Research Report

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Forum: *North Atlantic Council*
Issue: *Responsible expansion of NATO*

Position: *Deputy Chair*

Introduction

NATO's ongoing enlargement process poses no threat to any country. It is aimed at promoting stability and cooperation, at building a Europe whole and free, united in peace, democracy and common values. 'NATO is not a threat to anyone, it is a defensive alliance, it is simply meant to provide security', said John Kerry, the US secretary of state. Europe has changed since the formation of NATO in 1949. With over twenty new nations, the continent now faces different challenges: from international terrorism and crime to drug trafficking and intrastate ethnic conflict. The collapse of communism and the dissolution of the Soviet Union have caused governments to change and democracies to form in Southern and Eastern Europe. In the wake of these changes, the stability and predictability of Europe is in question while the symbol of stability and security is being honoured, extended, and enlarged.

NATO has transformed itself from a defensive alliance against the Soviet Union, into a system of relations designed to regulate the internal political, economic and social relations of not only member countries, but also of non-members on the periphery of the NATO alliance. Thus, in addition to admitting new members based on their adherence to democratic principles, and inducing others to adopt and adhere to those principles, NATO has become an instrument for punishing those nations which violate those principles in particularly egregious ways.

The expansion of NATO, dramatically increases the responsibilities and vulnerabilities of NATO. However, The expansion may also increase the opportunities. Subsequently, these possibilities need to be quite carefully considered.

Definition of Key Terms

NATO - It is an abbreviation for North Atlantic Treaty Council. It is an organisation formed in Washington, D.C on 1949, comprising 12 nations of the Atlantic Pact together with Greece, Turkey, and Germany - for the purpose of collective defence against aggression.

Article 10 - Article 10 states that membership is open to any "European State in a position to further the principles of this Treaty and to contribute to the security of the North Atlantic area".

Cold War - The Cold War is the name given to the relationship that developed primarily between the USA and the USSR after World War Two. The Cold War was to dominate international affairs for decades and many major crises occurred – the Cuban Missile Crisis, Vietnam, Hungary and the Berlin Wall being just some. For many, the growth in weapons of mass destruction was the most worrying issue.

General Overview

Provision for enlargement is given by Article 10 of the North Atlantic Treaty. Furthermore, the expansion has triggered new challenges and threats. The idea of expansion comes at a time when the organisation has fulfilled its original missions. Any decision to invite a country to join the Alliance is taken by the North Atlantic Council, NATO's principal political decision-making body, on the basis of consensus among all Allies.

NATO was created to keep Germany in check, the United States in Europe, and Russia from expanding westward. Today, Germany is an integral part of the European community; Russia is yearning to be a part of democratic Europe; and, although the US role in Europe has changed from defender to pacifier, it is firmly grounded on the continent. NATO is no longer preparing for war against Russia, the Warsaw Pact is defunct, and the United States shows no sign of isolating itself from Europe.

With the end of the Cold War, NATO seems to some an anachronistic organisation that need not be revived. To others it seems a valuable mechanism to promote democracy, peace, and security in all of Europe.

President Clinton thought the latter and proposed opening NATO's doors to new nations. Since President Clinton's decision was announced, the US foreign policy community has engaged in a debate on the pros and cons of NATO expansion. At the Airlie Centre in Warrenton, Virginia, a diverse group of experts on both sides of the issue met to examine the proposal to expand, determine the dangers and benefits of expanding, and propose recommendations in response to expansion.

There are various consequences of the NATO expansion, such as it being expensive. The cost have been estimated to be $6-35 billion, however it is hard to estimate of the costs. Nonetheless, it is considered to be worth the costs given in. It is quite convincing to think that NATO expansions would be the key to preventing conflicts that may require costly US interventions. Many people think that the expansion is a reason and a way for the United States to project power over the European and South American countries. This further suggests establish stability within the United States and their interests abroad. Finally, it could potentially mean that this expansion would lead to the devastation of the organisation.

There are serious implications to expanding NATO; some of which may or may not have been considered, for instance: United States affording to renege on its deal to expand, sacrificing its credibility, relations with its allies, and the opportunity to create a Pax Americana out of NATO or pushing for an expansion knowing it may cause an arms race, compromise the relationship between US and Russia, strengthening Germany as a country, and place the United States firmly in the shoes of a policeman to the world.

Major Parties Involved

Russia	Belgium
United States of America	Holland
Canada	Luxembourg
UK	Norway
France	Iceland

Denmark	Turkey
Italy	West Germany
Portugal	Spain
Greece	

Timeline of Events

1949	Signing of the North Atlantic Treaty - Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, USA, UK
1952	Greece and Turkey join NATO
1955	Federal Republic of Germany joins NATO
	Formation of Warsaw Pact
1982	Spain joins NATO
1987	Signing of the INF treaty
1989	Fall of the Berlin Wall
1990	German reunification
	New German Länder in East becomes a part of NATO
1991	Break up of the Soviet Union and Dissolution of the Warsaw Pact
2004	Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Romania join NATO

Useful documents

1. http://www.stanleyfoundation.org/publications/archive/SPC97D.pdf
2. http://www.nato.int/docu/posters/timeline-eng.pdf

Appendix/Appendices

1. http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_52044.htm
2. http://www.dictionary.com/browse/nato
3. http://www.reuters.com/article/us-nato-montenegro-kerry-idUSKBN0TL0YZ20151202
4. http://www.stanleyfoundation.org/publications/archive/SPC97D.pdf
5. http://www.nato.int/docu/posters/timeline-eng.pdf
6. http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/modern-world-history-1918-to-1980/the-cold-war/what-was-the-cold-war/
7. http://www.bu.edu/globalbeat/nato/GIU031599.html