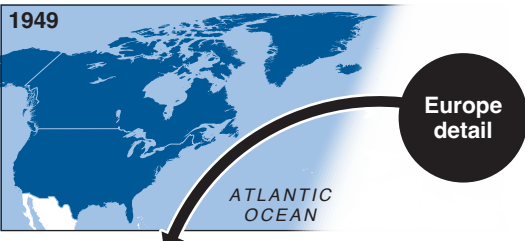


Decades of NATO expansionism

Founded in 1949 by 12 nations as a safeguard against the Soviet Union, the *North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)* has expanded 11 times, most recently in 2024 when Sweden was accepted into the alliance

1949



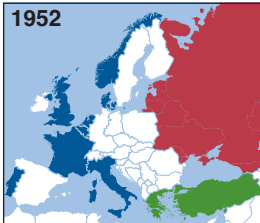
FOUNDING NATIONS

Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, UK, United States

1949

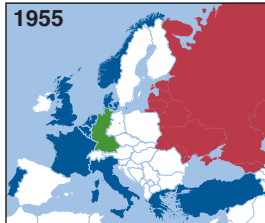


1952



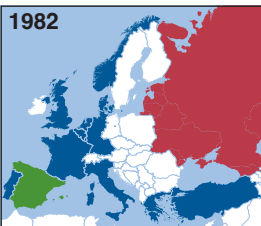
+ GREECE, TURKEY

1955



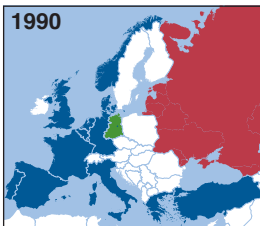
+ WEST GERMANY

1982



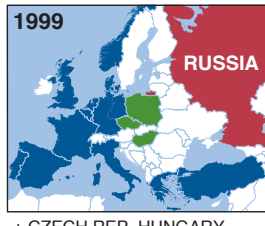
+ SPAIN

1990



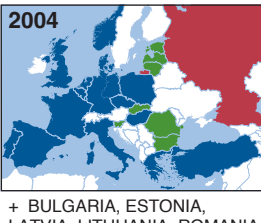
+ GERMAN REUNIFICATION

1999



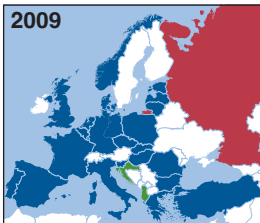
+ CZECH REP, HUNGARY, POLAND

2004



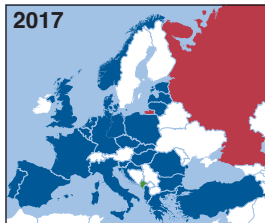
+ BULGARIA, ESTONIA, LATVIA, LITHUANIA, ROMANIA, SLOVAKIA, SLOVENIA

2009



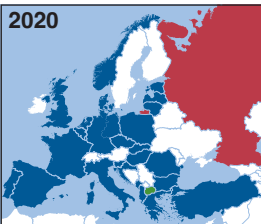
+ ALBANIA, CROATIA

2017



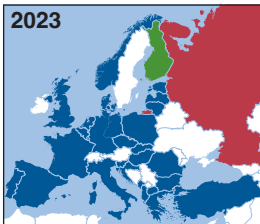
+ MONTENEGRO

2020



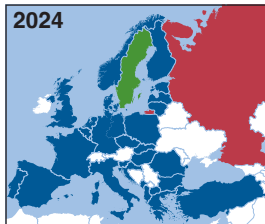
+ NORTH MACEDONIA

2023



+ FINLAND

2024

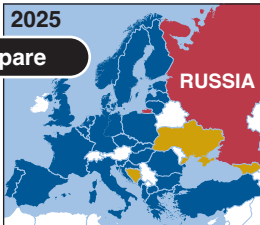


+ SWEDEN

1949



2025



Compare

There are now **32** countries in NATO, with three more applying to join alliance – *Bosnia and Herzegovina*, *Georgia* and *Ukraine*