War and peace: Order and change in Europe
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Russia’s invasion of Ukraine calls into question the European security order and re-introduces war in relations between European states. To map how to understand and interpret the challenge Russia poses to peace and security in Europe, this article discusses the concept of order in international politics. In other words, the article tries to bring order to the debate about order, and identifies four ideal-typical ideas about order in the academic literature on international politics. This creates a distinction between a constitutional, hegemonic, pragmatic and relational order. The four understandings of order are based on different assumptions about international politics, and thus also provide different starting points for discussing and understanding what is at stake in the extensive changes European security is currently undergoing. Through this, the article’s debate on the concept of order serves as a good starting point for the specific analyzes of the European security order that are unfolded in the subsequent articles of the thematic section.

The United States, the transatlantic relationship, and the European security order: The crisis in the liberal international order and the normalization of Europe
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This article examines the consequences of the war in Ukraine for the US’s commitment to the European security order. The European order is analyzed as the center of gravity of a US-led liberal international order. Consequently, developments in the transatlantic relationship are seen as decisive for the development of the European security order. The main point of the article is that the war illustrates a normalization of Europe, which is no longer exempt from the logics of power politics dominating international relations. Due to continued security policy dependence on the United States, Europe faces a double challenge in the coming years. They face a threat from Russia, which they cannot meet without US support, and they are increasingly embedded in global great power.

The Ukraine war in the light of Russia’s illiberal turn and “pivot to Asia”
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The Ukraine War is the culmination of a collective Russian self-radicalization towards chauvinism and hubris in Russia’s approach to the European security order. The illiberal turn can be traced back to the pre- and post-Gorbachev
era. The illiberal position has become hegemonic despite the forward-looking policies of the outside world after the collapse of the Soviet Union, which gave Russia the Soviet Union’s permanent seat on the UN Security Council and Soviet nuclear weapons. This created a huge asymmetry in security as a backdrop for NATO expansion.

Putin’s 2012 ‘pivot to Asia’ was intended to position Russia as an equal to China in countering the US, but was hampered by tensions between Russia’s imperial Russocentric and China’s Sinocentric national identity. Russia is a great power in decline, which, according to recent power transition theory, encourages aggression. Consequently, Putin’s war against Ukraine was also a show of force against China. Altogether, this leaves the West with only indirect Russia policy options: crisis management in Ukraine and throughout Europe along with a diplomatic focus on the Global South and China.

**Broken Dreams: Russia, the West and the Collapse of the European Security Order**

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Russia’s large-scale attack on Ukraine in February 2022 has shattered the European security order. How could this happen? While much has been written about the proximate causes of the war, in particular Putin’s imperial mindset and his gross misperception of the Ukrainians’ willingness and ability to resist, this article puts the conflict into a broader temporal and analytical perspective. It shows that Russia, on the one side, and the United States and its allies, on the other, have promoted competing order-building projects in Europe from the early 1990s onwards. This, in turn, set Moscow and Washington on a collision course. The European security architecture that emerged after the Cold War was therefore bound to fail sooner rather than later. What is surprising, in retrospect, is that it took three decades before it fell apart.

**France, Germany and the United Kingdom: the Ukraine-crisis and a changing European security policy**

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Putin’s war in Ukraine is changing European security. This article looks into how European leaders are handling the Ukraine crisis and how their actions impact European security as a whole. Given their centrality in forming policy, the article examines Europe’s big three member states – France, Germany, and the United Kingdom and shows how all three states have reacted in ways that strengthen European security policy. Specifically, Europe is currently undergoing a process where it is reducing its dependence on the outside world by increasing its quest for autonomous action. As a result, some of the cornerstones of the European security order are changing, not least the belief that security is best achieved by dependence on and trade with countries outside Europe.

**From Active Internationalism to Balancing Activism: Danish Activism in the New World Order**

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While the security guarantee from the USA and NATO remains the cornerstone of the European security architecture, the structural rivalry between the USA and China, as well as Russia’s revisionist stance, has led to increased American expectations that Europe can handle regional conflicts on its own. This has direct consequences for Danish military activism, which has been practiced as a reaction to developments in the regional order. In particular, militarized activism has been designed to maintain American engagement in the European continent by accommodating American demand. This has led Denmark to participate in a number of coalition wars, where internationalism has been directly
linked to paying for the security guarantee and serving the interests of the NATO alliance for the Americans. This business model is under pressure in the face of increased structural rivalry, the presence of regional threats, and increased European cooperation. As a result, activism is moving into a new phase of regional balancing, where Denmark needs to actively invest in Western security institutions to balance the regional threats.

Management pains and potentials in transversal change processes
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One of the major challenges for public leaders is to create better connections and coordination in efforts for vulnerable citizens. Division into specialized functions and departments challenges a holistic effort. How can management best support and manage a transversal change process? The article sheds light on this issue with a particular focus on the importance of the governance set-up and management’s own behavior in the change process. According to the change literature, change processes succeed best in a transversal project structure with a combination of top-down and bottom-up approaches. This organization ensures maneuverable management and decisions based on a broad knowledge base. At the same time, the research literature points out that the change rarely resembles the original idea of change, but that the change is conditioned by translations of meaning. The empirical case in this article is based on a municipality’s transversal change process, where the management has based management on common recommendations on set-up and involvement. The study shows, among other things, that the bottom-up approach succeeds in delivering inputs to the management, but the effect is dependent on the management acting via decisions and clarifying and correcting the meaning of the change idea.

Reporting of Social Value: Opportunities and Challenges
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The UN’s Sustainable Development Goals are closely linked to improvements in societal well-being and address, among others, the challenges of health and education, reduction of inequality and societal welfare. To achieve these objectives, public attention has increasingly been paid to the transparency of businesses, public institutions and non-profit organisations regarding their activities of social value creation for legitimising, reflecting on and communicating their social welfare initiatives. This article specifically elaborates on the concept of social value and impact, focusing on the possibilities of social value reporting and summarising the experiences of organisations. It highlights opportunities and challenges regarding the available methods of measuring and reporting social value and satisfying different stakeholders. The article also discusses the implications on policymaking related to social value and impact reporting in different sectors.