



# **A Hard Look at Hard Power: Assessing the Defense Capabilities of Key U.S. Allies and Security Partners**

*Gary J. Schmitt*

[Download now](#)

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

# A Hard Look at Hard Power: Assessing the Defense Capabilities of Key U.S. Allies and Security Partners

*Gary J. Schmitt*

## **A Hard Look at Hard Power: Assessing the Defense Capabilities of Key U.S. Allies and Security Partners** Gary J. Schmitt

Since World War II, a key element of America's grand strategy has been its worldwide network of strategic allies and partners. This network has provided the United States with the framework for sustaining its global presence, enhanced deterrence against adversaries in key regions of the world, and, when called upon, provided men and materiel necessary to fight wars. Indeed, since the fall of the Berlin Wall, with one exception—the U.S. invasion of Panama in December 1989—American forces have not engaged in a major conflict without allies fighting alongside them. Although, in the words of Bill Clinton administration Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, the United States might be “the indispensable nation,” as a matter of practice, America is so in conjunction with its security partners.

This practice is grounded in four simple considerations. The first and most straightforward is that allies might have capabilities that increase the overall “punching power” of a given military campaign. Second, allied militaries, even when requiring the assistance of U.S. enablers, will often reduce the overall burden on U.S. forces. Third, and related to the second consideration, is that, when confronted with two major military campaigns as in Iraq and Afghanistan in the last decade, the United States required additional forces to sustain both campaigns simultaneously. As a matter of “economy of force,” allied militaries helped “hold” Afghanistan against the Taliban as the body of American military forces turned their attention to the main action in Iraq from 2003 to 2009. And, finally, although U.S. administrations routinely claim the prerogative of acting unilaterally to address threats to U.S. security, the American body politic prefers to act in conjunction with allies—especially democratic allies—when engaging in military operations. It does so for the simple reason that the American public and its leaders believe that coalitions of like-minded liberal governments confers a degree of legitimacy on such operations that unilateral action is short of. Whether this is necessarily the case—and, arguably, unilateral actions can be just as legitimate as those undertaken under “collective security” arrangements in certain circumstances—the political and diplomatic reality is that the United States favors going to war with other democracies.

Despite this preference for coalitions, following the end of the Cold War and the existential threat posed by the Soviet Union and its Iron Curtain allies, increasingly less attention was paid to America's allies—especially their “hard power” capabilities—in the 1990s. Everyone, including the United States, was busy collecting on the “peace dividend” that seemed to flow from the fact that the West was no longer facing a military superpower. To be sure, there were new missions for our European allies, such as in the Balkans and Africa, but those missions did not require militaries of the scale that had previously been under arms. Moreover, savings from cutting the size of the militaries could then be put to modernizing and reshaping them; it would be a “win-win” for America's security partners. Except it was not.

 [Download A Hard Look at Hard Power: Assessing the Defense C ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online A Hard Look at Hard Power: Assessing the Defense ...pdf](#)



## **Download and Read Free Online A Hard Look at Hard Power: Assessing the Defense Capabilities of Key U.S. Allies and Security Partners Gary J. Schmitt**

---

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Julianna Pepper:**

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important work, like looking for your favorite publication and reading a e-book. Beside you can solve your problem; you can add your knowledge by the guide entitled A Hard Look at Hard Power: Assessing the Defense Capabilities of Key U.S. Allies and Security Partners. Try to face the book A Hard Look at Hard Power: Assessing the Defense Capabilities of Key U.S. Allies and Security Partners as your good friend. It means that it can to be your friend when you really feel alone and beside that course make you smarter than ever before. Yeah, it is very fortunated to suit your needs. The book makes you a lot more confidence because you can know anything by the book. So , let's make new experience as well as knowledge with this book.

#### **Glenn Wallin:**

This A Hard Look at Hard Power: Assessing the Defense Capabilities of Key U.S. Allies and Security Partners is completely new way for you who has attention to look for some information given it relief your hunger of information. Getting deeper you onto it getting knowledge more you know or perhaps you who still having bit of digest in reading this A Hard Look at Hard Power: Assessing the Defense Capabilities of Key U.S. Allies and Security Partners can be the light food for yourself because the information inside this specific book is easy to get simply by anyone. These books build itself in the form and that is reachable by anyone, yes I mean in the e-book form. People who think that in publication form make them feel tired even dizzy this guide is the answer. So there is no in reading a guide especially this one. You can find what you are looking for. It should be here for you. So , don't miss that! Just read this e-book variety for your better life along with knowledge.

#### **Darrell Mayo:**

What is your hobby? Have you heard that question when you got scholars? We believe that that query was given by teacher with their students. Many kinds of hobby, Everyone has different hobby. Therefore you know that little person just like reading or as studying become their hobby. You have to know that reading is very important and book as to be the factor. Book is important thing to add you knowledge, except your own personal teacher or lecturer. You find good news or update with regards to something by book. Amount types of books that can you choose to adopt be your object. One of them is actually A Hard Look at Hard Power: Assessing the Defense Capabilities of Key U.S. Allies and Security Partners.

#### **Joseph Davis:**

A lot of people said that they feel weary when they reading a reserve. They are directly felt this when they get a half parts of the book. You can choose typically the book A Hard Look at Hard Power: Assessing the Defense Capabilities of Key U.S. Allies and Security Partners to make your own reading is interesting. Your skill of reading talent is developing when you just like reading. Try to choose basic book to make you enjoy

you just read it and mingle the sensation about book and reading especially. It is to be initial opinion for you to like to wide open a book and read it. Beside that the publication A Hard Look at Hard Power: Assessing the Defense Capabilities of Key U.S. Allies and Security Partners can to be your friend when you're experience alone and confuse with what must you're doing of their time.

**Download and Read Online A Hard Look at Hard Power: Assessing the Defense Capabilities of Key U.S. Allies and Security Partners  
Gary J. Schmitt #91J2YQ6ED4V**

## **Read A Hard Look at Hard Power: Assessing the Defense Capabilities of Key U.S. Allies and Security Partners by Gary J. Schmitt for online ebook**

A Hard Look at Hard Power: Assessing the Defense Capabilities of Key U.S. Allies and Security Partners by Gary J. Schmitt Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read A Hard Look at Hard Power: Assessing the Defense Capabilities of Key U.S. Allies and Security Partners by Gary J. Schmitt books to read online.

### **Online A Hard Look at Hard Power: Assessing the Defense Capabilities of Key U.S. Allies and Security Partners by Gary J. Schmitt ebook PDF download**

**A Hard Look at Hard Power: Assessing the Defense Capabilities of Key U.S. Allies and Security Partners by Gary J. Schmitt Doc**

**A Hard Look at Hard Power: Assessing the Defense Capabilities of Key U.S. Allies and Security Partners by Gary J. Schmitt Mobipocket**

**A Hard Look at Hard Power: Assessing the Defense Capabilities of Key U.S. Allies and Security Partners by Gary J. Schmitt EPub**