HASALMUN'24

Washington Treaty (North Atlantic Treaty)

Study Guide

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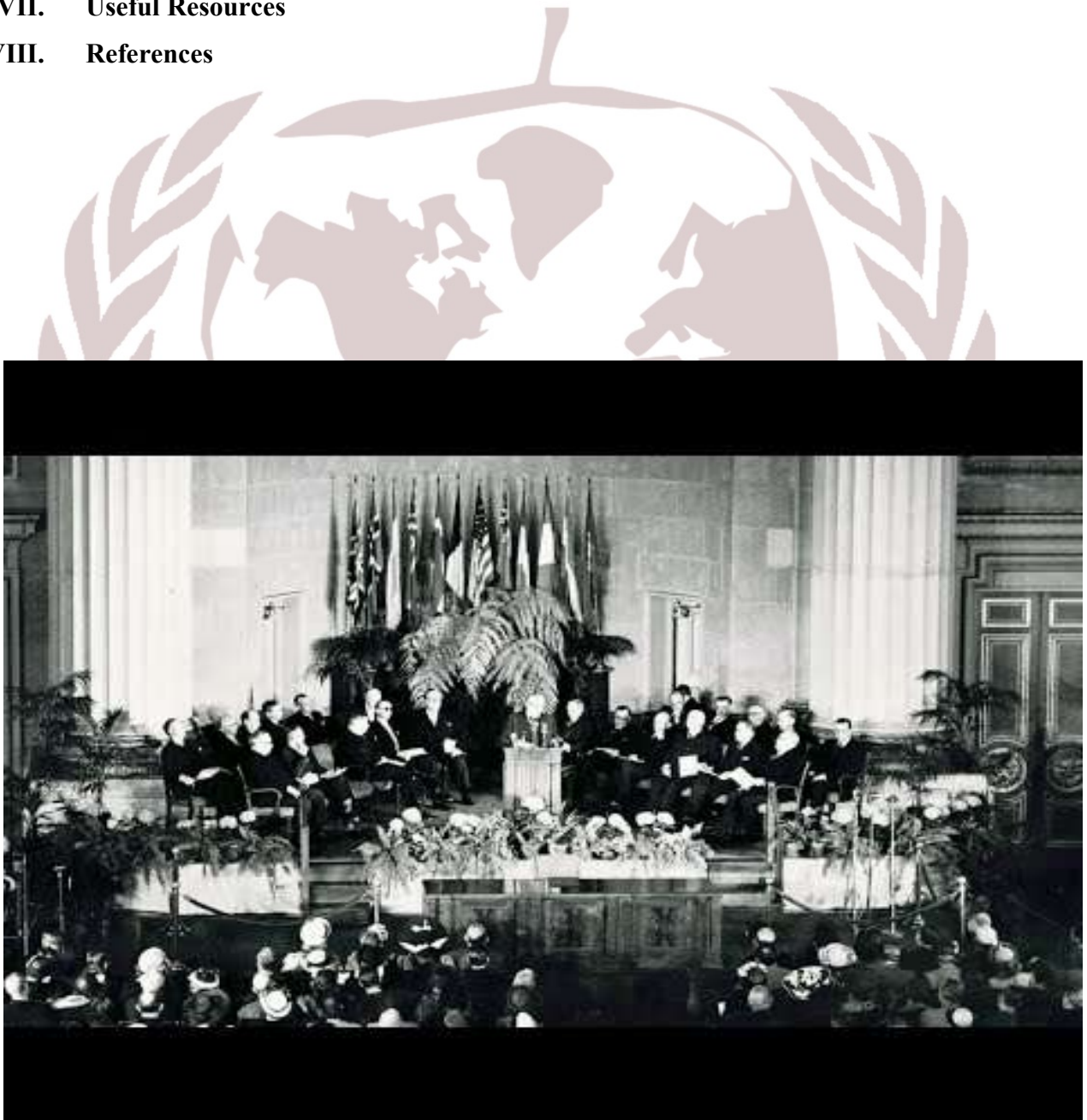
I. Letter from the Secretary General

Dear delegates,

It is my utmost pleasure and honour to welcome you all to the 11th annual session of Hüseyin Avni Sözen Model United Nations Conference. I, Haktan Keskin, consider it a priceless and flattering opportunity to serve as the Secretary-General in HASALMUN'24, a platform for dialogue, collaboration, and innovative problem-solving on pressing global issues.

It is my desire to create an environment in which you will find the chance to put your negotiation and critical thinking abilities into action and have a greater awareness of societal issues. As we convene in the spirit of cooperation this May, I kindly urge each and every one of you to listen with an open heart and leave room for understanding while respecting differing viewpoints. I believe it is through constructive debate that we can work towards finding viable solutions to the challenges we are facing today. What will be expected of you is to exhibit an unmatched sense of collaboration, think outside the box, and step into the shoes of bureaucrats during the conference

I would like to express my most heartfelt gratitude to any and every one of you attending our conference. Finally, I wish you the best of luck in your committee, and I hope that we were successful in generating the finest possible conference for you. With our guidance and assistance, you will be expected to complete the work that we began.

Once again, I welcome you all to the 11th edition of Hüseyin Avni Sözen Model United Nations Conference. We cannot wait to meet you!

All the best,
Haktan Keskin

II.   Letter from the Under-Secretary-General

We extend our warmest welcome to all distinguished individuals joining us for the committee of Washington treaty. It is with great pride that I, İdil Çimen, currently pursuing study in French Interpretation and Translation in Yıldız Technical University, respectively, assume the role of your Under Secretary General for this conference.

In this committee I expect all delegates to be prepared for the issue with utmost motivation because we will need that for the conference. Between the three days, as the academic team of this committee, we will work hard for you.

As we conclude, we express our gratitude to the esteemed Secretary-General, Haktan Keskin and Deputy Secretary General Burhan Mert Bellici, for entrusting me with this opportunity. I trust that you will derive as much enjoyment from participating as I did from preparing this guide. I eagerly anticipate meeting each one of you in the coming weeks!

Best regards,
İdil Çimen
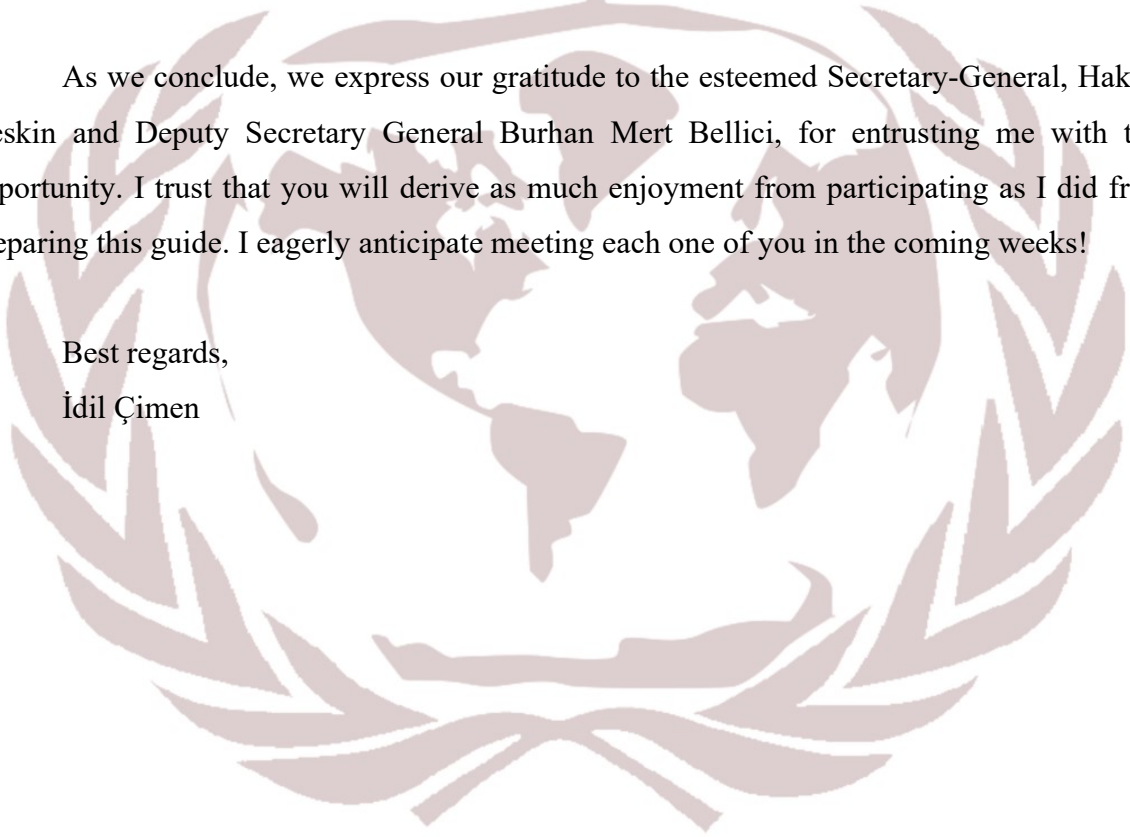
III.   Past Actions and an Introduction to the Issue

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation was established in 1949, approximately 4 years after World War II had ended, with the Washington Treaty. NATO had 12 founding members and 20 more states joined the organisation throughout the years, both before and after the dissolution of the Soviet Union. At that time, the establishment of NATO was a necessity for the sake of the security, safety, rebuilding of certain countries and the prevention of the spread of communism and Soviet Expansionism. In order to comprehend and analyse the importance of NATO, it is crucial that we consider the background of the issue, especially the reasons behind the foundation of NATO.

There were many economic, social, ideologic, political factors that led the founding states to unite under NATO. Initially, the aftermath of World War II, the increasing tension between the United States of America and the Soviet Union were some of the most significant causes of NATO's establishment. World War II had raged all over the globe for six years, especially across Europe, and had led many countries to experience harsh economic, political, social conditions. Even after the ceasefire the consequences of the war affected the states and Europe had to enter a process of rebuilding. On the other hand, during and after World War II the United States of America was one of the strongest nations in the world, both economically, politically and regarding their military power. It can be stated without much hesitation that the USA had emerged from WW2 as one of the most powerful and stable ones. Hence, some European countries believed that they could strengthen their position in the global community, increase their power by establishing alliances with the USA. Additionally, the rebuilding efforts could be supported by the United States of America, namely in the areas such as but not limited to economy, military. These views influenced the flow of events at that period and led to the establishment of NATO.

Another important reason why NATO was established is the threats, tensions emerging owing to the Cold War. The Cold War commenced during the 1940s and caused the world to be split into two sides: the Soviet Union's side and the USA's side. The Cold War arose because some Western democracies and the USA were concerned about the expansionist moves of the Soviet Union. Especially the USSR's support for communist movements in various regions, countries increased the worries of the Western democracies. Moreover, the announcement of the Truman Doctrine in 1947 by the President of the USA at that time, Harry S. Truman, which

stated that the USA would provide support to all those countries that are threatened by communism, marked an important point regarding this ideological dilemma. Additionally, the Containment Doctrine which was formulated by an American diplomat, George F. Kennan, respectively, aimed to stop and prevent the further spread of communism around the world. It is crucial to state that NATO was one of the most significant steps taken in order to apply the Containment Doctrine as it provided military support, safety against "communist threats". One thing to realise is that the establishment of NATO was not only necessary, important for the USA, certain European countries were also in favour of the organisation since their safety, security was posed under the "threat of communism".

After World War II, all the nations were searching for effective ways to protect their safety, security, and peace. The establishment of the United Nations was one of the most significant steps taken towards ensuring the protection, preservation of universal and regional peace at that time. Similarly, the establishment of NATO aimed to provide unified, stronger defence for its member states. The Soviet Expansionism led to the increasing sense of insecurity, instability among Western democracies and an organisation which guaranteed their countries' safety was a relieving idea. This indicates that the factors which caused the establishment of NATO are intertwined, and they cannot be thought of as separate elements. The Cold War's emerge, the continuous economic, political consequences increased the need of safety, security among nations.

The Last Years of the World War II

On December 16, 1944, Germany launched a final effort to divide the Allies on the Western Front, concentrating its remaining reserves in a massive counter-offensive in the Ardennes and along the French-German border. The objective was to encircle significant portions of Western Allied troops and seize the primary supply port at Antwerp, aiming to compel a political resolution. By January 16, 1945, the offensive had been repelled without achieving any strategic goals. Meanwhile, in Italy, the Western Allies faced a stalemate against the German defensive line. In mid-January 1945, the Red Army initiated an offensive in Poland, advancing from the Vistula to the Oder River in Germany and capturing East Prussia.

On February 4, leaders from the Soviet Union, Britain, and the United States convened for the Yalta Conference, agreeing on the post-war occupation of Germany and the Soviet

Union's entry into the war against Japan. In subsequent months, the Soviets advanced into Silesia and Pomerania, while the Western Allies penetrated western Germany, nearing the Rhine River. By March, they had crossed the Rhine north and south of the Ruhr, encircling German Army Group B.

Early March saw Germany's final major offensive against Soviet troops near Lake Balaton, aimed at safeguarding its remaining oil reserves in Hungary and retaking Budapest. However, within two weeks, the offensive failed, leading to Soviet advancements to Vienna and the capture of the city. In early April, Soviet forces seized Königsberg, while the Western Allies made significant progress in Italy and western Germany, capturing Hamburg and Nuremberg. The convergence of American and Soviet forces at the Elbe River on April 25 left pockets of unoccupied territory in southern Germany and around Berlin.

Soviet troops captured Berlin in late April, while German forces surrendered in Italy on April 29, followed by the capitulation of the Italian Social Republic two days later. On April 30, the Reichstag fell, signalling the military defeat of Nazi Germany. Significant leadership changes occurred during this period, including President Roosevelt's death on April 12 and Benito Mussolini's killing on April 28. Hitler committed suicide on April 30, succeeded by Grand Admiral Karl Dönitz and Joseph Goebbels briefly before Goebbels' suicide the following day, leading to the establishment of the Flensburg Government.

Unconditional surrender in Europe was signed on May 7 and 8, becoming effective by the end of May 8, with German resistance persisting in Prague until May 11. On May 23, all remaining members of the German government were arrested in Flensburg by Allied forces. The transfer of German political and military institutions to Allied control was formalised through the Berlin Declaration on June 5.

In the Pacific theatre, Allied forces, including those from the Philippines, advanced through the Philippines, clearing Leyte by April's end and recapturing Manila in March. Fighting persisted on Luzon, Mindanao, and other islands until the war's conclusion. Simultaneously, the United States Army Air Forces conducted extensive firebombing campaigns on strategic cities in Japan, aiming to cripple Japanese war industry and morale. The devastating bombing of Tokyo on March 9–10 marked the deadliest conventional bombing raid in history.

Australian troops landed in Borneo in May 1945, capturing its oilfields. British, American, and Chinese forces defeated Japanese troops in northern Burma in March, with the British reaching Rangoon by May 3. Chinese forces initiated a counterattack in the Battle of West Hunan from April 6 to June 7. American naval and amphibious forces secured Iwo Jima by March and Okinawa by June's end, while submarines enforced a naval blockade, severely impacting Japan's economy and supply routes.

On July 11, Allied leaders convened in Potsdam, Germany, reaffirming earlier agreements regarding Germany and reiterating the demand for Japan's unconditional surrender. The rejection of this demand by Japan led to the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the United States in early August. Subsequently, the Soviet Union declared war on Japan, invading Japanese-held Manchuria and swiftly defeating the Kwantung Army.

These events compelled the Japanese Imperial Army to accept surrender terms. Emperor Hirohito announced Japan's decision to surrender on August 15, 1945, via a radio broadcast. The formal surrender took place aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay on September 2, 1945, marking the end of World War II.

The Soviet Threat and the Beginning of Cold War

In 1945, the Soviet threat primarily stemmed from its expansionist ambitions and ideological differences with the Western Allies, particularly the United States and its Western European allies. The Soviet Union, under the leadership of Joseph Stalin, sought to spread communism and exert control over Eastern Europe and other regions to create a buffer zone of satellite states for its security. This expansionist agenda clashed with the principles of democracy and capitalism upheld by the Western Allies.

Additionally, the Soviet Union emerged from World War II as a military superpower, with significant territorial gains in Eastern Europe. The Red Army's occupation of Eastern European countries raised concerns among Western leaders about Soviet intentions and the potential for Soviet domination over these nations.

Furthermore, the Soviet Union's acquisition of nuclear capabilities in 1949 added another dimension to the threat, as it introduced the possibility of nuclear conflict and heightened tensions during the Cold War era.

Overall, the Soviet threat in 1945 comprised a combination of ideological competition, territorial expansionism, and military capabilities, which fuelled the tensions and hostilities that characterised the early years of the Cold War.

The initial phase of the Cold War commenced shortly after the conclusion of World War II in 1945. The United States and its Western European allies endeavoured to solidify their alliances and implemented a containment policy against Soviet expansionism. A pivotal manifestation of this strategy was the establishment of NATO in 1949, serving as a defensive pact. In response, the Soviet Union formed the Warsaw Pact in 1955, mirroring NATO's structure within the Eastern Bloc. However, given the Soviet Union's existing military presence and political control over its satellite states in Eastern Europe, the necessity of the Warsaw Pact has been widely questioned.

Despite its purported defensive nature, the primary objective of the Warsaw Pact was to uphold Soviet dominance over its Eastern European satellites. Notably, the pact's military interventions were predominantly aimed at suppressing dissent within its member states. By the 1960s, the pact evolved into a more diversified alliance, allowing non-Soviet members greater autonomy to pursue their interest.

These novelties after World War II led to the Washington Conference.

IV. Founding Articles of NATO

When the North Atlantic Treaty Organization was founded with the Washington Treaty, it was created with only 14 articles. The Washington Treaty was one of the shortest documents of its kind, considering the impact of the treaty. The 14 articles were crafted very carefully after months of negotiations and discussions, before the Treaty was signed. There were many reasons why the Washington Treaty was discussed thoroughly by members. Both risk and reward for signing the Treaty were significantly high, therefore members wanted to make sure to reduce all the risks to minimum and increase the rewards, however they thought it could be

achieved. But not every member state had the same idea of how the Treaty should be, in fact there were few articles in particular that countries had opposed views.

- **Article 2:**

    Article 2 states that the members will contribute toward the further development of peaceful and friendly international relations by strengthening their free institutions, by bringing about a better understanding of the principles upon which these institutions are founded, and by promoting conditions of stability and well-being. They will seek to eliminate conflict in their international economic policies and will encourage economic collaboration between any or all of them. The article can be summarised with non-military cooperation. The article was a subject of discussion because there were different views on how to treat non-military issues. While some members wanted to expand on social and economic cooperation there were members with abstentions. The solution was founded with consensus-building with article 4. In article 4, it is stated that the members will consult together whenever they consider it necessary, turning article 2 into a mutually consensual obligation.

- **Article 5:**

    Article 5 is an article of Washington Treaty, the article states that each member agrees to take action it deems necessary, including the use of armed force in the scenario where any member is under armed attack which will be considered as attack on all members. Even though collective defence was known to be at the heart of the Treaty since the early negotiations, members' views on the implementation of Article 5 were different. The United States of America, which was committed to its stance of officially avoiding foreign entanglements at the time, were concerned that the treaty obligations would draw the country into unwanted conflicts. The United States wanted to be in place to be able to send aid to attacked members without having to declare war on the aggressors. On the other hand, the European Countries wanted to ensure that the United States of America would fully engage in the conflict if one of the signatories came under attack. The United States did not want to make this pledge and did not believe US public opinion were going to go with it, thus to solve the problem the United States proposed the "as it deems necessary" part to be added into the article in order to avoid automatic declaration of war obligation. Ultimately, the American side won the negotiation of this article.

● **The Disagreement About the Geographical Scope of the Organisation:**

The area of responsibility which the organisation has was a topic of discussion. The United States and United Kingdom saw NATO as a regional organisation, whilst France wanted NATO to have a rather global role. Thus, the scope of NATO was discussed and written in article 6 as:

"On the territory of any of the Parties in Europe or North America, on the Algerian Departments of France, on the territory of Turkey or on the Islands under the jurisdiction of any of the Parties in the North Atlantic area north of the Tropic of Cancer; on the forces, vessels, or aircraft of any of the Parties, when in or over these territories or any other area in Europe in which occupation forces of any of the Parties were stationed on the date when the Treaty entered into force or the Mediterranean Sea or the North Atlantic area north of the Tropic of Cancer."

● **Expansion of the Organisation:**

On the topic of whom to invite to join the organisation, members had different views. The United Kingdom wanted to keep the organisation small and strong, not avoiding commitments to less developed countries. On the other hand, the United States of America advocated for inviting the countries that were in the potential of falling into Soviet aggression. The early drafters of the Treaty discussed inviting Italy, Greece, Türkiye, Portugal, Iceland and the Scandinavian countries, essentially for their strategic value. Italy, Portugal and Iceland were among the founding members and ultimately Greece and Türkiye joined the Alliance in 1952.

● **Colonial Territories:**

The status of colonial territories was one of the biggest topics in the drafting of the Washington Treaty. France insisted on including Algeria, while Belgium requested the Congo's inclusion. However, the United States and Canada wanted to exclude all colonial territory, the main concern being that NATO would end up having to resolve problems stemming from the native population of overseas territories. Ultimately, the drafters granted France's request to include Algeria, which had been fully integrated

into the French political and administrative organisation as a French department, but rejected Belgium's request regarding the Congo.

- **Duration of the Treaty:**

The negotiating countries disagreed on how long the Treaty should last. Some countries favoured a long-term agreement that would set the initial duration at 20 years, while others feared that anything beyond 10 years would be seen as an unnecessary extension of the war effort. Finally, at the insistence of Portugal, the Treaty was made valid for a 10-year period, after which the Treaty could be reviewed (Article 12). And only after the Treaty had been in force for 20 years could a member withdraw from the Organization (Article 13). To date, these two provisions have never been used, the Treaty has never been reviewed nor a member withdrawn from the Organization.

V.   Major Countries Involved

A. <u>United States of America</u>: As stated previously, the USA played a significant role in both the establishment and the effectiveness of the alliance. The USA was one of the most powerful countries at that time, after World War II, and many Western, European countries were willing to receive assistance and support from the United States. The United States of America contributed to the alliance by providing military, economic and political support to the member states. Moreover, the military power of the United States was one of the key elements which prevented Soviet Expansionism in Europe.

B. <u>United Kingdom</u>: The UK was another key architect of NATO and played a prominent role in providing European support for the alliance. After World War II, the United Kingdom was also in the search of an organisation that could provide collective defence and ensure the safety, security of the nation. Thus, the UK was a key figure both in the establishment and continuity of the alliance. British diplomats played a significant role in the construction of the principles, objectives of NATO. The UK contributed to NATO, mainly by providing military power and support for the member states especially during the Cold War.

C. <u>France:</u> France contributed to the drafting of the North Atlantic Treaty. However, France's affiliation with NATO has had some significant breaking points. It is important to state that in 1966, France withdrew from NATO's military command, under the President Charles de Gaulle, owing to the increased American hegemony within the organisation. The French government believed that the integrity, security of their nation could be preserved without the military support coming from NATO. The increased American influence, power, authority caused the arrival of some nationalist concerns on the side of the French government, leading to the state's withdrawal from the military command. Even though France had withdrawn from the military command of NATO, the state continued to participate actively in the political, diplomatic actions of the organisation. In 2009, under the president Nicholas Sarkozy, France re-joined NATO's military command. This incident indicates that the French government attaches importance to their independence, sovereignty and power.

D. <u>Canada:</u> Canada played a vital role in providing military support and contributing to NATO operations. After World War II, Canada was also aware of the need for a collective defence organisation and was concerned about the Soviet Expansionist ideologies. Hence, the state has been a major contributor to the military command of NATO and has provided vast amounts of assistance, support for the member states, especially the European countries. The military support coming from Canada did not seize after the conclusion of the Cold War but the state's contributions and support continued to arrive in various forms, making Canada a prominent member of NATO.

E. <u>Italy:</u> Italy joined NATO as a founding member and played a key role in providing military support and hosting NATO bases on its territory. One of the main reasons why Italy joined NATO was because they wanted to dissociate themselves from their fascist past after World War II and be recognised as a part of the Western democracies. Additionally, the geopolitical position of Italy caused the state to become a prominent, significant member of the organisation.

Italy, throughout the years, contributed both to the diplomatic, political aspects and discussions and the military alliance of NATO.

F. Portugal: Portugal was one of the original signatories of the North Atlantic Treaty and contributed to NATO's collective defence efforts, particularly in the context of the Cold War. The main reason behind Portugal's inclusion in NATO was the country's goal to preserve, protect the security and peace of the state. Especially during the Franco regime in Spain, the threats, concerns of the Portuguese government increased and their membership in NATO was a remedial factor. Even though Portugal is a relatively small and less powerful member state, compared to the USA, UK, Canada, they still contributed to the military alliance and benefitted from the alliance by following, implementing its legal framework.

G. Norway: As one of the twelve founding members of NATO, Norway played a crucial role in the organisation throughout the years, both during the Cold War and post-Cold War period. It is important to state that the geographic position of Norway has contributed significantly to its role in NATO. The country became a prominent state for the peacekeeping, security activities in the Arctic and North Atlantic regions. Their military support and political moves, contributions have made Norway a well-respected member state for NATO.

H. Denmark: Denmark has been an important member state for NATO since its establishment. Denmark's strategic location/position has increased the country's military contributions, benefits to the alliance. Especially with their naval and air forces, Denmark has been a key part of the preservation of peace and security specifically around the Baltic Sea and North Atlantic regions. The state's contributions to the organisation have continued throughout the years.

İ. Iceland: Iceland was one of the founding members of NATO despite not having strong military power. The strategic geographic location of Iceland has caused the country to become an important member of NATO.

J. Belgium: One of the twelve initial signatories of the Washington Treaty, Belgium has contributed to NATO both politically and in military alliance. Thus, their inclusion and presence has been a contribution to, benefit for NATO.

K. Netherlands: Like the other member states of NATO, the Netherlands has made important contributions to the collective alliance by providing military support, assistance and being involved in the political, diplomatic dialogues within NATO.

L. Luxembourg: Luxembourg has been a significant contributor to the diplomatic, political, and financial alliances of NATO. However, Luxemburg has not played a significant role in terms of the military assistance given to the member states. Nonetheless, they have been a modestly important member of the organisation.

Each of these countries brought unique capabilities and perspectives to NATO, contributing to the alliance's strength and cohesion during the Cold War and beyond.

VI. Matters to be Negotiated

1. Which non-military cooperative measures should be included in the organisation for the greater good of member states?
2. Should non-military cooperative measures be obligated for member states or should it be based upon consensus?
3. Should there be an obligation for every member state to join the wars of other member states, especially when they are under armed attack?
4. How should the organisation decide its geographical scope, should it invite every country that is under the threat of Soviet aggression?
5. How member states of the organisation should be obligated to act in international disputes?
6. What should be the procedure of accepting or inviting other countries into the organisation?
7. What should be the proper time period to review the treaty or allow member states to abandon the treaty?
8. Should the organisation focus on its member states' security and interest or have a much bigger global role?

9. How will the organisation act cooperatively with the United Nations?

10. Which principles and purposes should the organisation be fully committed to?

VII.   **Useful Resources**

https://youtu.be/5jO0kez3vyA?si=WeZUQq_cdpALmPEV

https://youtu.be/y6z-iwGvKcw?si=5ekEdyeP5dJcTYc_

https://youtu.be/y_6B9baubl0?si=gcO80g94U6jYy7SB

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NATO#:~:text=NATO%20was%20established%20on%204,Kingdom%2C%20and%20the%20United%20States.

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VIII.   References

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