

[PRIMER]  
**NATO**  
NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION  
IMPERIALIST WAR MACHINE



**Disclaimer:** This publication has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Commission. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of APRN and in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Commission.

 /APRNet  
 @APR\_net  
 aprnet.org

 /ResistUSLedWar  
 @ResistUSLedWar  
 resistusledwarmovement.com

[PRIMER] |  
**NATO**  
NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

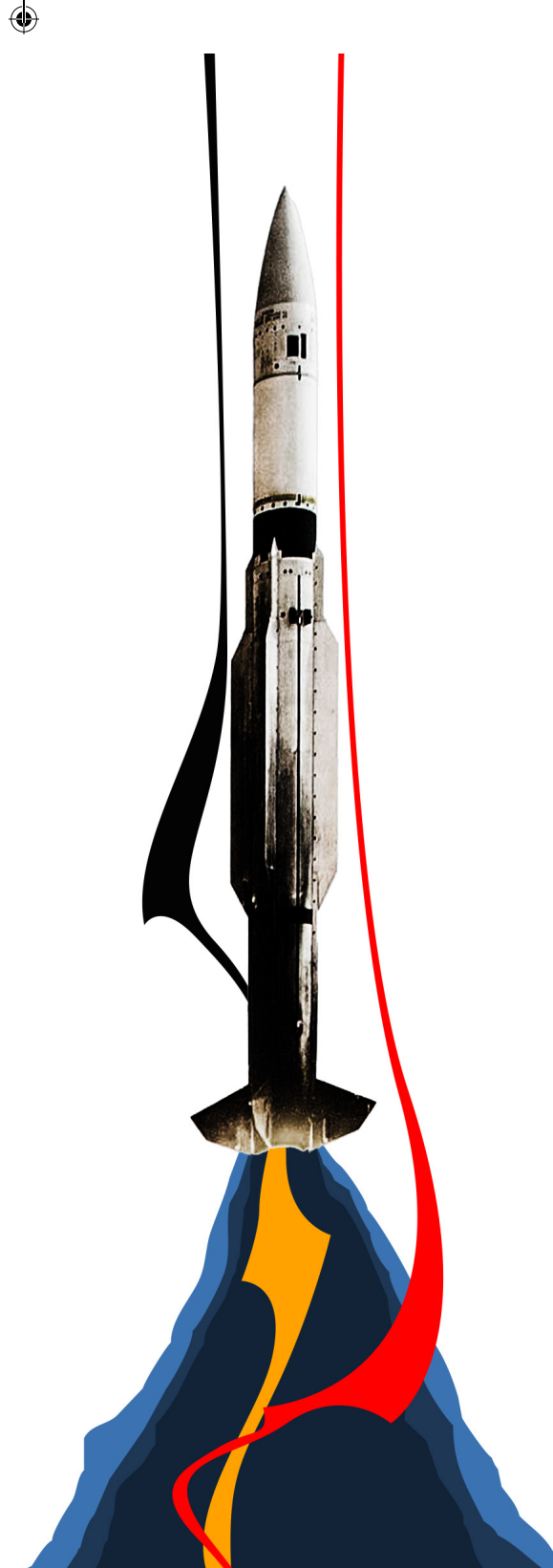
**IMPERIALIST WAR MACHINE**

2ND EDITION - FEB 2024

[PRIMER]  
**NATO**  
NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

**IMPERIALIST WAR MACHINE**

2ND EDITION - FEB 2024

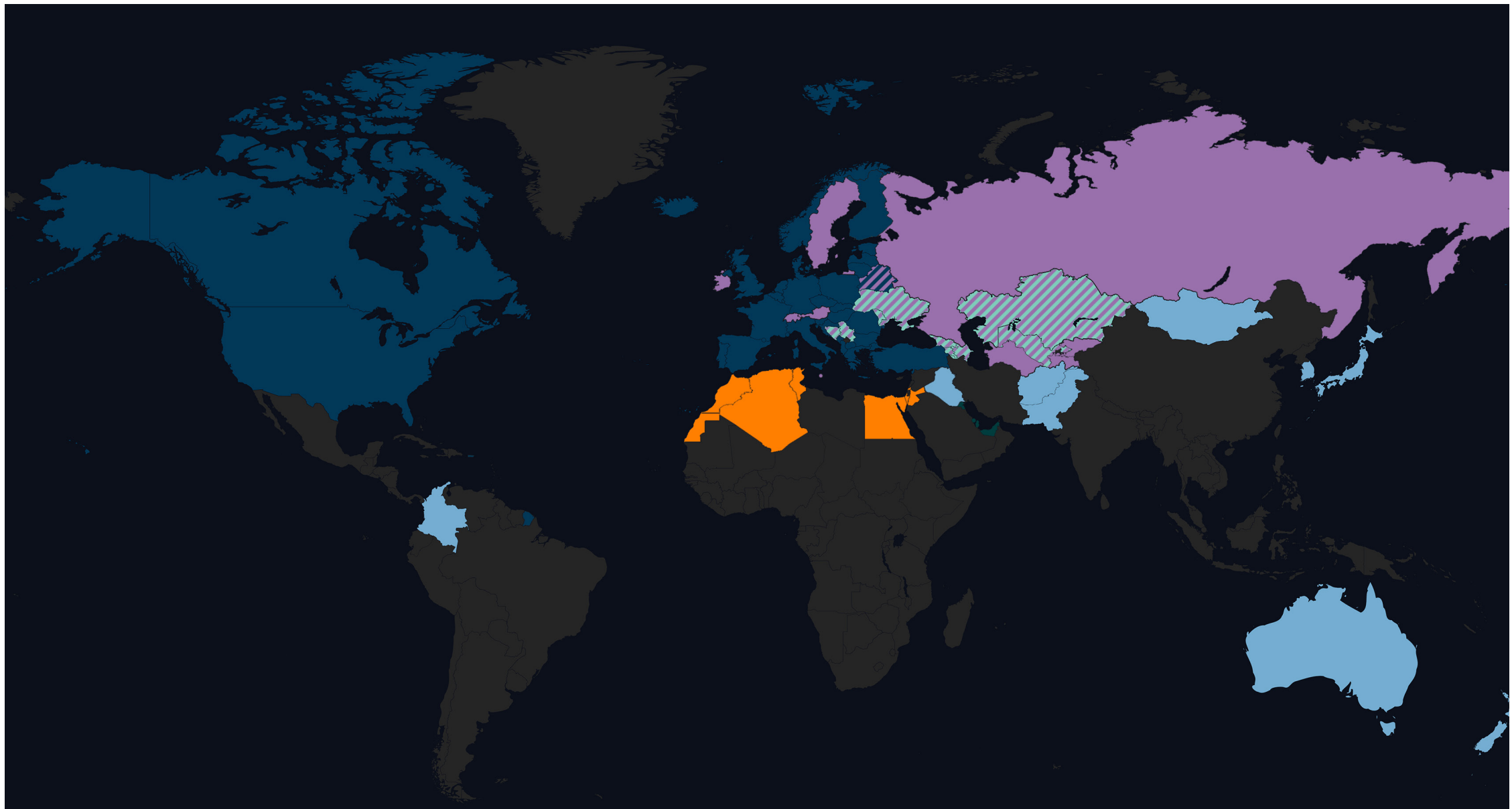


**WHAT IS  
NATO?**

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is a military alliance of nation-states. While its name would suggest that all member countries share at least one coast with the North Atlantic Ocean, NATO has spread further East into Europe and has even created special membership status for countries on other continents. In short, NATO exists where US influence is strong enough to make it exist.

Expectations of members may seem positive and equal. For example, members are expected to pay an extra 1.5% of their national military budgets for forces to be ready to deploy to other NATO countries. Article 5 of the NATO Charter stipulates that members must come to the immediate aid of any country that is under attack. But the reality is that the US uses its superpower status to wield these expectations of members as marching orders for its own wars of aggression.

**How is this unequal relationship maintained? More importantly, how is NATO an irreplaceable component of US foreign policy and military supremacy over its spheres of influence? Why do we say that US imperialism would not exist without NATO and that NATO only exists as a vehicle for US imperialism in Europe and around the world?**



# NATO'S EXTENT OF POWER

- MEMBERS
- GLOBAL PARTNERS
- INDIVIDUAL PARTNERS WITH ACTION PLANS
- MEDITERRANEAN DIALOGUE
- ISTANBUL COOPERATION INITIATIVE
- PARTNERSHIP FOR PEACE



# WHAT COUNTRIES ARE INVOLVED IN NATO?

## MEMBERS

United States of America  
United Kingdom Turkey Spain  
Slovenia Slovakia Romania  
Portugal Poland Norway  
North Macedonia Netherlands  
Montenegro Luxembourg  
Lithuania Latvia Italy Iceland  
Hungary Greece Germany  
Finland France Estonia Denmark  
Czech Republic Croatia Canada  
Bulgaria Belgium Albania

## GLOBAL PARTNERS

*(loosely defined case by case)*

Colombia Iraq Pakistan  
Mongolia South Korea Japan  
Australia New Zealand

## INDIVIDUAL PARTNERSHIP ACTION PLANS

*(bi-lateral between NATO and individual countries)*

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Moldova and Serbia have stated they have **no current intention** to join NATO, but **all of them participate** in NATO's Partnership for Peace program.

**Georgia** and **Ukraine** are currently undergoing Intensified Dialogue for NATO membership while **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, and **Sweden** has a Membership Action Plan and is actively working towards joining NATO.

## MEDITERRANEAN DIALOGUE

Aims to create good relations and better mutual understanding and confidence throughout the region, promoting regional security and stability and explaining NATO's policies and goals.

Countries are **Egypt** **Algeria** **Israel** **Jordan** **Mauritania** **Morocco** **Tunisia**

## ISTANBUL COOPERATION INITIATIVE

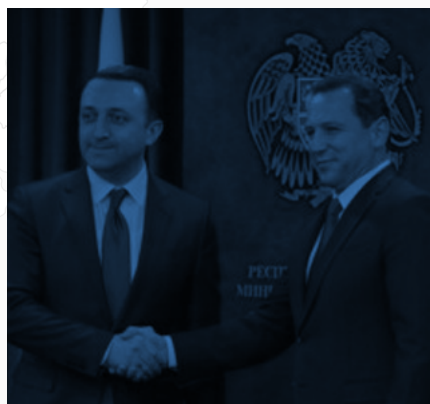
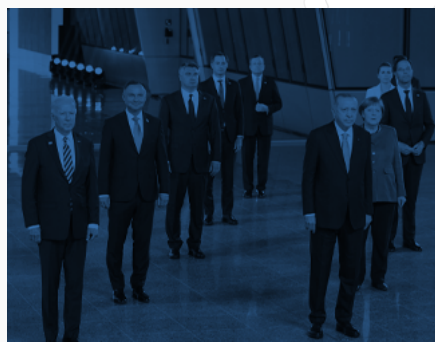
Same objectives as the Mediterranean Dialogue within the Persian Gulf.

Countries are **Bahrain** **Qatar** **Kuwait** **United Arab Emirates**

## PARTNERSHIP FOR PEACE

A program aimed at creating trust between NATO and other states in Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Countries are **Armenia** **Azerbaijan** **Belarus** **Bosnia and Herzegovina** **Georgia** **Kazakhstan** **Kyrgyzstan** **Moldova** **Russia** **Serbia** **Tajikistan** **Turkmenistan** **Ukraine** **Uzbekistan** **Austria** **Finland** **Ireland** **Malta** **Sweden** **Switzerland**





- 1949:** NATO formation after World War II
- 1950:** US - NATO's intervention in the Korean War in favor of South Korea
- 1955:** Germany was allowed to re-arm and join NATO
- 1950s:** Soviet Union's NATO membership was rejected which prompted the formation of the Warsaw Pact
- 1974:** Greece dictatorship supported a coup in Cyprus. Lack of intervention in this conflict between two NATO member countries highlights that NATO is only concerned with the US's strategic objectives
- 1991:** US-NATO promised not to expand further into Eastern Europe; would not recruit former members of the Soviet bloc
- MID-1990s:** Massive bombing campaign and troop deployment in Yugoslavia
- 1999:** Similar violent measures were mirrored in Kosovo
- EARLY 2000s:** NATO campaign to extend beyond Europe post-9/11 through the invasion and occupation of Afghanistan
- 2004:** NATO training mission of installed pro-US Iraqi military
- 2009:** Launch of operation Ocean Shield to address Somali pirate issues which resulted in the deaths and warrantless arrests of poor fisherfolks

- 2011:** NATO airstrikes against the government of Libya with over 70 confirmed civilian deaths
- 2012:** NATO Summit in Chicago where the "Pivot to Asia" strategy was declared
- 2014:** US-NATO was found to be involved in anti-Russian coups in Ukraine which resulted in the installation of a NATO-friendly government. This ignited an 8-year civil war
- 2016 & 2019:** Cyberspace and outer space were labeled fields applicable to NATO's Charter.
- JUNE 2021:** NATO Summit of leaders wherein the NATO 2030 was discussed – stronger engagements with Africa, Asia, and Latin America
- 2021:** Under NATO 2030, China was identified as principal security concerns of the alliance – signaling increased presence in the Asia Pacific
- 2022:** War in Ukraine sparks first direct inter - imperialist confrontation between US - NATO proxies and Russia (see page 9)
- 2022:** Madrid NATO Summit; US hosts South Korean and Japanese leaders to sign Trilateral Military Agreement. Japan opens the first NATO office in the Pacific in 2023.
- 2022 - 2023:** Sweden and Finland bid to join NATO. Finland accepted in 2023

# EARLY HISTORY OF NATO

NATO was formed in 1949 following the US and Soviet Union's shared victory and Nazi Germany's defeat in World War 2. The 12 founding members were Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom and the United States. Regarding the shared interest of the US and United Kingdom in expanding their spheres of influence at the expense of the Soviet Union, the founding NATO Secretary General was quoted as saying that NATO's mission would be to "Keep America in, Russia out and Germany down." This began the near-century-long political, ideological and military conflict between the US and Soviet (now Russian Federation) spheres that has led up to the current confrontation over Ukraine.

While a "hot" war was not waged between US-NATO and Soviet forces during the so-called Cold War, "hot" wars were a never-ending project of the US throughout the global south to maintain control over its neocolonial possessions by arming and training counter-revolutionary wars against national liberation movements. While the CIA would play a leading role in these overseas operations of the US, NATO would come to play a special role in specific conflicts as a means to draw other nations into the US's wars.

The US's intervention in the 1950 Korean War on the side of South Korea was used as impetus for a massive buildup of NATO forces

along the border of Soviet-aligned countries, the inclusion of Greece and Turkey in the alliance, the first joint naval exercises in the Mediterranean, and Baltic Seas and shared nuclear weapons testing. West Germany, forcibly kept without a military after its 1945 defeat, was allowed to re-arm and join NATO in 1955. It was around this time that the Soviet Union offered to join NATO as a means to preserve peace in Europe but was rejected by the alliance, as this would be against its existential purpose of protecting US-led military strategy. It was this act that prompted the formation of the Warsaw Pact, a similar alliance to NATO but of the East European socialist countries led by the Soviet Union.

In 1974, the military dictatorship of Greece supported a coup in Cyprus which Turkey used as pretext to invade and occupy part of the country up until today. The lackluster response from the US on this conflict between two NATO members demonstrates how the alliance was never meant to serve the immediate interests of any member beyond the US's strategic objectives.

Following the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the US made a promise to not expand NATO further into Eastern Europe to maintain the balance of power. But this was immediately violated as former Warsaw Pact countries were encouraged to join so as to align market interests with the Western-led capitalist economy. As a result, NATO more than doubled in size and exponentially expanded its territorial scope, with the addition of 16 countries from 1999 to the present. Former US secretary of state Madeleine Albright revealed this intention when she said, "NATO will do for Europe's east what NATO has already helped to do for Europe's west: steadily and systematically, we will continue erasing – without replacing – the line drawn in Europe by Stalin's bloody boot."

# NATO: AN ARM OF US-LED WAR

NATO's violent mobilization of members in US-led wars began immediately after the end of the Cold War. The first direct mobilization in NATO's history was against Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, a major US source of oil imports. More intensive actions would start during the breakup of Yugoslavia in the mid 1990s with a no-fly zone over Bosnia that escalated into a direct bombing campaign by NATO forces and deployment of nearly 60,000 troops to occupy the country afterwards. This was mirrored in similar airstrikes and occupations in Kosovo in 1999. Despite its claim to be fighting against the ethnic cleansing of national minorities in the region, these operations succeeded in the true objective of justifying NATO's presence ever closer to Russia in violation of its 1991 promise to not expand eastward.

The 21st century saw NATO campaigns extending beyond Europe. Article 5's first use was justified by the 9-11 terror attacks to draw the entire NATO alliance into the US's invasion and 20-year occupation of Afghanistan. This was followed by a 2004 NATO training mission of the pro-US Iraqi military installed during the US's occupation. 2009 saw Operation Ocean Shield targeting pirate attacks against international shipping companies in the Gulf of Aden and off the coast of Somalia, leading to the deaths and warrantless arrests of many poor fisherfolk. 2011 saw NATO airstrikes against the government of Libya and confirmed deaths of over 70 civilians. This campaign

showcased the disunity that had built up in the alliance with Poland, Spain, the Netherlands, Turkey and Germany refusing to participate and Norway pulling out.

The 2012 NATO Summit in Chicago declared the "Pivot to Asia" strategy in which the US announced its intention to direct troops and resources from West Asian to East Asia and Pacific countries to counter the rise of China. Two years later saw the pro-US, anti-Russian coup in Ukraine that installed a NATO-friendly government sharing a major Russian border, igniting an 8-year civil war and escalating inter-imperialist tension to the point of (as of this writing) Russia invading to reclaim its former sphere of influence.

2016 and 2019 saw cyberspace and outer space labeled fields applicable to NATO's Charter.

# STRATEGY AND OPERATIONS TODAY: NATO 2030

"Expand and strengthen" is the name of the game for NATO's new strategic initiative "NATO 2030," confirmed at its summit of leaders in June 2021. With NATO 2030, the alliance not only reiterated its commitment to the principle enshrined in Article 5, but also pledged to "Shape the international order. Strengthen our engagement with

key global actors beyond the Euro-Atlantic area, including from Africa, Asia and Latin America." In this vein, NATO specifically called for "intensifying our interaction with Colombia, NATO's partner in Latin America, on military training;" defense capacity building and training with Jordan, Tunisia, and Kuwait; expansion of NATO Mission Iraq; and developing relations with the League of Arab States and the Gulf Cooperation Council.

One of the most significant new expansions contained in NATO 2030 is the identification of not only Russia but also China as the principal security concerns of the alliance. This means NATO will penetrate even further into the Asia Pacific region, increasing its intelligence activities, investment in military readiness--including weapons, military exercises, bases and installations-- and collaboration with repressive regimes in its drive to secure the geopolitical interests of US imperialism. At the conclusion of its summit in 2021, NATO declared that it would "[Enhance] practical cooperation with our long-standing Asia-Pacific partners – Australia, Japan, New Zealand, and the Republic of Korea."

NATO 2030 also calls on the alliance to strengthen its mix of nuclear, conventional and missile defense capabilities, modernize NATO forces, and strengthen its deterrence posture, including a "forward presence" in its eastern front and outer space as an operational domain.

# NATO COUNTER TERRORISM PILLAR

NATO contains a "Counter Terrorism Pillar" that states, "Terrorism is the most direct asymmetric threat to the security of the citizens of NATO countries and to international stability and prosperity." In this way, "terrorism" can easily be used as an abstract term to label any non-state entity NATO wishes to target.

This pillar was conceptualized during the Article 5 deployment of NATO troops to Afghanistan and the subsequent 20-year US occupation they supported. The NATO 2022 Strategic Concept demonstrates how an overseas military occupation can give imperialists tools to carry out their wars at home. It states, "Building on the lessons learned over the past three decades, including through our operations in Afghanistan, we will continue to improve our readiness, our military and civilian capabilities, and civil-military planning and coordination."

NATO thus operates not only against rival states, but against any social group it deems a threat to the global imperialist order. Countering NATO is therefore not just in the interest of people looking to end wars overseas, but a goal for all people fighting back against state repression, even in the imperialist core, the belly of the beast itself.



**1991:** Soviet Union dissolves; Russia and Ukraine become separate states; US promises to Russia not to expand NATO Eastward

**1999:** First NATO expansion: Poland, Hungary, & Czech Republic

**2004:** Second NATO expansion: Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Romania, Bulgaria, Slovenia, & Slovakia

**2004-2005:** "Orange Revolution" attempts to overthrow the neutral Ukrainian government with CIA involvement

**2008:** NATO Bucharest Summit pledges eventual Ukraine and Georgia membership. Putin threatens to "destroy Ukraine before it joins NATO"

**2014:** "Euromaidan" revolution with CIA involvement enacts pro-Western coup; Crimea is annexed by Russia after popular referendum; Donetsk and Luhansk Republics in the Donbas region declare independence; civil war begins

**2015:** Minsk Agreements promise autonomy for Donbas Republics; Kiev violates agreement and continues to shell them with US-provided weapons for 7 years

**2021:** Ukraine requests NATO membership approval

**FEB 2022:** NATO training camps pull out of Eastern Ukraine as Russia begins massive military buildup; war starts

**FEB-MAR 2022:** Ukraine peace talks go through five rounds; NATO

pushes for no settlement without Ukraine military victory

**AUG 2022:** Russian siege of Bakhmut begins; stalemate phase in Ukraine war

**SEP 2022:** Nord Stream gas pipelines between Russia and Germany bombed; Russia annexes Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, & Zaporizhzhia

**JAN 2023:** Germany becomes the first country to promise tanks to Ukraine

**FEB 2023:** Article exposing evidence US and Norway bombed Nord Stream Pipelines without Germany's knowledge – proving NATO disunity

**MARCH 2023:** Poland and Slovakia become the first countries to promise fighter jets to Ukraine

**MAY 2023:** At G7 Summit, UK promises Storm Shadow long range missiles and US promises F-16 advanced fighter jets to Ukraine

**JUNE-JULY 2023:** Ukrainian counteroffensive starts with only few gains in Kherson; NATO Summit promises eventual Ukraine membership

**OCT 2023:** First use of US-provided long-range missiles by Ukraine. The US admits it secretly provided them to Ukraine months earlier

**AS OF DEC 2023:** Military stalemate along Dnieper River with no talk of peace agreement



# NATO AND UKRAINE

On 24 February 2022, the war in Ukraine formally started. Russia cited years of broken promises by the West: US-led NATO not upholding its promises to not expand closer to Russian borders; the US financing and arming of a full-blown neo-Nazi movement in Ukraine (Organization of Ukrainian

Nationalists and later the Azov Battalion); and the West's involvement in the "Orange" and "Euromaidan" uprisings to install pro-Western regimes that would later become headed by Volodymyr Zelensky.

Despite pre-invasion narratives from the West, the majority of people in Ukraine preferred a neutral position between Russia and the West. In 2014, Russian-speaking residents of the Eastern Donbas region declared independence and took up arms to defend their secession. For the following seven years, the US-backed Kyiv military sieged Donbas with tanks, resulting in a civil war that took over 14,000 lives. These facts contradict the peace-loving image NATO projects.

Ukrainian soldiers were trained by NATO advisors within Ukraine itself, including the neo-Nazis that were integrated into the military following Euromaidan. Ukraine had been turned into NATO's militarized frontier zone, right on Russia's border. When Ukraine requested NATO membership in 2021, the result of over eight years of US meddling in the country and decades of provocations towards Russia, Russia was provoked to invade.

What is the nature of the war in Ukraine? For Russia, the war is a counter-offensive strategy to defend its sphere of influence as

a regional power and growing rival imperialist to the US. For the US, it is a proxy war to contain Russia using the Ukrainian military and to create a pretext for expanding NATO (Finland, Sweden, and eventually Ukraine) and increasing US military presence in Europe. This is an inter-imperialist proxy war in which both sides covet the vast agricultural and mineral resources of Ukraine and whose actions have caused immense suffering to the people, and US-NATO willingly lit the spark.

As the timeline on the left shows, NATO countries have steadily escalated military equipment transfers to Ukraine (tanks, long-range missiles, and fighter jets). NATO members have spent about \$100 billion on this "assistance" to Ukraine, with the US contributing half of the total amount. In an unexpected announcement last October 2023, the US promised an additional \$60 billion to keep Ukraine fighting. This has offered NATO countries a chance to empty their old stocks and rapidly upgrade their own military technology, setting the stage for an apocalyptic showdown in Europe should the war expand. Predictably, weapons companies have seen their stocks rise higher than almost ever before, showing again NATO's role in driving war for profit.

But the most important fact regarding the war is that five attempts were made at peace talks between Russia and Ukraine in the conflict's first few months, during which NATO promised Ukraine endless weapons and told them to reject any deal by Russia. Russia's primary condition, Ukraine remaining a neutral country, belies NATO's own declaration that "Ukraine's future is in NATO." Such a statement, given the historical events that NATO itself set into motion, should remind all of us that NATO's actions have never had the intention of peace behind them. With 500,000 soldiers and 10,000 civilians killed and a failed Ukrainian counteroffensive at the close of 2023, NATO's words and deeds in Ukraine are an affront to humanity.

# NATO FAR OUTSIDE THE NORTH ATLANTIC

NATO's expansion over the years proves that the US's influence was never meant to stop at the North Atlantic. In fact, while NATO has historically acted as the strongest arm of US-led war, the US has worked hard to ensure a consolidated Western imperialist alliance through its various other proxies around the world.

As has been stated earlier, NATO's two decades of operations between 2001 and 2021 have focused mainly on West Asia, Central Asia, and North Africa, destabilizing Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia, and Libya, and contributing to many others through the actions of its members. NATO members, spurred by the US, have established deeper relations with the repressive Gulf monarchies of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and others through the Mediterranean Security Dialogue and Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (see page ??), making NATO complicit in the brutal war and blockade of Yemen that has killed over 350,000. NATO member Turkey also calls on the alliance in its war of ethnic cleansing against the Kurdish people, refusing to admit Sweden and Finland's membership without a guarantee that these countries would deport Kurdish independence activists living in political exile.

Meanwhile, the State of Israel has risen to a leading role in implementing the US-led military strategy in West Asia with the gradual transition of US direct troops towards the Pivot to (East) Asia. Israel's military operations, not just against occupied Palestine but through aggressive attacks against Syria, Lebanon, Somalia, Iraq, and Iran, have acted to relieve the US of its personnel while still keeping the regional status quo in its favor. All NATO members have been near-unanimous in their appraisal of the Israeli state's aggressive actions and supposed right to exist on occupied Palestinian land, many of which have sent ships to "protect" Israel in the Eastern Mediterranean in its (as of this writing) genocidal campaign in Gaza.

Nearly all of Israel's military spending has been subsidized by the US since its founding, with the expectation that 80% of military assets are purchased from US weapons companies. The remaining 20% has been used to build up a sizeable domestic industry in Israel, amounting to the US itself subsidizing state companies like the Israeli Aerospace Industries and private companies like Elbit. Israel has used this industrial base to provide weapons and military tech to other US proxies to aid in their military occupations, such as Morocco and India. In this way, the US has created an ally in arming a region outside of NATO's influence, while Israel gains from the spread of the Zionist ideology applied to other settler colonial projects in Western Sahara and Kashmir. Israel is also the world's top producer of cyberwarfare technology due to this development.

The Asia-Pacific region has long been strategic for the US since its victory in World War 2. 1954 saw the creation of a NATO-



like alliance, the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO), that alongside the US, also included Australia (which administered Papua New Guinea), France (which had recently relinquished French Indochina), New Zealand, Pakistan (which until 1971 included East Pakistan, now Bangladesh), the Philippines, Thailand, and the United Kingdom (which administered Hong Kong, North Borneo, and Sarawak). However, victorious revolutionary movements in the region and clear attempts by the US to dominate SEATO's policies caused the alliance to crumble and dissolve in 1977.

A resurgence of US-led Asia-Pacific alliances in the 21st century has given aggressive life to the Pivot to Asia strategy. A militarized tsunami relief response in 2004 by the US, Japan, India, and Australia sparked an attempt at a military alliance that dissolved in 2007 and was revived in 2017 during US President Trump's visit to the Manila ASEAN Summit. Known as the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD), it focuses on policies to combat China's economic rise. India, meanwhile, is torn between the influence of the US and China, has expressed concern at the proposed militarized Quad that the US, Japan, and Australia desire. In lieu of a NATO counterpart in the QUAD, the US has pursued alternatives to military consolidation of the

region in the form of the Australia-United Kingdom-US (AUKUS) agreement that would transfer nuclear-powered submarines from the US and UK to Australia.

This alliance-building in the Pacific took a step up at the 2022 Madrid NATO Summit. During which the South Korean and Japanese heads of state joined for the first time and signed the US-Japan-South Korea Trilateral Agreement. Numerous bilateral agreements between NATO members and the region followed, such as the "Washington Declaration" between the US and South Korea and the "Hiroshima Accords" between the UK and Japan, which allow NATO aircraft carriers and nuclear submarines in the two countries' waters. In the midst of these agreements, NATO members such as the UK, France, and Germany, countries nowhere near the Pacific, have passed their first ever Indo-Pacific Strategies in line with the US's and the NATO 2030 plan – all of them identifies China as their main threat.

In these alliances, the US has paired NATO with imperfect but nonetheless effective counterparts in its existential confrontation with the Russia-China-Iran alliance globally. NATO continues to be the model for US-led war strategy in the new multipolar world system.



# WHY NATO IS ANTI-PEOPLE?

NATO approaches all challenges in the world today— including climate change, environmental destruction, pandemics, natural disasters—using a military framework that prioritizes making regions secure for investment and geopolitical interests of its member states. So-called humanitarian missions conducted by NATO are implemented through military operations.

NATO pushes the bogus line of nuclear deterrence, driving its nuclear-armed members to not only maintain but also to modernize and build up their nuclear arsenals. Despite overwhelming calls for arms control and “nuclear-free zones,” NATO is even preventing its members from signing the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). NATO is sticking to the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Treaty in order to ensure nuclear weapons remain monopolized by the five biggest nuclear-armed states at present. Hypocritically, NATO calls for the complete denuclearization of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (North Korea) and for the prevention of the building of a nuclear weapon by Iran. Additionally, no acknowledgement or reparations for survivors of decades of nuclear testing is offered, signaling that peoples’ health and the environment are last priority.

NATO 2030 is strong-arming its members to meet or exceed the target of spending 2% of their GDP on the military, with at least 20% of their military budgets to be spent on

arms. This means that NATO’s spending goal directly benefits US weapons corporations. Billions are being spent on purchasing drones, attack helicopters, and missiles instead of for social services, education, healthcare and other essential needs of the people.

Since its founding, NATO has acted as an armed wing of US-led war and imperialism by mobilizing its 30 member states to unleash lethal military campaigns in the name of “collective defense, crisis management and cooperative security.” NATO bolsters US-led war in defense of the interests of US imperialism and its most economically and politically powerful allies. Article 5 lays the basis for considering an attack on any member country as justification for US action, while an attack on the US also justifies dragging other member countries into a US-led war. Thus, wars of aggression are presented as wars of defense even while the US holds the monopoly decision on whose interests are defined as “defense”, such as with Cyprus, Greece and Turkey in 1974.

As a result, NATO has been a prime actor in wars of aggression, the enforcement of sanctions, and military occupations that have caused the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people in countries from Afghanistan, to Iraq, and Libya. Toward its policy to surround and contain Russia, NATO has built up its presence in the Black Sea and Mediterranean including US bases and use of bases in Greece and Cyprus. NATO destabilizes sovereign countries and props up fascist governments across Europe, including in Poland, Ukraine, Turkey and Hungary. Toward the goal of strengthening NATO in the Middle East, NATO gives unwavering support to Israel’s genocidal

occupation of Palestine, and NATO member Turkey has initiated military aggression in North and East Syria and in South Kurdistan (Northern Iraq) in a brutal war to eliminate the Kurdish people.

NATO states maintain an intricate network of military bases and installations around the globe, which violate national sovereignty and cause environmental damage and social disruption. Through NATO, the US has access to any military base, domestic or overseas, of any of its members. The US also is the primary decision-maker when it comes to NATO missions, placing all of the pooled resources of member countries at the US’s fingertips to fund its destructive operations. Truly, the US would not be at the helm of the majority of wars of aggression if it were not for the NATO alliance.

# THE PEOPLE RESIST NATO

The majority of people oppose more war, ballooning military budgets, expansion of nuclear arsenals, and construction of new bases—everything that NATO stands for. Because there can not be genuine peace in the world as long as NATO exists, the people have been waging resistance to NATO and US-led war. Marches, bike rallies, die-ins, protest concerts and other actions against NATO are held year after year worldwide. Counter-summits are held whenever NATO conducts its leader summits. Citizens of member countries wage campaigns urging their governments to pull out of NATO. And in the countries targeted by NATO military actions, the people resist by any means necessary, including taking up arms in self-defense. The people will continue to resist NATO and struggle for a just and lasting peace until it is achieved.



People’s Counter - Summit against the NATO Summit | Madrid, Spain