



NATO - Then, Now and the Future

**Michael Durkee
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- 1. NATO Founding and Early Years**
- 2. Cold War through 2022**
- 3. Ukraine and Beyond**

- **Basic NATO Info and Lexicon**
- **NATO Nations**
- **Strategic Setting in Europe**
- **Video - The Future of NATO**
- **Discussion & Q/A**





NATO: North Atlantic Treaty Organization

OTAN:



OTAN: Organisation du Traité
de l'Atlantique Nord

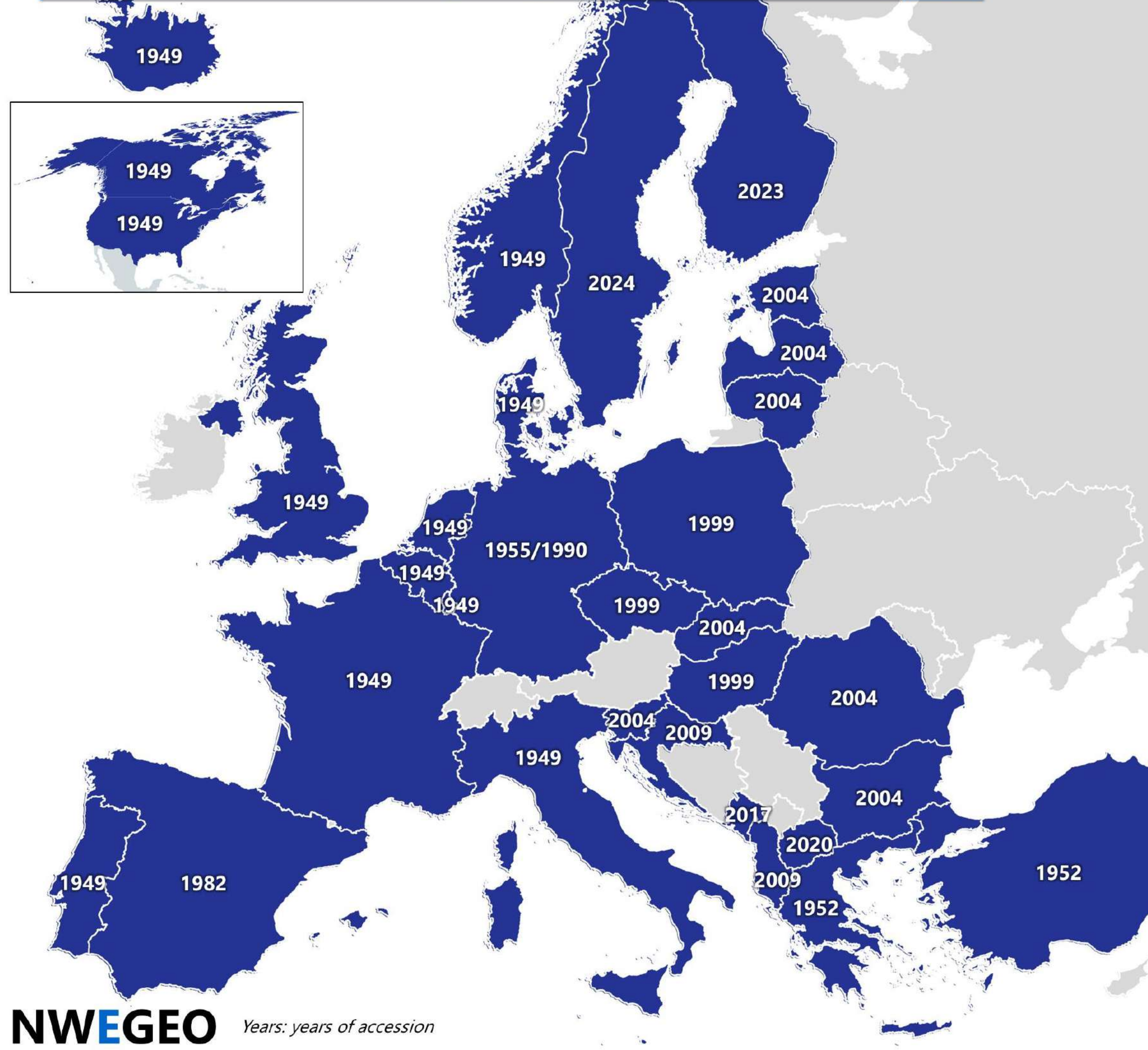
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1949



North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)





NATO Treaty — The North Atlantic Treaty, also known as the Washington Treaty, forms the legal basis for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The treaty was signed in Washington, D.C., April 1949.

parties are "determined to safeguard the freedom, common heritage and civilization of the peoples, founded on the principles of democracy, individual liberty and the rule of law."

By signing the North Atlantic Treaty,



NATO Treaty

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 exercise of the right of individual or collective self-defence recognised 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.

NATO Governance

North Atlantic Council

Brussels, Belgium

Military 4-star HQs

- Allied Command Operations (SHAPE)
Mons, Belgium
- Allied Command Transformation (SACLANT) Norfolk, VA





NATO Military Functions

Command and Control

Contingency Planning

Common Military Standards

Training and Exercises

European Strategic Environment 1945-1950

End of WWII: Rapid US/UK demobilization; Soviet Army dominates Eastern E

1947: Truman Doctrine announced — Containment

1948: Communist overthrow of newly-elected Czech government
Berlin blockade and Allied Airlift

1949: NATO Treaty signed; top-down political structure
Communist-led Civil War in Greece ends with US support to GOG
Soviet Union detonates nuclear bomb
Eisenhower appointed SACEUR

1950: SHAPE activated; Command structure initiated.



NATO — Old Friends, New Fronts



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Cold War Years through 2022

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- 1950s - 60s — MAD, Flexible Response
- NATO expansion
- Bosnia
- Fall of Soviet Union
- Afghanistan
- Ukraine
- 2025 Strategic Environment





- **NATO Response Force**

- The NATO Response Force (NRF) is a high-readiness NATO rapid deployment force comprising land, sea, air, and special forces units capable of being deployed quickly within short notice. The NRF currently comprises more than 500,000 troops.
- The NRF was formed in 2003. Leadership rotates annually among member nations.



- Units assigned to the NRF were only used for disaster relief and security until February 2022, when it was activated for the first time in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The NRF includes a "**Very High Readiness Joint Task Force**" (VJTF) designed to deploy within 48 hours notice. VJTF is approximately 30,000 troops.



NATO Partnerships began in 1990, to "extend... the hand of friendship" to former adversaries in the Cold War. This soon led to the creation of cooperation structures, such as the North Atlantic Cooperation Council in 1991. In January 1994, the **Partnership for Peace** was launched, NATO's first formal partnership programme, focused on NATO's neighbours in Europe and the former Soviet Union. The same year, Allies

launched the **Mediterranean Dialogue** for its Mediterranean neighbours. In 2004, Allies launched the **Istanbul Cooperation Initiative** for Gulf countries, and over the years, through cooperation in NATO missions and operations, NATO developed and built relations with partners further across the globe. **Today this totals 40 non-member nations.**



European Strategic Environment 2025

- Russia: Ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine; Deployment of new Ru**
- NATO enlarged to 32 members; consensus-building challenges**
- Instability and conflict in Middle East; Iranian nukes/Islamic terrorism**
- Internal tensions: Trade and Investment sanctions against Russia**
- Budget priorities: Domestic vs Defense Investment**
- Futility of EU as military force, Continued dependence on US**