

„(Re)Thinking Multilateralism?“
Challenges and Opportunities for New Multilateralism(s)

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Multilateralism is the "life insurance" (Maas) of the Federal Republic of Germany. But against the backdrop of a world order whose basic rules have been shaken, the rise of new powers and a loss of trust in old partners, this form of cooperation is undergoing an acute stress test. The now proclaimed "further development of multilateralism" (Merkel) challenges German foreign and security policy to rethink its strategic tools.

From a social science perspective, it is thereby called up both, to understand multilateralism in its historically evolved political-programmatic and political-practical contexts in order to adapt multilateral practices in light of the changed international landscape, so that they are once again able to generate sustainable and effective solutions, by recognizing new opportunities and new frameworks for multilateral action.

The political-practical goal of the research project is therefore to draft a "Strategy Compass Multilateralism", which will emerge from the productive combination of reflections on historical and current factors of multilateral "best practices". To identify these, the project analyzes the development of multilateralism (1) in historical case studies, (2) in the forthcoming "White Paper on Multilateralism" of the German government, and (3) in the context of an accompanying review process by a study group consisting of experts from politics, think tanks, and academia.