

North Atlantic Treaty Organization



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The North Atlantic Treaty Organization is an organ whose main purpose is to safeguard and guarantee integrity and security to its members, this by political and military means. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization encourages consultation on defense and security situations in order to prevent conflicts; however, if diplomatic consultation cannot be achieved by political means, The North Atlantic Treaty Organization has the military power needed to undertake crisis-management operations, always-seeking wellness and security of its members by collective defense -meaning that an attack to one or more members, is considered as an attack against all members.

Topic A: Da'ish and ISIS recruitment of NATO members' citizens to fight, uplifting ISIS hard power; and the eventual repercussions it entails as the so-called citizens return to their homeland countries to carry on the intent.

About the conflict

Several European countries, the United States of America, and Canada have faced several harsh situations regarding the Islamic State's recruitment of people to fight for their intent and increase their power. *"Estimates of the scale of this problem vary, but there have been over 20,000 foreign fighters who have traveled to Syria to fight."* ¹Aside from the fact that by recruiting more people, the Islamic State (hereinafter referred to as IS) increases their lethal power and several NATO members' citizens are involved -since they are either forced or manipulated to reach Syria to fight for IS, most governments are fearful that the so-called citizens return to their homeland countries to commit acts of terrorism, such as the recent terrorist attacks made to the French Republic (Charlie Hebdo Weekly Newspaper & the Paris Attacks).

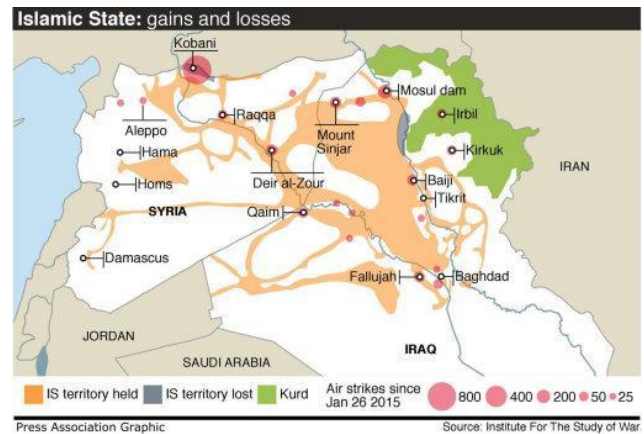
The Islamic State

The Islamic State is an extremist radical group whose main purpose is to officially establish a caliphate along the Middle East territory. Currently, they hold control over large parts of Syrian and Iraqi territory, which were seized with the use of extreme violence, heavy weaponry, and brutal tactics, such as the beheading of soldiers and journalists as well as mass killings. Three years of war in Syria have given them hundreds of square miles of territory and the group is spreading rapidly in Iraq.

¹ Seth G. Jones . (2015). The Syrian Refugee Crisis and U.S. National Security . December 10th, 2015, de RAND Office of External Affairs Sitio web: http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/testimonies/CT400/CT444/RAND_CT444.pdf

The roots of the Islamic State can be followed back to Abu Musab al-Zarqawi in 1999, with the establishment of Jama'at al-Tawhid wal-Jihad (hereinafter referred as the JTJ). The goals of the JTJ were to drive the U.S. out of Iraq, overthrow the Iraqi government, and then purge the land of all Shia Muslims, to then establish a pure Islamic state. In 2003, Zarqawi aligned JTJ with al Qaeda, branching out the group's power into in Iraq -hereinafter referred to as AQI.

After the aforementioned event, the United States attacked the Shias and some of their holy spiritual places, which caused Shias to retaliate against Sunnis in 2006². It was in the same year when Zarqawi was murdered by an airstrike from the United States. AQI created another organization named "Islamic State in Iraq" (ISI) which was weakened by U.S. troops, which led to the creation of Sahwa councils also referred to as Awakening Councils which fought against al-Qaeda in Iraq. Zarqawi's successors renamed AQI as the Islamic State of Iraq and later, the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS), referring to a territory that corresponds to the Levant, leading to an overwhelming expansion of the aforementioned AQI.



Back in 2007, the Islamic State (hereinafter referred to as IS) issued a pamphlet which said "Modern notions of statehood and national borders must be discarded".³ This statement has been strictly followed, and the main reason why Syria and Iraq have now become a rather large battlefield.

The man behind said militant group is Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, who is considered the Islamic State's caliph. He has taken actions in order to achieve the already self-proclaimed, but illegitimate, caliphate. Some of these actions include suicide attacks in battle, the encouragement for fighters to extort, smuggle, and rob mainly oil and antiquities, and also the recruitment of people from other parts of the world, mainly from Western European countries; spreading its menace world-wide.

Syrian and Iraqi government's response to IS

² Shia Muslims believe that the leadership should be given to someone that was directly related to the Prophet Muhammad." Huda, C.(2015). *what's the difference between Shia and Sunni Muslims*. February 21st, 2016 from: http://islam.about.com/es/divisions/f/shia_sunni.htm"

³ "The United States' Misguided Approach to Terror of the Islamic State." Egyptian Streets. 2014. Egyptian Streets. August 8, 2015. <http://egyptianstreets.com/2014/09/22/the-united-states-misguided-approach-to-terror-of-the-islamic-state/>.

Considering that nowadays IS is one of the most important concerns worldwide, because of their hard power and recruitment of soldiers, many countries are providing different ways of assistance to end up this confrontation. The so-called threat has involved several countries, but the Syrian and Iraqi government's are two of the most desperate ones to somehow find assistance or aid to end up the imminent menace. The military campaign in Iraq and Syria is aiming to halt the flow of foreign fighters, foreign financing of resources, provide humanitarian aid and strategic communications.

Walid al-Moallem, the Syrian foreign minister, has declared his country ready to cooperate and coordinate with any ally to confront this radical group. However, the aforementioned government warned the U.S, and the international community, that carrying out airstrikes without the approval of the Syrian government would be considered as a direct aggression to their homeland. IS threats have forced governments to take radical decisions such as the Syrian attack to the city of Palmyra that, according to the UNESCO, was “one of the most important cultural centres of the ancient world”⁴

IS resources and means

IS has demonstrated its forcefulness and power by means of terrorists attacks with gunfire. The attacks held in Paris on November 13th, 2015, where gunmen and bombers attacked a concert hall, a major stadium, restaurants, bars and left 130 people dead and hundreds wounded.⁵ IS main source of ammunition is by taking weaponry from deceased soldiers, slip smuggled weapons across borders, stealing transportation vehicles such as Humvees and guns from fleeing Iraqi forces, and by seizing Syrian military bases. On June, 2014, when they took control of Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city, they captured weaponry that allowed them to arm themselves as a conventional army. Later, they captured anti-aircraft weaponry from an air force base in eastern Syria, which included rockets capable of bringing down planes flying at 16,000 feet.

In the same year, the Conflict Armament Research, which tracks illegal weapons in conflict zones, published a report showing that IS' weapon arsenal was manufactured in China, US, Russia, Sudan, and Iran. On June, 2015, an attack from the U.S let IS take \$656.4 million worth of U.S. military equipment. IS propaganda has also shown fighters flaunting tanks, American M16 rifles and Russian-style Kalashnikovs. ⁶

⁴ Dearden, L. (2015). Isis in Syria: Government air strikes pose threat to ancient city of Palmyra after Isis gains control. January 3rd, 2016, from INDEPENDENT website: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/isis-in-syria-government-air-strikes-pose-threat-to-ancient-city-of-palmyra-after-isis-gains-control-10274191.html>

⁵ BBC News.(2015). *Paris attacks: What happened on the night.*February 21st, 2016 from BBC News website:<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-34818994>

⁶ Kaplan, M. (2015). How ISIS Acquires Weapons: Islamic State Benefits From Region Overflowing With American, Russian Made Arms. January 4th, 2016, from International Business Times website: <http://www.ibtimes.com/how-isis-acquires-weapons-islamic-state-benefits-region-overflowing-american-russian-2188758>

IS represents the wealthiest terrorist organization worldwide with a worth close to \$2 billion. To a certain degree, the group is self-financing. It raises most of its money from their conquered territories, mainly Syria and Iraq, and with them, it has taken control of important resources like dams, granaries, and oil installations. IS' most important revenue source is the smuggling of oil from the dozen oil fields it controls. These include several major oil fields like al-Omar, Jafra, Jeribe, and Ajil. It is estimated that they get 80,000 barrels per day and according to the U.S. Treasury Department last year, an estimate of their revenue ranged from \$3 to \$8 million per day. IS is also imposing strict taxes on its citizens, charging for services such as electricity and telephone access. Hostage-taking and kidnappings for profit are also an important income. By 2014, their extortion network in Mosul was generating \$12 million per month.

Though, IS possesses another way of getting resources. Individual donors from the Persian Gulf have been supporting them through monetary resources. The Director of the Center for Research into the Arab World at the University of Mainz, Günter Meyer, stated *"the most important source of IS financing to date has been support coming out of some Persian Gulf states, primarily Saudi Arabia but also Qatar, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates"*. ⁷

The Islamic State's recruitment

IS has been recruiting an overwhelming amount of western citizens throughout the last few months. Recruiters are located within western countries looking for young, impressionable people to join the Islamic State's fight. Said recruitment leads to a radical militant group spreading its influence far and wide, which could mean the Islamic State is getting closer to their final goal, a caliphate spreading over both the Middle East and Europe.

Recently, the IS has focused its recruitment in European countries, as well as the United States of America and Canada, where it has succeeded in gaining sympathizers. Even though, the U.S Central Intelligence Agency (C.I.A.) believes that the new recruited fighters come from approximately eighty countries.

The recruitment is primarily based on social media, online propaganda, and extortion which has reached many people through electronic devices. They maintain a twenty-four hour online operation and they use many social networks such as Skype, Twitter, Facebook, among others. This propaganda, besides showing what happens to the non-believers, shows the kind of lifestyle faithful followers can receive, with a wide range of luxuries. Furthermore, it shows life within the caliphate as prosperous and conveys the message that the Islamic State's victory over Asia and Europe is unavoidable. However, the extortion methods applied may be more straightforward, spreading the message that people must join

⁷ Becker, A. (2014). Who finances ISIS?. January 3, 2016, de Deutsche Welle Sitio web: <http://www.dw.com/en/who-finances-isis/a-17720149>

them or will face a very gruesome death. Another tactic used as well is the spreading of the idea of the IS helping the war-torn Syria, conveying it as a heroic and courageous act. ⁸

Mubin Shaikh, an ex-Taliban recruiter who operated for the IS from his hometown in Toronto before becoming a national security operative for the Canada's government, told in an interview for the International Business Times:

"There were certain things we looked for, people who didn't know the religion as much. People who were converts, because converts would probably have problems with their parents at home, so they were more likely to stay in our company."

Most Western recruits are young people, with the majority of young men going to Syria to fight. *"The vast majority of Westerners joining up with ISIS are extraordinarily ignorant when it comes to religion,"* expressed Max Abrahams, a Northeastern University Professor who studies jihadist groups.⁹ The affected countries' main fear is whether those fighters with western passports might return to their respective country and commit acts of terrorism in the name of the IS, leading to a subsequent factor: the peer pressure of the IS rebels to the people in the West. Such is the case as the attacks held in Paris, France on November 13th, 2015.

The International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation and Political Violence (ICSR) concluded that peer groups and a series of kinships had more influence and impact in recruitment -which was forced most of the times- of young people in Europe, rather than the IS digital propaganda. The aforementioned is also linked with a social integration conflict (mentioned below).

Women are recruited with the main purpose of marrying jihadist soldiers and bringing them support throughout the war.

"They have been on Facebook and also chatting with these warriors in Syria who would portray to them a very glamorous picture of life: you could come here, marry a warrior, give birth to jihadis who would then fight for the cause of Islam and your life will have meaning, you won't lead the frivolous superficial life that you are conducting in the West"

⁸ Masi, Alessandria. "ISIS Recruiting Westerners: How The 'Islamic State' Goes After Non-Muslims And Recent Converts In The West." International Business Times. N.p., 08 Sept. 2014. Web. 24 July 2015. <<http://www.ibtimes.com/isis-recruiting-westerners-how-islamic-state-goes-after-non-muslims-recent-converts-west-1680076>>.

⁹ Masi, Alessandria. "ISIS Recruiting Westerners: How The 'Islamic State' Goes After Non-Muslims And Recent Converts In The West." International Business Times. N.p., 08 Sept. 2014. Web. 24 July 2015. <<http://www.ibtimes.com/isis-recruiting-westerners-how-islamic-state-goes-after-non-muslims-recent-converts-west-1680076>>.

Haleh Esfandiari, director of the Middle East program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, said. ¹⁰

The numbers given by Haleh Esfandiari calculate more than sixty women from France already joined the IS; more than fifty from the United Kingdom, around fifty from Germany and two high profile girls from Austria. The rate of age of women goes from 13 to 26 years approximately. Women travel to Turkey and afterwards they cross the border to Syria, then meet up with their known online contacts. As they arrive to Syria, they are taken under the group's control, and most of them marry IS fighters. However, no public complaint has been published about the lifestyle they lead under the jihadists' control; in fact, they use social media to call and chat with friends from Western European countries to try and convince them to join them.

This kind of recruitment is much more different than local women's recruitment in Syria and Iraq. Within this local recruitment, the radical group violently and forcefully takes control over their towns and tribes, where the women are then separated from the young men and children; later on, women are classified by ages and forced to join the IS, making them captive under harsh conditions. The youngest women are used for sexual and reproductive means while the older ones are sold as slaves.

According to Nasser Weddady, a Middle East expert who is doing a research on fighting this extremist propaganda, humans have a natural firewall within their brain that keeps bad ideas from taking root. However, he admits that their ways of persuading people are effective and says: "They look for weaknesses in the wall, and then they attack". ¹¹

Return of the recruited NATO members citizens to their homeland.

The affected countries' main fear is whether those fighters with western passports might return to their respective country and commit acts of terrorism in name of the IS, leading to a subsequent factor: peer pressure from IS rebels to the people in the West. Most of the governments involved within the situation fear that the so-called citizens return to their homeland and carry on the intent, such as the terrorist attacks to the French Republic (Charlie Hebdo Weekly Newspaper & the Paris Attacks).

Up to now, it is uncertain whether most of the foreign fighters will remain in Syria, Iraq, and other countries; so as to know if they will move to future war zones or return to their country of origin and later become involved in terrorist plots, recruiting and fundraising. Indeed, foreign fighters have historically been known as agents of instability.

¹⁰ Curry, Colleen. "The Islamic State Is Successfully Recruiting European Women to Come Join the Caliphate | VICE News." VICE News RSS. N.p., 5 Nov. 2014. Web. 24 July 2015. <<https://news.vice.com/article/the-islamic-state-is-successfully-recruiting-european-women-to-come-join-the-caliphate>>.

¹¹ Callimachi, R. (2015). ISIS and the Lonely Young American. January 3rd, 2016, from The New York Times website: http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/28/world/americas/isis-online-recruiting-american.html?_r=0

Indeed, there have been a growing number of attacks and plots across the West that had operational ties to, or were inspired by, Da'ish in Syria and Iraq. These include attacks in Paris, France, in November 2015; Garland, Texas, in May 2015; Copenhagen, Denmark, in February 2015; Paris, France, in January 2015; Sydney, Australia, in December 2014; Ottawa, Canada, in October 2014; and Brussels, Belgium, in May 2014. Da'ish has been linked directly or indirectly to plots in such countries as France, Australia, Belgium, Libya, Tunisia, and the United States. (Jones, The Syrian Refugee Crisis and U.S. National Security, 2015)¹²

The social integration conflict

As the Islamic State has recruited several young citizens from Western European countries, the interest of finding the factors which have pushed young people to follow the jihadist propaganda has arose. Research has shown that besides the marketing skills that IS has developed, the lack of social integration of young people with a Muslim immigrant background in the European region is an important factor. Western countries have failed with integration of Muslim people who are often ill-treated because of their race and religion. Because of this, they have acquired a transnational identity with no direct relation to their own.

France is one of the countries who faces more problems with immigrants' social integration. Said country has the largest Muslim immigrant population, which makes up an estimated of 7.5 percent of its population and is expected to grow to about 10.3 percent. However, Muslim immigrants have expressed their unconformity with the way they are treated in repeated instances: 2006, 2007, 2011, and 2013; however, this situation is expected to continue until France and many other European countries face the problem of social integration.

IS has taken advantage of the aforementioned by providing young Muslims, who are rejected by their western environments, with an identity. The feeling derived from growing up ostracized by their peers evolves into insecurity which makes young people look for support and a sense of belonging. This is something that the Islamic State offers in exchange of them becoming part of their group.

Because of recent terrorist attacks, IS, among other groups, has managed to instill fear in people all over the world. Because of this, islamophobia is far more common, and it is only helping the terrorist groups. People start acting differently towards muslims and refugees, which in turn makes them feel like they are not accepted and might increase the Islamic State's recruitment numbers.

¹² Seth G. Jones . (2015). The Syrian Refugee Crisis and U.S. National Security . December 10th, 2015, de RAND Office of External Affairs Sitio web: http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/testimonies/CT400/CT444/RAND_CT444.pdf

Government's response

Due to the high level of deaths, attacks, kidnappings, and extortions, an international coalition of 65 countries –led by the US- was created. The United States is providing some training to the Iraqi security forces, so they bolster their fight-capabilities and are able to take the fight to ISIS. The United States government is also leading a training program for Syria to face the terrorist forces. They have helped Kurdish forces win back some territory.

Meanwhile in Iraq, the United States is engaged in a counterinsurgency campaign against IS and its allies. After ten months of bombing and U.S. military intelligence and diplomatic support to the Iraqi government, IS has lost power in some territories. The aforementioned group recognizes the importance of the United States' participation in the conflict, that's why they have tried to impact them; however, terrorists have had difficulty striking the United States' homeland. The main reason of the effective defense blockage lays on the United States' solid counterterrorism tactics, developed and carried out by operatives from the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Intelligence Community, along with other federal and local agencies.

However, counterterrorism agencies across Europe and North America are under tremendous pressure to prevent terrorist attacks. In response to the Paris attacks, French fighter jets have bombed a series of IS-controlled territories in Raqqa, Syria, including a command center, a recruitment center, an ammunition storage base, and a training camp.

The United Kingdom has been conducting airstrikes against IS in Iraq since September 2014, and has been providing training assistance to Iraqi security forces. Following a vote in Parliament, the United Kingdom recently expanded its air campaign into Syria so they also have presence in those territories. Furthermore, the German Government approved plans in early December 2015 to deploy Tornado reconnaissance aircraft, refuelling aircraft, a naval frigate and a 1,200 strong force to the affected regions.

NATO member countries affected

Statistics show that from current fighters in Syria, 3,400 come from Western states, many of them from NATO member countries. According to the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation and Political Violence, an approximation of the recruitments from some countries estimate 600 the United Kingdom, 1,200 from France, 600 from Germany, 200 from the United States, and more than 130 from Canada.

The countries which have lost a wide number of citizens because of the Islamic State's recruitment are fearful of said citizens returning to their territory and organizing terrorist attacks. Discussions about these possible events have been constant and have caught the concern of many, since there are many long term consequences that might have a large negative impact regarding each country's security.

NATO's Mission

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization aims to find the most practical and benign resolution for the conflict, since it is considered a direct threat to NATO members' security, as well as a global menace. NATO's main purpose is to halt the recruitment of NATO members' citizens by the IS, guarantee and ensure security for them, so as protecting the

country's sovereignty by preventing further terrorist attacks to their countries. Taking into consideration the imminent threat the Islamic State represents, NATO has the faculty to respond through any means required it deems appropriate - political and military.

Topic B: Presence of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization forces in Asia and Europe in order to preserve security due to the recent activity of the Russian Federation after Crimean secession, and tactics to fight against the “Hybrid Warfare”.

About the conflict

After the Crimean secession to Russia, tension has increased in Europe and Asia, up to a point in which the Baltic States (Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia) and Poland have asked for a permanent NATO intervention within their countries, in order to defend from any Russian threat. The threats that have been recently reported are truly severe, such as cyber-spying, use of conventional and cloaked units to influence political strategists for decision-taking, mixing usage of pressure with subversive actions –actions that try to disturb social and moral order- such as in Crimea.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization aims to reach several tactics to fight against the so-called “Hybrid Warfare” seeking to shelter and defend the North Atlantic Treaty Organization members involved within this conflict, from the Russian illicit actions.

About the Crimean illegal secession

The Crimean Peninsula is a region located on south Ukraine and east Russia. On 2014, it presented a geopolitical conflict, as the majority of the Crimean population desired to become part of the Russian Federation. The Crimean Peninsula has been closely linked to the Russian Federation historically, and has shown desires to separate from Ukraine, as around 80% of the population's ethnicity was proved to be Russian and they considered themselves so.

The situation can be traced back to its roots, when the ex-ukrainian president, Viktor Yanukovich, rejected a Free Trade Agreement with the European Union, causing social disrupt. Around 800,000 people protested in the country's capital and days after, the aforementioned riots became violent clashes between citizens and governments forces, ending up with 80 casualties.

Diverse governmental buildings in Crimea were seized by pro-russian separatists, forcing the president Viktor Yanukovich to flee the country. The Russian government deployed forces to several Ukrainian regions, arguing that troops were there just to guarantee

and safeguard lives and interests of the Russian citizens residing there. However, the Ukrainian government envisaged other belligerent intentions.

After few weeks of tension and disrupt, the Crimean Parliament voted to secede from Ukrainian territory and annex the Russian Federation. The voting was done by a referendum, which was considered illegal by the international community. The aforementioned referendum showed up that the 95% of the Crimean citizens desired to become annexed to the Russian Federation. So, without taking into consideration any declaration of the international community, Crimea annexed the Russian Federation on March 18th, 2014.

The Russian Federation is clearly benefited by the annexation. There are several economic and geopolitical factors in regard this situation. Crimea is a region recognized by its oil and natural gas reservoirs, however the majority of the gas pipelines from Russia to Europe pass through Crimea. So, by having control over Crimea, it has control over the gas supply of the majority of the European countries. Therefore, the Russian Federation would have the possibility to cut the supply of natural gas to Europe.

On the other hand, the United States of America and the international community affirmed that the aforementioned annexation was a violation to the Ukrainian constitution and their sovereignty. This is why the United States of America and the European Union created economic sanctions to the Russian Federation, looking for the retrieval of Russian troops from Ukraine and the complete suspension of the annexation of the Peninsula of Crimea. Tension arosed after it was uncovered that the Russian Federation was supplying heavy weaponry to the pro-russians separatists in Ukraine. Also, the case of the Malaysia Airlines' flight MH17, which was knocked down in Ukrainian territory; it is said that the responsables were pro-Russian separatists. However, it remains uncertain.

Government's response

After Russia's threat of potential aggression -when 17,000 Russian troops effectively took Crimea- Ukraine's president Oleksandr Turchynov stated Ukraine's forces were ready to deal with the situation and were alerted. Ukraine's government is seeking NATO forces to intervene in the conflict as the Russian president has demonstrated to have other interests apart from securing Moscow's interests in Crimea.

On May 25th, 2014 elections were held in Ukraine to choose the new president, where the pro-European Petro Poroshenko won. Poroshenko said that the first steps that government would take at the beginning of presidential office would be focused on reducing tension, to end up chaos and bring peace to an united Ukraine. He also committed himself to start a dialogue with Russia's government.

The nuclear tension: USA's "B61-12" and the Russia's "Iskander M"

On October, 2015, the United States of America declared a possible deployment of 20 tactical atomic bombs B61-12 in the german air base of Büchel. Tension has arose in the continent as the Russian Federation's government overreacted with a tough response. "Evidently, this could lead to a strategical unbalance in Europe, thus, doubtedly, the Russian

Federation will be forced to take the necessary response means in order to reestablish equality”, expressed the Russian president’s press secretary Dimitri Peskov.

Even though the Federal Parliament of Germany decided to keep on insisting to retrieve the atomic weaponry from their base, the aforementioned weaponry remains there for a base upgrading. However, if any belligerent conflict is generated, the German defense planes “Tornado” remain under NATO’s disposition.

The Russian mass media has declared that, in response to the U.S. nuclear weaponry, Moscow has taken into consideration the imminent possibility to deploy the Russian nuclear missile systems Iskander-M. “The only means we have to really respond to this situation is to deploy Iskander-M systems with nuclear heads; produce an enough quantity of long-range strategic missiles and update our Tu-22M3 planes”, said Konstantín Sivkov, the president of the Academy of Geostrategic Issues.

The official representant of the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs, María Zajárova showed herself restless about the possibility of having United States armament in countries that do not have their own nuclear arsenal. Indeed, she expressed in an interview that “This runs against the Articles 1 and 2 of the Treaty of the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons”.

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According to the *Article I* of the Treaty of the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons -signed by 191 countries and being depositaries The Russian Federation, United Kingdom and the United States of America on 1970. “*Each nuclear-weapon State Party to the Treaty undertakes not to transfer to any recipient whatsoever nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices or control over such weapons or explosive devices directly, or indirectly; and not in any way to assist, encourage, or induce any non-nuclear-weapon State to manufacture or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, or control over such weapons or explosive devices.*”

And also according to the *Article II*, “*Each non-nuclear-weapon State Party to the Treaty undertakes not to receive the transfer from any transferor whatsoever of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices or of control over such weapons or explosive devices directly, or indirectly; not to manufacture or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices; and not to seek or receive any assistance in the manufacture of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices*”.¹⁴

¹³ TATIANA GLAZKOV. (2015). Las nuevas bombas de EE UU aumentan la tensión en Europa. February 17th, 2016, de Russia Beyond the Headlines Sitio web: http://es.rbth.com/internacional/2015/09/30/las-nuevas-bombas-de-ee-uu-aumentan-la-tension-en-europa_444143

¹⁴ UN. (1960). THE TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS (NPT) . March 18th, 2016, de UN Sitio web: <http://www.un.org/disarmament/WMD/Nuclear/NPT.shtml>

However, the Director of the Centre for Analysis of World Arms Trade and actual member of the Defense Ministry's Public Council, Igor Korotchenko, expressed that the United States' nuclear arms deployment in the German base makes unstable the relations in Europe and creates tension between Russia and Occident, with the possibility of leading to the outbreak of a new Cold War.

The Russian Federation's illicit actions

The article 2.4 from the United Nations Charter establishes the prohibition of the use of armed force in international relations. Though, the United Nations Charter admits, in chapter VII about "Actions in case of threats to peace, breaking peace or aggressive acts" there are two exceptions: the individual or collective legitimate defense in the presence of an armed attack, and the authorized measures by the Security Council must guarantee that any armed force will not be used but in favor of the common interest.

However, Russia has violated this article since they have used armed forces to occupy Crimea's strategic points to expel the members of the Ukrainian armed forces. Also, considering the Geneva Conventions of 1949, with the intervention of Russians in Ukraine, there could be a possible armed conflict brewing in Europe.

To strengthen this premise, the article 2.7 from the United Nations Charter, shows the prohibition of any interference by another country in internal issues. Also, the Resolution 2625 from the General Assembly includes the principle of no intervention which implies carrying out an action with the goal of limiting sovereign rights from a state without his consent. Having this in mind, Russia has intervened in internal matters of Ukraine, penetrating militarily in Crimea and threatening the Crimean government just as the institutional declarations and facts showed up. Even Vladimir Putin has denied any accusation against Russia regarding the Crimean occupation by unidentified Russian troops, but later, the Russian president reaffirmed the necessity to defend the Russian population from said peninsula.

Hybrid Warfare

The "hybrid" aspect of the term denotes a combination of defined types of warfare, whether conventional, irregular, political or of information. According to Frank Hoffman, of the U.S. National Defense University, a hybrid threat is "any adversary that simultaneously employs a tailored mix of conventional weapons, irregular tactics, terrorism, and criminal behavior in the same time and battlespace to obtain their political objectives." There have been several accusations to the Russian Federation of spying, cyber-spying, manipulation of information, deployment of undercover units and subversive manipulation from European countries. The mixture of illicit actions aroused tension in European countries, which were the ones that nowadays ask for NATO's permanent intervention, as they do not feel secure by the Russian threat.

Since February 2014, Russia has conducted two distinct phases of operations in Ukraine; the occupation and annexation of Crimea, and the invasion of Eastern Ukraine's Donbass industrial region. It is said that Crimea began as a Russian covert military operation, combining ambiguity, disinformation, and the element of surprise at the operational level with more traditional aids such as electronic warfare. Then, it was followed by a military intervention and occupation of the peninsula, using Russia's airborne, naval infantry, and motor rifle brigades. However, Russia's means -propaganda and psychological operations- were seen as a part of a broader information campaign to support the Crimean annexation.¹⁵

NATO has said that they must adapt to the mixture of conventional military tactics, subversive campaigns and cyber-warfare that Russia has been using in Ukraine. "When the world has changed, NATO has to adapt," said NATO's Secretary General, Jens Stoltenberg.

Global Repercussion

Many European countries and the United States have placed sanctions on Russia to prevent any other illicit actions. This has had a repercussion on Russia's economy as the west has restricted access from Russian companies and Russian-owned companies to western services. In order to retaliate, Russia banned food imports from west, but that worsened the situation as it increased inflation and overall food prices. However, western countries have also suffered, mainly because they lost export revenues from Russia. They have also lost clients in the international market because Russia's recession has caused them to have lower prices –so as exchange rates- and making them a more appealing supplier for countries all over the world.

Countries affected

The governments of Poland, Estonia, Lithuania, and Lithonia have asked the North Atlantic Treaty Organization a permanent intervention regarding the Russian Federation illicit actions, arguing that they fear possible imminent hostile actions that Russia can take; perceiving possible direct threats in the form of the Hybrid Warfare, these countries argue cyber-espionage, manipulation of data, and the use of undercover units.

The aforementioned Baltic countries have signed a formal letter to Philippe Breedlove, the supreme commander of the Allied Forces in Europe, in which they asked for a rotatory brigade of between 3,000 and 5,000 effectives. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization Secretary General, Jens Stoltenberg, expressed in a press conference that they are completely aware of the situation and clarified that the NATO already has troops in the Eastern front of the Alliance and that it also makes constant air surveillance missions throughout the region, after the Crimean crisis.

Jens Stoltenberg also expressed that this is one of the main challenges the Alliance is facing nowadays. He also recalled what the European diplomacy chief Federica Mogherini had already established, "The EU high representative, Federica Mogherini, and I have

¹⁵ Kofman, M & Rojansky, M. (2015). A Closer look at Russia's "Hybrid War". January 23rd, 2016, from Kennan Cable website: <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/sites/default/files/7-KENNAN%20CABLE-ROJANSKY%20KOFMAN.pdf>

decided to ask our teams to intensify cooperation among the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization regarding the fight against the hybrid warfare.”¹⁶

NATO's Mission

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, aiming to assure security and integrity to its members, recognizes the impact and the global relevance of the situation that involves international security and relations stability. Tension between the Russian Federation and West have arose to critical points forcing the NATO to interfere, as the major countries affected by the situation are members of the Alliance. Thus, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization remains steady to its aims: reaching several tactics to fight against the so-called “Hybrid Warfare”, seeking to shelter and defend the North Atlantic Treaty Organization members involved within this conflict, from the Russian Federation’s illicit actions.

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Glossary

Airborne: used for describing groups of soldiers who jump from aircraft using parachutes.

Bolster: To support.

Broader: not limited or narrow.

Caliphate: An Islamic state, led by a caliph, who is a political and religious leader, successor to the Islamic prophet Muhammad. His power and authority is absolute.

Cloak: to hide; conceal.

Convey: To take from one place to another.

Deem: To have as an opinion.

Entail: To cause or involve by necessity or as a consequence.

Envisage: to imagine or expect something in the future.

Gruesome: Causing horror and disgust.

Halt: To stop or cease moving.

Hereinafter: In a subsequent part or from this point on in this document.

Holy: Recognized as or declared sacred by religious use or authority.

Infantry: Soldiers trained, armed, and equipped to fight on foot.

Kinship: Relationship because of similar nature, qualities, or characteristics.

Ill-treat: To treat badly.

Ostracize: To exclude, by general consent, from society, friendship, conversation, privileges.

Purge: To clear or get free from something, as by getting rid of or removing something.

Retaliate: To strike back for an injury or wrong.

Secession: the act of separating from a nation or state and becoming independent.

Straightforward: Honest.

Surveillance: the act of carefully watching someone or something especially in order to prevent or detect a crime.

Tailored: made according to the specifications of an individual.

Unavoidable: Inevitable.

Uplifting: Offering or providing hope, encouragement and salvation.

Withdraw: Remove; take back.

Wound: An injury, usually involving the cutting or tearing of skin or tissue.