



THE EAST IS NO LONGER RED: THE STRATEGIC RE-EVALUTATION OF NATO

NATO - BATHMUN 2023

Message from the Chairs

On behalf of the BathMUN Secretariat, the Chairs welcome you to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

NATO's role as an intergovernmental alliance has remained a mainstay of European and international geopolitics, the actions of this military and strategic alliance continue to inform its position today and our collective security in uncertain times.

BathMUN 2023 has taken the step to debate history and reflect upon the actions of the past. In the lead up as well as during the conference, we ask you to consider the historical and very real-life implications such a powerful alliance has had on international security and defence. Especially in the modern day, where the differences and similarities between East and

West reemerge as an important topic once more, it's vital to remember our history, what happened, why it did, and what also could have been. Therefore, we ask the NATO Ambassadors to work together in their pursuit of debate and knowledge to act with consideration of the past and its consequences for the future and not to compete and vie for great power status. We ask you to work together in the spirit of peace, cooperation, and security.

We wish you the best of luck in your preparation and look forward to welcoming you to the conference in December.

The Chairs,

[Calvin Iyer](#)

[Marc Zabel](#)

Committee Introduction

History

Shortly after the end of WWII, in 1947, the Treaty of Alliance and Mutual Assistance was signed between France and the United Kingdom which served as an alliance in the event of attacks by Germany or the USSR, whereas the perceived German "threat" served as a pretext for defence against the USSR (Trachtenberg, 1998). Just a year later, the Benelux countries joined the Treaty, thereby creating the Western Union (CVCE, 2009). The United States of America, now pursuing their foreign policy under the Truman Doctrine (OotH, 2023), had become increasingly interested in a wider military alliance, which resulted in the signature of the North Atlantic Treaty on the 4th of April 1949, which included members of the Western Union as well as Canada, Denmark, Iceland, Italy, Norway, Portugal and the US, ultimately forming the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO, 2022). NATO did not have a truly integrated military structure until the Korean War (Ismay, 1954), which also saw Greece and Turkey join the Treaty and Organization (Baldwin, 1952).

After West Germany was allowed to militarily rearm, they acceded to NATO in 1955, instrumental in the creation of the Warsaw Pact (Glass, 2014), the USSR's equivalent to NATO. Throughout the course of the Cold War, some European states' trust in America ebbed at times, resulting in France's withdrawal from NATO's military structure in 1966 (Cody, 2009). The latest event preceding the events of

this committee was newly democratised Spain, which joined the alliance in 1982 (Congress, 2023). This committee will be conducting business from November 6th, 1989, onwards in leadup to and the fall of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of communism in Europe.

Committee Mandate

For the purposes of this conference, this committee shall function as the North Atlantic Council, the primary political and policy-making body of NATO's institutional structure. Each member state has full and equal status within the council, with each state allowed to vote, ratify agreements, and move to take action on Alliance business. Decision making on matters of defence, admittance of a new member, military action, and changes to institutional functioning is taken collectively and by group consensus - all member states must agree unanimously to take these decisions.

The North Atlantic Council must agree unanimously to introduce non-actionable communiqués as well as ratify instruments of accession and declarations of war. As for committee business, regular LIMUN rules of procedure apply as normal. In the event of a committee impasse, unbreakable deadlock, or policy that goes against the rules of the conference, the Chairs will exercise executive powers to move committee business forward. The Chairs direct that the military strength of a member state does not influence committee business and that the independence and national interests of all Alliance members be respected.

Topic Introduction

1989, NATO Secretariat. Host Country: United Kingdom

As of November 1989, Europe is seeing massive political and societal shifts. In Warsaw Pact countries, thousands of students, workers, and citizens are striking and have been demonstrating against single party rule. This was allowed due to two main Soviet policies: *Glasnost* and *Perestroika* (Hewett & Winston, 1991), meaning openness and economic restructuring respectively. Starting in 1986, there were numerous accounts of protests



throughout the USSR and the rest of the Eastern Bloc. This signalled a departure from the Brezhnev Doctrine, which required socialist states to intervene in foreign states in order to preserve socialism (Crampton, 1997). This decision to open up the socialist states, restructure the economy and ultimately provide independence within the satellite states, led to multiple protests and significant changes within Eastern Bloc countries. Aided by the Soviet Union's institutional changes and General Secretary Gorbachev's new policies, the Soviet Union's ailing economy has resulted in increased frustration with Communist rule in Eastern Europe.

In Czechoslovakia and Hungary, peaceful demonstrations have resulted in the end of single party rule. NATO and its intelligence communities speculate the collapse of

Communism in Europe has the potential to plunge the Eastern Bloc into civil conflict, despite many demonstrations protesting communist rule being peaceful. More recently, Hungary has begun to dismantle the physical 'Iron Curtain'. In May 1989, the Hungarian Government decided to dismantle the iron curtain on the border to Austria with informal approval from Gorbachev. However this decision was not followed by any monumental changes, as guards still have a firing order at the border. It is unknown what Soviet Leadership will continue to do next.

Outside Gorbachev's inner circle, the USSR's influence continues to wane. Within the Soviet Union, the Estonian SSR declared sovereignty as of 1988. In Tallinn, the flag of the Estonian SSR has been permanently taken down and replaced with the national tricolour of Estonia. The situation in the eastern bloc is evolving and will likely remain in flux.

NATO currently finds itself at a historical turning point, the current situation in Europe and future events must be examined in close detail to plan for what may occur in the future. What ultimately served as the firing pistol up until this point (Steger, 2004) was the success of the Solidarity movement in Poland, where 99% of the available parliamentary seats were won by the organisation in an election in April of 1989 (Crampton, 1997). In August of 1989, GDR refugees unexpectedly flooded the now "open" border between Austria and Hungary, which ultimately created a chain reaction causing tens of thousands of GDR citizens to flee into the west (Frank, 2009).

Timeline of Events

Date	Event Description
1980	Cold War tensions reemerge in the 1980s after the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 and the election of U.S. President Ronald Reagan in 1980.
1981	Poland declares martial law. The Polish Communist Party disbands and subsequently outlaws the Solidarity Movement. Poland, like other Eastern Bloc nations, faces severe political and social repression.
1982	Newly-democratised Spain joins NATO despite considerable internal opposition. Spain, like two other NATO members, Norway and Denmark, does not allow nuclear weapons to be used from or stored on its territory. Accession protocols were signed on May 30th by King Juan Carlos I, making Spain the 17th member of the Alliance.
1983	NATO forces participate in Operation Able Archer, a simulation of confrontation with the Soviet Union, which Soviet leadership misconstrues as preparations for war. Tensions continue to simmer between the US and USSR.
1985	Mikhail Gorbachev is selected as the Premier of the USSR. He represents a new era of Soviet politics, promising to open up the Soviet economy and reform old systems across the Soviet sphere of influence. He introduces the policies of Glasnost and Perestroika to aid the weakening Soviet economy.
1986	A meeting held in Reykjavik, Iceland between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev. The meeting, the second between the two leaders, was intended not as a summit but as a session in which the leaders explored the possibility of limiting each country's strategic nuclear weapons to create momentum in ongoing arms-control negotiations (Britannica, 2023).
1987	The United States and Soviet Union reach an agreement on Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces and embark on the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (START). Gorbachev oversees the Soviet withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan and Angola. He withdraws the Brezhnev Doctrine that pledged Soviet intervention where communism was under threat, instead loosening Soviet control of the Eastern Bloc and allowing them freedom in navigating their own futures.
1988	American defence analysts point out cracks in the Alliance's institutional integrity due to differences in defence policy. NATO allies exhibit reluctance to support Reagan's proposition of immediate strengthening of NATO's arms. Most West European allies agree in principle with the plan, but they manifest scant inclination or ability to execute it (CITE).
1989	Gorbachev's far ranging reforms lead to a series of internal troubles in the Soviet Union, which in turn begins the process of destabilising European Communist regimes. Hungary and Czechoslovakia's regimes peacefully dissolve with elections scheduled for the early 1990s.



Key Alliance Stakeholders:



Struggling with the border with East Germany and the influx of GDR refugees and other societal upheavals, the current West German government is at an impasse with the United Kingdom over reunification, where a larger Germany would be seen by the rest of Europe as irredentist, threatening NATO security structures. Chancellor Helmut Kohl has expressed interest in German territory changes. Animosity over Germany's future status and security make it likely to side with Turkey and other European partners seeking new security formats for the alliance.



Turkey's location between Asia and Europe make it an important strategic partner should a conflict break out in the Black Sea countries of Bulgaria and Romania. Turkey's hosting of the NATO ground forces command, NATO nuclear deterrents, and its sizable military make it a key stakeholder in strategic security policy reevaluation. Turkey's stable relations with the Soviet Union and hosting of the NATO Ground Command may cause Ankara to demand a rebalance of power away from the current western tripartite dominance.



Italy, alongside Germany and Turkey, hosts NATO nuclear deterrents and has considerable armed forces. Rome maintains amicable relations with the Soviet Union and Eastern bloc and remains an important part of NATO's military and defence decision-making structures.



Margaret Thatcher's opposition to a potential reunification of Germany has the potential to hamper the development of amicable relations with the Eastern Bloc. Due to the UK's influence in West Berlin and NATO security measures, it can derail plans for normalisation between East and West Germany. Britain's 'special relationship' with the United States and France represent a NATO status quo that it hopes to keep and concentrate power in the Alliance's most militarily influential members.



France's nuclear deterrent remains autonomous from NATO command structures alongside its powerful military. Paris' reluctance to endorse German reunification reflects the concentration of power in the nuclear-armed Tripartite states (France, Britain, and the US). France's control of West Berlin and its diplomatic heft make it unlikely to agree on alliance business concerning defence and Eastern European integration into NATO.



As the most powerful member of the Alliance, the US maintains the bulk of the military, defence, and decision-making sway in NATO. All of NATO's actions are scrutinised by Washington first, leaving little room for European decision-making and independence. With Gorbachev's reforms and the warming of relations between the US and Soviet Union, the US finds itself in a renewed position in Europe. However, after decades of dictating NATO's security affairs, Washington may have its authority challenged.

Non-Alliance Stakeholders



East Germany's outflow of refugees and growing calls for reunification are high on the list of people's priorities in the near future. While East German leadership has relaxed its heavy governance regarding informational control and outreach towards the west, the Politburo remains a staunch supporter for continuous East German independence, even though vast amounts of the population would prefer otherwise.



The Soviet Union's tilt away from the Khrushchev doctrine and unprecedented economic opening up has proven useful to western leaders with the reduction of nuclear stockpiles and a new period of detente. However, as the Eastern Bloc begins to democratise and decoupling with Soviet models of economics, defence, and politics begin to take effect, USSR leadership fears tension and renewed conflict over opposing spheres of influence. Should Soviet leadership fear an erosion of its geopolitical heft, there is a possibility for the USSR to take a heavy hand to any disturbance it feels.



Romania's ailing regime and strategic independence from the Soviet Union makes it a victim of a potentially bloody revolution or regime change that could destabilise its neighbours. Nicolae Ceaușescu's erratic behaviour and weakened authority prove unpopular with normal Romanians indicate the collective mood of the Eastern Bloc - frustration with socialist rule and the complete lack of civil and political freedoms. Given such instability, there is potential for any conflict that breaks out to spill into the rest of Eastern Europe.

Potential Points of Discussion

Current insecurities in Eastern Europe bring forth possibilities of a strategic re-evaluation of NATO's role. Because NATO is directly involved in the protection of Western Europe from the Eastern Bloc, and by extension, the ideologies of communism, socialism, and Marxism-Leninism, the waning status of the Eastern Bloc and Soviet influence has direct consequences for NATO's future role as a defensive alliance.

Future Relations with Eastern Bloc Countries

The first issue pertains to the possible inclusion of countries currently still members of the Warsaw Pact. Countries part of the Eastern Bloc are still involved as members of an alternate military coalition designed to counteract NATO (Glass, 2014). Seeing that many Eastern Bloc countries are now outright rejecting their status quo, as can be seen by the elections in Poland (Crampton, 1997) or the East Germans fleeing through Hungary to Austria (Frank, 2009). It can be assumed if similar events proceed as such, that countries now with increased autonomy, disillusioned with their current military coalition and the communist or socialist doctrine as a whole, may opt to exit the Warsaw Pact. It is not certain if Eastern Bloc countries will express interest in joining NATO in the future, but foundations regarding future relations should be set.

Similarly, NATO's relationship with the USSR, or possibly even the remnants of it, have the potential to significantly change. Via Glasnost and Perestroika, the USSR is taking steps in a more open and liberal direction, both in an economic, as well as political sense. The USSR

has long acted against the interests of the NATO member states, but the current situation may call for a change in policy and relations, should the USSR

become more open and liberal and no longer directly threaten the Member States' political and economic systems and status quo.

With the ever-evolving changes currently taking place in the Eastern Bloc, there is some certainty to factions or movements either attempting to accelerate current changes in a more rapid manner, possibly through violent means or attempting to circumvent current trends by reinstating the status quo. It cannot be accurately assumed that the current political trends in the Eastern Bloc will continue comparatively peacefully as they have now. NATO must therefore be prepared for all short-term eventualities, should any significant violent uprising or threat come to pass in the current Eastern Bloc.

The most likely suspect of such an event is likely the Socialist Republic of Romania, as even compared to its regional and ideological counterparts, the degree to which free speech is subdued and the powers that the Securitate (Secret Police) has, is exceptionally high (Smith, 2006). Furthermore, combined with a cult of personality around Nicolae Ceaușescu, the current leader of the Socialist Republic of Romania, the situation has the potential to boil over, because while most neighbouring states follow the lead of the Soviet Union, the political leader(s) of Socialist Republic of Romania seem to be intent on keeping the status quo and strengthening their own hold on power. This may very possibly encourage the populace to take action, likely through violent means, due to the level of political control in the Socialist Republic of Romania.

German Reunification and Military Restructuring

Margaret Thatcher's and the United Kingdom's reservations about potential German reunification had caused "growing resentment" among Germans (National Archives, 2019). British and French opposition to German reunification remains a point of contention within Europe. Still scarred by the events of the Second World War, Thatcher and her counterparts in Paris, remain sceptical of the future trajectory of a reunified Germany. The British Ambassador to the GDR described the reservation as "Twice bitten, thrice vigilant. Germany's neighbours naturally wonder how far the Germans have really changed since 1945, and whether following unification there will be another shift in the behaviour of a nation that so often has proved volatile. What will sovereign united Germany be like?"

With Europe's security landscape set to change, NATO must reevaluate its renewed role in a vastly different continent than what was when the alliance formed. Apart from societal and diplomatic implications regarding German unification, NATO will have to absorb into its military structure East German military equipment, officers, and defence mechanisms. If

relations between the USSR and NATO continue to warm and as communist regimes in Europe transition to democracy, the question of if the United States of America is still required in such an alliance, due to the change of political circumstance, being the lack of contrary ideology may arise. Throughout the Cold War, NATO very much acted like a "hegemonic American protectorate" (Calleo, 1989) and even the Supreme Allied Commander of Europe, has always been an American general. With the possibility that the threat posed by the Eastern Bloc and the USSR may shift dramatically, Europe would require new defence mechanisms. France has

already made steps in this direction, leaving NATO's military structure in 1966 (Cody, 2009). However, this lies all under the assumption that the Eastern Bloc, to a majority, will indeed democratise, but, as previously stated, preparations for future eventualities should already be made. Any future of NATO with or without the United States of America in a "protective" role can already be discussed. Should the alliance seek to undertake a systemic reevaluation of the role it plays, it should be noted that the diplomatic and technological heft of NATO's European members enables it to make decisions collectively and without the need for American authorisation should a systemic reevaluation take place.

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