



NATO - Then, Now and the Future

Class Two

**Michael Durkee
John Carman
January 2025**



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



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 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.



Evolution of NATO in the Cold War and Beyond

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



Evolution of NATO during the Cold War

1950s to 1960s

- Early reliance on US nuclear umbrella; limited conventional forces; Harriman Committee starts burden sharing debate
- Soviet nuclear missile buildup; MAD as strategic stalemate; US force buildup; pressure on allies to re-arm
- US distracted in Vietnam; Europeans interested in detente; Willi Brandt and Ostpolitik
- DeGaulle withdraws from integrated NATO military structure; NATO moves to Belgium and restructures



Evolution of NATO during the Cold War

Mid 1960s to 1970s

- Soviet Deployment of SS20 missiles
- Major Protests against US Pershing/cruise missiles
- Helsinki Accords and European Peace Movements



Evolution of NATO after the Cold War

1980s to 2000

- Berlin Wall collapses, followed by Warsaw Pact and then USSR
- NATO cooperation with former adversaries:
Partnership for Peace and **NATO-Russia Council**
- Peacekeeping in the Balkans, Russian participation
- Eastern Europe at NATO's door; Progressive Enlargement
- Emphasis on Expeditionary Forces, Counterinsurgency operations



Evolution of NATO after the Cold War

2001 to 2022

- Consequences of the post-1989 Peace Dividend;
Smaller, lighter, less capable conventional force
- Reality bites in Afghanistan
- Russian invasion of Ukraine; NATO resurgence



NATO — Old Friends, New Fronts



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Class Three

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NATO Since 9-11 and Beyond

2001 - 2025

- NATO Video
- RDF and Partnership for Peace
- Burden sharing

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**
- Inadequacy of EU as military force, Continued dependence on US**



NATO Partnerships began in 1990, to "extend... the hand of friendship" to former adversaries.

Partnership for Peace launched in 1994, NATO's first formal partnership programme, focused on Central and Eastern Europe.

Mediterranean Dialogue launched in 1994 for Mediterranean neighbours.

Istanbul Cooperation Initiative launched in 2004 for Gulf countries.

Through cooperation in NATO missions and operations, NATO developed and built relationships

Today this totals 30+ non-member nations.



- **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 includes approximately 30,000 troops.





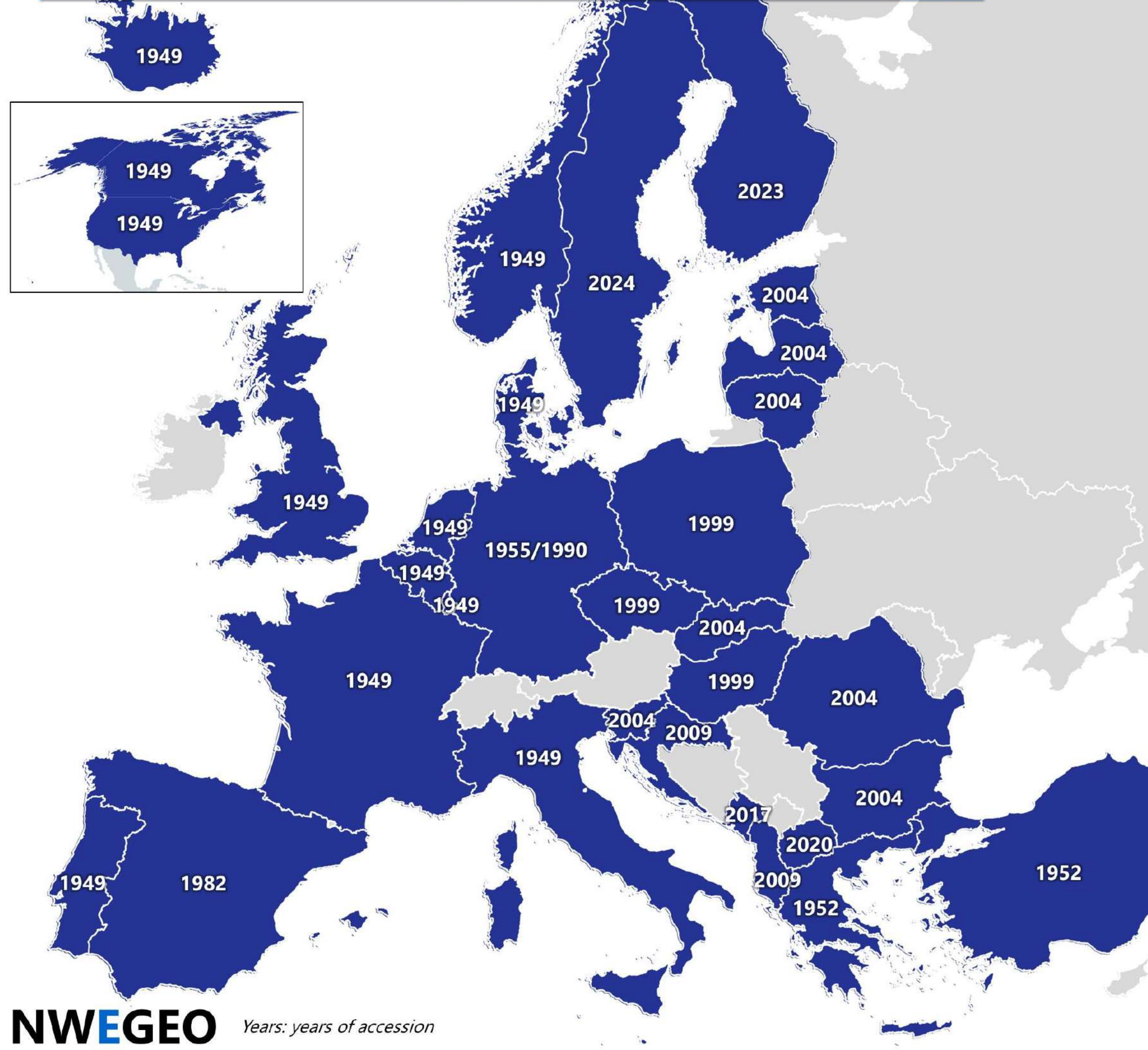
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1949



North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)



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

