The unexpected end of the Cold War demonstrated the historical possibility of peaceful change and seemingly showed the superiority of non-realist approaches in International Relations. Yet in the post-Cold War period many European countries have experienced a resurgence of the most determinist and materialist wing of the realist tradition: geopolitics. As it turns out, the revival of geopolitics came not despite of, but because of, the end of the Cold War. Disoriented in their self-understandings and conception of external roles by the events of 1989, many European foreign policy actors looked for the determinism of geopolitical thought to identify their place in world politics. At the same time, this analysis develops social mechanisms as a theoretical enterprise within a constructivist methodology and foreign policy analysis.