

# 'Frenmity' as a Political Concept

## “Layers and Connections of the Political”

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## Abstract

Carl Schmitt defined the Political (1932) as a virtue to comprehend friend-enemy antithesis independently from other distinctions. Pure or absolute enemy was the signifier of the political which precedes even the state as such. However, throughout the history, the concept of enmity has appeared in many different shapes, although keeping intact its underlying logic, that of systemic racism. This paper claims that it is impossible to differentiate between friend and enemy since their root (not just etymological) is precisely the same: hostis. With a help of a miniature process tracing, we will follow how the notions of enemy and friend merged to become 'frenemy', while simultaneously preserving its Political nature. We differentiate between the three phases. First, Cold War adversarial logic where enemy was a rational, territorial actor and friend that one who complied with one's interests. Second, short period of the US unilateralism was a failed attempt to show that there are no actually existing enemies. Third, terrorist attacks of 11th September and its aftermath demonstrated a complete turmoil, deterritorialization of the enemies and friends, as well as their wicked concoction. The moment in which sovereign state starts treating its population as an enemy indicates that Political in Schmittean sense is still alive.

## Author information

**Luka Nikolić** is a PhD candidate in International Relations at the Charles University Prague with the focus on interaction between state apparatuses and disruptive technologies. He holds a Master of Science in International Security Studies and at the same university. After graduating in Journalism at the University of Montenegro, he has participated in numerous academic exchanges, conferences, trainings and wrote a book chapter about the postmodern spirit of terrorism for the publisher Brill.

**Igor Milić** holds a Master of Science in International Security Studies from the Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies and the University of Trento. After graduating in Foreign Languages and International Relations at the Catholic University of Milan in 2016, he has participated in numerous academic experiences abroad, most of which dealt with interventionism and humanitarianism. He graduated last year with a Master's thesis on the relationship between failed states and the responsibility to protect (R2P) with the case study of Mali since 2012 on.

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**Monday, 14 June** - Session 3 - **14,00-16,00 CET (Webex)** - APH Forum for young scholars on "Concepts"

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