

[PRIMER]

# NATO

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

IMPERIALIST WAR MACHINE

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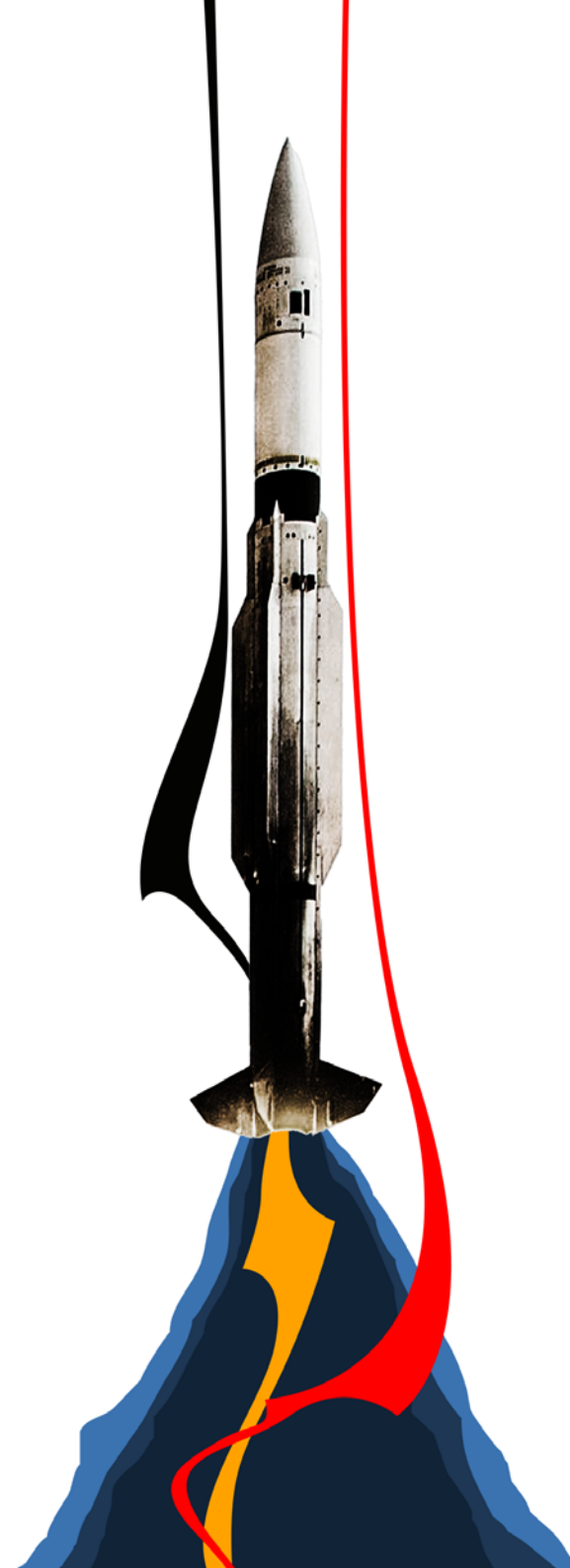
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**IMPERIALIST WAR MACHINE**

# 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.

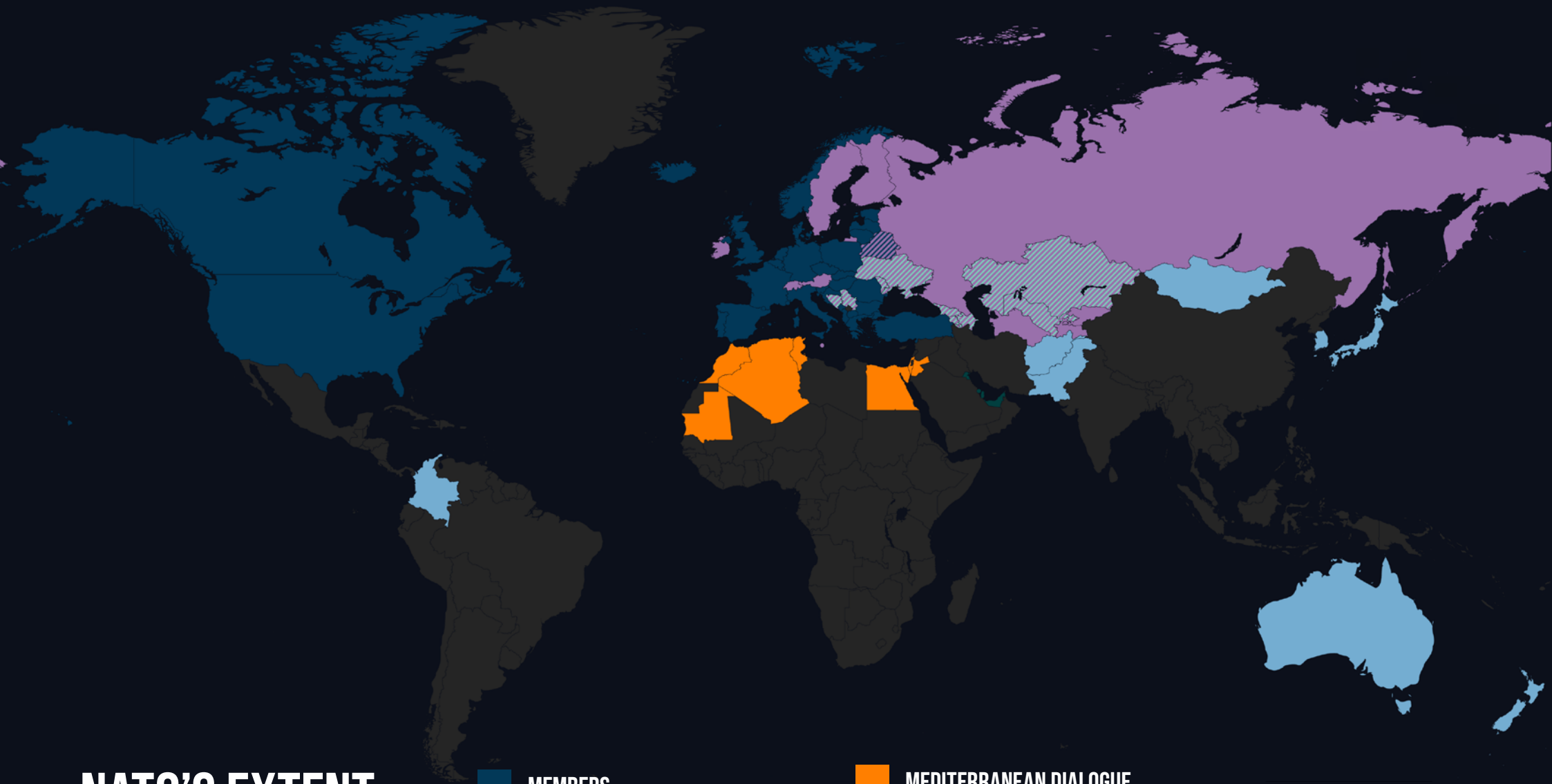
**How is this unequal relationship maintained? More importantly, how is NATO an irreplaceable component of US foreign policy and military supremacy over its spheres of influence? Why do we say that US imperialism would not exist without NATO and that NATO only exists as a vehicle for US imperialism in 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  
France Estonia Denmark  
Czech Republic Croatia Canada  
Bulgaria Belgium Albania

## GLOBAL PARTNERS

(loosely defined case by case)

Colombia Iraq Afghanistan  
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** 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

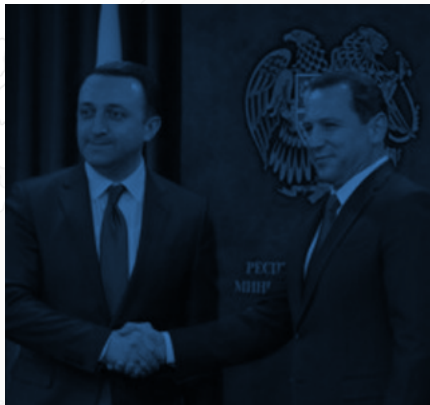
Same objectives as the Mediterranean Dialogue within the Persian Gulf.

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**





# 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 have 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."

**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 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...

...Somalian 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:** President Joe Biden to attend NATO meeting and discuss ways to build its defensive network - including against cyber attacks - and deepening partnerships with democratic partners in Europe and Asia.

# 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 FAR OUTSIDE THE NORTH ATLANTIC

NATO's expansion over the years has proved 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 done its hard work to ensure a consolidated Western imperialist alliance through its various other proxies around the world.

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.

Nearly all of Israel's military spending has been subsidized by the US since its founding, with the expectation that 80% of it purchases 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 in 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 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 of 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 doctrine. A militarized tsunami relief response in Japan by the US, Japan, India and Australia sparked an attempt at a military alliance that dissolved in 2007 and restarted in 2017 during US President Trump's visit to the Manila ASEAN Summit. Known as the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD), its focus has

focused on policies to combat China's economic rise as India, 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.

In these alliances, the US has paired NATO with an imperfect but nonetheless effective counterpart in its existential confrontation with the Russia-China alliance globally.

## 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.





Photo: [www.workers.org](http://www.workers.org)

## 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.



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