

NATO's most exposed members

The Suwalki Gap that separates the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad from Kremlin-aligned Belarus is the only land link from Central Europe to the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania



■ **1997:** NATO leaders and Russian President **Boris Yeltsin** (left) sign **Founding Act** to build trust, cooperation and limit military presence of both sides in eastern Europe

■ **1999:** Prime Minister **Vladimir Putin** (right) invades Chechnya to subdue separatist movement



■ **Mar 2000:** Putin elected president, vows to restore Russia on world stage

■ **Aug 2008:** Russia invades Georgia, seizes Abkhazia and South Ossetia

■ **Mar 2004:** Seven new members, including Baltic states, join NATO

■ **Mar 2014:** Annexation of Crimea

■ **Feb 2022:** Invasion of Ukraine