

N A M U N ' 2 1

NATO

Study Guide

#jointheworldsheartbeat



Table of Contents

Welcoming Letters

- 1. Introduction to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)**
 - 1.2 History of NATO**
 - 1.3 Members of NATO**
 - 1.4 NATO's aim**
- 2. Withdrawing From Afghanistan: Success or Failure for NATO**
 - 2.1 NATO and Afghanistan**
 - 2.2 Milestones in relations**
 - 2.3 Resolute Support Mission (RSM)**
 - 2.4 Financial sustainment of the Afghan National Defence and**

Security Forces

- 2.5 The ISAF Mission**
 - 2.6 A collective international effort**
- 3. NATO's Lack of Strategic Coordination**
 - 3.1 What may be the rationale behind Macron's statement?**
 - i. Who is Emmanuel Macron?**
 - 3.2 What are the reactions of nations upon this statement?**
 - 3.3 How would Europe's security be without NATO?**
 - 3.4 What will Article 5 mean tomorrow?**
 - i. Article 5 and its aim**
- 4. Solving NATO's Arctic Debacle**
 - 4.1. Arctic Geography and Definitions**
 - 4.2. Pre Cold War History of the Region**
 - 4.3. Cold War and Militarisation**

4.4. Reemergence into the World Stage

4.5. Timeline

5. Questions to be covered

6. References

Cherished participants of NAMUN'21,

I, İdil Yüzbaşıoğlu, the secretary general of this year's Nesibe Aydın Model United Nations (NAMUN) would like to welcome you all to the 10th annual conference of NAMUN. Our academic and organization team both gave it their all to make this conference educational and fun for every attendee. All of our teams are more than grateful to welcome you all to our 10th year anniversary of NAMUN!

We faced many difficulties along the way, overcoming them one by one with the support we gave to each other. With both the academic and the organization team's hard work, we bring you NAMUN with its well planned committees and well planned coffee break activities to help you relax after a long session. This year NAMUN offers five committees: two beginner, three intermediate and finally a J.MUN. UNEP (United Nations Environmental Programme) , UNCSTD (United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development) , NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) , UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) , CSW(Commission of Status of Women) our JMUN. UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund). All of these committees are fit to talk about the UN's Sustainable Development Goals as we seek out solutions to real life problems we see everyday on the news.

In conclusion, our teams invite you to experience unforgettable memories, enhance your academic skills of presentation and debate, learn other people and countries' views of the world, and join the world's heartbeat.

Welcome to NAMUN'21! Ten years, going strong.

Secretary general,

1. Introduction to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)

1.1 What is NATO?

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation or in other words NATO, is an alliance whose purpose is to safeguard the freedom and security of all of its members by both political and militaristic means. Striving to secure a lasting peace in Europe and North America, based on shared values of freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. By acknowledging the fact that conflicts outside the member countries can damage these values, NATO contributes to peace and stability through crisis management operations and partnerships. In other words, the Alliance NATO not only helps to defend its members' territory but also engages to further project its values, prevent crises, manage crises, stabilize post-conflict situations, and support reconstruction wherever possible and when necessary.

1.2 History of NATO

Created by the United States, Canada, and several other Western Countries, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation was established in 1949 after the II. World War. Upon its creation, the alliance served three main purposes: deterring Soviet expansionism, preventing the revival of nationalist militarism in Europe, and encouraging European political integration. The USSR once had tried to become a member of NATO, only to be rejected due to the member states fearing this was an attempt to weaken the Alliance. After the rejection and the threat of West Germany becoming a NATO member, the USSR formed an opposing side to NATO, The Warsaw Pact. Signed among the Soviet satellite states (Poland, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria, Albania). Thus creating an opposing side to NATO. In 1991

The Warsaw Pact finally came to an end. It was once discussed whether or not we needed the presence of NATO anymore now that the Soviet Union is gone. However, nowadays the Alliance presents itself as an alliance that unites member countries by military and political means.

1.3 Members of NATO

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation now has 30 member states. Majority of Europe, along with the United States and Canada which are from North America. In 1949, there were 12 founding members of the Alliance: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The other member countries are: Greece and Turkey (1952), Germany (1955), Spain (1982), the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland (1999), Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia (2004), Albania and Croatia (2009), Montenegro (2017) and the most recent member state to be added is North Macedonia joining on the 27th of March 2020.

1.4 NATO's Aim

NATO's aim from the beginning was to secure peace in Europe to promote cooperation among its members and to guard their freedom. The targets consist of weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, and cyber-attacks. NATO is a crisis management organization that has the capacity to undertake a wide range of military operations and missions.

2. Withdrawing From Afghanistan: Success or Failure for NATO

2.1 NATO and Afghanistan

NATO Allies had deployed military forces for almost 20 years under a United Nations Security Council decree. They are now strictly controlling the situation which is incredibly unstable. From August 2021, the safe departure of Allied and partner countries' personnel is the main focus point. In this matter, NATO is now working with Allies on providing housing and care. NATO-affiliated Afghans and their families who are at risk were removed from Afghanistan in August with many of them being resettled in Allied countries, along with the United States. In early September, the Resolute Support Mission (RSM) was terminated and NATO suspended all support to the Afghan government.

2.2 Milestones in relations

SEPTEMBER 2001 – JULY 2003

9/11 ATTACKS AND THE FALL OF THE TALIBAN

11 September 2001: In the United States, militants associated with al Qaeda hijacked four airplanes and carried out suicide attacks against several targets, and killed almost 3,000 people.

12 September 2001: NATO Allies and partner countries condemned the attacks and offered support to the United States.

7 October 2001: With the support of allies, the United States launched airstrikes in Afghanistan because of the discrepancy between the Taliban and the US. It led to Operation Enduring Freedom, also supported by allies.

20 December 2001: The formation of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) had been accredited by UNSCR 1386 to stabilize Afghanistan and maintain peace.

28 March 2002: The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) is formed to assist the temporary government of Afghanistan.

AUGUST 2003 – SPRING 2006

NATO TAKES THE LEAD OF ISAF AND EXPANDS NORTH AND WEST

August 2003: NATO takes command of the ISAF operation.

May-September 2004: ISAF expands to the west, providing security assistance in half of Afghanistan's territory.

29 October 2004: Osama Bin Laden takes responsibility for the 9/11 attacks and threatens the West.

8 June 2006: The first-ever meeting in Brussels, NATO, and partner countries agree on expanding ISAF's operation to the south of Afghanistan.

JULY 2006 – AUGUST 2009

ISAF EXPANDS SOUTH AND EAST

31 July 2006: ISAF estimates command of southern Afghanistan from coalition forces led by the US, expanding the area of operations to cover an additional six provinces. ISAF expands further and leads in the north, west, and south, covering three-quarters of Afghanistan.

5 October 2006: ISAF completes the final stage of expansion and takes on command of the international military forces in eastern Afghanistan. Further, training and mentoring teams are started to be set up by ISAF for the Afghan National Army.

SEPTEMBER 2009 – FEBRUARY 2011

COUNTERING THE INSURGENCY

21 November 2009: The NATO Training Mission in Afghanistan is formally activated aiming to train the Afghan forces.

20 July 2010: The Joint Afghan-NATO Integral Board is authorized to be the mechanism to estimate the readiness of districts to transfer to the Afghan lead for security.

19-20 November 2010: At the Lisbon Summit, NATO leaders and the Afghan government agreed on delivering full responsibility for security to Afghan forces by the end of 2014.

MARCH 2011 – DECEMBER 2014

TRANSITION TO AFGHAN LEAD FOR SECURITY

1 May 2011: Osama Bin Laden is executed by US Special Operations Forces.

5 December 2011: The withdrawal of ISAF and cooperation with Afghanistan is discussed in an international conference taking place in Bonn.

21 May 2012: At the Chicago Summit, leaders from NATO's member countries and the partners assured Afghanistan that they will continue to support the Afghan security forces by assistance after the NATO-led ISAF mission is completed.

16 July 2012: The Afghan Army Special Operations Command is stood up.

1 February 2013: The Afghan Ground Forces Command is formed to manage all operations in Afghanistan.

30 September 2014: NATO and Afghanistan signed a Status of Forces Agreement which provides the legal framework for a new NATO-led, non-combat mission to train, advise and assist the Afghan security forces and institutions.

12 December 2014: The UN Security Council adopts Resolution 2189 and welcomes the new Resolute Support Mission.

28 December 2014: ISAF officially completes its mission in Afghanistan with a ceremony and full security is now in the hands of the Afghan government.

JANUARY 2015 – SEPTEMBER 2021

TRAINING, ASSISTING, AND ADVISING AFGHAN SECURITY INSTITUTIONS

1 January 2015: RSM started to continue providing assistance of all kinds to the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces.

13 May 2015: It is decided that the Alliance will maintain a civilian-led presence in Afghanistan after the end of RSM with the aim to continue to advise and instruct in order to help the Afghan security institutions become self-sufficient.

9 July 2016: At the NATO Summit in Warsaw, Allied leaders and their RSM partners recognise that the Afghan security institutions and forces will need international support while they continue to make progress. They also proclaim their commitment to ensure long-term security and stability in the region and continue financial aid for the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces.

12 September 2020: NATO Allies start peace negotiations and urge both the Afghan government and the Taliban to work through an all-inclusive peace agreement.

14 April 2021: It is decided that the Allies will withdraw RSM forces by May 1.

August 2021: NATO freezes the financial support to ANDSF and focuses on the safe departure of NATO's personnel and also Afghans who helped NATO.

Early September 2021: RSM is adjourned.

2.3 Resolute Support Mission (RSM)

RSM was a non-combat mission that was launched on 1 January 2015 by NATO. Training, advice, and assistance for the Afghan Army to take action against terrorist groups were the main focus points of RSM. The non-combat mission was performed in several areas as supporting functions including operational planning; development in the budget; management and development of personnel and ensuring the ANDSF obeys the rule of law and good governance when taking action.

In mid-April 2021, when NATO decided to withdraw from the Resolute Support Mission, it comprised 10,000 personnel from 36 NATO allies and partner countries.

RSM was terminated in early September 2021.

2.4 Financial sustainment of the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces

Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF), are the military and internal security forces of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

ANDSF's fund is currently frozen. NATO Allies and operational partners restated their agreement made at the Chicago Summit to play their part in the financial sustainment of the ANDSF at the Brussels Summit in 2018 and the Wales Summit in 2014.

Afghan National Army (ANA) Trust Fund

The ANA Trust Fund, formed in 2007, was one of four funding streams used to channel financial support to Afghanistan's security forces and institutions.

Its aim was to contribute a mechanism to support the transportation and establishment of donated equipment, to acquire equipment, and to serve for engineering projects of ANA, as well as supporting training in and out-of-country.

The fund was created for Allied and partner nations providing armed forces to the former NATO-led ISAF in Afghanistan, along with other partners of NATO.

ANA Trust Fund expanded its capacity over time aiming to continue to maintain the Afghan National Army, also to support the education of professional military, and to appreciate women's participation and encourage them within the relevant Afghan Ministries and security institutions.

The Afghan National Army Trust Fund can also be used to supply support in some areas to other elements of the Afghan security forces in addition to the Afghan

National Army. This was devoted to increasing the strength of different aspects of the Afghan security forces to operate together. The ANA Trust Fund had been revised to make it measure against corruption and to become more adaptable and straightforward.

By 31 May 2021, total contributions made to the Trust Fund since its formation reached over USD 3.4 billion.

Afghan National Army (ANA) Trust Fund
Status of Contributions Made
As of 31 May 2021
(All amounts in US dollars - rounded figures)

Australia	680.000.000
Azerbaijan	2.988.000
Belgium	72.253.000
Bosnia and Herzegovina	18.000
Bulgaria	1.214.000
Canada	254.210.000
Czech Republic	4.565.000
Denmark	39.786.000
Estonia	1.898.000
Finland	19.568.000
Georgia	3.000.000
Germany	810.008.000
Hungary	3.200.000
Iceland	100.000
Ireland	231.000
Italy	508.620.000
Japan	55.301.000
Kazakhstan	6.100.000
Latvia	3.500.000
Lithuania	3.552.000
Luxembourg	58.253.000
Montenegro	2.400.000
Netherlands	134.158.000
North Macedonia	688.000
Norway	115.517.000
Portugal	8.015.000
Romania	3.471.000
Slovakia	5.000.000
Slovenia	4.057.000
South Korea	319.048.000
Spain	5.427.000
Sweden	14.999.000
Switzerland	186.000
Turkey	115.983.000
United Arab Emirates	10.000.000
United Kingdom	141.509.000
United States (ASFF) ¹	40.369.000
Total	3.449.192.000

Numbers are rounded up to the nearest thousand (for ease of reference). Some Allies and partners have made additional pledges. Once these are actually released to the Trust Fund, they will be reflected above.

Afghan National Army (ANA) Trust Fund

2.5 The ISAF Mission

ISAF was formed in 2001 and tasked to maintain security in Kabul for the Afghan government. In August 2003, NATO took command of the force and the UNSC expanded the ISAF's operations to make them cover all of the country.

ISAF was NATO's longest and most challenging mission and also one of the largest coalitions in history. The conditions in which the Afghan government would be able to perform its authority throughout the country were created by all the efforts of ISAF centered by developing professional, capable, and self-sustaining Afghan National Security Forces. This work was accomplished with the European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan and the Afghan Ministry of Defence.

ISAF also contributed to reconstruction and development in Afghanistan through multinational Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) securing areas in which the work was performed by national and international actors.

By the end of 2014, all PRTs functions had been transferred to the Afghan government, traditional development actors, non-governmental organizations and the private sector; by that, ISAF had officially completed its mission.

2.6 A collective international effort

NATO supported the Afghan government and cooperated with other international partners, such as the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), the World Bank, the European Union. The Alliance has worked intimately with many partner countries since NATO's engagement including partners from Australia and

Latin America. Australia, Georgia and Jordan were in the top non-NATO troop-contributing countries to ISAF.

3. NATO's Lack of Strategic Coordination

3.1 What may be the rationale behind Macron's statement?

i. Who is Emmanuel Macron?

Emmanuel Macron has been the President of France since 14 May 2017. He is a French politician who was born in 1977. During his career, he has worked in several different positions. By his business-friendly reforms and the awards he got, he started to be known to the public. At the age of 39, Macron has become the President of France at an early age.

French President Macron made an interview with The Economist magazine and the statement he gave has shocked the NATO allies. In his words, he was saying that he was concerned about whether NATO's commitment to collective defense was still valid and that the alliance was experiencing 'brain death' because of the strategic coordination and leadership problem from the United States. By saying 'a lack of strategic coordination' Macron took particular aim at Donald Trump's unilateralist policy in northern Syria, pulling US troops out, and then took aim at Turkey's policy in northern Syria. The United States withdrew its forces from Syria without getting other country's opinions. Macron thinks that this decision had to be taken after consulting other NATO allies and getting each ally's opinion and

coming up with a consensus, even though the operation in Syria was a Coalition Operation but not a NATO operation.

Some argue that he made this remark in support of longstanding French policy favoring a more united Europe less dependent on its security on American leadership and protection.

3.2 What are the reactions of nations upon this statement?

After the statement Macron had given the first turn on has come from former US President Donald Trump because Macron's words were directed to Trump. Mr Trump has said that Macron's statement was "very, very nasty". And he added "Nobody needs NATO more than France. It's a very dangerous statement for them to make." Donald Trump's purpose of saying this was to warn Macron that other than undermining NATO he has to pay more attention to the critical internal problems in France like the economy and the anti-government protesters in the country.

Macron's statement caused anger in Turkey -NATO's one of the most reliable members- and which used her rights as a sovereign nation and neighboring country of Syria which had long suffered from terrorist activities in Syria.

Upon Macron's statement, Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan responded: "Look Mr Macron, I am calling to you from Turkey, but I will tell you again at NATO. First, have your own brain death checked," condemning Macron over his remarks that Turkey should not expect NATO support for its anti-terror operation in northern Syria.

"Neither has the [Syrian] regime invited you there," Erdogan said, addressing the French leader.

"Expelling or not expelling Turkey from NATO [...] Do you have the authority to make such a decision?" Erdogan added.

Erdogan went on to say that Turkey "will not hesitate" to carry out Operation Peace Spring, "If the threats to Turkey from the safe zone and beyond cannot be eliminated within a reasonable time."

Turkey on Oct. 9 launched Operation Peace Spring to eliminate YPG/PKK terrorists from Northern Syria east of the Euphrates River in order to secure Turkey's borders, aid in the safe return of Syrian refugees, and ensure Syria's territorial integrity.

As a response, Trump has stated that Turkey 'couldn't be nicer, more supportive, very helpful, and he expressed his thoughts that Turkey was right in wanting her borders to be safe and secure.

Another strong response came from Germany. Germany's top diplomat Heiko Mass and Chancellor Angela Merkel have clearly stated that they do not approve of what Macron said because they think NATO is essential for European countries' safety.

German Foreign Minister Heiko Mass said "it would be a mistake to undermine NATO. Without the United States, neither Germany nor Europe will be able to effectively protect themselves." Also, he stated that every EU country must focus on building a strong and sovereign Europe and if Europe is one day capable of ensuring its own security, the EU should still 'want'

NATO.“ Yes, we want a strong and sovereign Europe, but we need it as part of a strong NATO and not as its replacement.” the minister wrote.

Also, Angela Merkel commented that Macron used ‘drastic words’ in his speech while expressing his position on the US-led military alliance. Merkel has said that she sees NATO as “indispensable” and “the central pillar of their defense”.

3.3 How would Europe’s security be without NATO?

NATO is a security alliance that aims to keep the peace between countries and provide the security that is needed. Most of the NATO members are from European countries so NATO is essential for Europe’s security.

The dissolution of the Atlantic Alliance would mean the end of the transatlantic collective defense. Europe would have to provide for its security without the United States. For some Europeans, this is like a dream come true. For those, by contrast, who still view the transatlantic community as an indispensable achievement, it would look like a nightmare.

Building a purely European defense would overwhelm the Europeans politically, financially, and militarily. Even attempting to replace the departure of the United States would mean dramatic increases in defense spending and a radical overhaul of European arms development and procurement procedures.

Even more, it would ultimately require a genuine European security policy which is nowhere in sight.

In other words, without NATO European security concerns would call for a further deepening of European integration in the very field where integration is most difficult.

3.4 What will Article 5 mean tomorrow?

i. Article 5 and its aim

Article 5: The Parties agree that an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all and consequently, they agree that, if such an armed attack occurs, each of them, in the exercise of the right of individual or collective self-defense recognized by Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, will assist the Party or Parties so attacked by taking forthwith, individually and in concert with the other Parties, such action as it deems necessary, including the use of armed force, to restore and maintain the security of the North Atlantic area. Any such armed attack and all measures taken as a result thereof shall immediately be reported to the Security Council. Such measures shall be terminated when the Security Council has taken the measures necessary to restore and maintain international peace and security.

The members of the treaty reaffirm their faith in the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and their aim to build a peaceful environment among nations, governments, and all the people. They are determined to safeguard the liberty, common heritage, and

civilization of their people. Every NATO member is resolved to unite their efforts for collective defense and the protection of peace and security.

The principle of collective defense is important for NATO's founding treaty. It represents the bond between its members, committing them to protect each other against any attack or encountered threat, and setting a spirit of solidarity within all Alliance. This principle is enshrined in Article 5 of the Treaty. NATO invoked Article 5 for the first time after the 9/11 terrorist attacks against the US committing its members to stay by the United States if an attack happens. The organization explained how they are concerned about the threats to global security and as a member of NATO, every ally has to be aware of the fact that if a threat comes by one of the member countries, it means a threat to one another. So, article 5's aim is to make all countries feel the power of each other and the importance of collective defense.

4. NATO's Arctic Debacle

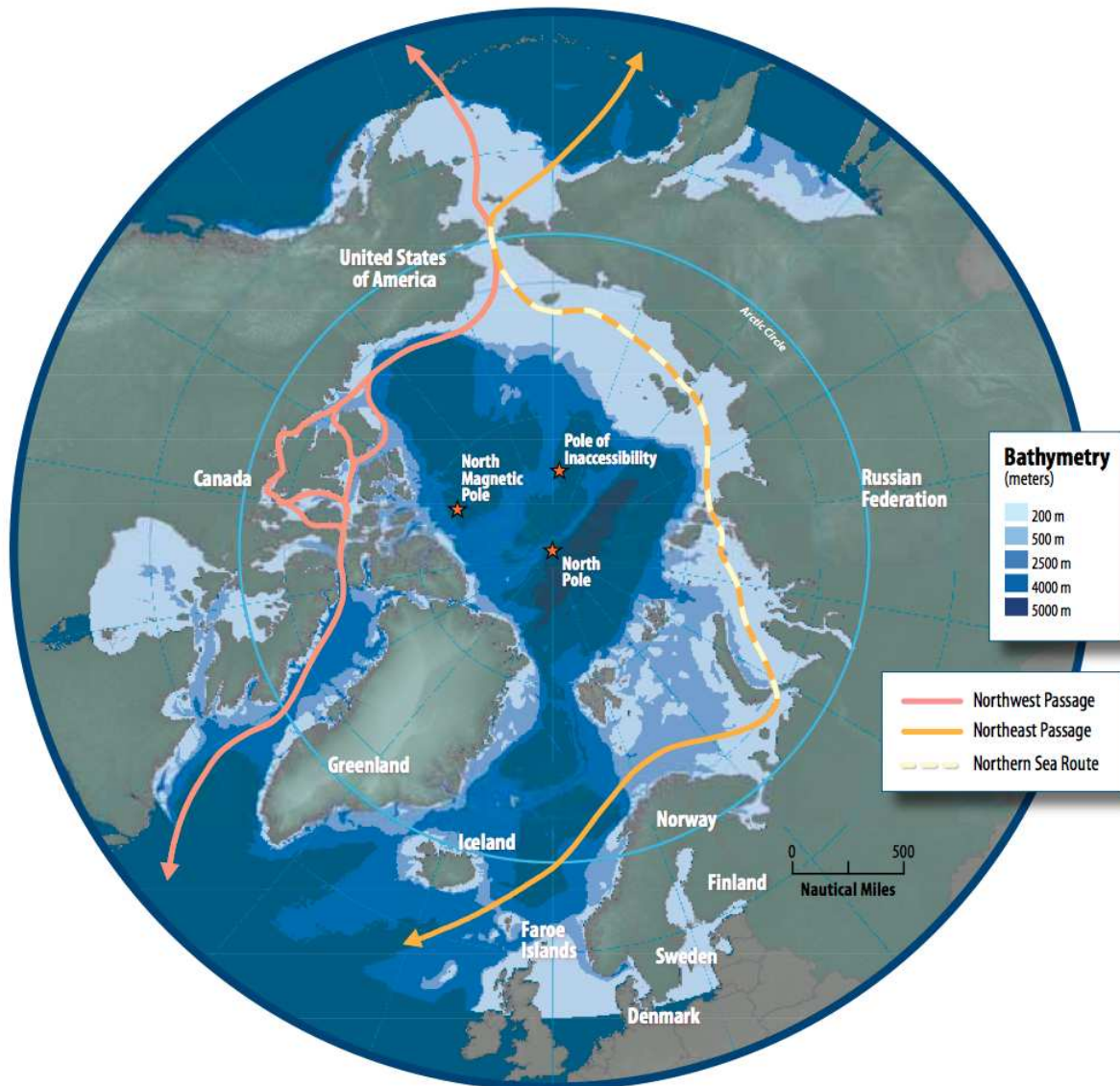
4.1. Arctic Geography and Definitions

The Arctic is the most northern region of the globe, commonly identified as the area which falls under the Arctic circle (line of latitude about 66.5° north of the Equator). Derived from the word "arktos", meaning bear in ancient greek, this region engulfs the Arctic ocean basin, the northern parts of Scandinavia, northern parts of

Russia and Canada, Greenland, and the U.S. state of Alaska. Spanning an area of 27 million km², with 9 million km² of land and 18 million km² of the sea, and containing the North Pole, the Arctic region experiences half of the year under constant darkness and half of the year under constant daylight, resulting in the huge difference between the temperature (+15 °C in summer and -40 °C in winter) and the conditions between the seasons. This in turn means that there is periodic freezing, melting and re-freezing of the ice around the arctic region, resulting in an almost unguessable cyclical pattern of huge icebergs breaking off, new ground freezing and dissolving and new routes being accessible and closing off in an instance.

Apart from hosting one of the harshest and most challenging environments on the earth, the Arctic region also contains an incredibly complex and diverse ecosystem of the sea and land mammals, a wide array of fish and many other big and small creatures coexisting side by side to form one of the most complex, diverse and productive ecosystems in the globe, alongside the ice sheets both concealing heat and reflecting sunlight, acts as one of the biggest stabilising forces on the world climate and as one of the biggest impediments against climate change.

In addition to once in kind weather and climate properties and a fascinating ecosystem, perhaps the most intriguing quality for humankind, the arctic region holds invaluable hydro-carbon reserves, approximately 16% of the world's undiscovered oil and 30% of the world's undiscovered natural gas, almost 20% of earth's fresh water in many sheets of glaciers and world-changing new routes that ought to expedite the route between Europe, American East coast and even South-East Asia.



Map of the Arctic region showing shipping routes Northeast Passage, Northern Sea Route, and Northwest Passage, and bathymetry, Arctic Council - Arctic marine shipping assessment Susie Harder, 2009

4.2. Pre Cold War History of the Region

It has been often theorised that humans may have been living in parts of the Arctic region since 80,000 BC, through the massive grasslands called “mammoth steppe” situated in today’s frozen Siberian tundra. In spite of such theories, it has been largely accepted that through the freezing of the Bering Strait around 10,000 BC, humans crossed to the Americas and subsequently began to fully settle in the Arctic. Although there were not any profound differences between the proto-arctic people and their cousins in the lower parts of North America and East Asia in the beginning, with the dissolution of the Bering Strait and climate change in the region, proto-arctic people groups began to switch from hunting terrestrial animals, such as reindeer, to hunting sea mammals and fishing, thus, distinguishing themselves from the people groups living to their south and creating a unique lifestyle and culture. Through the thousands of years, the arctic people mastered hunting, fishing and generally surviving in this most desolate corner of the globe.

In 983 AD, Eric the Red established the first European colony on Greenland, which was later abandoned in the 14th century. Apart from temporary fishing outposts by European fishermen, the second permanent colony would not appear until 1721, when a permanent colony was established under Danish-Norwegian partnership for trade and missionization. As a permanent connection with the Europeans was established, just like all of the indigenous people groups, the diseases which the inhabitants of the Arctic had no immunity to wiped out almost one-third of the population. After the initial contact, a tale of unfortunate colonisation started with Danish expansion into Greenland and Russian expansion firstly into Siberia and later into Alaska. When the Russians sold Alaska to the USA and British Canadians started to venture out to the north in the latter half of the 19th century, this wave of “second” expansion was carried out, which was often accompanied by an

unfortunate tale of assimilation and oppression of the indigenous people groups living there.

With the rapid advance of technology during the beginning of the 20th century, the potential of the region was slowly realised with discoveries of many precious resources present and limited economic development was also present regarding the new opportunities present. Despite the promising start, the strategic potential of the region was not fully comprehended until the Second World War. During the war, especially the regions closer to mainland Europe and the Atlantic Ocean suddenly became a major area of a clash between the great powers because of its strategic importance. After the launch of Operation Barbarossa in the summer of 1941 and succeeding years, supplies originating from all over the world flocked to ports in Great Britain and Iceland and were later transported to the USSR by convoys following a northern route cutting straight through the Arctic. This led to the heavy militarisation of the area from both sides, by constructing radar and weather stations, expanding port capabilities and defences, and stationing considerable military power, such as Nazis, which stationed the majority of its capital ships available to intercept the convoys. Over the course of the Second World War, the Arctic preserved its importance for both sides and was eventually one of the key factors in breaking the resistance of the Axis Powers and bringing the war to a much deserved and necessary end.

4.3. Cold War and Militarisation

With the end of the most bloody war in human history and the world strolling into a new kind of conflict, which had less “kinetic” energy, the importance of the Arctic was undeniable by both sides. Sitting directly between the two global and nuclear superpowers, a long-range bomber base, ICBM battery or nuclear attack submarine stationed in the region would threaten almost all the major cities of the opposing party. Because of this imminent threat, immediately after the end of the Second World War, there was a huge arming of the Arctic, by building articulate military bases on the desolate and frozen rocks of the Arctic which could house advanced radar and missile systems, long-range bombers, nuclear and non-nuclear missile batteries and nuclear submarines. One of the, mostly, unforeseen side effects of the armament was that the money poured into these installations created the third major industry in the region after fishing and mineral extraction centred around military bases.

Amidst the tensions associated with the Arctic build up and stemming from the general atmosphere at the time, the first place where the USA and the USSR cooperated in any significant way after the Second World War was the scientific research initiatives concerning the Arctic. Starting during the 1950s, and later expanded during the 1980s, the scientific missions carried out in cooperation with the USA and USSR supplied some of the first data on the severity of climate change in the Arctic and contributed heavily to our understanding of the complex ecosystems present.

Although the Arctic situation was tense through Cold War, tensions eased during the last decade of the millennium by virtue of the “elimination” of one of the

biggest powers in the region, military budget cuts implemented in the USA and the establishment of The Arctic Council, a council made up of countries that hold territory inside the Arctic (Canada, Denmark, USA, Russia, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden), observer states made up of non-arctic countries, and, intergovernmental, interparliamentary and non-governmental organisations.

4.4. Reemergence into the World Stage

After the period of reconciliation in the 80s and the eventual fall of the USSR, and with the endorsement of numerous de-nuclearisation of the military treaties and Strategic Arms Reduction Treaties (START), the general atmosphere of the globe had cooled substantially and this trend had positive effects on the ongoing Arctic arms race.

Unfortunately, not all things last forever, and the consequences of the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Centre compelled the USA to ditch the ABM Treaty in 2002 and modernize her nuclear capabilities and her antiballistic defences, thus ushering in a new age of increasing tensions with Russia and a new participant, China. Adding salt to injury, with the restart of patrols in the Arctic with long-range bombers through the orders of the Kremlin in 2007, which marked the beginning of the Russian expansion into the Arctic.

Although the tensions seemed to be scaling down with the negotiations and the subsequent signing of the new START treaty, in 2009 and 2010 respectively, as a part of a general trend to reconcile relations with Russia under the Obama administration, the Russian annexation of Crimea and military activities in Donbas resulted in the evanescing of all the results of the initiation and further ramped up tensions between Russia and the NATO, which resulted in more distrust between the

parties, culminating in the withdrawal from JCPOA (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, a.k.a. the Iran Nuclear Deal) in 2018, the INF Treaty in 2019, and the Open Skies Treaty in 2020, which outcome was rather precarious considering there is currently only one bilateral treaty between the USA and Russia, the new START signed in 2010, which, although was extended for 5 years, intended to expire in 2026, carry serious doubts on the possibility of an extension, meaning that when the new START expires, there will be no barriers for a possible and de-stabilising arms race.

Currently, Russia is undergoing a massive build-up of military assets in the region, by reopening 50 previously closed Soviet-era military posts, which includes the refurbishment of 13 air bases, 10 radar stations, 20 border outposts, and 10 integrated emergency rescue stations in the Arctic. In addition to activating old bases, Russia, in 2014, created the Northern Fleet with a very capable arsenal of surface and sub-surface navy assets, cruise missiles and coastal troops, supported by independent Russian Airforce assets and special Army Arctic corps. Also, Russia possesses one of the most numerous and capable ice-breaker fleets on the globe, consisting of both nuclear and non-nuclear quantities, more than 40 icebreakers (for information, the USA only has two), some of them armed with Kalibr cruise missiles and electronic warfare systems, which supplements the capabilities of the Russian military in the region drastically. There also has been an abundance of military exercises from both sides involving ICBMs, nuclear submarines, cruise missile destroyers, special ground troops and bombers, all indicating a rising temperature in the region.

4.5. Environmental Concerns

Being one of the few places on Earth to not be exploited by humans to its fullest and containing little to no permanent human settlements inside its borders, we can safely proclaim that the Arctic environment is special; large parts of it can be preserved if necessary steps are taken, today.

The dangers to the Arctic environment and the ecosystems can be summarised into a few major points: Climate change, ecosystem destruction and nuclear activities-resource extraction from the region. Since climate change cannot be specified in the Arctic region and requires worldwide solutions, it would be fugitive to address the issue here. The main objective concerning the environment should be to limit the ecosystem destruction by limiting or eliminating practices such as overfishing, deforestation and pollution and resource extraction, especially hydro-carbon, thus preserving the environment intact for future generations.

4.6. Timeline

Below is a timeline highlighting the important events in the debacle since the Cold War, aiming to be helpful in conceptualising the matter at hand.

1972: Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty

1987: Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty

25th December 1991: The dissolution of the USSR

5 December 1994: START I (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty)

19th September 1996: Formation of the Arctic Council

11th September 2002: 9/11 terrorist attacks targeting the World Trade Centre

2002: Withdrawal from the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty by the USA

2007: Deployment of long-range bombers in the Arctic by Russia

8th April 2010: The New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START)

18th March 2014: Annexation of Crimea by Russia

2018: The Trident Juncture exercises by NATO

2018: Withdrawal from JCPOA (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action) by the USA

2019: Withdrawal from Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty by the USA

August 2019: Failed test and subsequent explosion of the 9M730 Burevestnik nuclear-powered cruise missile in Nyonoksa

2020: Withdrawal from the Open Skies Treaty

5th February 2021: Renewal of The New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START)

3rd March 2021: B1 deployments to Norway's Ørland Air Station by the USA

5. Questions to be covered

- Can Afghanistan be stable and secure without international support?
- What are the challenges of the peace process?
- Was the decision to withdraw from RSM advantageous or disadvantageous?
- Is NATO experiencing 'Brain Death'?
- Is it realistic to build a new International Security Organisation to replace NATO?
- How can Europe maintain its security without NATO's and the USA's umbrella?
- How can NATO respond to the Russian build-up in the Arctic?
- How can the disputes in the Arctic be solved peacefully and justly?
- What is the role of NATO in the Arctic?

6. References

- https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_8189.htm
- <https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9241/CBP-9241.pdf>
- <https://www.history.com/topics/21st-century/9-11-attacks>

- https://www.nato.int/nato_static_fl2014/assets/pdf/2021/5/pdf/2105-backgrounder-ana-e.pdf
- <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/arctic/>
- <https://www.britannica.com/place/Arctic/History-of-settlement>
- <https://www.csis.org/features/ice-curtain-russias-arctic-military-presence>
- <https://api.army.mil/e2/c/downloads/2021/03/15/9944046e/regaining-arctic-dominance-us-army-in-the-arctic-19-january-2021-unclassified.pdf>
- https://oaarchive.arctic-council.org/bitstream/handle/11374/2587/annualreport2020_web.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y
- <https://www.thearcticinstitute.org/fisheries-disputes-real-potential-arctic-conflict/>
- <https://www.thearcticinstitute.org/knowledge-power-greenland-great-powers-lessons-second-world-war/>
- <https://arcticyearbook.com/arctic-yearbook/2019/2019-commentaries/325-a-new-cold-war-in-the-arctic-the-old-one-never-ended>
- <https://www.thearcticinstitute.org/impact-post-arms-control-context-great-power-competition-arctic/>
- <https://www.thearcticinstitute.org/environmental-detente-learn-cold-war-manage-todays-arctic-tensions-climate-crisis/>

