

# NATO: Founding and Treaty

## The Treaty and its key values and principles

On April 4, 1949, 12 countries signed the North Atlantic Treaty at the Departmental Auditorium in Washington D.C.. These 12 countries, who were banding together to push back against the threat of nuclear war, committed to sharing the risks, responsibilities and benefits of collective defense. At the time of its signing, the primary aim of the Treaty was to create a pact of mutual assistance to mitigate the risk that the Soviet Union would try to spread its control of Eastern Europe to other parts of the continent. The Treaty also required members not to make any international deals or treaties that conflicted with the Treaty and committed them to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations (UN). Going a step further, it stated that NATO members formed a unique community of values committed to the principles of individual liberty, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. In addition to collective defense and key values, the principle of consensus decision-making and the importance of consultation define the spirit of the Organization.

The signing of the Treaty led to the creation of the Alliance and, only later, did a fully-fledged organization develop. In effect, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) provides the rules and agreements that allows the Alliance to enforce their goals. To date, those goals have not fundamentally changed nor the Treaty been rewritten. The only so-called “amendments” made so far come from the series of accession protocols which have been added as new members join.

## Political context of the Alliance’s birth

The hostilities that had been common between Soviet and Western powers since 1917 gradually re-emerged at the end of the Second World War. This split between the "East" and "West" was fueled by conflicting interests and political beliefs. There were arguments over peace agreements and reparations, and tensions were exacerbated by events such as the Berlin blockade in April 1948, the June 1948 coup in Czechoslovakia and direct threats to the independence of Norway, Greece and Türkiye.

As the power of the Soviet Union spread to several Eastern European countries, there was concern among Western European countries that Moscow would impose its way of life and authority across Europe. From the end of the Second World War in 1945, Western governments started reducing the size and funding of their militaries. In January 1948, British Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin spoke of the need for a “treaty of alliance and mutual assistance”, which would act as a defensive alliance between regions and follow the guidelines listed in the United Nations Charter

The United States would only agree to provide military support for Europe if the countries were united. In response, Belgium, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom signed the Brussels Treaty in March 1948. This treaty created the Western Union and was meant to strengthen the alliance between the signatories. In the meantime, the US Senate adopted the Vandenberg Resolution – it allowed the United States to constitutionally participate in a mutual defense system in times of peace. These two treaties set the stage for negotiations to start on a transatlantic treaty.

What are the main goals of the North Atlantic Treaty?

What was the main reason that the Treaty was created?

What effect did the Brussels Treaty and the Vandenberg Resolution have on NATO?

## Negotiating and Drafting the Treaty

When the Washington Treaty was just an idea, diplomats from Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States worked together to draft the document. Input was gathered from other countries, as well. The initial draft of the document was released on September 9, 1948 and dubbed "The Washington Paper" and contained an outline of possible future articles for the Treaty.

Formal public treaty negotiations began a few months later on December 10, 1948 in Washington, D.C. The final round of negotiations began on March 8, 1949. Although the participating countries agreed that collective defense would be at the heart of the new Alliance, several other issues were still not resolved and needed to be worked out before the formation of the Alliance could become a reality.

## Collective Defense

One major issue with the negotiation of the Treaty was how the mutual defense part, Article 5, would be implemented. Prior to World War 2, the United States had taken George Washington's stance of officially avoiding "foreign entanglements." We were concerned that Article 5 would draw the country into a conflict through treaty obligations, which would result in a loss of life and/or economic pressures. Something had to be put in place to allow for the United States to send aid to attacked countries without having to declare war.

The European countries, on the other hand, wanted to ensure that the United States would come to their aid if one of the signatories came under attack. The United States would not make this pledge and did not believe US public opinion would follow, so they proposed an option that would allow each country to assist other signatories "as it deems necessary". In other words, there would be no automatic declaration of war or obligation to commit to military action on the part of member countries; the action to be taken would be up to each individual member country. Ultimately, the American viewpoint won out.

## Political and military cooperation

Some of the drafters thought that the Treaty could be more than just a military agreement. They believed that it could be expanded to include social and economic cooperation. Together, Articles 2 and 4 of the Treaty encourage member countries to consult each other for matters other than military issues. The practice of regularly exchanging information and working together strengthens the links between governments and knowledge so that the member countries can agree on common policies or take action more easily. This results in countries that are more willing to work together and come to an agreement about different types of issues that we need to deal with in our globalized world.

## Geographical scope of the Alliance

Where would the Treaty apply to? Is there a limit? Do all of the countries involved need to share borders? The geographical scope of the Alliance in terms of area of responsibility was another topic on which the negotiators had a difference of opinion. The United States and the United Kingdom saw NATO as a regional organization, where their decisions would impact only the countries in the Alliance. Other countries, such as France, felt it should take on a more global role and would have an impact around the world.

Article 6 of the Washington Treaty details what is understood by the Alliance's geographical scope:

Why do you think that negotiations take a long time?

What were some of the disagreements that countries had about the treaty?

What are the non-military benefits to the Treaty?

### "Article 6"<sup>1</sup>

For the purpose of Article 5, an armed attack on one or more of the Parties is deemed to include an armed attack:

- on the territory of any of the Parties in Europe or North America, on the Algerian Departments of France<sup>2</sup>, on the territory of Turkey or on the Islands under the jurisdiction of any of the Parties in the North Atlantic area north of the Tropic of Cancer;
- on the forces, vessels, or aircraft of any of the Parties, when in or over these territories or any other area in Europe in which occupation forces of any of the Parties were stationed on the date when the Treaty entered into force or the Mediterranean Sea or the North Atlantic area north of the Tropic of Cancer.

1. The definition of the territories to which Article 5 applies was revised by Article 2 of the Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty on the accession of Greece and Turkey signed on 22 October 1951.  
2. On January 16, 1963, the North Atlantic Council noted that insofar as the former Algerian Departments of France were concerned, the relevant clauses of this Treaty had become inapplicable as from July 3, 1962."

## **Membership of the Alliance**

When discussing who should be allowed to join the Alliance, the drafters had different views. The United Kingdom wanted to keep the Alliance small and strong, avoiding commitments to outside countries, while the United States suggested inviting countries that were more likely to fall into Soviet hands. France, on the other hand, was mainly concerned with protecting its colonial territories. Of concern to all three countries was Germany, whose membership was not immediately considered due to the role they played in World War 2 and their economic situation.

The drafters also discussed inviting Italy, Greece, Türkiye, Portugal, Iceland and the Scandinavian countries for their strategic value. Italy, Portugal and Iceland were among the founding members and ultimately Greece and Türkiye joined the Alliance in 1952. Iceland linked its membership to that of Denmark and Norway, which were also among the founding members in 1949; Sweden, on the other hand, refused to have any links with NATO because of its strong commitment to neutrality. Consideration was also given to offering membership to Ireland, Iran, Austria and Spain, but the idea was dropped mainly due to internal situations in each country.

## **Colonial territories**

The status of colonial territories was one of the biggest issues during the drafting of the Washington Treaty. France insisted on including Algeria, while Belgium requested the Congo's inclusion. However, the United States and Canada wanted to exclude all colonial territory, the main concern being that NATO would end up having to resolve problems because of the native populations in each of the territories.

## **Duration of the Treaty**

The negotiating countries disagreed on how long the Treaty should last. Some countries favored a long-term agreement that would set the initial duration at 20 years, while others thought that anything beyond 10 years would be seen as an unnecessary extension of the war effort. Finally, at the insistence of Portugal, the Treaty was made valid for a 10-year period, after which the Treaty could be reviewed. After the Treaty had been in force for 20 years, a member could withdraw from the Organization. To date, these two provisions have never been used - the Treaty has never been reviewed nor a member withdrawn from the Organization.

What are some of the reasons that countries were invited to become members in the Alliance?

What are some of the reasons that countries were not invited to become members in the Alliance?

Why might a country want to withdraw from the Organization?

## **Homework**

Respond to the following question in paragraph format. Be sure to check your work for proper grammar and fix any spelling mistakes.

- What is the importance of NATO? Be sure to discuss:
  - Why was it written
  - How it helps member countries
  - What are some drawbacks
  - How it impacts us today

The NATO logo, a white compass rose with four points, is centered in the background. It is overlaid on a light blue rectangular box that contains the title text. The background of the entire slide is a darker blue.

# NATO - History and Implications

What role does NATO play in our lives and how did we get here?

# The end of World War II

- WWII officially ended on May 8, 1945 with the surrender of Germany (known as VE Day)
- Countries had to deal with the widespread destruction of total war
  - Some estimates say that there was **\$1,000,000,000,000** worth of destruction ([Britannica](#))
    - Cost of physical destruction (buildings that got destroyed, etc.)
    - Loss of production
  - Globally, approximately 60 million people died ([WWII Museum](#))
    - **Roughly 2.6% of the global population** ([US Census](#))

# Post-war America

- How was the US feeling at this time?
  - There was a peacetime **draft**
  - Military spending was **increased**
  - Was **more** willing to get involved in European affairs
  - Deeply **anti-communist**
  - African Americans, Hispanic Americans, and women became more dedicated to trying to win their full freedoms and civil rights
  - Americans became wealthier and more citizens went to college



# The Start of the Cold War

- The Soviet Union joined the Allied forces to fight against Nazi Germany during World War II
- The alliance began to crumble as soon as the war in Europe ended in May 1945.
- The Soviet Union was determined to have a **buffer zone** between its borders and Western Europe.
  - It set up pro-communist governments in Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Albania, and eventually in East Germany.
- The United States **wanted to prevent the spread of Soviet and communist influence** in Western European nations such as France, Italy, and Greece.



# The Start of the Cold War

- During the 1940s, the United States stopped hesitating to become involved in European affairs.
  - The Truman Doctrine (1947) promised **aid to governments threatened by communist revolts**.
  - The Marshall Plan (1947) provided billions of dollars in **economic assistance to eliminate the political instability** that could open the way for **communist takeovers of democratically elected governments**.
  - The Vandenberg Resolution (1948) allowed for the United States to **work outside of the UN Security Council**
    - The Soviet Union held veto power, so this was a way to allow for military alliances with other UN nations
    - Allowed for negotiations to begin for the North Atlantic Treaty
  - The Brussels Treaty (1948) Western European countries and the United States wanted to create a **collective security agreement** in response to increasing tensions and security concerns between the Soviets and the West
    - Great Britain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxemburg signed the Brussels Treaty in March, 1948
- In 1949, the United States joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). As a result, the Soviet Union created an alliance with the communist governments of Eastern Europe that was formalized in 1955 by the **Warsaw Pact**





# The Birth of NATO



# Negotiating NATO

## US Concerns:

- A declaration of war can only be given by Congress, so there **needed to defense options other than war to help** European countries if they were attacked
- **Aid** in the form of grants and supplies would be based on regional coordination between European members
- Believed that the **more** countries that were involved, the **better** off all member countries would be

## European Concerns:

- Wanted guarantees that the US would **automatically** get involved in the event of an attack
- Wanted **large-scale military assistance** from the United States to help rebuild Western Europe's defense capabilities
- Believed that membership should be **limited** to the countries that signed the treaty

# Signing the Treaty

- The treaty was signed in 1949
  - Was called the Washington Treaty
  - Original 12 signatories:
    - United States
    - Canada
    - Belgium
    - Denmark
    - France
    - Iceland
    - Italy
    - Luxembourg
    - The Netherlands
    - Norway
    - Portugal
    - The United Kingdom



# What did they agree to?

- Mutual defense
  - An attack against one country was an attack against all countries
- Member countries would consult with each other about threats and defense issues
- Attacks on colonial territories would *not* be considered as an attack on the signatory 's country
  - For example, an attack on the Puerto Rico, a US territory, would not be considered as an attack on the US so the other countries would not be required to come to the aid of the US
- Other countries *could join the Alliance if they met certain qualifications*

How does a country join NATO?

**HOW DOES A COUNTRY**



**JOIN NATO?**

# NATO Today

- There are **30** member states from North America and Europe
- The Alliance has developed a network of partnerships with other countries in the Mediterranean and the Gulf regions
- NATO works with governments and NGOs to coordinate a wide range of **political and security-related issues**





# NATO Structure - 2 main parts

## Political:

- Ambassadors from member countries and organizations
- Departments include:
  - Special Representative on Women, Peace, and Security
  - Science for Peace and Security
  - Defence Investment Division
  - Civil Emergency Planning
- Aim to work with member countries and partners to **uphold the goals of peace and stability**

## Military:

- is responsible for the planning and carrying out of all NATO military operations
  - **Training**
  - **Education**
  - **Exercises**
- Key elements of this part include
  - Chiefs of Defence of NATO member countries
  - The International Military Staff
  - Allied Command Operations
  - Allied Command Transformation

# Exercises

- Exercises allow NATO to **test concepts, procedures, systems and tactics.**
- They enable militaries and civilian organisations to **identify** "best practices" (what works) and "lessons learned" (what needs improving).
- Exercises are planned in advance and vary in goal, duration, and type - ranging between *live exercises in the field* to *computer-assisted exercises that take place in a classroom.*
- NATO exercises are open as to all formal partner countries.
- The Alliance has been conducting exercises since 1951



# Operations

- NATO is a **crisis management** organisation that can handle a wide range of military operations and missions.
- It is involved in operations and missions around the world such as:
  - leading operations in Kosovo and the Mediterranean.
  - In 2018, starting a training mission in Iraq in order to increase the ability of Iraq's security forces
  - supporting the African Union
  - assisting with the response to the refugee and migrant crisis in Europe
- NATO carries out **disaster relief operations** and missions to **protect populations against natural, technological or humanitarian disasters.**
- NATO is *supporting efforts to fight the COVID-19 pandemic* in member and partner countries.
- The frequency and diversity of operations and mission have increased since the early 1990s
  - Since the end of the Cold War. Why do you think that is the case?



# Stronger Together - Why NATO matters

**WHAT  
IS NATO?**



Does NATO still matter?



## Discussion questions:

- What was one way that the United States “fought” the Cold War?
- How did the end of the Cold War impact NATO?
- What is the current role of NATO?
- What are some current struggles for NATO?
- Do you think NATO is still relevant? Why or why not?
- Why is it important for nations to work together?



## NATO - History and Implications Graphic Organizer

<b><u>The End of World War 2</u></b>	
What were some effects of WWII?	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
What was life like in America?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ There was a peacetime _____</li> <li>○ Military spending was _____</li> <li>○ Was _____ willing to get involved in European affairs</li> <li>○ Deeply anti-_____</li> <li>○ _____ Americans, _____ Americans, and _____ became more dedicated to trying to win their full freedoms and civil _____</li> <li>○ Americans became _____ and more citizens went to college</li> </ul>

<b><u>The Start of the Cold War</u></b>	
How did the relationship with the Soviet Union change after WWII?	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
What did the Soviet Union want between it and Western Europe? What did it create?	<p>The Soviet Union wanted a _____ between its borders and Western Europe.</p> <p>It set up _____ governments in Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Albania, and eventually in East Germany.</p>
How did the United States react?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The _____ (1947) promised aid to governments threatened by communist revolts.</li> <li>○ The _____ (1947) provided billions of dollars in economic assistance to eliminate the political instability that could open the way for communist takeovers of democratically elected governments.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The _____ (1948) allowed for the United States to work outside of the UN Security Council</li> <li>■ Allowed for negotiations to begin for the North Atlantic Treaty</li> <li>○ The _____ (1948) Western European countries and the United States wanted to create a collective security agreement in response to increasing tensions and security concerns between the Soviets and the West</li> <li>■ Great Britain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg signed the Brussels Treaty</li> </ul>
How did the Soviet Union react to the US joining NATO?	<hr/> <hr/>

<b>Negotiating NATO</b>	
<i>US Concerns:</i>	<i>European Concerns:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A declaration of war can only be given by _____, so there needed to be defense options other than war to help European countries if they were attacked</li> <li>● Aid in the form of grants and _____ would be based on regional coordination between European members</li> <li>● Believed that the more countries that were involved, the _____ off all member countries would be</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Wanted guarantees that the US would _____ get involved in the event of an attack</li> <li>● Wanted large-scale military assistance from the US to help _____ Western Europe's defense capabilities</li> <li>● Believed that membership should be _____ to the countries that signed the treaty</li> </ul>

<b><u>What did the signatories agree to?</u></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● _____ defense <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ An attack against one country was an attack against _____ countries</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Member countries would _____ with each other about threats and defense issues</li> </ul>

- Attacks on colonial territories would \_\_\_\_\_ be considered as an attack on the signatory 's country
  - For example, an attack on the Puerto Rico, a US territory, would not be considered as an attack on the US so the other countries would not be required to come to the aid of the US
- Other countries \_\_\_\_\_ join the Alliance if they met certain qualifications

### How does a country join NATO?

Prerequisites/Step 1: Get \_\_\_\_\_ approval from current member countries. The new country must meet three requirements:

- Must be a \_\_\_\_\_ country
- But be a \_\_\_\_\_
- Must contribute to the security of the Euro-Atlantic Area

Step 2: Complete the things outlined in the Membership Action Plan (MAP).

Step 3: After a country completes it's MAP, a meeting is held to get approval

Step 4: \_\_\_\_\_ countries must ratify the new country's approval. As the country is waiting for all others to do this, they will participate in NATO actions

Step 5: Finally, each country needs to pass a \_\_\_\_\_ in their country. This can be voted in whatever form the country usually holds elections.

### NATO Today

- There are \_\_\_\_ member states from North America and Europe
- The Alliance has developed a network of partnerships with other countries in the Mediterranean and the Gulf regions
- NATO works with governments and \_\_\_\_\_ to coordinate a wide range of political and security-related issues

### NATO Structure:

#### *Political:*

- \_\_\_\_\_ from member countries and organizations
- Departments include:
  - Special Representative on \_\_\_\_\_, Peace, and Security
  - Science for Peace and Security

#### *Military:*

- is responsible for the \_\_\_\_\_ and execution of all NATO military operations
  - Training
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - Exercises

- Defence Investment Division
- Civil \_\_\_\_\_ Planning
- Aim to work with member countries and partners to uphold the goals of \_\_\_\_\_ and stability

- Key elements of this part include
  - Chiefs of Defence of NATO member countries
  - The International Military Staff
  - Allied Command Operations
  - Allied Command Transformation

**Things NATO does:**

What are NATO Exercises?

What are NATO Operations?

**Stronger Together - Why NATO Matters:**

How does NATO benefit member countries?

**Does NATO still matter?**

What are some drawbacks/struggles to NATO?



# Teacher's name: Rachael Kelly Grade: 7 Subject area: Civics

Week of: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Circle: M T W T F

Standards/Objectives (What should students be able to do at the end of the lesson?)

**SS.7.CG.4.1-** Explain the relationship between U.S. foreign and domestic policy.

- Students will recognize the difference between domestic and foreign policy.
- Students will identify issues that relate to U.S. domestic and foreign policy.
- Students will define “national interest” and identify the means available to the national government to pursue the United States’ national interest.

**SS.7.CG.4.2 -** Describe the United States’ and citizen participation in international organizations.

- Students will identify major international organizations in which government plays a role (e.g., North Atlantic Treaty Organization, United Nations, International Court of Justice, World Trade Organization).
- Students will discuss the advantages and disadvantages of U.S. membership in international organizations.

**SS.7.CG.4.3 -** Describe examples of the United States’ actions and reactions in international conflicts.

- Students will identify specific examples of and the reasons for the United States’ involvement in international conflicts.
- Students will analyze primary source documents pertaining to international incidents to determine the course of action taken by the United States.
- Students will identify the different methods used by the United States to deal with international conflict (e.g., diplomacy, espionage, humanitarian efforts, peacekeeping operations, sanctions, war).

Materials Needed

- [Google Slides presentation: NATO](#)
- [Graphic Organizer based on the presentation](#)
- [NATO Reading](#)

Bloom’s Taxonomy:  
 My lesson provides opportunities for:

- Evaluation
- Synthesis
- Analysis
- Application
- Understanding

Instructional Procedures

Opening Hook for Learning: (How will I gain students’ attention?)  
 Bell-Ringer: **What does it mean for countries to be allies? Why are alliances important?**

- Activating prior knowledge:
  - What does “domestic” mean? “foreign”?
  - What is an NGO? What are some examples?

Direct Instruction: (How will I present new material and make learning relevant?)

- [google slides presentation: NATO](#)
- Option 1: Hand out graphic organizer to students to fill in as the teacher is presenting
- Option 2: Students fill out their graphic organizer in small groups or independently. Then, using the discussion questions,

Accommodations

- Extended Time
- Preferential Seating
- Segmented Assignments
- Assignment Length
- Communication Methods
- Peer Tutors
- Instructional Assistance
- Other

Remediation  
 BrainPOP - Cold War



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Knowledge</li> </ul> <p>Types of Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Co-Op Learning</li> <li>○ <i>Independent Work</i></li> <li>○ <i>Small Group</i></li> <li>○ <i>Teacher-Assisted</i></li> <li>○ Hands-on</li> </ul>	<p>the teacher can facilitate scholarly discussions about the material.</p> <p>Guided and Independent Practice: (How will I get students to practice what has just been taught?)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">graphic organizer</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">scaffolded, complex reading passage with questions</a></li> </ul> <p>Closing: (How can I bring closure to summarize learning and enhance retention of the material?)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Exit ticket: List at least three benefits of NATO? What are at least three drawbacks of NATO? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- this can be answered via a google form or written on an index card and collected</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>BrainPOP - World War 2</p> <p>Enrichment</p> <p>CommonLit Article: THE COLD WAR</p> <p><a href="https://www.commonlit.org/en/texts/the-cold-war">https://www.commonlit.org/en/texts/the-cold-war</a></p>
<p>Reflection:</p> <p>Today I...</p> <p>Used data to plan the lesson.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Stated my objectives clearly</li> <li>○ Actively engaged students</li> <li>○ Integrated Bloom's Taxonomy</li> <li>○ Provided time for interaction</li> <li>○ Gave feedback</li> <li>○ Kept the lesson aligned</li> </ul>	<p>Assessment (What data will give me information about students' understanding of today's lesson?)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The exit ticket will serve as the formative assessment.</li> <li>- The written response for homework will serve as the summative assessment.</li> </ul> <p>Follow-Up (How will this assessment/evaluation be used?)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Enduring understandings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How do nations build relationships with other nations?</li> <li>- What are the benefits and drawbacks to treaties?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Homework</p> <p>Respond to the following question in paragraph format. Be sure to check your work for proper grammar and fix any spelling mistakes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What is the importance of NATO? Be sure to discuss: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Why was it written</li> <li>- How it helps member countries</li> <li>- What are some drawbacks</li> <li>- How it impacts us today</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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EUROPEAN UNION