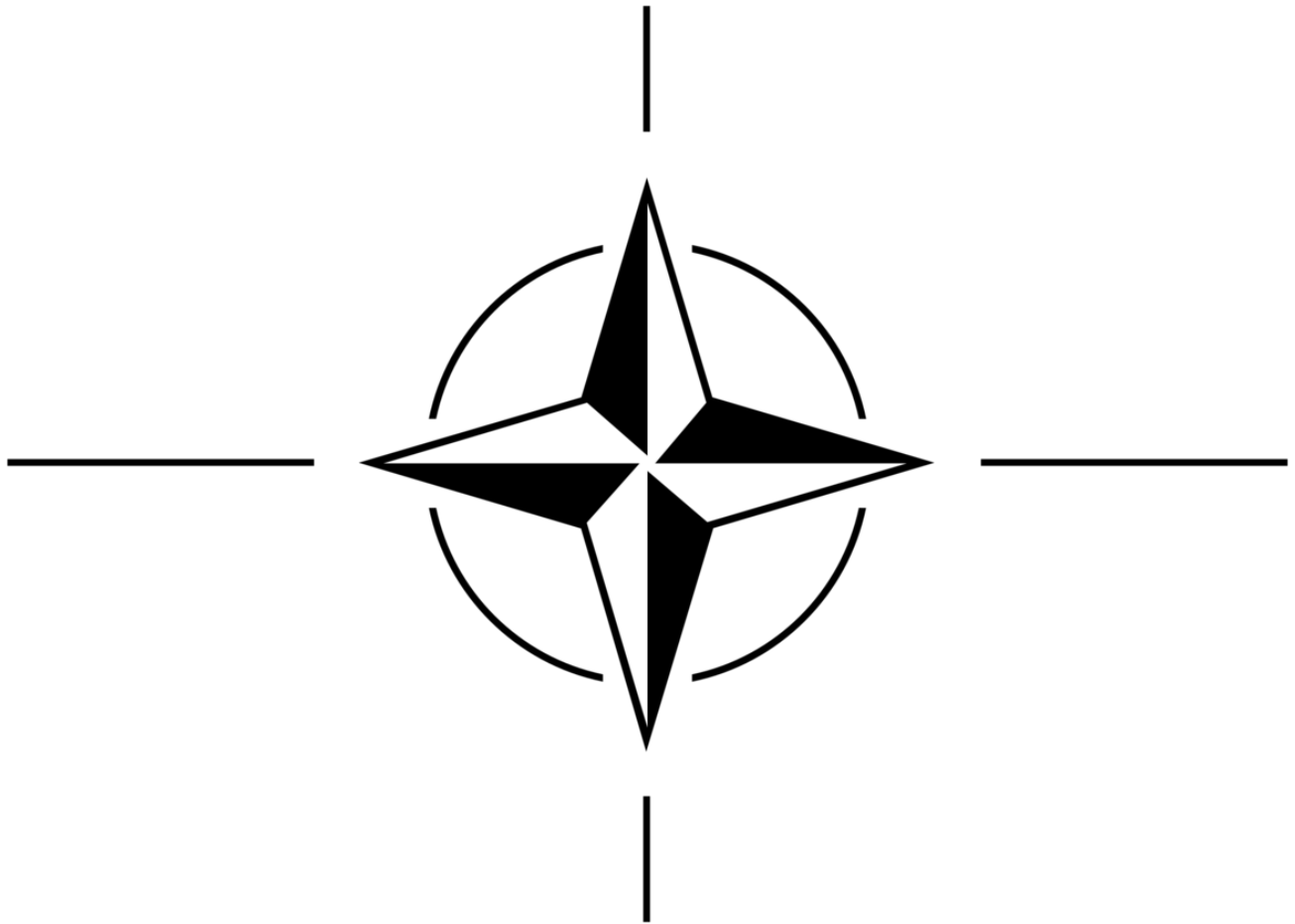# North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

MADMUN XIV

Chairs:
Andy Li
Leon Li

Sim:
Andrew Barger

MEET YOUR CHAIRS

Hi, my name is Leon Li and I'm a senior at Monona Grove High School. This will be my fourth and final year of doing Model UN and I couldn't be more excited to chair a committee for the first time. My favorite MUN memory so far has been at CIMUN, an international conference held in Chicago, and just participating in such a large conference. I still remember how nervous I was for my first committee so if you have any questions, you can reach me through my email at leon.li@mgschools.net.

Hey guys! My name is Andy Li and I'm an incoming senior at Monona Grove High School. I've been doing MUN for the past four years and have enjoyed being a delegate. However, this is my first experience as a chair. My favorite MUN committee that I've been in is the Mafia committee. Outside of MUN, I enjoy running, listening to music, and playing volleyball. I can't wait for the day of committee but if you have any questions before then, feel free to reach out to me at andy.li@mgschools.net

Hey, my name is Andrew Barger and I will be your sim this MADMUN, I'm a junior at Verona High School coming up on my third year of Model UN. And while it seems hokey, MUN is a great way to learn about yourself, others, and the world around you, so i'm stoked to join the dais staff for the first time. Outside of MUN I run Cross Country and Track, and enjoy a good game night with friends. I look forward to seeing the creative debate and solutions to the issues, and hope you all have a blast at MADMUN! If you have any questions my email is: Phycivica662@gmail.com

Letter from the Dais

Welcome to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) of MADMUN 2023! Thank you for choosing to participate in this year's annual MADMUN. We put a lot of effort into these background guides so make sure to use them to the best of your ability. Although this guide won't give you everything you need to know about the intricacies of NATO and global affairs, we hope this can be a starting point for you and your research. And again, if you have any questions about the flow of committee, parliamentary procedure, questions about arms trafficking/yemen crisis, or just general MUN related questions, feel free to contact any of the chairs or sims. We would be more than happy to answer any of these questions.

Introduction to NATO

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, commonly known as NATO, is a pivotal international alliance. It was established on April 4, 1949 by its founding members: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom and the United States. NATO represents a collective defense organization formed to ensure the security and stability of its member states. Its founding principle is based on the idea that an attack on one member nation is considered an attack on all, and members pledge to come to each other's aid when such a situation arises. The alliance has played a crucial role in shaping the geopolitical landscape and maintaining peace across the North Atlantic region. Over the years, NATO's scope has expanded to include a range of security challenges beyond traditional military threats, reflecting its commitment to adapting and evolving in response to the changing global security environment.

Topic A: Arms Trafficking

1.1 Overview/Description

      The arms trafficking concerns between NATO and Russia have emerged as a critical issue impacting regional and global security dynamics. With NATO representing a collective defense alliance of North Atlantic nations and Russia being a significant geopolitical player, the illicit flow of arms has raised alarm bells in diplomatic circles. This issue underscores the complex relationship between the two entities and the potential consequences for stability, conflict escalation, and international efforts to combat arms trafficking. The intersections of strategic interests, geopolitical tensions, and the need for cooperative solutions highlight the gravity of addressing arms trafficking as a shared challenge between NATO and Russia. The basis of NATO's arm trafficking guidelines are drawn from the CFE or also known as the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty. This treaty essentially places a legal limit on war weaponry within the Russian borders. The intended goal of this limit was to discourage any large scale attacks to over take the bordering countries.

      This limit includes:

- 20,000 tanks
- 20,000 artillery pieces
- 36,000 armored combat vehicles
- 6,800 combat aircraft
- 2,000 attack helicopters

1.2 Current Events

The humanitarian crisis evolving in Russia and Ukraine has been a focal point of concern for NATO and its allies. In the past, many nations neighboring Russia have requested a larger NATO presence in Western Europe as a response to Russia's military forces storming closer and closer to the country's border. Regulations in the past, such as the CFE, have attempted to limit the number of arms manufactured but with the withdrawal of Russia from the treaty's obligations, its weaponry is no longer regulated by NATO or any other international organization. Development of a new strengthened draft of the CFE began during the Obama administration but the terms were rejected by Russia. All other nations excluding Russia still continue to abide by the implementations of the treaty. Shortly before the war between Russia and Ukraine broke out, Russia discussed arms control with the United States and demanded NATO members to not deploy their forces. And on May 10th, 2023, Russia officially withdrew from the CFE. In fact, according to Vladamir Putin, the president of Russia, since the start of the Ukraine-Russia war, arms production has increased by more than 200%.

CFE Members: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Luxembourg, Moldova, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

1.3 Guiding Questions

- What actions can be taken to ensure that Russia remains at peace?

- How can regulations on weapons be used effectively?

- What future steps are necessary to keep Russia's bordering countries safe?

Schumann, Anna. "Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe." *Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation*, 19 May 2023, armscontrolcenter.org/treaty-on-conventional-armed-forces-in-europe/#:~:text=The%201992%20Treaty%20on%20Conventional,attacks%20or%20large%2Dscale%20offensives.

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Topic B: Yemeni Civil War

2.1 Overview: The middle eastern nation of Yemen has been in a long and brutal civil war since 2014. The war began after Houthi rebels seized the presidential palace during protests against the government's ending of important fuel subsidies which raised fuel prices. The war is often termed 'forgotten' due to the lack of media attention and public consciousness about this important conflict. At the heart of the crises are religious conflicts and a regional proxy war between republicanism and monarchy. These troubles have surrounded Yemen for hundreds of years and only grown with time, and now the west and NATO have an active interest in peace. The complicated conflict needs both provisional solutions to ensure the safety and stability of the region as well as lasting implementations to ensure the nation of Yemen can stay stable far into the future without western backing. In the process of peace remember the core NATO values of security, anti-terrorism, and global democracy

Historical Context:

2.2 Religious Tension: The complicated situation in Yemen is the culmination of years of conflict between religious sects in the country. By far the largest religion in Yemen is Islam, which originally took the form of Zaydism, a Shia sect However; when the Rasulid dynasty came to the region with its Sunni theology, tensions arose between the groups, which was briefly put on hold while the Ottoman empire took over the region.

But after the first world war and the fall of the ottoman empire, Yemen had its first shot at the messy process of reunification, and Yemen was to become a monarchy. Years went by, religious power moved between the different sects, always ending in institutional differences in each group's liberty: which only festered animosity. The religious tension greatly worsened after years of Sunnification efforts by the south, which caused the northern region of Sa'dah to pursue religious and political independence from Yemen

2.3 Middle-Eastern Regional Proxy War: Many of the conflicts in the middle east, including that of Yemen can trace itself back in some part to both the major cold war between the democratic west and the communist east, but also; to perhaps a larger extent: the regional proxy war between Sunni Saudi Arabia and Shia Iran. And while often the various revolutions that took place in Yemen were not along ideological lines and instead grievances that had arisen after years of animosity.

2.4 Factions: The Yemeni civil war is made of two primary factions with some complicating forces muddying the waters around the conflict. Although many of these factions are ideological/religious, it is important to remember that much of the time these groups are at odds simply because grievances occurred over years of tension, and would readily switch ideologies if it meant getting one up on their rivals.

1. **Houthie Rebels**: Made mostly of the Zaydi Shia Islamic sect, Houthi rebels are furious after years of "sunnification" efforts by the south intended to force the Zaydis into religious and national unity with the south, these tensions led the region of Sa'dah to attempt a move towards succession, in what became a volatile and protracted conflict which has now evolved into civil war.

2. **Yemeni Government** under president Rashad al-Alimi : Currently ruling in exile from Saudi Arabia, the Yemeni government's policy of 'sunnification' made them enemies with the southern Shia religious groups. This is the internationally recognised governing body for yemen: a once functioning republic whose main goal is to regain control of the central government

3. **Al-Qaeda**, part of the broader effort for a unified muslim state, Al qaeda has been designated as a terrorist organization by NATO. The Yemeni government partnered with a number of western

2.5 Guiding Questions:

- How can a sustainable peace be formed between the contentious forces of Yemen?

- What role should the west play in the middle east and how do western nations deal with overreaching and imperialism?

- What is NATO'S end game both in the middle east and in the world as a whole?

- How can peace be enforced without overreaching into middle eastern affairs?

If anyone has any questions then feel free to reach out to the dais, this guide is meant to help move research along and should be supplemented with additional research.

SOURCES:

▶ **The Yemeni Civil War (2014-2022) | History Today**

▶ **The Middle East's cold war, explained**

▶ **The Hidden Truth Behind Yemen's Civil War | Secret Wars Uncovered | War Stories**

"Yemeni Civil War (2014–Present)." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 31 Aug. 2023, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yemeni_civil_war_(2014%E2%80%93present).

Center For Preventative Action. "War in Yemen | Global Conflict Tracker." *Council on Foreign Relations*, Council on Foreign Relations, www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/war-yemen. Accessed 31 Aug. 2023.