

Sixty years of NATO expansion

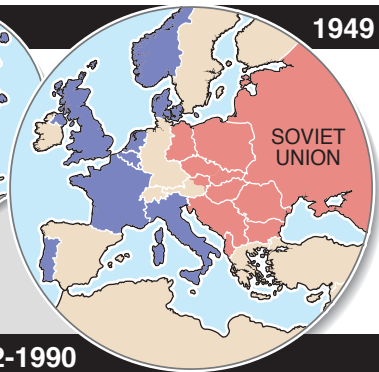
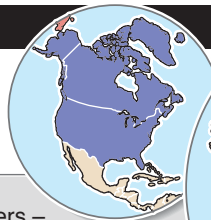
NATO, the world's largest peacetime military alliance, celebrates its 60th anniversary as the 26-nation bloc prepares to welcome two new members – Albania and Croatia – at its April summit



TIMELINE

■ New NATO members
■ Russia / Soviet bloc

► April 4, 1949
12 NATO founders –
United States, Britain, France, Italy, Canada, Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark, Norway, Portugal, Luxembourg, Iceland



1949

1952-1990

- 1952: *Greece, Turkey* join
- 1955: *West Germany* enters NATO. *Soviet Union* and seven eastern European countries form *Warsaw Pact* military alliance
- 1982: *Spain* joins NATO
- 1990: German reunification. *East Germany* leaves Warsaw Pact, becomes part of *German Federal Republic* and NATO



1991-2004

- 1991: Collapse of Soviet Union and dissolution of Warsaw Pact. Breakup of *Yugoslavia*
- 1999: Former communist countries *Poland, Hungary* and *Czech Republic* join NATO
- 2004: Second wave of eastern European states enter alliance – *Romania, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Slovakia* and *Slovenia*

