Germany's abstention on the UN Security Council's vote to establish a 'no-fly zone' over Libya and to authorize all necessary measures to protect civilians raises serious questions about the future direction of the country's foreign policy. Whereas Germany's 'No' to the war in Iraq appears to have been justified, the decision in the case of Libya is a de facto 'No' to the principle of the responsibility to protect. As a result, German foreign policy seems to have lost its moral and political compass and risks drifting into uncertainty.

Dr. Dieter Dettke is a foreign and security policy specialist, author and editor of numerous publications on German, European, and US foreign and security issues. He studied Law and Political Science in Bonn, Berlin, and Strasbourg, and was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Washington in Seattle in 1967-68. He served as Foreign Policy and Security Policy Advisor of the SPD Parliamentary Group of the German Bundestag from 1974-84 and as the US Representative and Executive Director of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Washington from 1985 until 2006, managing a comprehensive program of transatlantic cooperation. His book, Germany Says 'No': The Iraq War and the Future of German Foreign and Security Policy, was published by Woodrow Wilson Center Press and The Johns Hopkins University Press in 2009.

Thursday, April 14, 2011
3:30-5:00 p.m.
Voesar Conference Room
1957 E Street, NW, Suite 412
Please RSVP with your name and affiliation to ieresgwu@gwu.edu.

This event is on the record.