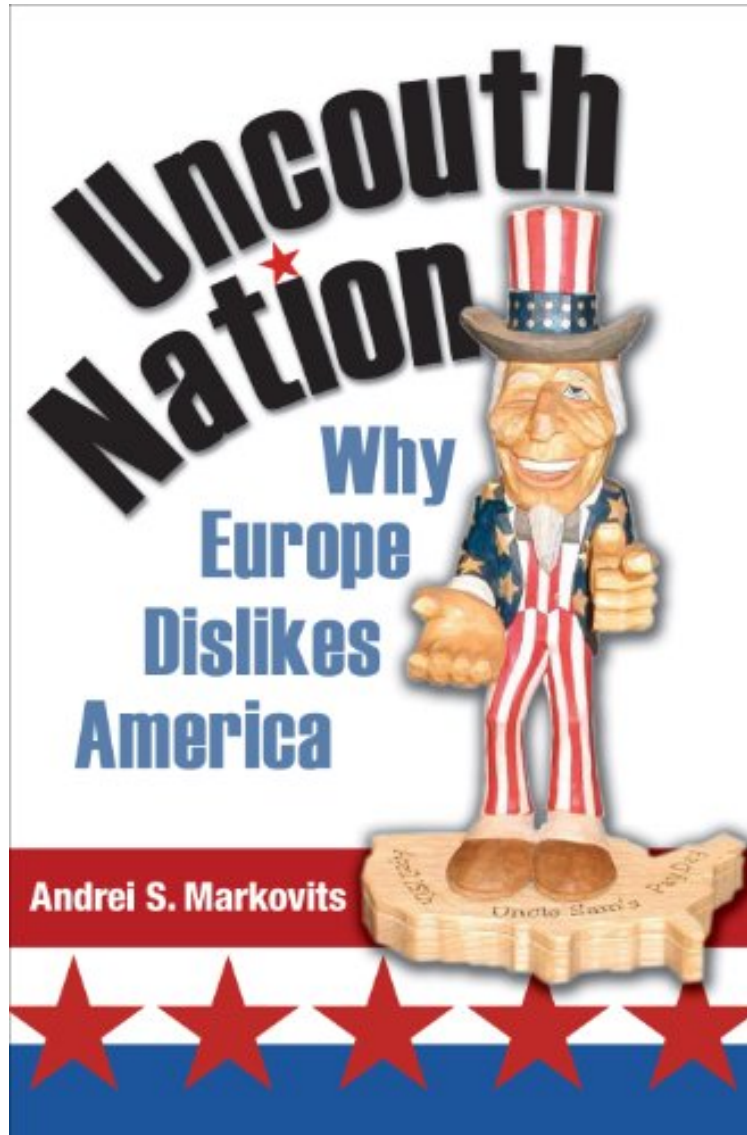


(Ebook free) Uncouth Nation: Why Europe Dislikes America (The Public Square)

## Uncouth Nation: Why Europe Dislikes America (The Public Square)

Von *Andrei S. Markovits*

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**Von Andrei S. Markovits : Uncouth Nation: Why Europe Dislikes America (The Public Square)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Uncouth Nation: Why Europe Dislikes America (The Public Square):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen4 von 5 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Two faces of evilVon Peter UysMarkovits provides an insightful analysis of anti-Americanism amongst the influential intellectual and political elites of Western Europe. It is interesting that this hatred of the USA exists on both sides of

the political spectrum; the author points out how since the Second World War anti-Americanism has migrated from the traditionalist right to the left. Especially since the collapse of the Soviet Empire, the phenomenon has become ever more pronounced and prevalent in the mass media. Jean-Francois Revel had previously examined the nature of the beast in his excellent book *Anti-Americanism*. Markovits argues that it has its own momentum and is not really fuelled by American actions; the attitude is used by the Eurocrats in an attempt to foster a type of pan-European patriotism. As such, it is a rather toxic glue to hold the EU together and not a firm foundation for the nascent superpower. It is clear that the phenomenon is harnessed to plaster the cracks in the wall and to obscure the very real problems faced by the old continent. Scapegoating can only work for a limited period where after the great majority of ordinary Europeans will wake up and smell the burning tires. Markovits provides examples of the contradictory nature of European complaints against America, coming to the convincing conclusion that it is weirdly irrational and emotionally based. As evidence he charts the long history of the attitude that stretches back to the settlement of the Americas. One is tempted to laugh at the childishness of these early writers but for the fact that this is the same level of discourse encountered today throughout much of the European left-leaning media. See for example *Can We Trust the BBC?* by Robin Aitken. Much of its manifestation may be irrational, silly and juvenile, but there is good reason to fear that a sinister form of derangement underlie it. He devotes an entire chapter to the similarities between European anti-Americanism and resurgent Antisemitism. For example, in its migration from Right to Left, its evil twin Antisemitism has moved with it. *The Resurgence of Anti-Semitism* by Bernard Harrison provides a brilliant exploration and analyses of the new Antisemitism under the mask of Anti-Zionism on the European Liberal Left. The author is alarmed that this demonization of Israel is not restricted to the Hard Left but very common amongst social democrats and environmentalists too. He believes anti-Americanism and anti-Zionism are inseparable, growing side by side in Western Europe, rooted in the same angst and resentments. Politicians like Jacques Chirac and Gerhard Schoeder have exploited this sentiment for their own benefits. Although Sarkozy and Merkel are admirable friends of the USA, they may just prove to be the exception as these attitudes are deeply ingrained in the Euro elites. The author observes that anti-Zionism is openly Antisemitic in some instances but in the larger context it serves as a respectable vehicle and protective cloak for Antisemitism. Old Europe is undoubtedly in deep trouble. I recommend that *Uncouth Nation* be read in conjunction with those books dealing with Europe's decline, like *Menace in Europe: Why the Continent's Crisis Is America's, Too* by Claire Berlinski, *Londonistan* by Melanie Phillips, *While Europe Slept* by Bruce Bawer, *The Force of Reason* by the late Oriana Fallaci and *The Last Days of Europe: Epitaph for an Old Continent* by Walter Laqueur. Whilst the Eurocracy is now militantly secularist, I don't rule out a return to religion by the people. The most disturbing scenario would be a repeat of the 1930s, by for example the embrace of a charismatic pan-European leader in the face of overwhelming crises like major terror attacks, instead of a return to classical liberal values. Part of the problem is, Europe does not have much of a principled Right, except perhaps the UK Tories and the libertarian parties of Scandinavia. Oriana Fallaci compared the old Italian Right of the *Risorgimento* to a noble lady that committed suicide - an apt description of the senescent Christian Democrats that have accepted the tenets of welfarism and pan-Europeanism. Europe is not competing well in the globalised market and is still to a large extent in denial about the threat of terrorism. Now on the East, Europeans are faced with the rise of Putin's increasingly belligerent criminal state. I just cannot see the entire behemoth of 27 states uniting, rather, I suspect, a core group might form that includes Germany, France, the Benelux countries, Italy and some other Central European states. The rest might retain some autonomy but be closely integrated economically. Markovits is under no illusion about the possibility of a Democrat administration diminishing European anti-Americanism. It will make no difference at all, since it's an emotional condition and is gathering momentum. In addition to this superb work by Markovits, I recommend *What's Left?* by Nick Cohen and *Hating America: A History* by Barry Rubin. 0 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. What does he really want to say? Von SrenI started reading Markovits' book with great expectations. One of his theses is that Europe develops an own identity by "hating" the US. I really doubt that. No national or continental identity can be built on hatred. Yes, many Europeans have become anti-American, and the US did its very best to support this attitude. If someone opposes the Iraq war, ex president Bush, gun laws, religious fundamentalism or even questionable customs like Halloween, he or she is not anti-American, he or she just uses common sense. Can we reverse the trend of "hating" the US? Yes, we can! There is a lot that the US can learn from Europe: admit errors, introduce a voting system in which more than 28 % participate, provide social security for the citizens etc. Markovits contributed little to that discussion. Sorry!

**Kurzbeschreibung** No survey can capture the breadth and depth of the anti-Americanism that has swept Europe in recent years. From ultraconservative Bavarian grandmothers to thirty-year-old socialist activists in Greece, from globalization opponents to corporate executives--Europeans are joining in an ever louder chorus of disdain for America. For the first time, anti-Americanism has become a European lingua franca. In this sweeping and provocative look at the history of European aversion to America, Andrei Markovits argues that understanding the ubiquity of anti-

Americanism since September 11, 2001, requires an appreciation of such sentiments among European elites going back at least to July 4, 1776. While George W. Bush's policies have catapulted anti-Americanism into overdrive, particularly in Western Europe, Markovits argues that this loathing has long been driven not by what America does, but by what it is. Focusing on seven Western European countries big and small, he shows how antipathies toward things American embrace aspects of everyday life--such as sports, language, work, education, media, health, and law--that remain far from the purview of the Bush administration's policies. Aggravating Europeans' antipathies toward America is their alleged helplessness in the face of an Americanization that they view as inexorably befalling them. More troubling, Markovits argues, is that this anti-Americanism has cultivated a new strain of anti-Semitism. Above all, he shows that while Europeans are far apart in terms of their everyday lives and shared experiences, their not being American provides them with a powerful common identity--one that elites have already begun to harness in their quest to construct a unified Europe to rival America.

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