

## MASTER'S THESIS

### Alliance en garde: the United States of America and West Germany, 1977-1985

Chan, Catherine See

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***Alliance En Garde:***  
**The United States of America and West Germany, 1977-1985**

**CHAN Catherine See**

**A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements**

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**Principal Supervisor: Prof. MAK King Sang Ricardo**

**Hong Kong Baptist University**

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## **Abstract**

The thesis examines the foreign policy of the United States towards West Germany from 1977-1985 as a drive away from the stereotypes of Cold War studies. Although the relationship between the two governments carried the tendency of fluctuating through time, a more minute examination of U.S.-West German relations constantly went unnoticed under the headlines of Soviet-American affairs. Notable in this period was the emergence of a three-fold development: the decline of the United States, growing autonomy in the Federal Republic of Germany and third, the concurrent rise of the Capitol Hill. Aimed at cracking the changing U.S. perceptions of Bonn and the Germans, the tug-of-war between Congress and the Oval Office serves as a key component in this study, delineating the fine line that decided the state of Washington-Bonn relations. Furthermore, this thesis is basically fragmented by the presidencies of two American leaders- Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan, both of whom carried highly varying intelligence towards Congressional power and subsequently, the FRG and vice versa.

Approaching the problem from the American point of view, this paper sheds light on the ambiguities of the American Constitution, sketching for once and for all, the struggle between the legislative and executive branches as an extension that impacts relations between the United States and foreign governments. In addition, the canvas of U.S. foreign policy-making allows more insights on changing American perceptions of the Federal Republic, transitional as presidential determination is in face of pressure from both domestic and outside forces. This research conceals the road to how U.S.-West German relations evolved from mutual reservations halfway through the Cold War to its present state of friendship and equivalence.

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