

Providing military aid to former non-NATO member Soviet satellite states

Key Terms

Satellite states

A satellite state also known as a dependent state is a country that is formally independent in the world, however, it is under heavy political, economic, and military influence or control from another country.

Soviet Satellites

Soviet Satellite states were countries that clung closely to the Soviet Union with communist governments in Eastern Europe.

Military

A military is the armed forces of a country. It is an organized force with the intention of warfare.

Eastern Bloc

The Eastern Bloc were a group of Eastern European countries from 1945-1990 that were aligned with the Soviet Union in terms of military, politics, economy, and culture.

Western Bloc

The Western Bloc was referred to during the Cold War as the countries aligned with the United States and NATO in opposition to the Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact.

Arms race

According to Cambridge Dictionary an arms race is “a situation in which two or more countries try to have more and stronger weapons than each other”.

Cold war

The Cold war was a political rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union that developed after World War 2. After World War 2 the Soviet Union started to establish left-wing governments in Eastern European countries and the United States worried that the Soviets would dominate Eastern Europe permanently. It was based mainly on political, economic and propaganda and lasted until 1991.

Soviet Union

The Soviet Union was the world's first Marxist-Communist and became one of the biggest and most powerful nations in the world. The Soviet Union was made up of 15 countries in Eastern Europe and Asia. It originated in the Russian Revolution of 1917 and dissolved in 1991.

Introduction

Non-nato former soviet satellite states are countries not a part of NATO which used to be strongly influenced/controlled by the Soviet Union. Several of these states are currently going through a war therefore are in need of military aid. This military aid could include monitoring the border, providing security, sending peace-keeping missions, providing military personnel with training and support etc. Although these countries are not a part of NATO, due to difficulties of joining, or other reasons, they still need support from other countries. Furthermore, former soviet satellites that are also not a part of NATO have no major alliance agreement with multiple countries and are therefore more vulnerable. It is important to remember that NATO's mission is to prevent conflict and not provoke it.

Part 1: Warsaw Pact

The Warsaw Pact was a defense treaty established by the Soviet Union with 7 other Soviet Satellites including Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland and Romania. It was also known as the Treaty of Friendship, Co-operation and Mutual Assistance. It was established on May 14, 1955. The Warsaw Pact embodied the Eastern bloc while NATO embodied the Western bloc. NATO and the Warsaw Pact were opposed and even went through an arms race that lasted throughout the Cold War. The Warsaw Pact was declared at an end on 25 February 1991. This followed the fall of communist governments in Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Romania and Bulgaria after 1989. The Soviet Union was also broken up in December of 1991.

Due to the fact that NATO and countries in the Warsaw Pact were naturally opposed and held opposing ideologies, several former soviet satellites never became a part of NATO. Some however did such as Albania, Romania, Czech Republic, etc. Mainly countries in the former Soviet Union such as Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and finally Ukraine are not a part of NATO and may therefore require the help from NATO with current conflicts.

Part 2: Russian-Ukraine war

The Russo-Ukraine war is a relevant conflict to this topic. Ukraine is a non-nato former soviet satellite. The intention Russia had by starting the war was to decrease Ukraines chances and desires of joining NATO by overrunning Ukraine and deposing its government as Russia believes Ukraine should still be a part of them. Ukraine is a small country compared to Russia and therefore requires a lot of assistance especially from NATO countries as it no longer has its allies in Russia. However, Ukraine is not the only example of a former soviet satellite state that requires military assistance. Ukraine is relevant due to its current conflict however all soviet satellite states that are not a part of NATO may be in need of military aid.

Part 3: Impact on Economies

The war happening in Russia and Ukraine is impacting more than just them and their bordering countries. Not only did NATO condemn Russia's invasion in Ukraine but it also called it "The biggest security threat in a generation". However, the war is causing food insecurity, energy insecurity and impacting the economy greatly. According to Nathalie Broadhurst in her speech to the UN Security council "In 2022 and 2023, up to 13 million more people could face starvation as a result of this war alone". Furthermore, the Russia v Ukraine war has also increased energy prices all over the world which further impacted the economy as well. Due to this it is imperative that all countries contribute to help prevent further conflict between any major nations in the world especially former soviet satellite states that are not a part of NATO because their militaries are not as strong as other nations with military alliances.

Major Parties Involved

NATO:

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is an intergovernmental military alliance between 30 member states. It originally started off as an alliance between 12 members in the Western world. However, in recent decades countries from other areas in Europe have joined. There are 4 basic points of NATO. It is a political and military alliance, a collective defense (if one country is attacked then all members will help defend), a transatlantic alliance (between European countries and 2 Northern American countries), and the 2022 strategic concept (a layout of the alliance's core tasks and principals).

Ukraine:

Ukraine used to be a former soviet satellite state. It borders Russia, Romania, Moldova, Belarus, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia. This is an important element because in recent years Ukraine has wanted to join NATO. A poll done by the Democratic Initiatives Foundation in 2017 established that somewhat 69% of Ukrainians want to join NATO. In recent years the desire to join NATO has only increased in Ukraine. However, Russia does not wish to border with a NATO country and believes that Ukraine should be a part of them which caused conflict in early 2022 and is the cause of the ongoing war. Therefore, Ukraine is undergoing extreme military conflict and needs aid from other countries, especially NATO.

Russia:

Russia invaded Ukraine on the 24th of February 2022. The plan was to sweep Ukraines capital, Kyiv and depose the government. Russia's leaders described it as a "special military operation" to "demilitarize and de-Nazify Ukraine ". Russia is also trying to prevent Ukraine from joining NATO and even had them sign a provisional deal to stay out of the western alliance as Russia does not want an NATO country on its border as it fears this is too close to their territory. Due to this, Russia clearly does not wish that Ukraine joins NATO or receives any help from them.

Timeline of Events

4 April 1949	NATO Formed
14 May 1955	Warsaw Pact was founded
1 July 1991	Warsaw Pact was dissolved
1999	Poland, Czechia, and Hungary join NATO
2004	Romania and Bulgaria join NATO
2002	Ukraine president expresses interest in joining NATO
2009	Albania joins NATO
2017	Ukraine adopts a constitutional amendment committing itself to a membership with NATO
2021	Ukraine adopts a National Security Strategy with the aim of developing a partnership with NATO
24 February 2022	Russia invades Ukraine

Possible Solutions

Seeing that there are current conflicts happening in the world that require NATO aid even when nations are not a part of NATO it is imperative that the alliance discovers and implements a way to provide military aid to these nations, specifically former soviet satellites. The committee should discuss possibilities for creating a system for providing the aid, sending peacekeeping missions, holding conferences between nations, encouraging diplomatic behaviors and solutions keeping in mind that NATO is defensive and should not provoke conflict only prevent it by providing humanitarian and non lethal aid.

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