



Study Guide

North Atlantic Treaty Organization



Agenda:

Discussing NATO's influence on the
Asia-Pacific Region

Bureau:

Manya
Shah

Rashi
Soni

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LETTER FROM THE BUREAU

Dear Delegates,

We are delighted to welcome you all to the first iteration of the Shishukunj North Campus MUN'23. The specialised committee of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation will be focusing on the agenda "The Increasing Influence of NATO in the Asia-Pacific Region."

The committee aims to focus on the present scenario of NATO's constant expansion towards the East. The committee also seeks to discuss the threat possible superpowers like Russia and China are posing to not only NATO, but to the entire world through their unwillingness to respect NATO's ideology which is to support any nation in need of aid in times of crisis.

Deliberating upon NATO's strategic increment of influence throughout the globe will enhance your understanding of international relations and tensions. We hope this agenda and this committee turns out to be fruitful for you as developing delegates.

We would like to emphasise on a few points you need to take care of as responsible delegates. We encourage original thinking and creativity especially during crises. Moreover, plagiarism will not be entertained in this committee. We expect you to be well researched on every aspect of the agenda and hope to see you flourish during the committee.

We have designed this guide to help you understand the agenda in depth but remember that this guide simply shows you a direction to research and we urge you to study beyond this!

Looking forward to a fruitful and fun learning experience!

All the best!

Regards,

Chairperson- Manya Shah

Vice Chairperson- Rashi Soni

KEYWORDS

1. **NATO** : North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
2. **Asia-Pacific** : an economic sphere consisting of the whole of Asia as well as the countries of the Pacific Rim
3. **QUAD** : the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue is a strategic security discussion alliance between Australia, Japan, India and the United States
4. **AUKUS**: a trilateral security agreement between UK, USA and Australia
5. **Five eyes** : Five eyes or FVEY is an corporate intelligence network between Canada, USA, UK, New Zealand and Australia
6. **Warsaw Pact** : A treaty signed between the USSR and Eastern Bloc nations of Europe that was dissolved in 1991
7. **MNNAs** : Major non-NATO allies
8. **ASEAN Nations** : The Association of Southeast Asian Nations
9. **South China Sea**: A marginal sea of the Western Pacific Ocean that borders the South Asian Landmass. South China borders it in the north, Taiwan and the Philippines in the east, Malaysia in the south and Vietnam in the west.'
10. **NPT**: Non- Proliferation Treaty is an international treaty whose objective is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons
11. **Cold War**: The Cold War was a period of geopolitical tension between the United States and the Soviet Union and their respective allies, the Western Bloc and the Eastern Bloc.
12. **Sino-** The prefix refers to anything related to China
13. **Liaison-** communication or cooperation which facilitates a close working relationship between people or organisations.
14. **Non-Proliferation Treaty-** The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty was an agreement signed in 1968 by several of the major nuclear and non-nuclear powers that pledged their cooperation in stemming the spread of nuclear technology
15. **Pivot to Asia**: This term refers to the U.S. government's strategic shift towards the Asia-Pacific region in terms of diplomatic, economic, and military engagement. The pivot is intended to maintain stability and promote economic growth in the region, and to counter the rising influence of China.

INTRODUCTION

In the past century, formations and dissolutions of various military, political and economic alliances have modified diplomatic dynamics. These alliances have helped stop and prevent various wars but have also widened the gap between emerging powers and superpowers of the world. NATO's involvement in these matters is important to prevent World War 3 at this point in time. The way NATO influences the world's politics needs to be discussed and regulated to maintain peace in this world.

NATO's increasing influence in the Asia-Pacific region is playing a huge part in framing present world politics and relations. This influence holds the potential to begin and end wars between the east and the west. The past cold wars and armed wars can repeat, foreign relations with Asian superpowers and other nation states are continuously changing and becoming tense. Reviewing and amending past treaties and strengthening relations with Asian nations is vital for NATO to sustain its power.

HISTORY AND STRUCTURE OF THE COMMITTEE:

NATO is a security alliance of 31 countries from North America and Europe, formed in 1949 with the signing of the Washington Treaty. Its fundamental goal is to safeguard the member states' freedom and security by political and military means. It is the practical means by which the transatlantic community expresses its shared democratic values. NATO, which continues to be the transatlantic community's major security tool, is evidence of the effectiveness of collective defence.

For many years, it has contributed to maintaining peace and stability in Europe and elsewhere. NATO's commitment to collective defence is unwavering, and its members continue to work together to protect the security of all its members.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization's structure is intricate and multifaceted. The North Atlantic Council (NAC) serves as the decision-making body, and representatives from the member states sit on the Defence Policy and Planning Committee (DPDC) and Nuclear Planning Group (NPG). Below that, the civilian International Staff of NATO, which is organised into administrative divisions, offices, and other organisations, is under the direction of the Secretary General of NATO.

STATEMENT OF THE AGENDA

The Asia-Pacific region, which spans from Central Asia and the Islamic Republic of Iran in the west to Kiribati in the east and from Mongolia in the north to New Zealand in the south, is typically divided into five subregions: South Asia, Southeast Asia, Northeast Asia, Central Asia, and the Pacific. This region is described as a strategic trading hub, a crucial sea route for energy demands, infrastructure, and global commons, and the epicentre of global maritime trade with an estimated 60% of the global commons sailing through this area.

As the "growth centre" of the world economy, this area is predicted to continue to grow at one of the fastest rates in the world, leading to this region becoming the engine of the global economy. By 2025, it is expected that the economies of the Asia-Pacific region as a whole will be larger than those of Western Europe and the Americas (North and South).

Keeping these and future developments in mind, NATO's new Strategic Concept considers the Asia-Pacific to be an area of interest as these developments may directly affect the security of the Euro-Atlantic. China's actions, its policies which pose a threat to maritime security and access to global sea trade and its expansion of dominance in various other spheres in the region are a major cause of concern for NATO. These issues have caused various NATO members and the EU to form specific strategies for the region in defence of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific.

NATO has expanded its influence in the region by forming relations with countries like Australia, Japan, Mongolia, New Zealand, Pakistan and the Republic of Korea. Certain NATO members have also contributed to this influence via partnerships with countries in the Indo Pacific through mechanism such as the 'Five Eyes', the Five Power Defence Agreement, QUAD and the AUKUS.'

This expansion by NATO is mainly designed to contain China's expansion and ensure the security of the trans-Atlantic region. Although these actions of NATO have been criticised by China, North Korea, etc. certain countries feel the need for these keeping in mind the past actions and current policies of China especially its alliance with Russia in the Russo-Ukrainian conflict, the Taiwan conflict and its military operations and bases in the South China Sea. This makes the question of whether NATO's expansion in the Asia-Pacific is justified a must to be discussed along with the implications and consequences of these actions.

HISTORY OF THE AGENDA

Post World War II, following the formation of NATO, the USSR initiated the formation of the Warsaw Pact which was a military alliance of communist countries in Eastern Europe, formed in 1955 in response to the creation of NATO by Western countries. The members of the Warsaw Pact included the Soviet Union, Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland, and Romania. After the USSR disintegrated, the Warsaw Pact was dissolved in 1991, in the expectation that NATO would follow suit. Instead of dissolving, NATO kept its memberships open which was and is a great threat to Russian security. This action intensified tensions between the two.

Shortly after, former Warsaw Pact states joined NATO. This was perceived as an action to indicate the end of the cold war but for Russia, it was simply a greater threat. NATO eventually made its presence prominent in the Eastern Bloc of Europe.

The threat NATO posed to the east was comprehended way before the 1990s, during the South Korean War in the 1950s. The South Korean War was a series of events that shaped North Korea and South Korea. Much like the present, North Korea was backed by China, USSR and their allies while South Korea was backed by the UN, NATO and major non-nato allies (MNNAs). The Korean War was a turning point in the history of NATO, mostly because the conflict led to the massive increase from the US military assistance which further caused the reconstruction of NATO and the expansion of the alliance towards the eastern bloc¹.

The Soviet Union's active involvement in the Korean War further surged the western powers to strengthen their military alliances for collective defence against the perceived threat of Soviet aggression and NATO expanded more towards east Europe and started influencing the Asian region. This was the first instance where NATO displayed its influence in the Asia-Pacific region. Since the 1950s, NATO has increased its influence in this region in spheres of economy and military both.

Furthermore, in 1999, NATO bombed the Chinese Embassy amidst the ethnic crisis in Yugoslavia. When investigated, US intelligence stated that NATO had misidentified the Chinese Embassy as a Yugoslav property. The CIA identified it as a warehouse for suspected arms proliferation activity. The bombing was a clear mistake. Many such mistakes have been committed by the Chinese government in NATO territory but NATO rarely took action. This followed repercussions.

In the past few decades, ever since NATO's formation, its influence throughout the world has shaped world politics and diplomacy making the agenda vital to be discussed.

WAR AND CONFLICTS IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC

NATO believes that threats and risks to its security nowadays can emanate from anywhere and in order to fight these, it must become a global alliance including Asia countries and international organisations. The effects of various previous armed conflicts in the Asia-Pacific like the Sino-Indian conflicts, Indo-Pakistani conflicts and the ongoing Russo-Ukrainian conflict have led to NATO realising that the defence, economic and cultural threats they pose to it are not avoidable or easily ignored.

Considering this, NATO's primary objective for expansion in the Asia-Pacific now seems to be the prevention of such conflicts in the future especially in the regions like the South China Sea where internationalisation of conflict seems a likely future seeing the various non-regional stakeholders involved.

According to an analysis by Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, "There are five different security environments that could emerge in the Asia-Pacific region over the next twenty-five years (in order of likelihood):

1. Status Quo Redux: Constrained economic and political competition alongside continuing cooperation
2. Asia-Pacific Cold War: Deepening regional bipolarization and militarization, driven by a worsening U.S.-China strategic and economic rivalry
3. Pacific Asia-Pacific: Reduced tension and increased U.S.-China and regional cooperation
4. Asian Hot Wars: Episodic but fairly frequent military conflict in critical hot spots, emerging against a cold war backdrop
5. Challenged Region: A region beset by social, economic, and political instability and unrest separate from U.S.-China competition"

To expand upon these scenarios, we shall keep in mind the present situations in the Asia-Pacific.

1. Status Quo Redux: Following the emerging trend of diplomatic competition across the globe, the Asia-Pacific nations will engage in economic and military competition while maintaining strategic relations. Suspensions regarding security and defence prevail with increasing U.S. involvement in economic, regional security and political sectors.

2. Asia-Pacific Cold War: Keeping in mind the current tense and worsening relations between USA and China, this scenario suggests an increasingly polarised Asia-Pacific caught in an aggressive arms race and virtually no trans-national cooperation.

3. Pacific Asia-Pacific: This scenario visualises a cooperation between China-USA peaceful resolutions and discussion on transnational issues with certain international limits and rules being implemented to maintain security, equity of power and reduce distrust amongst nations.
4. Asian Hot Wars: This second least likely arrangement observes an Asia Pacific divided due to pressurised polarisation between USA and China and much like the second scenario sees deteriorating cooperation. It pictures increased spending on defence and reduced and limited multilateral security alliances.
5. Challenged Region: Granting the wish of a few selective nations, this sees USA and China backing away a little but still does not guarantee absolute peace. It suggests an overwhelming increase in international issues and attempts to solve this through bilateral and multilateral diplomatic and security alliances.

Each of these scenarios suggests an increasing need for the NATO ideology to be implemented in this region and calls for better management of security and defence in the Asia Pacific. It also calls for a discussion on the threat China's actions pose for the future global economic hub.

China and USA's Cold War over influence in the Asia-Pacific could directly affect the security and economy of the European nations. China's rise in the economic sphere and manipulation of the geo-economics in its favour and USA's increased involvement in the region's security and its establishment of military bases and arms sale in the territory can negatively affect international peace.

This is what NATO feels justifies its involvement in the region to promote and successfully maintain balance of power and peace and for this purpose, provide aid militarily and in defence matters to any country in need. However, certain factors may lead to this act worsening the situation.

Countries like Russia, China, North Korea, etc. vehemently oppose NATO's eastward expansion and alliances formation. Russia's concern of its expansion limiting and threatening its own is what majorly fuels the conflict. While NATO's worsening and downright opposing strategy and actions with China remain a cause for concern.

Therefore, the involvement of NATO in the area raises apprehension over rising tensions and possible future conflicts like the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war with China replacing Russia in the scenario.

ASIAN-PACIFIC RELATIONS WITH NATO

NATO maintains a versatile relationship with Asia-Pacific nation states. With its expansion enduring in full scale, its relations strengthen and weaken simultaneously. Factoring NATO as an emerging power, majority Asian states endeavour a strong relationship with NATO for various bilateral benefits including military and economic security while other states like Russia and China condemn NATO expansion and demonstrate actions against it.

1. Relations with ASEAN nations and MNNA's in Asia-

Agenda 2030 of NATO primarily focuses on strengthening relations with nations in the Asia-Pacific Region. NATO believes that having a positive alliance with nations in this economic sphere is strategically vital for NATO taking into account the relations with Russia, China and also the need of these nations (especially ASEAN nations) to have a strong military backup amidst the South-China Sea, China-Taiwan crisis etc.

NATO hosted its first foreign ministers' meeting in December 2020 and discussed the shift of the economic sphere and the rise of China. From then on, NATO has hosted various such meetings.

NATO believes nations like Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Philippines etc. need a strong alliance with NATO to minimise threat from nations like China and Russia. This alliance is bilateral considering

NATO's interests in the Asia-Pacific. To act upon NATO's interests, NATO is planning to open its first liaison office in Asia, in Japan, to facilitate talks with security partners such as South Korea, Australia and New Zealand, with geopolitical challenges from China and Russia in mind, the Nikkei Asia reported on Wednesday, citing Japanese and NATO officials.

2. Relations with Russia -

Since the formation of NATO, its relations with this superpower have been unstable and unpleasant. Following the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact, the Russian government expected NATO to dissolve too. But instead, NATO kept its memberships open which was a stab on the back for Russia. NATO's expansion has always created tensions with Russia.

"Open door policy" being NATO's integral part in its formation, continues to justify NATO's necessary actions of expansion while Russia seeks nugatory and fictitious claims against NATO to protect its territory. In 2015, NATO placed its anti-missile system at the Deveselu military base in southern Romania to which Russia claims that it violated the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty. Russia perceives every legitimate NATO action as a "military" and "defence" threat to Russia but these actions of NATO are merely in the interest of self-defence simply

placed near the Russian subcontinent. The land-based missile-defence system has given rise to conflict between NATO and Russia since 2016.

To further worsen situations in Asia, the Russian invasion of Ukraine on 24 February, 2022 has created severe tensions between NATO and Russia. Since Russia began its aggressive actions against Ukraine, Russian officials have accused NATO of a series of threats and hostile actions. Moreover, Moscow claims NATO's nuclear sharing and nuclear activities with Ukraine violate the Non-Proliferation Treaty while the fact of the matter is it is Russia that is using its nuclear weapons as a tool of intimidation. Russia uses irresponsible nuclear rhetoric and has stepped up its nuclear exercises. Russia is also expanding its nuclear capabilities by investing in novel and destabilising weapons. This activity and this rhetoric do not contribute to transparency and predictability, particularly in the context of a changed security environment.

NATO's concerns regarding Russia go far beyond Ukraine to Georgia and Moldova significantly. Georgia being a Euro-Asian State holds an integral position in NATO relations with Asian nations. In 2008, Russia invaded Georgia while being well aware of the fact that the USA was conducting joint military activities which barely affected Russia. Invasion of Georgia resulted in the attack of an external body on a NATO member nation which deteriorated the relations. On this, John Herbst, Director (Eurasia Center) of the Atlantic Council says Moscow applies the lessons it learnt in Georgia today as it regularly moves the demarcation line between South Ossetia and the rest of Georgia a few metres further into the country.⁴

Following these events, NATO has constantly considered announcing contingency sanctions on Russia hence clearly displaying the unfriendly relationship of NATO and Russia.

3. Relations with China-

In the December 2019 session of NATO, the secretary General Jens Stoltenberg made repeated calls on the need for the alliance to adapt to a new challenge for NATO: China. "We have to address the fact that China is coming closer to us" in Africa, in the Arctic, in cyberspace, and even in Europe, he notably stressed to support his

case. This statement shows that the tensions between NATO and China have tremendously increased since the Yugoslavian bombing.

According to a study conducted by Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), China is not a direct threat to NATO but China's influence over its progressive military relationship with Russia and its expanding economic diplomatic sphere in Europe poses a threat to transatlantic security. The result of this is-

a. China owns about 10% of European port capacities which has complicated NATO's military mobility and spontaneity to respond to any kind of crisis.



b. China's development in modern military implications like long-range missiles, aircraft carriers, and nuclear attack submarines which can reportedly cause serious damage also increases a risk to NATO and NATO's allies throughout the globe.

c. BRI or Belt and Road Initiative, which was first introduced in Indonesia, then in Kazakhstan and Pakistan and recently in Afghanistan has been a contributing reason for the downfall of these nations. This initiative has been an open challenge to NATO's economic relations.

Initiatives like this, especially in the South China Sea, have created the situation of the South China Sea crisis and have caused severe suffering of major NATO ASEAN allies.

4) NATO +

In an effort to expand global defence cooperation while respecting its sphere of influence, NATO created NATO +, a group including NATO members with 5 MNAs- Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Israel and South Korea. This collaboration was made keeping in view mutual benefits like access to seamless intelligence in various areas of the world, access to latest military technology in times of crises and further strengthening NATO ties with Asian nations.

CYBER THREAT

There is a significant cyber threat between NATO, Russia, and China due to their well-known cyber capabilities and history of taking part in numerous cyberattacks.

The United States and other NATO nations have been the targets of hacking and misinformation efforts launched by Russian authorities, according to the charges. These attacks have all targeted important infrastructure, including transportation and electrical infrastructures, as well as political and military structures.

Additionally, China is accused of snooping online on NATO countries with the purpose to steal their defence and military technology. Chinese hackers have also attacked vital infrastructure and government organisations with the aim of collecting personal information and interfering with operations.

To address these cyberthreats, NATO established a Cyber Security Centre. According to a NATO assessment, cyberattacks on NATO members considerably increased in 2020, with an emphasis on taking advantage of the COVID-19 a pandemic According to the report, NATO networks and systems as well as crucial infrastructure including hospitals and research facilities were attacked by state-sponsored hackers and cybercriminals.

NATO noted an upsurge in phishing attempts in 2020, which made up more than 80% of all reported cyber incidents. The alliance has observed an increase in ransomware attacks targeting key infrastructure, such as hospitals, energy systems, and government institutions, in member nations.

CURRENT SCENARIO

Currently, the situation with Russia has been worsening due to the Ukraine scenario. Ukraine has been requesting for F-16 fighter jets from NATO nations and NATO nations understand the gravity of the situation. NATO realises that providing these jets to Ukraine would mean fueling the escalation of the war and thus understands Russia's concerns. However, Ukraine borders NATO's territory and its defence is important for NATO too. NATO suggests a joint allied training programme for Ukrainian pilots on F-16s. NATO tries to help Ukraine while also trying to consider Russia. Failing to appreciate this action, Russia's defence minister continues to threaten NATO nations and Ukraine clearly showing that the current relations of NATO and Russia are far from friendly.

Meanwhile, with China, relations of NATO are indirect. The economic potential of the South-China Sea is tremendous. According to UNCLOS, the claim of the South-China sea belongs to the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei but due to China's construction of artificial islands, China subsequently expands its claims. The Republic of the Philippines instituted arbitral proceedings against the People's Republic of China under Annex VII to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). NATO considers the Philippines an MNNA and states that NATO will be there to assist the Philippines in any war against China involving the South-China Sea Conflict.

Another NATO MNNA, Taiwan faces another major dispute with China where China claims Taiwan to be its territory. According to the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, Taiwan too shall receive assistance when asked for it in dispute with China.

With this, military tensions between the US and China escalate in the South China Sea. Continuous military activity of NATO nations in the region has aggravated China. Recently, a Chinese Navy warship was 'unsafely' close to US' destroyer within 137 metres in the Taiwan Strait. This statement was further slammed by China blaming the US for 'deliberately provoking risk' in the region.

Moreover, Germany's plans to send 2 warships to the South China Sea with a Canadian Navy frigate have made China claim that NATO might be going beyond its line of control making it necessary for NATO to justify itself.

TIMELINE

- 1949: NATO is founded 1955: Warsaw Pact is signed
- 1991: The Warsaw Pact is dissolved, with the expectation of NATO's dissolution
- 1950 to 1953: The Korean War shapes North and South Korea's future and makes NATO a stakeholder in Defence and Security in the Asia Pacific
- 1999: NATO bombs Chinese embassy, later declaring it a "mistake due to misidentification of the property"
- 2021: NATO members agree to the NATO 2030 Initiative which identifies China as a major threat to the globe and the Alliance;
- 2022: Russia invades Ukraine amidst major controversy over the threat NATO poses to Kremlin; Ukraine is backed and supported throughout the currently ongoing war by NATO members
- 2021: British Carrier Strike Group 21 (CSG21)sailed through South China Sea in July en route to Japan, first in series of joint military activities by NATO members in the volatile region

CONCLUSION AND EXPECTATIONS

It is an undeniable fact that NATO is indeed expanding. This expansion is clearly not well perceived by all nations and this mistrust on NATO by other nations might be an invite to catastrophic nuclear wars, more cold wars, deteriorating international relations or if the situation worsens, even World War

NATO's influence in the Asia-Pacific region is an intense topic which is highly neglected. Security issues of the east and west are mutual and this calls for action over this agenda. The east feels highly vulnerable amid this increasing influence while NATO keeps its own and the world's best interests in mind while expanding. In the south china sea, MNNAs are perishing, Ukraine suffers due to Russia and NATO believes that its hold over the east is one of the major solutions to stop this perishment. To ponder over the consequences and hence strategically and diplomatically getting involved in the East is NATO's need as well as duty.

This NATO council believes it is necessary for the delegates to be open minded, diplomatic and strategically well versed with the situation, and also expects them to come up with original directives. Considering the novelty of the agenda, coming up with conclusions that satisfy the opposition as well as justify the MNNAs rights might be difficult but that's the challenge! It is always a good option to be open to compromise as long as it respects NATO's founding treaty and interests.

At last, we would like you to display and polish your MUNing skills and are hoping to help in the process. Do not hesitate to ask questions. Your EB will be happy to help you out in any and all questions you have.

Eager to meet you all in October!



QUESTIONS A DIRECTIVE MUST ANSWER

Q.1 What are or could be the consequences of NATO's constant expansion towards the East?

Q.2 Which political treaties need to be reviewed or amended by NATO in order to maintain peace and stability across the globe with special emphasis on the Asia-Pacific region?

Q.3 What measures can be undertaken in order to curb the rising tension among the developing nations?

Q.4 How can the NATO member nations ensure the current RUSSIA-UKRAINE conflict is resolved and peaceful relations are established among member nations?

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