**Ukraine AFF**

**[Security Increase]** If Ukraine does not join NATO, then it is at risk of being taken over by Russia. Russia has already made military advancements on Ukraine and pro- Russian rebels have been driving Ukraine to an economic collapse.

**Jens Stoltenberg Prime Minister of Norway and Security General of NATO** speech given on October 30, 2014 [http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/opinions\_114266.htm?selectedLocale=en]

First, I would like to underline that what we saw yesterday just confirms a pattern that we have seen during the last year. That is a pattern with an increased air activity by the Russian air force along NATO's borders. **We have seen increased air activity by Russia**. But NATO remains vigilant and ready to respond. So the numbers of intercepts by NATO aircraft to intercept Russian aircrafts have also increased substantially**. Actually, doing last year... so far this year, it has been over 100 intercepts of Russian aircrafts. And that's more than three times as much as we had during the whole of last year. So we have seen a substantial increase.** But we are doing what we are supposed to do. We intercept. We are ready. And we react. We are not in a Cold War situation. But the behavior of Russia has undermined a lot of trust and has rolled back very much what we have tried to create as a more cooperative and constructive relationship between Russia and NATO ever since the end of the Cold War and fall the Berlin Wall.

[**Stopping Economic Collapse**] Ukraine already has a weak economy. If the crisis continues, Ukraine is headed for a huge economic collapse. This instability is a risk to the world’s economy as a whole.

**Mark Thompson and Gregory Wallace reporters for CNN Money**

Ukraine crisis: Why it matters to the world economy March 3, 2014 [http://money.cnn.com/2014/03/02/news/economy/ukraine-economy/index.html]

European and world trade could be impacted: **The impact could be felt beyond Europe if the world's supply of grain is impacted. Ukraine is one of the world's top exporters of corn and wheat, and prices could rise even on concern those exports could halt.**

And the current political uprising was fueled by the government's handling of a trade agreement that would have brought Ukraine closer to the European Union. The government cut off negotiations in November amid pressure from Russia, which offered discounts on natural gas if Ukraine signed a pact with Moscow's Customs Union.

[**Increase Security**] If Ukraine joins NATO, Ukraine will be able to receive military aid more effectively.

Thomas Reuters of CBC News August 29, 2014 Ukraine seeks NATO membership to gain Western military aid

 NATO countries including the United States have repeatedly said they would **be prepared to go to** **war to protect any member**, but **not to defend non-member** Ukraine.

**Ukraine Neg**

[**Russia Mad**] If Ukraine were to join NATO, then the situation in Ukraine will escalate and possibly lead to nuclear war.

Adam Taylor reporter for Washington Post September 4, 2014 [http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/worldviews/wp/2014/09/04/that-time-ukraine-tried-to-join-nato-and-nato-said-no/]

**The Kremlin has warned that if Ukraine attempted to join NATO, any chances for peace would be derailed.**

It's a problem for NATO. But in an alternative universe, the problem would be very different. That's because Ukraine would already be a NATO member, with its 2008 application to join the military alliance winning acceptance. Ukraine's NATO application is worth revisiting, and not just to ponder theoretical "what if" scenarios. The application and the events that followed reveal a number of factors that are relevant to Ukraine's ongoing crisis. Ukraine has had a partnership with NATO since the 1990s, sending troops to work with the alliance in Iraq and Afghanistan, but the nature of the partnership remained loose. President Viktor Yushchenko hoped to change that. He had been swept to power during the 2004-2005 Orange Revolution, protests that were prompted by reports of electoral fraud. Yushchenko promised the protesters a future that did away with Ukraine's corrupt, Kremlin-dominated past. Much like Georgia, another former Soviet state seeking to shake off Russian influence, Ukraine saw NATO membership as one route to independence and sought membership in 2008. President George W. Bush was a supporter of Yushchenko's plan. "Your country has made a bold decision," he said during a visit to Ukraine in April, "and the United States strongly supports your request." Both Sens. Barack Obama and John McCain, who were candidates in the upcoming presidential election, announced their support. Russia, however, was openly hostile to Ukrainian membership in NATO. The Kremlin opposed any eastward expansion of the alliance, and Russian President Vladimir Putin warned that NATO membership would force Russia to treat Ukraine as an enemy. **"It is horrible to say and even horrible to think that, in response to the deployment of [NATO missile facilities] in Ukrainian territory, which cannot theoretically be ruled out, Russia could target its missile systems at Ukraine," Putin when Yushchenko visited the Kremlin in February 2008. "We are opposed to the entry of Georgia and Ukraine because we think that it is not a good answer to the balance of power within Europe and between Europe and Russia," French Prime Minister François Fillon reportedly said in a radio interview**. That consternation proved vital. During NATO's 2008 summit in Bucharest, Romania, the issue was discussed and, after opposition from France and Germany, a decision was made to offer neither Ukraine nor Georgia a NATO Membership Action Plan (MAP) — essentially a path for Ukraine to receive membership — at that moment. Vague promises of NATO membership in the future were made, but the United States later appeared to drop its support for NATO membership for Ukraine and Georgia. Russia's brief war with Georgia in August 2008 helped underscore the decision's importance, but NATO and Ukraine held further talks in December.

**"We don't want to return back to the Russian security system," Oleksandr Chalyi, a foreign policy adviser to Yushchenko, told The Post in 2008. If NATO rebuffs Ukraine, he added, it would mean that "the last page of the Cold War is not turned."**

[**Unstable**] The economy in Ukraine is unstable and can collapse. Joining NATO is just another burden for the alliance to carry.

**Heritage.org [**http://www.heritage.org/index/country/Ukraine**]**

Ukraine’s economic freedom score is 49.3, making its economy the 155th freest in the 2014 Index. Its score is 3.0 points higher than last year, with notable increases in five of the 10 economic freedoms including business freedom, control of public spending, and monetary freedom**. Ukraine is ranked last out of 43 countries in the Europe region, and its overall score is lower than the world average.**

Over the 20-year history of the Index, Ukraine’s economic freedom score has advanced by over 9 points. Score increases in half of the 10 economic freedoms include particular gains in monetary stability and openness to global trade and more moderate progress in fiscal freedom and the elimination of corruption.

**Nonetheless, Ukraine’s economy remains “repressed.” Deeper institutional reforms are critical for the achievement of more broadly based development. The inefficient legal framework remains highly vulnerable to political interference, and corruption further undermines the fragile rule of law.**

**Corruption, one of Ukraine’s most serious problems, continues to worsen. Business magnates benefit financially from their close association with top politicians.** In 2012, a new law eliminated transparency requirements for public procurement. The judiciary is subject to intense political pressure and largely carries out the will of the executive branch. **Contracts are not well enforced, and expropriation is always a possibility.**

**[Bad Relations]** Ukraine has bad relationships Russia making all countries paart of the alliance jeopardized if Ukraine were to join.

In an interview an of Americas Top Expert on Russia and Professor at Princeton University Stephen Cohen September 7, 2014 [http://www.washingtonsblog.com/2014/09/top-russia-expert-ukraine-joins-nato-will-cause-nuclear-war.html]

**Interviewer:] The possibility of Ukraine in NATO and what that means and what—**

**STEPHEN COHEN: Nuclear war.**

[Interviewer:] Explain.

STEPHEN COHEN: **Next question. I mean, it’s clear. It’s clear. First of all, by NATO’s own rules, Ukraine cannot join NATO, a country that does not control its own territory. In this case, Kiev controls less and less by the day. It’s lost Crimea. It’s losing the Donbas—I just described why—to the war. A country that does not control its own territory cannot join Ukraine [sic]. Those are the rules.**

[Interviewer:] Cannot join—STEPHEN COHEN: **I mean, NATO. Secondly, you have to meet certain economic, political and military criteria to join NATO. Ukraine meets none of them. Thirdly, and most importantly, Ukraine is linked to Russia not only in terms of being Russia’s essential security zone, but it’s linked conjugally, so to speak, intermarriage. There are millions, if not tens of millions, of Russian and Ukrainians married together. Put it in NATO, and you’re going to put a barricade through millions of families. Russia will react militarily.**

In fact, Russia is already reacting militarily, because look what they’re doing in Wales today. **They’re going to create a so-called rapid deployment force of 4,000 fighters. What is 4,000 fighters? Fifteen thousand or less rebels in Ukraine are crushing a 50,000-member Ukrainian army. Four thousand against a million-man Russian army,** it’s nonsense. The real reason for creating the so-called rapid deployment force is they say it needs infrastructure. And the infrastructure—that is, in plain language is military bases—need to be on Russia’s borders. And they’ve said where they’re going to put them: in the Baltic republic, Poland and Romania.

Now, why is this important? Because NATO has expanded for 20 years, but it’s been primarily a political expansion, bringing these countries of eastern Europe into our sphere of political influence; now it’s becoming a military expansion. So, within a short period of time, we will have a new—well, **we have a new Cold War, but here’s the difference. The last Cold War, the military confrontation was in Berlin, far from Russia. Now it will be, if they go ahead with this NATO decision, right plunk on Russia’s borders. Russia will then leave the historic nuclear agreement that Reagan and Gorbachev signed in 1987 to abolish short-range nuclear missiles. It was the first time nuclear—a category of nuclear weapons had ever been abolished.** Where are, by the way, the nuclear abolitionists today? Where is the grassroots movement, you know, FREEZE, SANE? Where have these people gone to? Because we’re looking at a new nuclear arms race. Russia moves these intermediate missiles now to protect its own borders, as the West comes toward Russia. And the tripwire for using these weapons is enormous.