Since the end of the Cold War the quality of the relationship between Russia and the United States has been difficult to articulate. Despite claims of ‘friendship’ tensions frequently surface between the two states. This thesis examines the relationship between the United States as a nascent security community and examines two periods of crisis in the relationship from 1994-2005: Chechnya and Iraq. Borrowing from the English School of International Relations and factoring in a theorisation of force as a necessary tool in the maintenance of community, I examine the institutions that govern the U.S.-Russian relationship in order to better understand the dynamics of the security community. I find that the institution of diplomacy causes the most tension in the U.S.-Russian relationship because of its focus on the identity of state actors; while the institution of the market, which challenges the institution of sovereignty provides the most scope for reducing the frequency of diplomatic crises between Russia and the United States.