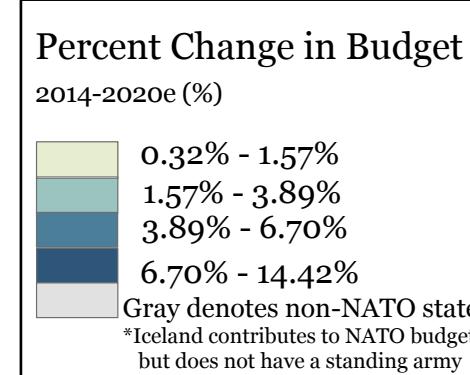
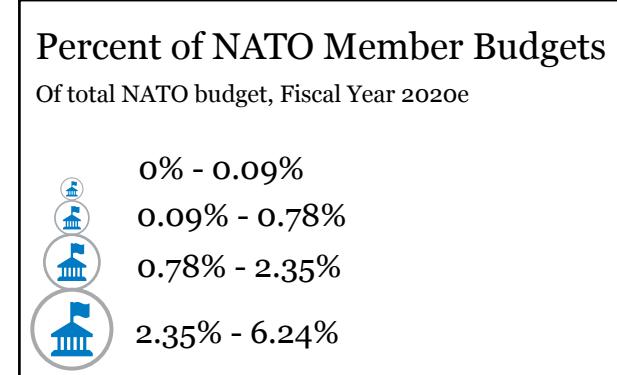
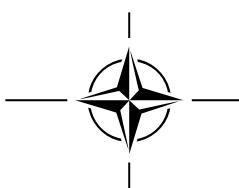


Defense Budgets of European NATO Member States: What It Means



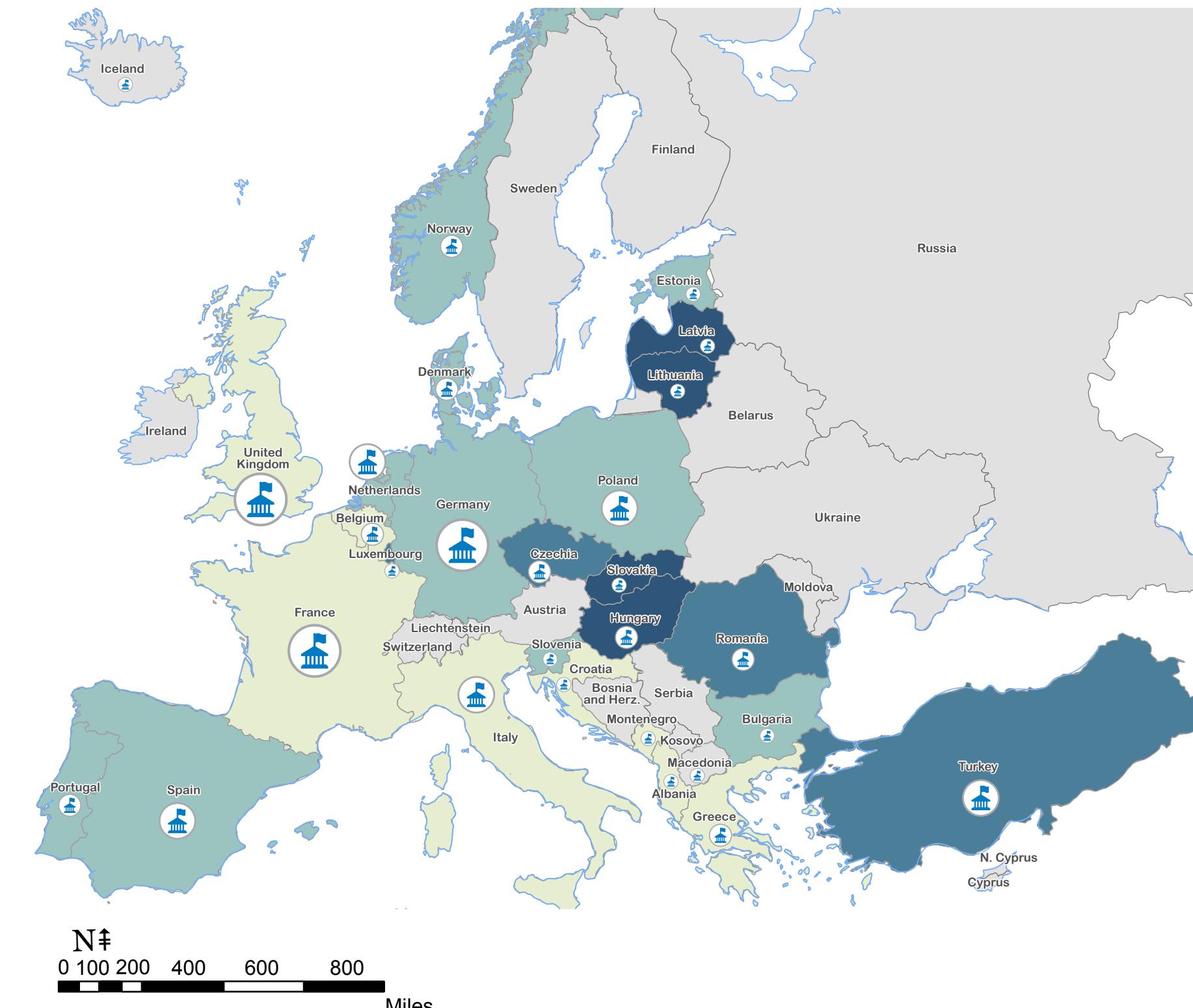
A Whiff of War

NATO forces are integral in responding to and assisting in three types of conflict: Developing World Internal Conflicts, counteracting Rogue States, and containing authoritarian regimes, particularly Russia.



The Threat:

Russia poses a serious threat to the NATO alliance. The 2014 annexation of sovereign Ukrainian territory has influenced the defense spending increases in Latvia and Lithuania, who fear a potential invasion. Turkey is also entangled in attribution conflict with Russia in Syria, so Turkey has increased its budget accordingly.



The “Big Three”

The United Kingdom, France, and Germany possess the largest European defense budgets and share of NATO's expenditures. As a result, they have powerful militaries that do not require large increases in defense spending.