

## **Milestone IV: Final Project:**

North Atlantic Treaty Organization

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PS510-T301 Post-Conflict Politics (2235-1)

March 28, 2023

## ***Milestone I***

### **Subject choice**

For this project, I will be conducting my research on the peacekeeping operations conducted by NATO.

### **Outline**

## **Milestone I**

### *Topic Selection*

The peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts of NATO.

### *Outline*

### *Abstract*

I have covered in my abstract what will appear in my paper. Generally, the paper is written first, then the abstract. The abstract is a summarization of the paper, the problems it covers and the results it found. Instead, my abstract will be a breakdown of what the paper will seek to learn given the paper is not finished yet.

## **Milestone II**

### *Literature Review*

This section will contain my review of each of my chosen Literature and documents that I have found on my subject line. I will break down each source and cover the key findings, concepts, and developments from each of them.

### *Supporting Tables/Charts*

This section will show any graphs or tables that I will create based on the data I have found. There will be a minimum of 3 of them.

### *Introduction*

This section will be the introduction to my paper. It will have my thesis topic and a basic explanation of what will be covered. It will go more into depth of the efforts NATO has put in towards peacekeeping and peacebuilding around the world, what they have accomplished, how they have failed, and what we can learn from their efforts.

### **Milestone III**

#### *Political risk analysis*

This part of the paper will cover the political risk NATO faces because of their peacekeeping efforts. I will make recommendations based on the results of the research into NATO's peacekeeping efforts to lower or eliminate as much risk as possible. To do this, I will cover the different states' government responses, their political motivations, and the results and consequences they have created. I will make recommendations on how they can improve their mission success rate and, hopefully, ways to reduce the cost of both resources and lives lost for them and those they seek to protect and improve their political risk in their peacekeeping efforts.

### **Milestone IV**

#### *Final Paper*

##### *Mission Successes*

In this section I will discuss the peacekeeping efforts of NATO that are viewed as successes.

##### *Mission failures*

In this section I will discuss the different missions and why they are viewed as failures.

##### *Impacts of Peacekeeping*

This section will discuss the impact NATO's peacekeeping efforts have had on the states within NATO, those receiving the assistance, and their global impact from the peacekeeping efforts.

### *Conclusion*

This section will give the final determination of the information collected and why I have taken the stance I have on NATO and their choices and methodology of peacekeeping.

## **Milestone V**

### *Research*

In this section I will post my project to my online portfolio, and I will share all my research I gathered for my paper.

### *Abstract*

This research paper will conduct a comprehensive examination and analysis of NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) in the context of peacekeeping and peacebuilding. The study will trace the development, goals, successes, and failures of NATO, incorporating the topics and elements this course covered in evaluating NATO's role promoting international security and stability.

The research will utilize a mixed-methods approach, including literature reviews, political risk analysis, and case studies to investigate NATO's peacekeeping and peacebuilding role and impact on the evolving global environment. Analyzing primary and secondary sources will provide insights into NATO's contributions and challenges while achieving their members shared defense objective.

This research's anticipated outcomes include comprehensively understanding NATO's historical evolution as a defense alliance and their collective engagement in crises management, conflict prevention, and post-conflict reconstruction. The study will examine NATO's military capabilities, political cohesion, and partnership approach to evaluate their effectiveness in peacekeeping missions.

Moreover, the research will explore NATO's efforts in peacebuilding, capacity-building, institution-building, and supporting democratic governance. Highlighting their efforts to address challenges such as members sharing burdens, divergent national interests, and adapting to emerging security threats based on threats of terrorism and other evolving world crises.

This paper's research will contribute to existing knowledge on NATO's role in peacekeeping and peacebuilding, and provide recommendations based on lessons learned from past operations enhancing NATO's future engagement in conflict prevention, crises management, and post-conflict reconstruction.

## ***Milestone II***

### Introduction

This literature review conducts a comprehensive examination and analysis of NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) in the context of peacekeeping and peacebuilding. It addresses the challenges encountered in conducting research on NATO's peacekeeping efforts due to the limited availability of documents. The study aims to trace the development, goals, successes, and failures of NATO, incorporating the topics and elements covered in this course that are relevant to evaluating NATO's role in promoting international security and stability. By utilizing a mixed-methods approach, including literature reviews, political risk analysis, and case studies, the

research investigates NATO's peacekeeping and peacebuilding role and its impact on the evolving global environment. It also explores NATO's efforts in peacebuilding, capacity-building, institution-building, and supporting democratic governance. The review will identify key findings, concepts, and developments from relevant scholarly sources, highlighting NATO's contributions and challenges in achieving shared defense objectives. By filling the gaps in research, this literature review aims to contribute to existing knowledge on NATO's role in peacekeeping and peacebuilding. Ultimately, it will provide recommendations based on lessons learned from past operations to enhance NATO's future engagement in conflict prevention, crises management, and post-conflict reconstruction.

## **Literature Review**

### *NATO: Reviewing the Literature on Peacekeeping,*

The literature review for this research paper aims to provide an overview of the existing body of literature on NATO's peacekeeping efforts and address the challenges encountered in accessing relevant articles. This review will explore key themes, developments, and concepts found within the available sources, shedding light on NATO's peacekeeping endeavors and the implications for international security, human security, and peacekeeping.

The article “Human Security” was reviewed and found to discuss how NATO places a strong emphasis on human security and has developed policies and guidelines to address key issues such as combatting human trafficking, protecting children in armed conflict, preventing conflict-related sexual violence, safeguarding civilians, and preserving cultural property (NATO 2022). The organization recognizes the importance of considering the impact of its actions on civilian populations and integrates human security principles into its core tasks. NATO supports international efforts to combat human trafficking and has a zero-tolerance policy in place, working

with host countries and international organizations to address this issue (NATO 2022). In terms of children in armed conflict, NATO has guidelines and training to address violations against children, supporting UN efforts and incorporating the issue into exercises and mission planning. NATO also developed military guidelines to address conflict-related sexual violence and works to prevent and respond to such violence, cooperating with relevant international actors. The protection of civilians is integrated into NATO's operations and missions, with policies and training in place to minimize the negative effects of military actions. Additionally, NATO recognizes the importance of preserving cultural property and incorporates its protection into its policies and doctrine. Overall, NATO takes a multi-sectoral approach to human security and collaborates with international partners to mitigate risks and contribute to stability and security.

The article titled “Women, Peace and Security”, focuses on NATO's commitment to the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda. It highlights NATO's recognition of the impact of conflict on women and girls and its efforts to integrate gender perspectives across its core tasks and structures. The article discusses how NATO is committed to recognizing and addressing the impact of conflict on women and girls, as well as their crucial roles in peace and security. The alliance integrates gender perspectives across its core tasks and structures, working with international organizations and civil society to promote gender equality (NATO 2023). Guided by principles of integration, inclusiveness, and integrity, NATO's approach to the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda ensures that gender equality is a fundamental part of its policies and programs. This involves conducting gender analyses, considering gender dimensions in early warning systems, and addressing gender aspects of terrorism. NATO also aims to increase the representation of women in its forces to enhance operational effectiveness, improving gender balance in its structures and using gender-inclusive language. The alliance is committed to

addressing systemic inequalities, preventing, and responding to sexual exploitation and abuse, and providing training on related policies and procedures.

Since 2007, NATO has developed policies and action plans on WPS, regularly updating them to adapt to the evolving security landscape. The NATO 2021-2025 Action Plan on WPS, endorsed by Defense Ministers, seeks to advance gender equality, and further integrate gender perspectives throughout NATO. NATO actively involves partners in shaping policy and practice, with several countries associating themselves with the alliance's WPS agenda. Collaboration with international organizations such as the UN, EU, OSCE, and AU allows NATO to learn from their experiences and exchange knowledge (NATO 2023). Gender advisors are deployed within NATO structures and missions to ensure the integration of gender perspectives in planning and execution, while the NATO Committee on Gender Perspectives promotes the strategic integration of gender in policies, programs, and military operations.

In the context of NATO's operations and missions, the article titled "Operations and Missions: Past and Present" examines NATO's involvement in maintaining peace and security through crisis management operations. It discusses NATO's missions in Afghanistan, Kosovo, the Mediterranean, the Horn of Africa, and Somalia. The article highlights NATO's objectives, such as extending the authority of the Afghan central government, ensuring stability in Kosovo, combating terrorism in the Mediterranean, and supporting the AU peacekeeping missions in Somalia (NATO 2022). It acknowledges the diverse nature of NATO's operations and its commitment to addressing security challenges on the international stage.

Analysis of the literature reveals that NATO takes a comprehensive and multi-sectoral approach to human security, integrating gender perspectives, protecting vulnerable populations, and safeguarding cultural heritage in conflict zones in addition to their main objective of collective

defense of its members. The articles that were located about NATO underscore NATO's policies, guidelines, and initiatives in combatting trafficking, protecting children, preventing conflict-related sexual violence, safeguarding civilians, and promoting gender equality. The articles emphasize NATO's collaboration with international actors, such as the UN, EU, AU, and OSCE, in addressing these security challenges.

Overall, while the reviewed articles provide valuable insights into NATO's peacekeeping endeavors and their commitment to addressing various security challenges, further research and analyses are needed to deepen our understanding of NATO's role in promoting peace and security.

#### *Analysis on Research*

In summary, this research paper has provided a comprehensive examination of NATO's approach to human security, its commitment to the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda, and their involvement in crisis management operations. The literature review reveals that NATO takes a multi-sectoral approach to human security, integrating policies and guidelines to combat trafficking, protect children, prevent sexual violence, safeguard civilians, and preserve cultural property. By incorporating human security principles into its core tasks and collaborating with international actors, NATO actively contributes to stability and security.

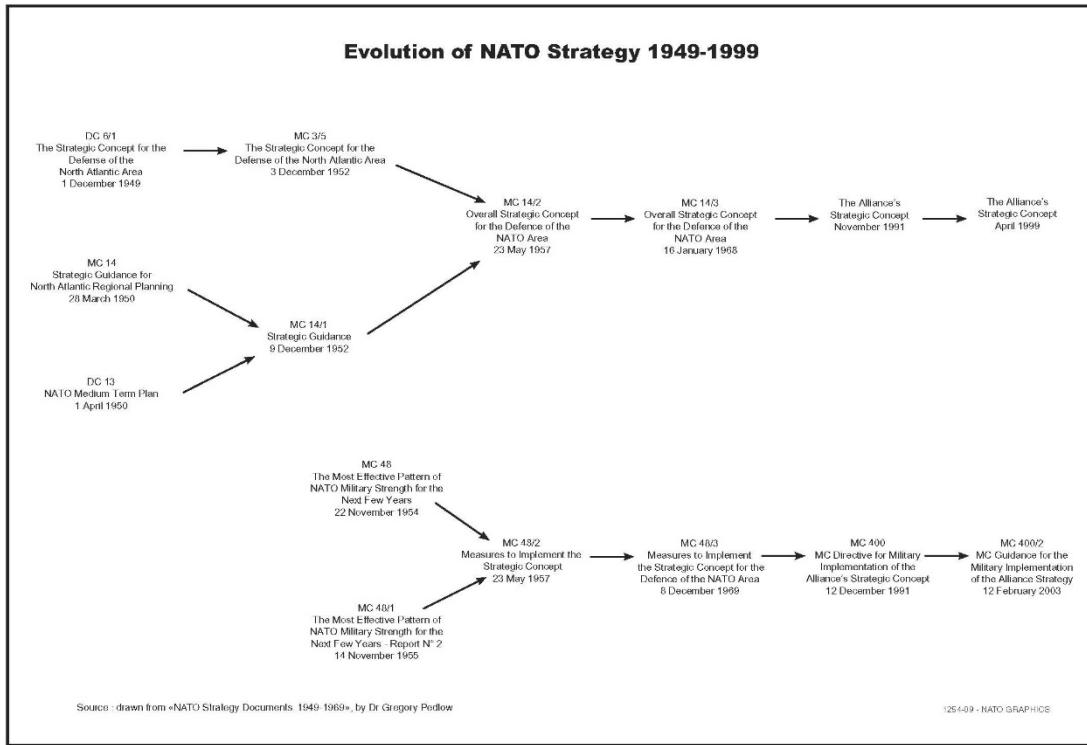
Moreover, the paper highlights NATO's efforts to promote gender equality and inclusiveness through its commitment to the WPS agenda. NATO's integration of gender perspectives into its policies and programs, representation of women in its structures, and collaboration with international organizations exemplify its recognition of the important roles women play in peace and security. In fact, member states of NATO, like the United States of America, acknowledge that women play a pivotal role in peacekeeping. The US and other nations understand that when women are involved in the peacekeeping efforts the “peace agreements are

30 percent more likely to last 15 years" and peace is more stable than when they are absent from the efforts (United Nations 2019). By actively engaging in the WPS agenda, NATO aims to enhance its operational effectiveness and contribute to a more inclusive and equitable world.

Additionally, the research paper acknowledges NATO's involvement in crisis management operations, including ISAF in Afghanistan, KFOR in Kosovo, and maritime surveillance operations in the Mediterranean and the Horn of Africa. These operations demonstrate NATO's commitment to maintaining peace and security in diverse contexts. By extending the authority of central governments, supporting reconstruction efforts, and collaborating with regional and international partners, NATO acts as a positive force for change on the international stage.

To summarize, this research paper underscores NATO's comprehensive approach to human security, its dedication to the WPS agenda, and its active involvement in crisis management operations. By addressing various security challenges and integrating international cooperation, NATO strives to promote stability, protect vulnerable populations, and contribute to a safer world. Further research and analysis are necessary to deepen our understanding of NATO's effectiveness and address potential criticisms, but the findings of this paper emphasize NATO's role as a vital contributor to international peace and security.

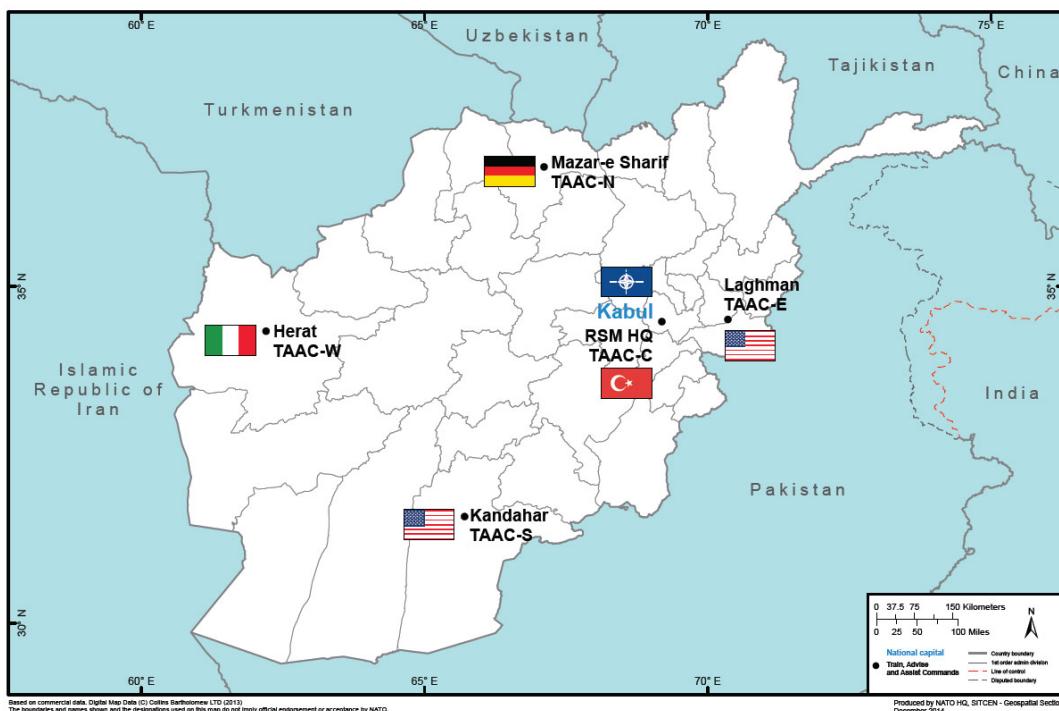
## Maps, Charts, and Graphs





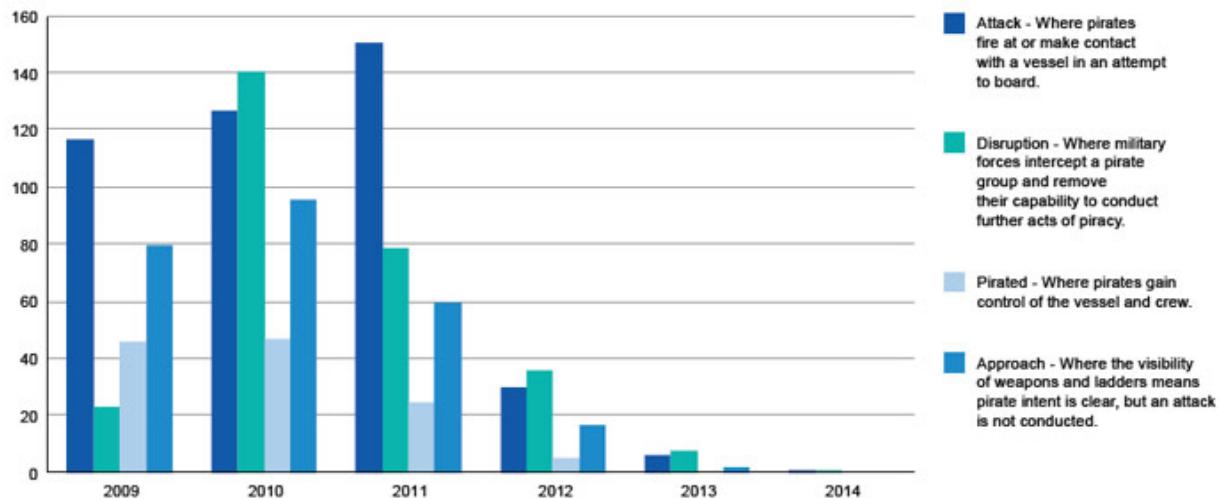
## Women in NATO Forces and peacekeeping operations

### Afghanistan: Resolute Support Mission



(Stoltenberg 2015)

### Piracy incidents 2009-2014



Figures for piracy incidents involve vessels greater than 300 tons engaged on international voyages as defined in Regulation 19 of Chapter V of the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Convention of the International Maritime Organization.  
Statistics provided by Allied Maritime Command Headquarters, Northwood, United Kingdom.

(Stoltenberg 2015)

### ***Milestone III***

#### Introduction to NATO

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has long been recognized for its role in promoting peace and security through various endeavors, including peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts. However, to comprehensively understand the impact and significance of NATO, it is crucial to conduct a political risk analysis that delves into the potential risks posed by the organization. This paper aims to fulfill that objective by examining and analyzing the political risks associated with NATO, providing examples, evidence, and an assessment of the potential future threats it poses.

In this analysis, we will explore the diverse aspects of NATO and their implications for global stability. Our focus goes beyond NATO's role as a peacekeeping alliance, aiming to provide a comprehensive assessment of the organization's potential risks and their impact on international relations. By evaluating the geopolitical challenges faced by NATO, including rising tensions with Russia, evolving threat perceptions, and the changing security landscape, we can gain a deeper understanding of the risks inherent in the organization's operations.

To identify and analyze these risks, we will examine NATO's structure, decision-making processes, and the motivations of its member nations. By understanding the origins of NATO and the commitments made by its member states, we can better comprehend the potential risks they collectively pose. Furthermore, we will assess NATO's involvement in crisis management operations and missions worldwide, drawing insights from past experiences such as the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan, the Kosovo Force (KFOR) in Kosovo, and maritime surveillance operations in the Mediterranean.

This analysis aims to provide valuable insights for policymakers, scholars, and practitioners, enabling them to effectively manage political risks associated with NATO. By examining the identified risks, providing concrete examples and evidence, and analyzing the potential future threats, we will contribute to a deeper understanding of NATO's role in promoting global peace and security.

In the subsequent sections, we will delve into the specific political risks posed by NATO, supported by examples and evidence, and analyze the implications and potential future threats they entail. By doing so, we can gain a comprehensive understanding of the political risk landscape surrounding NATO and contribute to the ongoing discussions on international security.

#### Background and Motivations of NATO Member Nations

To fully understand NATO's role, it is essential to grasp the motivations and origins of its member nations. The treaty was originally drafted and signed on April 4, 1949. The purpose of the treaty was a commitment of each member state “to share the risk, responsibilities and benefits of collective defense – a concept at the very heart of the Alliance” (NATO 2022). The original treaty consisted of 12 nations: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Later the Alliance grew to what it is today. As of 2023, NATO consists of 31 nations, including the same influential actors from the original treaty such as the United States, United Kingdom, Italy, Canada, and Denmark (NATO 2023). These member countries collectively shape NATO's policies, actions, and responses to political risks.

NATO is a complex organization of 31 sovereign nations. To make a massive intricate organization function, there must be a working structure and a process of making decisions (NATO 2006). The method utilized by NATO is that of the “consultative, vice decision making,” process

within the Alliance (Benecke 2007). This process over time, has allowed three elements to emerge to form the “cornerstones of NATO’s decision-making process: Consultation, Consensus, and the Indivisibility of Alliance Security” (Benecke 2007). Consultation is the starting point for any decision “providing every member the possibility to bring to the other members’ attention any issue regarding its political independence or threat to its own security” (Benecke 2007).

*In general terms, there are three strategic decision-making layers within NATO. At the top is the North Atlantic Council (NAC), with permanent representation by all member states, headed by the Secretary General (SecGen) and supported by the International Staff (IS). Second is the Military Committee (MC), again with a permanent representation from all member nations, headed by its Chairman (CMC) and with a supporting International Military Staff (IMS). Both are located at NATO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium. As an external, second source of advice on, amongst others, military operational matters, the third decision making level includes the Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) who heads Allied Command Operations (ACO) with its headquarters at SHAPE, in Mons, Belgium. (Benecke 2007)*

This organization so far has worked and helped to make NATO the strongest alliance in the world.

#### Identification of Potential Risks Posed by NATO

NATO, as the world's most powerful alliance comprising 31 nations (NATO 2023), possesses both strengths and weaknesses that introduce a range of potential risks. It is crucial to identify and examine these risks to gain a comprehensive understanding of the organization's political landscape. The risks posed by NATO encompass various aspects, including geopolitical tensions, relations with Russia, alliances and partnerships, implications for non-member states, and considerations of public opinion and domestic politics.

Geopolitical tensions emerge as a significant risk associated with NATO's involvement in regions marked by geopolitical instability, such as Eastern Europe and the Middle East (NATO 2022). While NATO's presence aims to foster stability, there is a potential for conflicts to escalate, contributing to regional instability and heightened political risks. Despite their interventions, the

Middle East is still full of unrest and the missions in a few nations, like Afghanistan, are viewed as failures (Herd 2021).

NATO's expansion and military activities near Russia's borders have strained relations with Moscow, resulting in increased tensions and the potential for confrontations (NATO 2022). This geopolitical dynamic adds a layer of risk to NATO's operations and the broader international security landscape. Many have accused NATO of instigating war with Russia and causing political tension with neighboring nations by trying to encircle Russia (NATO 2022). These accusations revolving around Russia are just rumors, however, they can and have caused political tension.

The alliance's commitments and alliances with countries beyond its traditional scope can generate political risks. NATO has many global partners that are not official members (NATO 2023). These partnerships may be perceived as interference or provocation by other nations, potentially leading to heightened tensions and a challenging diplomatic environment. Despite this risk, the nations of NATO deem these partnerships as a strategic strength by widening their sphere of influence and reach (NATO 2023).

NATO's actions and policies can also have political implications for countries outside the alliance. Non-member states may perceive NATO's activities as exclusionary or foster increased rivalries, further shaping the geopolitical landscape and introducing potential risks to regional stability. Many of the missions NATO has started or become involved in have been viewed as failures (NATO 2022). That the actions of NATO destabilized a region and caused more problems than they fixed, like the Iraq invasion to remove Saddam Hussein (Cordesman 2020).

Furthermore, NATO's decisions and operations can encounter political challenges, public opposition, or debates within member states. Public opinion and domestic politics can influence the organization's cohesion and effectiveness, potentially impacting its ability to navigate complex

political landscapes and address emerging threats. Such as the political unrest that caused France to withdraw its troops from NATO's integrated military command structure (SHAPE n.d.). By identifying these potential risks, we can gain insights into the multifaceted nature of NATO's political landscape and the challenges it faces in fulfilling its mission of promoting peace and security.

### Analysis of Risks and their Impact

In this section, we will delve into a comprehensive analysis of the identified risks and their potential implications for NATO. The assessment will involve evaluating the magnitude and nature of these risks to gain a deeper understanding of their significance.

By analyzing how these risks could evolve over time, we can assess their potential impact on NATO's cohesion and effectiveness. Changes in geopolitical dynamics, emerging security challenges, or shifts in member states' priorities may influence the organization's ability to address political risks, potentially undermining its unity and effectiveness as a collective defense alliance.

Furthermore, it is crucial to discuss the broader implications of these risks on international cooperation and global stability. The political risks faced by NATO can reverberate beyond the alliance itself, affecting diplomatic relations, regional dynamics, and the overall security environment. Understanding these implications is vital for comprehending the wider consequences of NATO's actions and the potential ripple effects on global peace and stability.

Considering the identified risks, it is essential to explore potential responses or countermeasures that can help mitigate their impact. This could involve diplomatic initiatives, strengthened alliances, adaptation of defense strategies, or diplomatic engagement with relevant stakeholders. By proactively addressing the risks, NATO can enhance its resilience and maintain its role as a key contributor to international security.

By conducting a comprehensive analysis of the identified risks, their evolution, and broader implications, we can gain valuable insights into the political landscape surrounding NATO. These insights can inform strategic decision-making, guide policy responses, and contribute to the ongoing efforts to manage and mitigate the identified risks.

### Future Threats and Implications

Looking ahead, it is crucial to analyze the potential future threats that NATO may face and consider their implications for the organization's role and relevance in the international arena. One significant concern is the possibility of another world war if any allied nation is attacked. As a collective defense alliance, NATO's primary purpose is to deter aggression and provide a united response to any act of aggression against any of their member states. The implications of such threats are far-reaching, with the potential to reshape NATO's role and relevance in a rapidly changing global security landscape.

The consequences of these threats extend beyond NATO's immediate sphere of influence and impact on global peace and security. A large-scale conflict involving NATO member states could destabilize regions, disrupt international trade and commerce, and strain diplomatic relations between nations. It would pose a severe challenge to the existing global order and institutions, with significant implications for the stability and well-being of nations worldwide.

To address and manage these threats, it is essential for NATO to consider possible strategies. The enhancing of their collective defense capabilities, investing in advanced technologies, and fostering closer cooperation and coordination among member states are some potential approaches. Strengthening partnerships with other international organizations and regional alliances can also contribute to a more comprehensive and effective response to emerging threats. Additionally, maintaining open lines of communication, engaging in dialogue with

potential adversaries, and pursuing diplomatic solutions whenever possible can help prevent escalation and promote stability.

By analyzing the potential future threats, understanding their implications, and exploring strategies to address and manage them, NATO can adapt and prepare for the challenges ahead. This proactive approach is vital for preserving the organization's role as a key pillar of global security and its ability to contribute to the maintenance of peace and stability in an ever-changing world.

#### Summary of the Analysis on NATO

In conclusion, this paper has provided a comprehensive analysis of the political risks posed by NATO, their impact, and potential future threats. By examining the identified risks, including geopolitical tensions, relations with Russia, alliances and partnerships, implications for non-member states, and considerations of public opinion and domestic politics, we have gained valuable insights into the multifaceted nature of NATO's political landscape.

The analysis of these risks has highlighted the potential challenges and complexities faced by NATO in fulfilling its mission of promoting peace and security. The examination of their magnitude and nature has allowed us to assess their impact on the organization's cohesion and effectiveness. Changes in geopolitical dynamics and emerging security challenges can influence NATO's ability to navigate political risks, potentially undermining its unity and effectiveness as a collective defense alliance.

Furthermore, the implications of these risks extend beyond NATO itself and have broader implications for international cooperation and global stability. The political risks faced by NATO can impact diplomatic relations, regional dynamics, and the overall security environment. It is crucial to understand these implications to comprehend the wider consequences of NATO's actions and their potential ripple effects on global peace and stability.

Looking ahead, the analysis has also highlighted the possibility of future threats, such as the potential for another world war if any allied nation is attacked. These threats have significant implications for NATO's role and relevance in the international arena. Addressing and managing these threats require proactive strategies, including enhancing collective defense capabilities, investing in advanced technologies, strengthening partnerships, and pursuing diplomatic solutions.

By conducting a comprehensive analysis of the identified risks, their implications, and potential future threats, we have contributed to a deeper understanding of NATO's role in promoting global peace and security. This knowledge can inform strategic decision-making, guide policy responses, and facilitate the ongoing efforts to manage and mitigate political risks associated with NATO. It is crucial for policymakers, scholars, and practitioners to consider these insights as they work towards maintaining the stability, resilience, and effectiveness of NATO in an ever-changing and complex global security landscape.

#### ***Milestone IV***

##### **NATO: Mission Successes**

NATO's peacekeeping efforts have yielded several notable successes throughout its history. These missions have contributed to the maintenance of peace and stability in conflict-affected regions, facilitated the resolution of disputes, and promoted the protection of civilians. The following paragraphs will highlight some of NATO's significant mission successes.

**Operation Joint Guardian (Kosovo, 1999-present):** NATO's intervention in Kosovo aimed to end the conflict and provide security and stability in the region. Through Operation Joint Guardian, NATO forces successfully facilitated the return of refugees and internally displaced persons, maintained a secure environment, and supported the establishment of self-government

institutions (Phillips 2007). The mission helped to prevent further violence and lay the foundation for the development of a multiethnic and democratic Kosovo.

International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) (Afghanistan, 2001-2014): NATO's involvement in Afghanistan through the ISAF mission aimed to stabilize the country and support the Afghan government in establishing security and governance. The mission contributed to significant achievements, including the removal of the Taliban regime, the establishment of democratic institutions, and the improvement of security conditions in certain areas (NATO 2022). The ISAF mission also focused on capacity-building efforts, such as training Afghan security forces and promoting the rule of law.

Operation Active Endeavour (Mediterranean, 2001-2016): NATO's maritime operation in the Mediterranean, known as Operation Active Endeavour, aimed to enhance maritime security and prevent terrorist activities and was initiated after the September 11 terrorist attacks (NATO 2022). The mission successfully conducted surveillance and interdiction operations, ensuring the safe passage of commercial shipping, and deterring potential threats in the region. Operation Active Endeavour has significantly contributed to the protection of vital sea lines of communication and the prevention of illicit activities.

Resolute Support Mission (RSM) (Afghanistan, 2015-2021): Following the conclusion of the ISAF mission, NATO transitioned to the Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan. This mission focuses on advising, training, and assisting the Afghan security forces to enhance their capabilities and effectiveness. RSM's key missions were: "supporting planning, programming and budgeting; assuring transparency, accountability and oversight; supporting the adherence to the principles of rule of law and good governance; and supporting the establishment and sustainment of such processes as force generation, recruiting, training, managing and development of

personnel" (NATO 2022). NATO's ongoing support had contributed to the development of a more capable and professional Afghan security sector, which is crucial for maintaining stability and countering terrorism in the country. It was decided in late 2021 that the mission would be terminated, and all troops and staff were withdrawn.

Operation Ocean Shield (Horn of Africa, 2009-2016): NATO's counter-piracy operation in the waters off the Horn of Africa, known as Operation Ocean Shield, played a crucial role in combating piracy and ensuring the safe passage of maritime trade and is often described as one of NATO's most successful missions ever (Evans 2017). The mission effectively deterred pirate attacks, disrupted pirate networks, and provided protection to vulnerable shipping. Operation Ocean Shield significantly reduced the threat of piracy in the region and helped to restore confidence in maritime trade routes.

These examples demonstrate NATO's capacity to successfully engage in peacekeeping missions, address security challenges, and contribute to post-conflict stabilization efforts. While each mission has its unique context and challenges, they collectively highlight NATO's commitment to maintaining peace, promoting security, and protecting civilian populations in various parts of the world.

#### NATO: Mission Failures

While NATO has been involved in numerous peacekeeping missions, there have been instances where the outcomes were not as successful as desired. These failures highlight the challenges and complexities involved in peacekeeping operations and the limitations faced by NATO. The following paragraphs will discuss examples of NATO missions that have been widely regarded as failures.

Afghanistan (ISAF): One of NATO's most notable and prolonged missions was the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan. The objective of the mission was to stabilize the country, support the Afghan government, and counter the Taliban insurgency (NATO 2022). However, despite the significant investment of resources and efforts, the mission faced significant challenges and ultimately failed to achieve its desired outcomes. The security situation remained volatile, the Taliban regained strength, and the Afghan government struggled to establish control and provide effective governance. The failure of the ISAF mission highlights the complexity of the Afghan conflict, the challenges of state-building, and the limitations of external military interventions.

Libya (Operation Unified Protector): In 2011, NATO launched Operation Unified Protector in Libya with the aim of protecting civilians and enforcing a no-fly zone during the Libyan Civil War. While the mission initially succeeded in preventing a humanitarian catastrophe and supporting the opposition forces, the aftermath of the intervention revealed significant challenges. Libya descended into chaos and became a breeding ground for extremist groups (CAMPBELL and Mazrui 2013). The lack of a comprehensive post-conflict strategy and the absence of effective governance structures contributed to the mission's failure. NATO's intervention in Libya underscores the importance of comprehensive planning and coordination in peacekeeping operations to ensure long-term stability and prevent unintended consequences.

Kosovo (KFOR: 1999-Present): NATO's involvement in Kosovo through the Kosovo Force (KFOR) has been marked by both successes and failures. Following the Kosovo War in the late 1990s, NATO deployed peacekeeping forces to maintain security and facilitate the return of displaced persons. While KFOR initially helped stabilize the region and prevent further violence, challenges persisted. The slow progress in addressing ethnic tensions, establishing effective

governance, and addressing socioeconomic disparities hindered the mission's success and has kept KFOR an active NATO mission (SHAPE n.d.). The unresolved status of Kosovo and ongoing political complexities have contributed to the perception of KFOR as a partial failure.

These examples highlight the multifaceted nature of peacekeeping missions and the difficulties faced by NATO in achieving its desired outcomes. Factors such as the complexity of conflicts, local dynamics, competing interests, and the absence of a comprehensive post-conflict strategy can impede success as well as mission parameters that are too broad and lack a strategic exit strategy. It is essential for NATO to critically assess these failures, learn from past experiences, and adapt its approach to enhance future peacekeeping efforts. Even missions like Operation Ocean Shield have since come under scrutiny due to the violence and issues still plaguing the area after the withdrawal of NATO forces. Peacekeeping is an honorable mission and in many cases the area has benefited from the actions while NATO forces were actively engaged. However, often, like in the case of Afghanistan, the withdraw was so poorly executed that it undid a lot of progress the mission aimed to achieve. Or in the case of Operation Ocean Shield, the complete withdraw opened the door for pirates to start attacking ships again (Evans 2017).

The analysis of these failed missions underscores the need for comprehensive planning, coordination with local stakeholders, and effective post-conflict strategies to address the root causes of conflicts. It also emphasizes the importance of long-term commitment, capacity-building, and addressing socioeconomic disparities to ensure sustainable peace and stability in post-conflict regions. It shows that missions are often not short temporary endeavors and, in some cases, like the waters around Somalia, these areas will need some kind of constant force maintaining the peace. If NATO is unable to maintain the security of the waters constantly like in

Operation Ocean Shield, then a plan needs to be developed to safeguard the waters that can be maintained permanently.

Despite these failures, it is crucial to recognize that peacekeeping is a complex and challenging endeavor. NATO's willingness to engage in peacekeeping operations demonstrates its commitment to international peace and security. By learning from past failures and building on successes, NATO can continue to evolve and improve its approach to peacekeeping, ultimately contributing to a more stable and secure world.

### Impact of Peacekeeping

NATO's peacekeeping missions have had significant impacts on both the regions where they were deployed and the alliance itself. These impacts can be seen in various aspects, including security, stability, governance, and international cooperation. The following paragraphs will discuss some key impacts of NATO's peacekeeping efforts.

**Security and Stability:** NATO's peacekeeping missions have played a vital role in enhancing security and stability in conflict-affected regions. By deploying troops and providing security assistance, NATO has helped prevent the escalation of violence, deter aggression, and create a more secure environment. Their missions like SFOR, which are designed to “deter hostilities and stabilize the peace, contribute to a secure environment by providing a continued military presence in the Area Of Responsibility (AOR)” (NATO 2007). These stabilization missions like SFOR also target and coordinate support to key areas including primary civil implementation organizations to develop progress towards a lasting consolidation of peace enabling the local forces to maintain peace without further need for NATO-led forces like what has been seen in Bosnia and Herzegovina (NATO 2007). Peacekeeping operations have contributed to reducing casualties, protecting civilians, and supporting the establishment of peace

processes (NATO 2006). These efforts have had a positive impact on the security and stability of the regions where NATO has been involved.

**Humanitarian Assistance:** NATO's peacekeeping missions often include humanitarian components aimed at providing assistance to affected populations. This can involve delivering emergency aid, supporting the provision of basic services, and facilitating the return of displaced persons (NATO 2022). By addressing immediate humanitarian needs, NATO has helped alleviate suffering and contributed to the well-being of local communities (NATO 2006). These efforts have had a positive impact on the lives of individuals affected by conflicts.

**Capacity Building:** Peacekeeping missions provide opportunities for capacity building and training for local security forces. NATO's involvement in training local police, military, and other security personnel has helped build their capabilities, enhance professionalism, and improve the overall effectiveness of security institutions. This capacity building contributes to the long-term stability and security of the regions, as local forces become better equipped to maintain peace and address security challenges. Many NATO missions had this goal in mind when they started. Many missions like Iraq, Afghanistan, and many more utilized this peacebuilding effort (NATO 2022).

**Institutional Development:** NATO's peacekeeping efforts have also contributed to the development of governance institutions in post-conflict regions. By supporting the establishment of effective governance structures, rule of law, and democratic processes, NATO has played a role in fostering good governance and promoting accountability in many of the areas NATO has gotten involved in throughout the years (NATO 2006). These efforts aim to create the conditions necessary for sustainable peace and the long-term development of conflict-affected regions.

**International Cooperation:** NATO's peacekeeping missions involve cooperation with various international actors, including other countries, regional organizations, and non-

governmental organizations (NATO 2023). These collaborations strengthen international cooperation and foster multilateral approaches to addressing global security challenges. Peacekeeping operations provide opportunities for countries to work together, share resources, and coordinate efforts towards a common goal. The partnerships formed through these missions contribute to building trust and enhancing diplomatic relations among nations.

**Alliance Cohesion and Adaptation:** NATO's engagement in peacekeeping operations has had implications for the alliance itself. Peacekeeping missions provide opportunities for member states to work together, demonstrate solidarity, and strengthen alliance cohesion. These operations also serve as a platform for NATO to adapt its strategies, capabilities, and doctrines to meet evolving security challenges. Lessons learned from peacekeeping experiences inform the alliance regarding the effectiveness of their approach to collective defense and cooperative security.

These impacts demonstrate the significant role that NATO's peacekeeping efforts have played in promoting security, stability, and development in conflict-affected regions. By addressing immediate security challenges, providing humanitarian assistance, and supporting institution-building, NATO has contributed to the overall well-being of local populations. Moreover, these missions have strengthened international cooperation, enhanced alliance cohesion, and facilitated the adaptation of NATO to changing security landscapes.

It is important to recognize that peacekeeping is a complex and evolving endeavor, and the impacts can vary depending on the specific context of each mission. Evaluating and learning from these impacts is crucial for NATO to continually improve its approach to peacekeeping and contribute effectively to global peace and security.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, NATO's peacekeeping missions have made significant contributions to international peace and security. Throughout its history, NATO has played a crucial role in promoting peace and security through its peacekeeping efforts. The milestones achieved by NATO, such as its deployments in the Balkans and Afghanistan, have shaped the alliance and influenced global security dynamics. These missions have facilitated conflict resolution, improved security conditions, and supported the development of governance institutions in conflict-affected regions.

The paper has also acknowledged instances where NATO's peacekeeping missions have faced challenges and failed to achieve their desired outcomes. The difficulties encountered in state-building, the complexity of conflicts, and the limitations of external military interventions highlight the complexities and challenges involved in peacekeeping operations. It is crucial for NATO to critically assess these failures, learn from past experiences, and adapt its approach to enhance future peacekeeping efforts.

The impacts of NATO's peacekeeping missions have been far-reaching. They have contributed to enhanced security and stability in conflict-affected regions, protected civilians, and facilitated the establishment of peace processes. NATO's involvement in humanitarian assistance has alleviated suffering and improved the lives of affected populations. Through capacity-building, NATO has helped strengthen local security forces, foster good governance, and promote the rule of law. These missions have also fostered international cooperation, strengthened alliance cohesion, and facilitated the adaptation of NATO to evolving security challenges.

Moving forward, NATO's dedication to peacekeeping should remain steadfast, guided by the principles of inclusivity, respect for human rights, and the pursuit of sustainable peace. It is crucial for NATO to continue evaluating the impacts of its peacekeeping missions and learning

from both successes and failures to enhance its effectiveness in future operations. The alliance should prioritize coordination and cooperation with regional and international actors, invest in capacity-building and training programs, and adapt its strategies to address emerging security threats.

In closing, NATO's peacekeeping milestones and impacts underscore its commitment to international peace and security. By deploying troops, providing humanitarian assistance, supporting institution-building, and fostering international collaboration, NATO has made significant contributions to conflict resolution, post-conflict reconstruction, and global stability while spreading the cost of missions throughout its members. As the alliance continues to evolve and grow, it must draw lessons from its experiences, adapt its strategies, and engage in effective multilateral cooperation to address emerging security threats and ensure any missions it sets out to accomplish are successful. By building on its past achievements and leveraging its collective strength, NATO can continue to make a meaningful difference in promoting peace, security, and prosperity in the world.

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