



MODEL UNITED  
NATIONS  
CONFERENCE - JULY 2023



# NATO

The North Atlantic Treaty  
Organization

## **Letter from the Executive Board (EB)**

We are very pleased to welcome you to the simulation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) at DPSHMUN 2023. It will be an honour and a privilege to serve as your Executive Board for the duration of the conference. This background guide is designed to give you an insight into the case at hand.

However, bear in mind that this Background Guide is in no way exhaustive and is only meant to provide you with enough background information to establish a platform for beginning your research. Delegates are highly recommended to do a good amount of research beyond what is covered in the guide.

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## **Committee Overview**

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), based in Brussels, Belgium, is a military alliance of countries in North America and Europe, was established based on the principle that the security of each region is inextricably linked to the other's. Towards the end of the Second World War, Allied countries were also occupied with establishing a security regime to ensure the peace and prosperity of North America and Europe. In August 1941, President Franklin Roosevelt of the United States and Prime Minister Winston Churchill of the United Kingdom met to sign the Atlantic Charter. The Atlantic Charter pledged its signatories to uphold the principles of self determination, free trade, and non-aggression, amongst other democratic ideals.

European Allied countries also began to grow weary of the threat from the Soviet Union, who was part of the Allied powers during the war. Citing fears of German resurgence and Soviet invasion, the United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands signed the 1948 Treaty of Brussels, creating the basis of the military alliance. Citing fears

of German resurgence and Soviet invasion, the United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Luxembourg and Netherlands signed the 1948 Treaty of Brussels, creating the basis of the military alliance. The Atlantic Charter and the Treaty of Brussels would come together in 1949, when Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom, the United States and the Benelux countries convened in Washington DC to sign the North Atlantic Treaty forming the NATO in April 1949.

The North Atlantic Treaty is anchored in the principles of collective security and containment.

#### **Article V of the treaty**

affirms that “an armed attack against one or more [Member State] shall be considered an attack against them all” and as such Member States of NATO can choose to react individually or collectively under NATO.

## Key Terms

### **NATO**

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, founded in 1949 is an alliance between countries from North America and Europe, with the goal of safeguarding the member states' freedom and security.

### **Sovereignty**

The authority of a state to govern itself or another state, without infringement upon authority by another state or entity.

### **Former Soviet States**

One of the 15 states that were previously union republics of the Soviet Union, including Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus (previously Belorussia), Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan (previously Kirgyzya), Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova (previously Moldavia), Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

### **Nationalism**

Nationalism is an ideology that identifies and supports one's own nation, and may also lead to the admonishment of the interests of other nations.

## **Self-Determination**

Self-determination denotes the legal right of people to decide their own destiny in the international order. Self-determination is a core principle of international law, arising from customary international law, but also recognized as a general principle of law, and enshrined in a number of international treaties.

## **Article V of the charter of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation**

An armed attack against one or more of members 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 will assist the Party or Parties so attacked by taking action as deemed necessary, including the use of armed force, to restore and maintain the security of the North Atlantic area.

## **Historical Information**

The region of Eastern Europe, an area of approximately 20 million km<sup>2</sup>, has experienced severe infringements on each individual state's national sovereignty. Many different issues have occurred in these states, and many with the aim of ridding the state of its national sovereignty.

States within the region of Eastern Europe are historically ones which have experienced infringements on their rights to national sovereignty, especially those which are former Soviet States. Be it due to differing parties, all-out conflict, or war, their right to govern themselves have been threatened, and are in danger of being threatened again. In modern times, it is inevitable that conflicts will arise, both within a country, and between two states. These growing threats must be guarded against, especially as technology and general awareness is increasing on a global level. This increased awareness of global issues should be taken advantage of, when global powers can be brought together in order to increase the quality of life, and decrease levels of suffering, on an international level.

## **World War II**

This dates back to the time of World War 2. During the Nazi occupation of Eastern Europe, nations such as Poland and Ukraine were victims of brutal Nazi rule. This includes the fact that the civilians were resettle forcibly, serving as a forced labourer, and being killed once they had no more use. This inhumane treatment of the citizens continued until the end of the war, and its effects lasted long after. The forced labourers were manhandled from their homes, brought to liquidated POW camps which were being used as transit camps, and transported to their work assignments. This takeover was not just of the citizens, however, as most government spaces had been taken over under the Nazi rule. Partisan and resistance groups developed, of many former military personnel and government staff, and they achieved many significant milestones, such as the assassination of Nazi Reinhard Heydrich in Prague. These rebellions made a difference, but the government spaces were virtually impenetrable, and the countries struggled to keep any power as individual nations.

## **Communist Takeovers**

Once the war had concluded, the countries had taken a hit. The populations had declined, the quality of life deteriorated, and any pre-war democratic leadership had been destroyed. This war-torn atmosphere was ripe for more manipulation, which came in the form of national communist parties. Helped by Joseph Stalin, the parties promised the countries an era of prosperity under their system. They quickly gained power of governments, and established 'People's Democracies'. This led to the development of complete monopolies of political power, the communist parties in each country owning all means of production, and any criticism or rebellion against the party was immediately disallowed.

This complete takeover of the countries in Eastern Europe continued on for years, completely ridding the countries of their national sovereignty, and any independence outside of the control of the communist parties. After the death of Stalin, dissent began to fester, even in the wake of the signing of the Warsaw Pact. However, it was only in 1989, with the fall of the Berlin Wall that the fall of communism truly occurred. The Berlin Wall being torn down acted as a symbol of destroying the division of Europe, and although it certainly didn't mark the absolute

end of the hyper-controlling communist parties everywhere, it served as a milestone in the years of rebellion, and as a symbol of hope for these countries' independence.

The first states to declare their independence were Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, all between March and May 1990. Other Eastern European states followed suit in the coming years, although the issues that arose with the communist takeover still remained.

### **Conflict between Russia and Ukraine**

A very recent example of an attempt to infringe upon an Eastern European country's national sovereignty, is the conflict between nations Russia and Ukraine, in which one party attempted to make another their satellite state.

In 2014, Russian troops took control of the Ukrainian region of Crimea, the leader of Russia, Vladimir Putin, said that this was due to a need to protect Russian citizens and speakers who resided in that area. Soon after, the annexation of Crimea followed, with the citizens voting to join the Russian Federation. The ethnic divisions that had already existed between citizens of both countries were heightened by this conflict, and it sparked lots of conflict in the regions of eastern Ukraine that some considered as property of Russia. These conflicts continued on, between Russian-backed forces and the Ukrainian military. These tensions continued for years, heading to the point where NATO deployed battalions to countries in Eastern Europe that they suspected Russia might turn their aggression towards, including Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland.

In early 2022, Russian forces began to invade Ukraine, the aim being to “demilitarise and de-Nazify Ukraine” (quote from Vladimir Putin, in a speech regarding the reason for the invasion). According to the leader of Russia, Ukrainians and Russians are one people, and that Russia should be in charge of these countries, following a nationalistic mindset that has historically been attributed to Russia. Many have speculated that the true reason for this invasion is due to the fact that Ukraine had been forging ties with NATO in the previous years, which Russia saw as an infringement of their sovereignty, due to the proximity of the two countries.

The invasion, which at time of writing continued for 11 months, has consisted of evacuations in regions of Ukraine, multiple individual armed conflicts, and much interference with independent media reporting on the conflict.

These conflicts exemplify the multiple threats that have been made on various Eastern European states to infringe upon their national sovereignty. Having taken these into account, it is clear that there must be safeguards put in place to ensure that these states' national sovereignty are protected and reinforced.

### **Past Efforts**

NATO has attempted to aid Eastern European countries in warding against threats towards their national sovereignty. One example of this is in April 2016, when four battalions were sent to protect various states in the area against possible attacks from Russia, similar to the attacks that were occurring in Ukraine at the time.

Unfortunately, other attempts towards resolving have either been unsuccessful, or unattempted due to lasting alliances between external nations/organisations and the aggressor in a conflict. For example, the United States of America refrained from stepping in during the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, due to their ties with Russia. This shows that there is all the more need for an external solution that does not involve other countries, which may muddy the waters on our way to a solution.

### **Relevant Documents**

- Maintenance of international security - good-neighborliness, stability and development of South-Eastern Europe, 27 October 2000 (A/RES/55/27)
- Development of good-neighborly relations among Balkan States, 8 November 2000 (A/55/552)
- Respect for the principles of national sovereignty and diversity of democratic systems in electoral processes as an important element for the promotion and protection, 22 March 2004 (A/54/168)



## Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
December 30th, 1922	The Soviet republics before it was dissolved. Union was formed, with the countries Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia, though it would contain up to 15
June 22nd, 1941	The German invasion of the Soviet Union begins.
June 4th, 1942	Nazi Reinhard Heydrich is assassinated by soldiers of the Czechoslovak Army.
1947-1948	Communist parties in many Eastern European states establish 'People's Democracies'.
March 5th, 1953	Joseph Stalin, leader of the Soviet Union dies from a stroke.
May 14th, 1955	The Warsaw Pact is established between many Eastern European states.
November 9th, 1989	The fall of the Berlin Wall.
February 20th, 2014	The Russian military operation in Crimea begins.
March 18th, 2014	The formal annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation is concluded.
April 2016	NATO deploys 4 battalions to Eastern Europe, to deter possible future aggression against those states
February 24th, 2022	Russian troops invade Ukraine.

## Issues to Consider

1. Accession of Ukraine to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and the Ukraine-Russia conflict
2. NATO's military presence in Eastern Europe and the question of protecting against Russian aggression