

**Committee:** Security Council

**Issue:** Assessing NATO's involvement in inter-state conflicts

**Student Officers:** Bill Michalis / Kaya Çolakoğlu

**Position:** Deputy President / President

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## PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Esteemed delegates,

My name is Bill Michalis and it is my honor to serve as a Student Officer in this year's Security Council, in the ACGMUN. This is going to be my 13<sup>th</sup> conference and 3<sup>rd</sup> as a Student Officer in the Security Council. I am 15 years old and a Student in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade of CGS. MUN has been an integral part of my life and it has provided me with a lot of experiences, especially in the Security Council. The topic concerning the involvement of NATO in inter-state conflicts is one of the most important topics that our society is facing today and the effects of such involvement are seen every day in International Relations and are, more than anything, related to International Security. This topic needs thorough research; this Study Guide aims to cover most of your research but some further research is definitely needed. NATO is one of the most influential organizations, if not the most influential, not including the UN. The topic of NATO can be a very interesting debate topic if the appropriate research is made. It is also a very difficult topic to cover and thus if any clarifications are needed, don't hesitate to e-mail me at [vassilis.michalis@gmail.com](mailto:vassilis.michalis@gmail.com). I hope that this Study Guide covers most of your research and look forward to meeting you in the conference.

## TOPIC INTRODUCTION

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), is a political and military alliance between 29 countries from Europe and North America. It was established following the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty on 4 April 1949. NATO's original founding purpose was to provide its member states with a common defense mechanism that would deter foreign threats. Specifically, this meant that NATO was the main driving force of the West Bloc during the Cold War. Following the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, NATO's structure and functions were subject to change, and it changed its focus to include combat against non-state agents as well. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, NATO has also played a significant role in international relations, especially relations between countries it operated in and regional forces.



*#1 The creation of NATO – April 4 1949*

NATO operates in conjunction with large inter-state organizations when making significant decisions. In the past, NATO made sure that it had the backing of the United Nations before starting large-scaled operations overseas. NATO and its member states recognize the responsibilities that the organization has due to its global significance and hold many regional meetings and conferences. The NATO military also acts in a similar fashion to the governments, bearing in mind strategic partnerships and complex diplomacy.

This study guide will focus on the many structures and functions of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and aim to provide thorough insight on how its involvement in inter-state conflicts impact international relations.

## DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

### Interstate conflict

Violence between two or more parties which are recognized states by the International system, namely the UN. It also involves national armed forces of all parties.

### **Intrastate conflict**

An intrastate conflict is a conflict between different factions, groups and teams within an internationally recognized state. Such conflict involves mostly unofficial and non-professional armies that represent their respective faction, group or team.

### **Extra-state conflict**

An extra-state conflict is between the two previously mentioned conflicts. It is a conflict between an internationally recognized state and another party, which is not recognized as a state and does not operate as a state. The aim of the non-state party can vary; from gaining independence (e.g. Yugoslavia) to overthrowing the current administration or regime (e.g. Libya).

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

NATO divides its operational periods to three<sup>1</sup>: The Birth of NATO and the Cold War, Europe reunited, and NATO since 9/11. “The Birth of NATO and the Cold War” includes the period from 1949 (the signing of the Washington Treaty) until 1989 (the fall of the Berlin Wall); “Europe reunited” includes the period from 1991 (when NATO started developing partnerships with former socialist republics of the Soviet Union) until 2001 (with another important date being 2003, when NATO engaged in its first major crisis-management operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina); and “NATO since 9/11” includes the time from 2001 (which marks the 9/11 attacks in New York and Washington D.C.)

### **The Birth of NATO and the Cold War**

On April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1949, the North Atlantic Treaty was signed by Norway, Denmark, The Netherlands, Belgium, Luxemburg, France, Italy, Portugal, the United Kingdom, Iceland, Canada and the United States. This union of 12 nations became known as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, under the idea that “an attack against one, would be an attack against all.” The first NATO Secretary General, Lord Ismay, said that the organization’s goal was “to keep the Russians out, the Americans in and the Germans down”, a statement that expressed NATO’s position during that period.

The beginning of the Korean War in June 1950 made the NATO military realize the necessity of building a concrete counter-alliance against threats from Communist countries. This led to the founding of the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe. As NATO continued its military presence across Europe and down to

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<sup>1</sup>NATO Welcome Page, <https://www.nato.int/nato-welcome/index.html>

the Mediterranean Sea, two other countries, Turkey and Greece, joined the Organization.

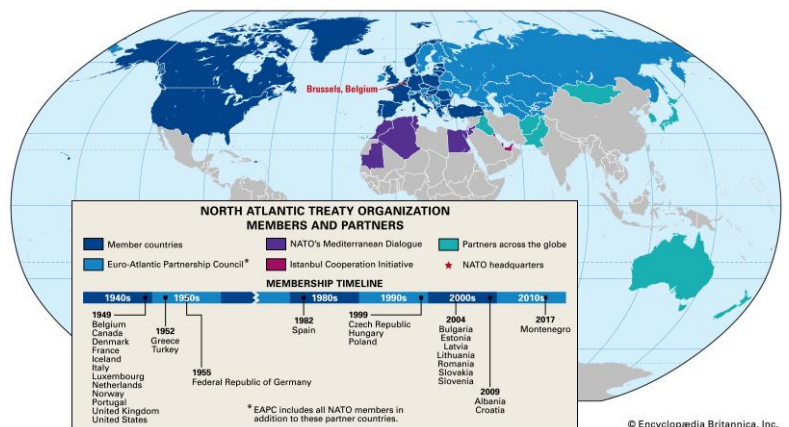
West Germany's accession to NATO also further cemented NATO's position as an alliance of non-socialist states. The decision came right after the rejection of the Soviet Union's proposal to join the organization. The Warsaw Pact was founded shortly after.

Under the leadership of Charles de Gaulle, France withdrew from NATO, protesting the United States and the United Kingdom's strong presence in the organization. France would remain out of the organization until 2009, but the country showed solidarity with NATO throughout the Cold War. On May 30 1982 Spain was admitted to the North Atlantic Organization.

The fall of the Berlin Wall and the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact signified the end of an era in which NATO had a strong adversary to fight against. Therefore the organization started restructuring its aims and purposes to fit the needs of the coming century. In 1990, the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe was signed between NATO and the Soviet Union, reducing militarization across the continent. In December 1991, the Soviet Union dissolved. As NATO began its expansion through Central and Eastern Europe, it started to become involved with inter-European diplomacy.

## Europe reunited

NATO established the North Atlantic Cooperation Council on 20 December 1991 as a forum for dialogue and cooperation with former Warsaw Pact countries. The establishment of the council opened up a number of channels and allied many Central and Eastern European



#2 Graph explaining NATO's expansion in modern times



#3 NATO troops in Bosnia & Herzegovina

countries with the organization. The North Atlantic Cooperation Council dealt with issues such as the retraction of former Soviet troops from Central and Eastern Europe, and the regional conflicts that occasionally broke out in the Balkans. The NACC was succeeded by the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council after the accession of seven new members to the NATO:

Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Bulgaria and Romania.

In 1995, NATO engaged in its first peacekeeping operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The operation was carried out by the NATO-led Implementation Force (IFOR). With the operation, NATO helped implement the military aspects of the Dayton Peace Agreement, which ended the 3-year war in the country. When NATO ended its stabilization operation in the country, the European Union succeeded its duties. NATO's willingness to cooperate with major inter-governmental organizations were once again outlined. Bosnia and Herzegovina eventually went on to become a NATO partner country.

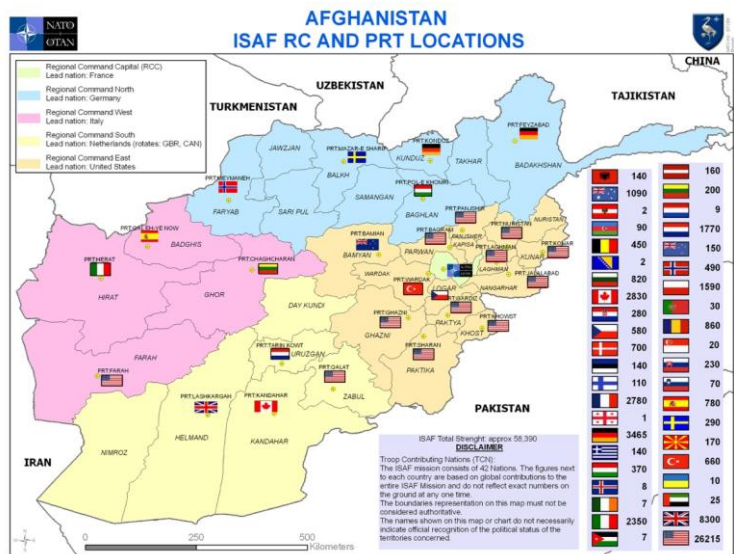
### NATO since 9/11

On September 11, 2001, large-scaled terror attacks were carried out in New York and Washington D.C. in the United States. This event was followed by the first ever invocation of the solidarity clause, Article 5 by the US. The invocation was confirmed on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October 2001. In response, NATO took 8 official actions, including naval operations in the Mediterranean Sea, and the International Security

Assistance Force (ISAF), with troops from 42 countries. ISAF went on to take actions in Afghanistan, securing Kabul and the surrounding areas from Taliban, Al-Qaeda and factional warlords. NATO went on to actively operate in Afghanistan until 2012, when in a conference it decided to endorse a plan which ended the ISAF operations in the country. As a matter of fact, in 2015, NATO initiated Operation Resolute Support with the backing of a United Nations Security Council resolution, and started the training of Afghan military and institutions to combat terror.

### The 2010 Strategic Concept

In 2010, NATO leaders met to discuss and produce a new strategic approach in NATO, allowing it to broaden its operational horizon. The following text is provided in order to understand how NATO approaches issues in the current decade:





*“The modern security environment contains a broad and evolving set of challenges to the security of NATO’s territory and populations. In order to assure their security, the Alliance must and will continue fulfilling effectively three essential core tasks, all of which contribute to safeguarding Alliance members, and always in accordance with international law:*

– **Collective Defense**

*NATO members will always assist each other against attack, in accordance with Article 5 of the Washington Treaty. That commitment remains firm and binding. NATO will deter and defend against any threat of aggression, and against emerging security challenges where they threaten the fundamental security of individual Allies or the Alliance as a whole.*

– **Crisis Management**

*NATO has a unique and robust set of political and military capabilities to address the full spectrum of crises – before, during and after conflicts. NATO will actively employ an appropriate mix of those political and military tools to help manage developing crises that have the potential to affect Alliance security, before they escalate into conflicts; to stop ongoing conflicts where they affect Alliance security; and to help consolidate stability in post-conflict situations where that contributes to Euro-Atlantic security.*

– **Cooperative security**

*The Alliance is affected by, and can affect, political and security developments beyond its borders. The Alliance will engage actively to enhance international security, through partnership with relevant countries and other international organizations; by contributing actively to arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament; and by keeping the door of membership in the Alliance open to all European democracies that meet NATO’s standards.”<sup>2</sup>*

### **The way NATO takes Decisions**

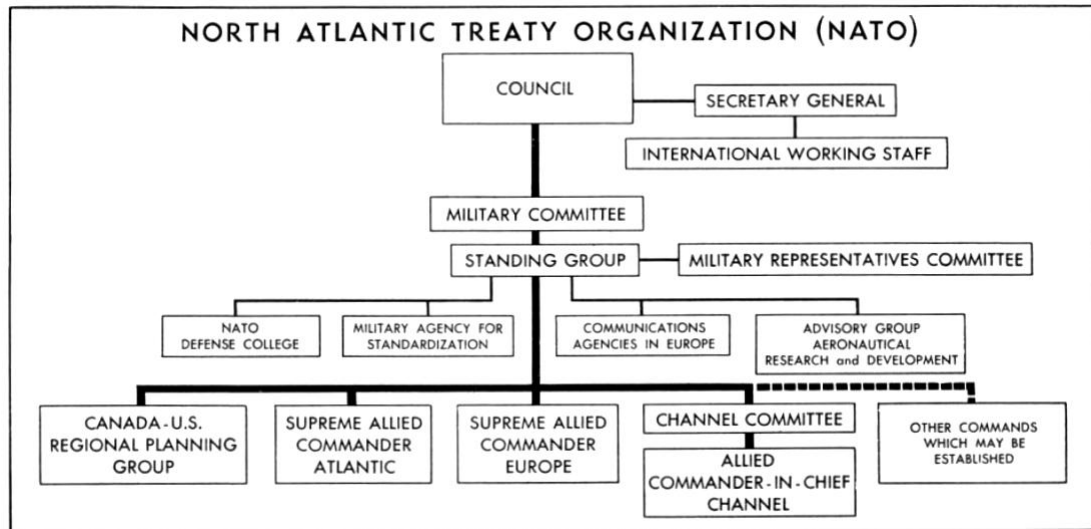
At the heart of NATO lies the North Atlantic Council. The Council is the principal political decision-making body at NATO. The North Atlantic Council is made up by delegations of each NATO member state. The Council is chaired by the Secretary General, the current being Mr. Jens Stoltenberg, with the duty of ensuring cooperation among members. NATO decisions are taken unanimously due to the “alliance” nature of the organization. Because of this nature, NATO’s crisis-

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<sup>2</sup> The 2010 Strategic Concept:

[https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics\\_56626.htm?selectedLocale=en](https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_56626.htm?selectedLocale=en)

management operations are carried out under the Article 5 of the Washington Treaty or under a United Nations mandate.



#5 NATO's structure

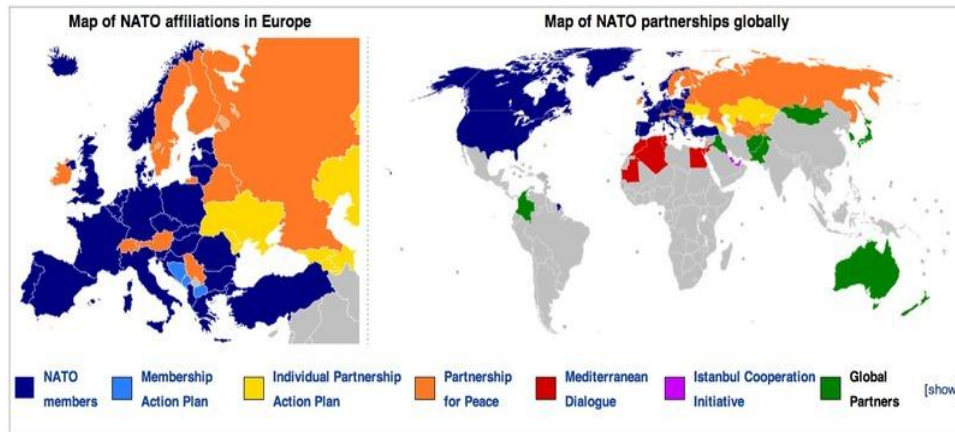
The Military Committee of NATO, composed of the Chiefs of Defense of NATO member countries, takes the military decisions. The NATO military command is composed of the Allied Command Operations and the Allied Command Transformation. NATO has very few permanent staff. If an operation is to be conducted by the organization, member states contribute military forces on a voluntary basis.

### NATO Partnerships

NATO acts in cooperation with partners while managing inter-state conflicts. Under NATO's partnership policies, the following are their key objectives:

- *“Enhance Euro-Atlantic and international security, peace and stability;*
- *Promote regional security and cooperation;*
- *Facilitate mutually beneficial cooperation on issues of common interest, including international efforts to meet emerging security challenges;*
- *Prepare interested eligible nations for NATO membership;*
- *Promote democratic values and institutional reforms, especially in the defense and security sector;*
- *Enhance support for NATO-led operations and missions;*
- *Enhance awareness of security developments including through early warning, with a view to preventing crises;*
- *Build confidence and achieve better mutual understanding, including about NATO's role and activities, in particular through enhanced public diplomacy.”<sup>3</sup>*

<sup>3</sup> NATO Partnerships, [https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics\\_84336.htm](https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_84336.htm)



#6 Different partnerships of NATO around the world

## The situation with Yugoslavia and Libya

The different operations carried out by NATO had numerous outcomes. The cases of Yugoslavia and Libya prove that NATO's involvement in inter-state conflicts may lead to different results that either benefit or significantly harm the international community.

Yugoslavia dealt with a conflict, which saw NATO's involvement in its later stage officially. Following up on the Srebrenica massacre and the devastating battles between the Slav states, NATO bombed Yugoslavia despite the fact that the UN Security Council opposed such actions. The aftermath was that NATO devastated the region of Kosovo, destroying public infrastructure and private properties and decimating the economy of the region up to a point where it has still not recovered. However, NATO also had indirect involvement in the conflict by funneling arms to many sides, most of them being against Serbia, and thus strengthening the hatred between what were once considered "brothers", the Yugoslav nations. NATO didn't only fuel the conflict and support violence but also destroyed part of Yugoslavia.

Libya was in the middle of a bloody civil war, where people were crying for freedom and democracy but were treated unjustly by the dictator of Libya, Gaddafi, who didn't satisfy their demands. NATO got involved when they executed the orders of a Security Council resolution seeking to put an end to the conflict. This is somewhere where co-operation showed its true effects. NATO, with the advice of the UN, got involved and resolved the issue with its power.

## MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

### United States of America

The United States of America is one of the founding members of NATO and is considered to be the leader of the organization; it plays a leading role in shaping the



policy of NATO. It is the strongest member and the strongest contributor to NATO. Following the change in Foreign Policy with President Trump in office, the United States is trying to limit its interference with NATO, with the ultimate aim of reducing expenses towards NATO. The country has led the NATO operation in Yugoslavia, Libya, Afghanistan and is the NATO member mostly involved in conflict.

### **United Kingdom**

The United Kingdom is one of the leading member states of NATO. It is one of the founding members as well. It has been very consistent towards following NATO's policy and has also been playing a huge role in shaping it. It still remains committed towards its obligations in NATO and has been following its policy of strengthening NATO.

### **France**

France was also one of the founding members of NATO and is consistent towards following the policies of the organization. Its involvement is limited and it also left the organization partially in 1966 but later re-joined fully in 2009. The first NATO headquarters were located in France. However, it has led NATO during recent times and played a leading role in shaping NATO policy in the Middle East, mostly because it has suffered from many terrorist attacks that originate from the instability in the Middle East.

### **NATO**

NATO is an alliance formed in 1949. It has currently 29 members and is looking to expand with many nations co-operating with it. It has played a leading role in International Relations and has intervened numerous times in conflict with the aim of resolving it. The results of these interventions are represented by the two cases of Yugoslavia and Libya. It can have and it did have consequences, in Yugoslavia. But it also had, and can always have, benefits such as Libya. However, in order to lead to these benefits there should be co-operation between NATO and the UN.

### **Russia**

Russia is the successor to the Soviet Union. As NATO was formed to counter the threat of the Soviet Union, Russia has been strongly opposed to NATO. It is strongly against the way NATO operates and considers NATO very dangerous because its actions have led to violent and bloody termination of crises. However, it has proven in the past to show cooperation in times of need.

## European Union

The European Union co-operates strongly with NATO; many NATO members are also EU members and the two organizations are strongly connected due to such fact. The EU hasn't been involved in the UN but it has been following the same policy as NATO.

## United Nations

The United Nations as an organization has endorsed cooperation with NATO over the past years following its beneficial interventions in Libya and its supportive actions recently in Afghanistan. The UN and NATO have strong relations and have been strengthening their relations, most notably through the joint declaration of 2008 by the Secretariat of both organizations. However, the history of their relations has shifted. Prior to the “thaw” in the relations of UN and NATO there has been heavy dispute concerning NATO's actions which were arbitrary and led to devastating results.

## TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date	Description of event
1949	NATO treaty is signed in Washington by Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxemburg, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.
1952	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Turkey, Greece, Germany and Spain join NATO.</li> <li>– First NATO joint military exercises start in light of the Korean War.</li> </ul>
1966	France leaves NATO's military department under President Charles De Gaulle.
1974	Greece abstains from military drills as a form of protest against the Turkish invasion of Cyprus.
1993	NATO starts operating in Yugoslavia through Operation Deny Flight.
1994	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– NATO violates the Yugoslav no-fly zone by shooting down Serb Bosnian aircrafts.</li> <li>– Two US F-16 jets bombard Serb Bosnian military facilities near Gorazde and Srebrenica leading to the Srebrenica massacre.</li> </ul>
1995	NATO deploys peacekeeping force in Yugoslavia through Operation Joint Endeavour.
1999	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland join NATO.</li> <li>– NATO bombards for nearly 80 days FR Yugoslavia in</li> </ul>

	light of the issue in Kosovo. NATO also deploys ground forces in Albania to deliver humanitarian aid to Kosovo.
2001	NATO invokes for the first time article 5 of their Charter in light of the 9/11 terror attacks.
2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– NATO takes over International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan.</li> <li>– ISAF's mission is expanded all over Afghanistan by the United Nations Security Council.</li> </ul>
2004	Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia join NATO.
2009	France fully re-joins NATO under Pres. Sarkozy.
2009	Albania and Croatia join NATO.
2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– NATO starts being involved in Libya.</li> <li>– NATO takes over the no-fly zone in Libya.</li> <li>– NATO members start scaling down their contribution to the campaign towards the end of the year.</li> </ul>
2013	NATO starts giving technical advice to the UN backed Libyan government.
2014	Wales Summit Declaration that led to the creation of a more responsive NATO response form.

## BLOCS EXPECTED

One bloc that is expected is a bloc strongly in favor of NATO; such a bloc will probably contain nations close to NATO and members of NATO such as the 3 members of the P5 (USA, UK, France). This bloc's members should be nations which support NATO. NATO has decided to expand and include many nations. Such a bloc is supportive towards NATO's actions and how it differentiates itself from the International viewpoint or action plan on an issue, as this has resulted in resolving many issues (e.g. Libya).

The other bloc, opposed to the first one, is going to be comprised of nations that are against NATO, since they believe that it is acting in an "uncontrollable" manner. The opinion of such nations is that NATO is not just a simple organization or forum. It's the opinion that NATO has to act alongside the UN and not in front of the UN, "striking" early in a situation; as such early actions have led to disastrous consequences due to lack of co-ordination with the UN (e.g. Yugoslavia).

## RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

NATO's role is something that is not discussed regularly in the UN; however there are UN documents concerning Libya, Afghanistan, former Yugoslavia, as well as certain NATO resolutions, which concern these topics.

### 2008 UN-NATO declaration of cooperation

This was a joint declaration by the Secretary-General of NATO and the Secretary-General of the UN that reinforced ties between the two organizations and, as mentioned in the declaration, reaffirms the commitment of the two parties to maintenance of peace and security on an International level.

### Resolution 713 (1991)

Imposed an arms embargo on Yugoslavia for all material related to military and all weapons, as mentioned in the resolution. The embargo was supposed to end in 1995, as signified by a future resolution.

### Resolution 1074 (1996)

Totally lifted the arms embargo as a result of the implementation of the Dayton accords and the progress towards re-establishing relations between former Yugoslav States.

### Resolution 1973 (2011)

Called for the protection of Libyan people through various means. This effort included a total arms embargo on Libya, a no fly zone over Libya and strengthening of sanctions towards the administration of Gaddafi.

### Resolution 2189 (2014)

Welcomed cooperation between NATO and the Afghan government towards establishing a non-combat mission for post-2014.

## PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

The International Community has heavily questioned the involvement of NATO in international and domestic conflicts. But due to the U.S., U.K. and France being P5 members and NATO members, any attempts to limit the actions of NATO have been blocked in the Security Council. This is because the United States, the United Kingdom and France have veto power. Having such veto power restricts other nations from submitting resolutions that are against the actions and the provisions of NATO. The main reason behind the strong U.K., U.S. and French opposition

towards restricting or marginalizing NATO in any way is the fact that NATO is something that concerns intrastate relations between them and thus it's the same as bilateral relations between two nations.

## POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

As mentioned previously, in the Security Council, the solution to limit the actions of NATO has been blocked by the veto powers of U.K., France and the United States. However, the main issue is to set a framework under which NATO and any big alliance should act. An alliance has significantly more power than a normal state and thus should be treated differently. The main question that should be the base for the solutions is whether there should be co-operation and coordination between the UN and NATO. The Council should also refer not only to the military intervention of NATO in any conflict but also to the economic intervention of NATO. An arms embargo or any other economic measures have devastating effects. Anything that can affect a conflict should be addressed. The main question is that of cooperation and trying to find a way for it to occur without triggering issues in the Council. Delegates must be certain that the solutions they propose aim for international security and stability without interfering to NATO's internal structure while simultaneously underline the benefits of such cooperation.

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