

NATO-Russia tensions

▶ **Dec 1991:** Breakup of Soviet Union and end of Cold War

▶ **1992:** Russian President **Boris Yeltsin** seeks closer ties with West, but views NATO as failing to support Russian interests

▶ **1994:** NATO's **Partnership for Peace** programme includes joint training exercises between NATO, Eastern European countries and former Soviet states.
U.S. President Bill Clinton leaves door open for eventual Russian membership of NATO

▶ **Dec:** Russia goes to war in Chechnya. Yeltsin government declares ceasefire with Chechen rebels in 1996

▶ **1995:** NATO launches first military operation – airstrikes against Bosnian Serbs. Yeltsin condemns NATO action against Kremlin ally

▶ **1997:** NATO and Russia sign **Founding Act** – agreeing that Russia and NATO are not adversaries

▶ **Aug 1999:** **Vladimir Putin** becomes Prime Minister – by end of month Russia is waging war on Chechen rebels

▶ **Dec:** Yeltsin resigns – Putin takes over, then wins presidency in Mar 2000

▶ **Apr 2008:** NATO declares that Ukraine and Georgia “will become members” of alliance one day

▶ **May:** **Dmitry Medvedev** becomes president, Putin becomes prime minister

▶ **Aug:** Russian forces invade Georgia and seize 20% of its territory. Moscow interprets muted response from West as opportunity for further acts of aggression

▶ **2009-11:** Administration of **Barack Obama** launches **Russia Reset** which results in New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty and U.S. support for Russia's membership of World Trade Organization

▶ **2012:** Putin returns as president

▶ **2014:** Annexation of Ukraine's Crimea. NATO-Russia relations plunge

▶ **2015:** Russian intervention in Syria spreads Kremlin influence in Middle East

▶ **Feb 24, 2022:** **Russia invades Ukraine.** Putin justifies war saying it is to prevent NATO expanding further east

▶ **May 17:** **Finland's parliament signs off on plan to join NATO alongside Sweden, marking historic shift in security policy**

