

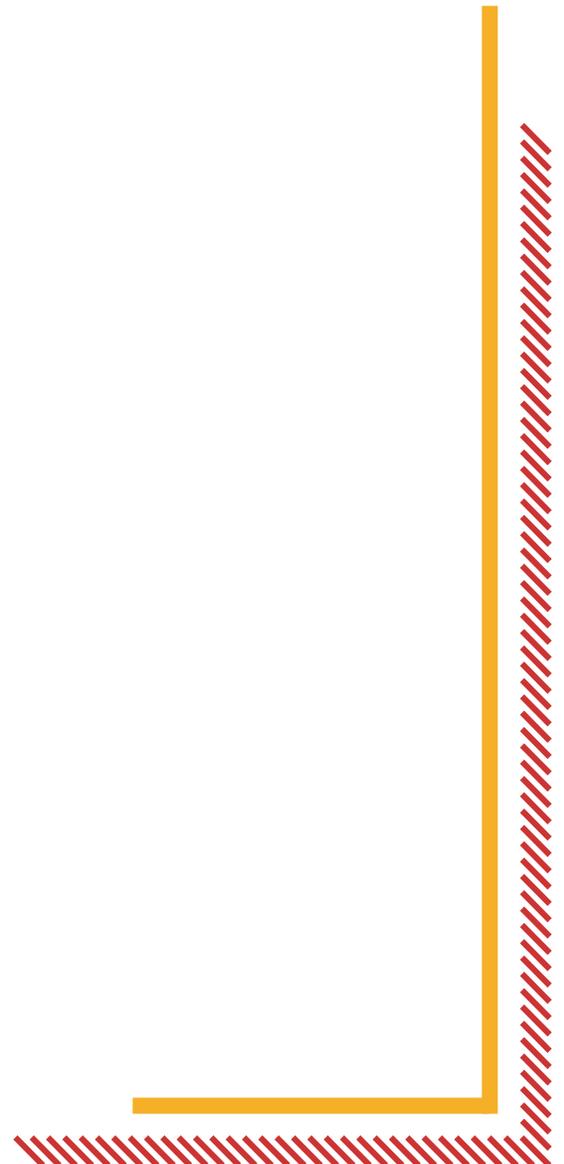
NATO Summit: Wales 2014



March 6-8, 2020

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Letter from the Dais

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2014 NATO Summit committee at BUCS 2020! My name is Aditya Kapur and I will be the Crisis Manager of this committee. I am a sophomore studying Mathematics, Economics and History. I am from New Delhi, India and have taken part in British Parliamentary Debate and MUN for about seven years. I am very enthusiastic about this committee and look forward to facilitating debate, discussions, and negotiations on international security and cooperation.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), founded in 1949, is a military alliance which now has 29 European and North American member nations committed to defense and security cooperation. Over the last seventy years, the alliance has played a major role in security-related matters across the globe and has helped strengthen the relationship between the United States, Canada, Western and Central Europe, and, more recently, former members of the Soviet Union-led Warsaw Pact. Especially over the last thirty years, we have seen NATO play a crucial role in the Balkan conflicts, Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya. The disproportionate power of NATO over global affairs is a theme I hope this committee is able to have discussions about, as well as how nations can work to rework this unfair power dynamic.

The committee is set during the 2014 NATO Summit (September 4-5, 2014) which was clouded by two primary topics: (1) Russian aggression and domestic insurgency in Eastern Ukraine and Crimea and (2) the longstanding conflict in Afghanistan. While both topics continue to be major topics of discussion in international discourse, this committee is set at the time of the summit and wants you to act assuming no knowledge of what has actually happened since that time. I hope that through collaboration and negotiation, delegates can work to find creative, yet realistic ways to move forward.

I look forward to meeting all of you and hearing from you this March. All the best with your preparations!

Best,
Aditya Kapur
Class of 2022
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Historical Background

History of NATO: Formation, Working, and Previous Involvements

NATO was founded in 1949 with the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty by the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Canada, Portugal, Italy, Norway, Denmark, and Iceland. The alliance aimed to collectively secure member nations from the threat of a Soviet attack. The Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe was founded in 1951, and the position of the Secretary-General was established in 1952. This helped to establish a common military structure for the alliance. Over the following years, Turkey, Greece, and West Germany joined the NATO alliance, prompting the formation of the Soviet Union-led Warsaw Pact as a counterbalance. The Cold War saw NATO and the Warsaw Pact act as deterrents against each other, and the two were instrumental in instigating the events of the arms race and the militarization of Europe in fear of the outbreak of warfare.

After the collapse of the USSR, NATO admitted numerous Eastern European countries, many of whom were members of the Warsaw Pact and the former USSR. NATO conducted many military interventions in the Bosnian conflicts from 1992 to 1995 and during

the breakup of Yugoslavia in 1999. After the September 11, 2001 attacks in New York City, the alliance invoked Article 5, which states that all members must aid another member country that is under armed attack. This in turn eventually led to NATO missions in Afghanistan and training missions in Iraq.

Ukraine and Russia

Ukraine declared its sovereignty from the USSR in 1990 and became an independent nation the following year. During the 1990s, Ukraine adopted a semi-presidential political system and worked to achieve economic prosperity. While there were political tussles between pro-Russian and pro-Ukrainian political groups, the Ukrainian government maintained cordial relations with Europe and Russia. In 2010, Viktor Yanukovich of the pro-Russian Donetsk oblast (region) was elected President of Ukraine and sought to develop deeper relations with Russia. In 2013, President Yanukovich decided to not sign the Ukraine-European Union Association Agreement, which led to the widespread “Euromaidan” protests across the country, especially in the capital city of Kyiv. Massive counter-protests under the “Anti-Euromaidan” mantle sprung up in the eastern parts of Ukraine, which supported President Yanukovich’s policies to develop closer ties with Russia.



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In February 2014, President Yanukovich signed a deal with opposition leaders to end the political standoff and fled the country. Subsequently President Yanukovich was impeached by the Ukrainian Parliament. At the same time, Russia annexed the Crimean Peninsula, a majority ethnic Russian region of Ukraine that had been transferred from Russia to Ukraine during the Soviet period. An internationally critiqued domestic referendum passed with over 95% of the electorate supporting Crimea's union with Russia. Protests in the eastern oblasts of Donetsk and Luhansk developed into a pro-Russia insurgency amid demands for union with Russia.

Afghanistan

The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan is a central Asian mountainous country; demographically, the majority of the country's population follow Islam and consists of various ethnic group such as the Pashtun, Tajik, Uzbek and Hazara groups. The country was ruled by the Durrani dynasty, which managed to bring together various ethnic groups and balance the British empire in India and the expanding Soviet Republic to the north. In 1973, a democratic republic was established which was soon overthrown in 1978, making Afghanistan a socialist Soviet satellite state ruled by the People's Democratic

Party of Afghanistan (PDPA). The PDPA rolled out liberal policies across the nation, allowing women the right to vote and to receive an education, enacting land reforms and the building of infrastructure with Soviet help. At the same time, the PDPA government imprisoned and tortured members of the elite classes and religious leaders. This led to the rise of Islamist groups across the country, who led vast protests against the PDPA, resulting in the 1979 invasion of Afghanistan by the Soviet Union. The United States and its allies, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, began supporting Islamist guerilla forces known as Mujahideen in the war against the Soviet Union by providing weaponry, funding, and logistical support. The Soviet Union withdrew from Afghanistan in 1989, but the fighting continued in a civil war until 1996. Much of the country was destroyed, including the cities of Kabul and Kandahar, and thousands of Afghans died in the conflict. The civil war came to an end as the right-wing, Islamic fundamentalist Taliban group formed the government in 1996, reversing the liberal policies of the PDPA and imposing an authoritarian rule over Afghanistan, in which minorities were massacred and women were treated as second class citizens. After the September 11, 2001 attacks in



Historical Background

New York City by the terrorist group Al Qaeda, which was based in Afghanistan, the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), a NATO-led alliance toppled the Taliban government and allowed politician Hamid Karzai to form the Afghan government. ISAF began large-scale combat missions against the Taliban and attempted to bring the full country under the control of the Afghan government while facing Taliban insurgencies. At the Bonn conference in 2001, Hamid Karzai was chosen to lead the interim Afghan government. NATO troops joined the US- and UK-led missions to drive the Taliban out of Afghanistan and many Taliban members retreated to the mountainous regions and into Pakistan.

The year 2006 was marked by an increase in Taliban territory and the buildup of NATO troops, especially from the US and the UK. In 2009, ISAF troops began conducting missions in Pakistan, which were protested by Pakistani authorities. The same year, President Karzai won a close reelection and began peace consultations called the Afghan Peace Jirga. Post Karzai's election, fighting began to surge, resulting in further troop buildups in the region. In May 2011, US troops killed Osama Bin-Laden, responsible for the September 11 attacks, in a raid in

Abottabad, Pakistan. From then on, NATO began working towards a departure plan of its troops, committing to a plan at the 2012 Chicago NATO summit.



Current Situation

Ukraine 2014 Aggression

Following President Yanukovich's removal from office, pro-European Union businessman Petro Poroshenko won the May 2014 elections. In June 2014, President Poroshenko signed the delayed Ukraine-European Union Association Agreement, focusing on trade and cooperation and seen as a stepping stone for Ukraine's entry into the European Union. In the eastern regions, the standoffs between Ukraine's military forces and the armed pro-Russia rebels continued and have been characterized by large-scale violence and destruction. On July 17, 2014, pro-Russian rebels in Ukraine fired an air-to-surface missile that shot down Malaysian Airlines Flight 17 from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur, killing all 298 passengers and crew on board. The Russian government has publicly said that it is not responsible for the attack. The fighting in eastern Ukraine, now called the War of Donbass, continues. Russian-European Union and Russian-Ukraine relations are currently at a drastic low due to the insurgency and the shooting down of flight MH17.

Afghanistan: The War on Terror, its Impacts, and Troop Pullout

In 2014 the Taliban began increasing its attacks in Afghanistan, especially targeting foreign nationals. The US committed to reducing its combat troop numbers and operations to zero by

December 2014, and to limiting its military presence across the country to Bagram Air Base. Other NATO countries have also been working to reduce their troop numbers.

The country has seen over 500,000 people become internally displaced people and thousands of civilians have died in the warfare. Infrastructure, health and education are of poor quality and scarcely available. Over the insurgency years, the country has also become a hub for the opium trade, catering to nearly 90% of the global opium trade at this time.

Moving Forward

As the members of NATO prepare to meet at the 2014 Summit, it is important to recognize and discuss the specific events that have occurred in both Ukraine and Afghanistan, but also what these situations mean for the future of international relations, global conflict, and the people directly affected by these conflicts. Viewing these issues through the lens of NATO is essential, but considering NATO's actions in a broader global context is perhaps even more vital.



Character List

1. Bulgaria—President Rosen Plevneliev
2. Canada—Prime Minister Stephen Harper
3. France—President François Hollande
4. Germany—Chancellor Angela Merkel
5. Hungary—Prime Minister Viktor Orbán
6. Italy—Prime Minister Matteo Renzi
7. Lithuania—President Dalia Grybauskaitė
8. Netherlands—Prime Minister Mark Rutte
9. Poland—President Bronisław Komorowski
10. Romania—President Traian Băsescu
11. Spain—Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy
12. Turkey—President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan
13. United Kingdom—Prime Minister David Cameron
14. United States—President Barack Obama
15. NATO—Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen



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