

NATO and WARSAW Pact



Introduction

- Introduction
- NATO
- NATO in War
- NATO Commanders and Forces
- The Warsaw Pact
- Nuclear Deterrent

Introduction

After the end of the Second World War, the two super Powers - the Soviet Union and the United States of America - sought to keep the balance of military power by aligning themselves with their respective allies.

This resulted in the countries of Western Europe and America forming NATO and the Soviet Union maintained a policy of controlling Eastern Europe by forming the Warsaw Pact.

NATO

- NATO – North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
- Created on 4 April 1949
- There were twelve countries whose representatives signed the inaugural agreement - Belgium; Denmark; France; Iceland; Luxembourg; Netherlands; Norway; Portugal; United Kingdom; Italy; Canada and USA
- The cornerstone of NATO is that all members agreed to come to the aid of any member state if they are attacked.
- 1952 Greece and Turkey joined NATO
- 1955 the Federal Republic of Germany became a NATO member

NATO in War

The command structure of NATO is designed for a purely defensive war

In order to prepare for a possible attack from Warsaw Pact countries the NATO countries worked together to prepare contingency plans, pre-position huge stocks of equipment and supplies in Europe and conducted large scale exercises.

NATO Commanders and Forces

There are three Major NATO Commanders (MNC)

1. Supreme Allied Commander Europe who is an American General
2. Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic who is an American Admiral
3. Commander in Chief Channel who is a British Admiral

Land Forces come under the command of Allied Command Europe and the defence of the Atlantic Ocean from the Tropic of Cancer to the North Pole is the responsibility of the Allied Commander Atlantic

The Warsaw Pact

- The Warsaw Treaty Organisation is also known as the Warsaw Pact
- Created on 14 May 1955
- There were eight countries whose representatives signed the inaugural document – Albania; Bulgaria; Czechoslovakia; the German Democratic Republic; Hungary; Poland; Romania and the Soviet Union
- Albania withdrew in 1968 in protest at the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia.

Nuclear Deterrent

NATO and Warsaw pact countries had access to nuclear weapons

Why were they not used against each other?

The reason – **Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD)**

MAD was the idea that whereby to launch a nuclear attack against another nuclear-armed power would result in the annihilation of both.