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**Topic A:**

Does the end justify the means? Usage of Media Manipulation for the Consolidation of Legitimacy

**Topic B:**

NATO expansion in terms of worldwide military power balance

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## **Introduction to the Commission**

The Global Leaders Summit committee finds its roots in the Global Leadership Summit organized every year by the International Leadership Association. This forum gathers leaders from many industries all around the world and hosts conferences for speakers to share their experience in leadership and offer advice to those interested. We want you to develop and polish leadership skills in a way where you can make an impact in your community outside Model UN.

Said skills, we would like to emphasize on three, focus, problem solving and decision making. Through the committee we expect these skills to grow and improve themselves. We encourage you to watch the following video and to research about leadership's essence so that you find a thorough personal growth experience in CNGMUNXLI ([The Global Leadership Summit 2022 Highlight Reel](#)).

Nevertheless, on this occasion this commission will work differently. It is evident that in a world like today, cooperation between leaders is essential, and we couldn't find a better example than Heads of State. We are true believers that the world is run by politics and political motives, whether these are inside the political arena or not. Heads of state are, in fact, the greatest political leaders in the world and by all means are the ones, who eventually take specific actions in their country. We view the cooperation between heads of state as cooperation between governments.

The difference between representing a delegation and a head of government is the degree of independence you delegates may have. While you are representing a delegation you are binded to a fixed stand with very little possibility of alterations. However, in this commission we will like to give you full independence in your delegation. As heads of government you can take political, economic and security decisions with liberty, without being incoherent nor trespassing reality standards.

The purpose of the commission itself is to create valuable international dialogue and agreements for global cooperation and development through strict diplomacy. As explained previously, fruitful dialogue between parts is not an easy task to acquire and the GLS commission challenges you to it.

As heads of state, to deliver a proper diplomatic outlook into the debate, you must be aware of international agendas and legislation. We recommend you to research about this and to deeply understand the foreign policy of your country. Such is the case of the International Agenda for 2023 (**17 Sustainable Goals for 2030:** <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>) and the UN Charter (**UN Charter:** <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter>).

Finally, we would like you to understand the meaning of diplomacy in concrete terms. Thus, by the end of the agenda you delegates will be writing an International Agreement\* in which you will create resolutions to the proposed topics and persuade other delegations to join your resolution through the diplomatic pathway.

*\*Refer to the Special Procedure*

## **Topic A: Does the end justify the means? Usage of Media Manipulation for the Consolidation of Legitimacy**

### **Introduction:**

Around the world, governments have used the media in order to consolidate legitimacy and gain popularity among citizens. This way citizen control has proven to be successful and it may help countries with social order and protest relief. Yet, the control of the media for citizen manipulation goes against all pillars of modern democracy. Media manipulation is defined as any alteration in a story's facts or censorship of any material.<sup>[1]</sup> Governments around the world have been accused of media manipulation since they tend to censor foreign material and pursue contrary broadcasts.

There is a need to understand media as a tool for communication and connection between individuals in a society.<sup>[2]</sup> Nowadays, media is an artifact for communication. It is also an informing tool that allows citizens to be aware of any issue they're interested in and invites them to take a stand.<sup>[3]</sup> In the most modern and stable democracies, the media is designed to generate a flow of ideas between individuals to generate debate and create a constructive dialogue for holistic solutions.<sup>[4]</sup> It also provides society a critical stand which forces those in power to be held accountable.

Nevertheless, governments around the world manipulate media for them to consolidate legitimacy, gain popularity among citizens and 'calm' social unrest that could end in revolution. Russia, China and North Korea are the main examples of this. On the other hand, countries in the EU and the USA are portrayed as examples of free media, and therefore, examples of development of the democratic system.

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[1] The Lifecycle of Media Manipulation

<https://datajournalism.com/read/handbook/verification-3/investigating-disinformation-and-media-manipulation/the-lifecycle-of-media-manipulation>

[2] What is Media Manipulation?

<https://media.illinois.edu/node/1072>

[3] Russia Takes Censorship to New Extremes, Stifling War Coverage

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/04/world/europe/russia-censorship-media-crackdown.html>

Media broadcasters also share the democratic responsibility. They are responsible for informing people accurately and not creating disinformation / misinformation.<sup>[4]</sup> In order to do so, broadcasters must be able to operate in an environment free of fear of oppression or persecution from any entity. Nowadays, this entity may be understood as the state or government, which is also in charge of granting free press rights.

The effects of media manipulation in society can be catastrophic, yet it has also proven to be effective for non-democratic nations. The purpose of the commission is to determine if media manipulation is a useful, democratic and ethical tool for governments to protect themselves from the public sphere.

### **Context:**

Does the end justify the means? This has been a question that philosophers, citizens, and global leaders alike have faced for millennia. *Consequentialism* is an essential term when examining this question. Consequentialism is a philosophical term based on two basic principles: 1) Whether an act is right or wrong depends only on the results of that act. 2) The more good consequences an act produces, the better or more right that act <sup>[5]</sup>. This concept holds the belief that acts can be justified based on the beneficial effects they bring. Consequentialism is of particular importance when it comes to analyzing the efficacy and morality of media manipulation as a way to reinforce legitimacy, as it allows one to reach an ultimate conclusion on the matter based on its general benefits. On the other hand, *Deontology* argues that some choices cannot be justified by their effects—that no matter how morally good their consequences, some choices are morally forbidden <sup>[6]</sup>. On this basis, manipulation of the media can be considered an unethical act despite its potential advantages, and is therefore, an unethical tool for governments to strengthen their rule.

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[4] Role of media in society

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/role-of-media-in-society#:~:text=In%20democracies%2C%20the%20media%20is,from%20all%20points%20of%20view>.

[5] Consequentialism

[https://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/introduction/consequentialism\\_1.shtml](https://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/introduction/consequentialism_1.shtml)

[6] Deontological Ethics

<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/ethics-deontological/#DeoFoiCon>

Furthermore, in order to effectively approach Topic A, the term *legitimacy* must be clearly established. Legitimacy is defined in the political realm as the belief that a rule, institution, or leader has the right to govern <sup>[7]</sup>. This refers to whether a government's constituents believe their government has the right to use power in the way they do. Legitimacy is considered a basic condition of rule. Without it, governments would face deadlock or collapse <sup>[8]</sup>.

It is crucial in the efficient functioning of a nation; when the people believe in their governments and the rightfulness of its hierarchy, collective social order and cohesion is achieved. In fact, some experts say if authorities are not viewed as legitimate, social regulation is more difficult and costly <sup>[9]</sup>. Given its importance, some argue its maintenance is crucial, regardless of the means practiced to acquire it.

### **Current Situation:**

With the rise of the digital era in recent years, mass communication has become increasingly accessible. With the click of a button one can access a world of data: anything from current events, to historical occurrences, to scientific evidence of just about anything. However, the internet has transformed political behavior, from voting and campaigning for policy change, to protest and even revolution. The internet is a tool, a tactic, and a territory that has become integral to challenging the relations of power <sup>[10]</sup>. This poses a significant obstacle to governments around the world <sup>[11]</sup>. Various governments have adapted to this new reality by utilizing the media to manipulate facts, spread false stories, hide true testaments, and a variety of other tactics to fortify their political standing. Some governments, commonly authoritarian ones, take advantage of telecommunications to strengthen their rule.

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[7] Legitimacy Princeton University

<https://pesd.princeton.edu/node/516#:~:text=Legitimacy%20is%20commonly%20defined%20in.toward%20the%20rule%20or%20ruler.>

[8] Legitimacy Britannica

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/legitimacy>

[9] A psychological perspective on the Legitimacy of Institutions and Authorities

<https://psycnet.apa.org/record/2001-18767-016>

[10] Media Manipulation and Disinformation

<https://datasociety.net/research/media-manipulation/>

## Major Bloc Positions:

1. ***Xi Jinping***: The Chinese Communist Party has been known to control the media to their benefit by banning and gravely punishing any media outlets that attempt to report on the national situation. There is also a vast amount of propaganda advertising Xi Jinping's rule <sup>[12]</sup>.
2. ***Ebrahim Raisi***: Similarly to the circumstances in China, any media reports made on Iranian soil solely represent the Iranian's government's official ideology <sup>[13]</sup>.
3. ***Joe Biden***: As the current leader of one of the most influential democratic countries in the world, President Joe Biden recognizes the importance of media freedom, and promotes it. The United States has a score of 72.74 in press freedom, making it rank at number 42 worldwide. Even though press freedom violations have increased, and social media has been an instrument of political maneuvering in the country's past, Joe Biden firmly stands against media manipulation <sup>[14]</sup>.
4. ***Ulf Kristersson***: Sweden is ranked number three in the world for press freedom. As such, Sweden holds media independence in great respect, and the media is not influenced by governmental ideology <sup>[15]</sup>.

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[11] Digital Politics and Government

<https://www.oii.ox.ac.uk/research/digital-politics-and-government/>

[12] Beijing's Global Content Manipulation, Plenum Propaganda

<https://freedomhouse.org/report/china-media-bulletin/2021/beijings-global-content-manipulation-plenum-propaganda-sports>

[13] Iran Profile - Media

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-14542234>

[14] Statement by President Joe Biden on the Occasion of World Press Freedom Day

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/05/03/statement-by-president-joe-biden-on-the-occasion-of-world-press-freedom-day/>

[15] Sweden Reporters Without Borders Index

<https://rsf.org/en/index>

### **Guiding Questions:**

1. Has your delegation used the media as a tool for political operations?
  - a. If not, does your delegation deem this act unethical?
2. How is the public benefited or disadvantaged by its government controlling the media?
  - a. Regardless, can it be justified as long as it is a tool to maintain legitimacy?
3. How important is maintaining legitimacy to your delegation?
  - a. To what extent will your delegation try to maintain it?
4. What, if any, laws have been implemented by your delegation in regards to media coverage?
  - a. Is every form of media legal in your delegation's country?
5. Can governments be trusted to manipulate information to their will?
6. To your delegation, does the ends justify the means?

## **Topic B: NATO expansion in terms of worldwide military power balance**

### **Introduction:**

With the outburst and scaling of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine in the first months of 2022, military alliances to defend Ukraine from foreign invasion were made. Specifically, the role of the United States has been key to understanding the threat that the Russian government senses and the repercussions of worldwide military power balance.

The conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine has endured for various decades, tracing back to the Cold War and the end of WWII. Ukraine and Russia share cultural, religious and historical background to the extent where previous Russian and Soviet leaders have conquered Ukraine and forced itself into its sphere of influence. Since the establishment of the USSR and until its collapse, the Ukrainian territory was dominated by Russia economically and politically, with apparent “autonomy” in education and culture <sup>[1]</sup>. By 1997, a social movement of Ukrainian nationalism succeeded through the signing of the Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership <sup>[2]</sup>. This treaty, however, didn't consider the mild affinities between Kiev and NATO. The Russian government has made clear its rejection of the ties between any ex soviet republic and NATO. The relations between Russia and Ukraine remained stable and productive, with the creation of common and military economic treaties <sup>[3]</sup>.

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[1] Cómo nació Ucrania y cuáles han sido sus vínculos históricos con Rusia

<https://www.bbc.com/mundo/noticias-internacional-60494983>

[2] Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation, and Partnership between Ukraine and the Russian Federation

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/41036701>

Later, in 2005, elections were won by a pro western politician, Viktor Yushchenko, he had desires for Ukraine's admission into the EU and NATO; and to strengthen relations between Western Europe and the United States. Members of the EU and NATO rejected Ukraine from entering these international organizations<sup>[3]</sup>. In 2009, NATO countries acknowledged Ukraine's vocation to integration, of course not seen well by Russians. By 2010, a new president was elected in Ukraine and, Viktor Yanukovich, clarified that his government's priority was to establish relations with the EU, but proximity to Russia was also fundamental<sup>[3]</sup>.

That same year, relations with Russia were strengthened and Ukraine moved apart from the EU and NATO. Pro European protests and rebellions in Ukraine were held until 2014 with Russia's response through the annexation of Crimea . The annexation of Crimea was a response to the proximity with western powers and losing orthodox and Russian identity in Ukraine<sup>[4]</sup>.

Since Crimea's annexation, NATO-Ukraine cooperation had increased steadily in efforts to recover the peninsula to Ukraine<sup>[5]</sup>. Yet, Ukraine is not a member of NATO but the military and economic cooperation with NATO-countries is evident<sup>[6]</sup>.

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[3] Ucrania y Rusia: las claves para entender el conflicto

<https://diariocriterio.com/ucrania-rusia-y-la-historia-del-conflicto/#:~:text=El%2031%20de%20mayo%20de,uniera%20a%20la%20Alianza%20Atl%C3%A1ntica>.

[4] Russia took Crimea from Ukraine in 2014. Now, Kyiv is fighting back

<https://www.cnn.com/2022/08/18/russia-took-crimea-from-ukraine-in-2014-now-kyiv-is-fighting-back.html>

[5] Relations with Ukraine

[https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics\\_37750.htm](https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_37750.htm)

[6] What Is NATO and Which Countries Are Members?

<https://www.nytimes.com/article/what-is-nato.html>

Until 2022, conflict in Crimea and neighboring regions persisted, when Russia carried out a full-on invasion in Ukraine which alarmed the whole international community<sup>[7]</sup>.

From 2022 until today, NATO support of Ukraine has been higher and admission to the EU has been reconsidered to veil for the integrity of Ukraine. Not only alliances with Ukraine have been made, but other Russian-bordering countries have been considered for admission to the Atlantic Treaty<sup>[8]</sup>. Finland and Sweden traditionally have remained distant to NATO, but because of the military offenses made by Russia, they have approached NATO. Said countries historically have ongoing relations with Russia previous to the Great War, but now they are isolating themselves from Russian influence and have gotten closer to NATO nations for them to enter the Treaty<sup>[9]</sup>. This, evidently, has upset The Kremlin, and it considers NATO a threat to international security, thus conflict in Ukraine has been escalated as a response.

Through this conflict it is clear how countries create alliances with unilateral military organizations and clearly create worldwide tendencies. The UN and other organizations have expressed their fear of a huge international war eruption by provocation. Balance of military power has created tension over the decades, yet it maintains peace to a certain level. With the mood as volatile as it is today, any feeling of threat is taken as an offense and the conflict explodes<sup>[10]</sup>.

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[7] Ukraine: Conflict at the Crossroads of Europe and Russia

<https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/ukraine-conflict-crossroads-europe-and-russia>

[8] El papel de la OTAN en el conflicto entre Rusia y Ucrania

<https://revistafal.com/el-papel-de-la-otan-en-el-conflicto-entre-rusia-y-ucrania>

[9] OTAN | Blinken asegura a Suecia y Finlandia que "trabaja" para que Turquía apruebe su adhesión

<https://es.euronews.com/2022/12/09/otan-blinken-asegura-a-suecia-y-finlandia-que-trabaja-para-que-turquia-apruebe-su-adhesion>

[10] Fear Of Nuclear War Renewed As Russia Looks For Breakthrough In Ukraine

<https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/fear-of-nuclear-war-renewed-as-russia-looks-for-breakthrough-in-ukraine-3643800>

## Historical Context

Since the end of WWII, multilateral military organizations have prevented future conflict, yet it must be highlighted that military alliances trace back to Ancient Greece and Rome. Modern organizations and treaties are guided by political beliefs that unite a certain number of countries in favor of something.

The concept of an international treaty is explained and supported in the United Nations Human Rights Declaration. Thus, all organizations created with any purpose are inside fundamental and basic rights safeguarded under international legislation. “**Article 20:** *Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association. No one may be compelled to belong to an association.*”<sup>[11]</sup> The concept of worldwide military balance comes from post-WWII treaties and organizations. 1) The United Nations 2) Northern Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) 3). Warsaw Pact. All these achieved a worldwide balance, and these were the compass through which the Cold War developed itself.

**NATO:** The Northern Atlantic Treaty Organization was founded in 1949 by the United States and 11 other western nations. Their purpose was to prevent the expansion of communism around the world after WWII <sup>[12]</sup>. The treaty was comprised as a security pact among western capitalist nations, as expressed in article 5 of NATO:

*“Agree that an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all.”* <sup>[13]</sup>

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[11] Universal Declaration of Human Rights

<https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>

[12] NATO

<https://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/formation-of-nato-and-warsaw-pact#nato-the-western-nations-join-forces>

[13] What are Articles 4 and 5 of NATO's founding treaty and why do they matter?

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/11/15/what-is-article-5-nato/#O47DR7OJSEGTDDAPJDXIIHOFJL-1>

Of course, the NATO treaty was not limited to the mere military support between the biggest players of the northern hemisphere. The treaty itself also advocated for political and economic alliances between governments. This by spreading American democratic values and capitalism through Europe initially, but now all over the world <sup>[14]</sup>.

Throughout the decades, many countries have joined NATO even if they are not part of the Northern Atlantic zone. Countries that do not wish to be a full member of NATO or do not meet the requirements specified by the Washington Treaty (1949) are welcome to request help from the organization. This leaves an open door for countries to receive help from the world's most powerful and developed nations with political and economic exchange. Currently, 30 states make up NATO, most recently Finland and Sweden, traditionally non binding countries with strong relations with Russia <sup>[15]</sup>.

Left party governments and political parties argue that NATO is a tool to expand American imperialism around the globe. All NATO's articles and agreements defend and safeguard American policy and the American Government. Some may agree that NATO is even a war weapon owned by the United States in case of eruption and may cause international collapse by extortion <sup>[16]</sup>.

**Warsaw Pact:** The Warsaw Pact (1955) was a response to the creation of NATO from the Soviet Union and seven of its satellite states. It was an agreement for mutual protection in case of attack. The creation of the Warsaw Pact was revolved in the recovery of Western Germany, which at the time was being conquered by NATO allies. The Democratic Republic of Germany (Eastern Germany) was part of the treaty <sup>[17]</sup>.

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[14] Basic Points of NATO

<https://www.nato.int/nato-welcome/index.html>

[15] Membership Action Plan (MAP)

[https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics\\_37356.htm](https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_37356.htm)

[16] NATO and Imperialist Military Expansionism

<https://www.leftvoice.org/nato-and-imperialist-military-expansionism/>

[17] The Warsaw Pact is formed

<https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/the-warsaw-pact-is-formed>

This treaty was not only guided by the sphere of influence of the USSR, but it also involved a shared belief in communist ideals and a cultural orthodox practice. It was such that in 1962 Albania was expelled from the pact because soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev feared Albania deviating from its ideals <sup>[18]</sup>.

With the fall of the Berlin Wall and reunification of Germany to the Federal Republic of Germany in 1989, the NATO sphere of influence grew in central and eastern Europe. Communist governments in Eastern Europe inside the soviet influence (Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Romania and Bulgaria) fell <sup>[19]</sup>. In 1991, the Warsaw Pact fell with the dissolution of the Soviet Union and no other country was able to keep the integrity of the pact.

The Warsaw Pact was a response to the unbalanced military power created by NATO and with the veil for communist ideals. Although this pact failed, modern day Russia still seeks to attract other countries in the Middle East and Central Asia to its sphere of influence by establishing economic and political alliances <sup>[20]</sup>. With the eruption of the Russo-Ukrainian countries that may have close relations with Russia have remained mostly silent in partial fear of NATO attacks and repercussions.

In conclusion, the Cold War (1947-1991) was the perfect example of military and ideological balance worldwide. The creation of the previously explained treaties are responses from the world superpowers and their desire to expand themselves.

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[18] The Warsaw Treaty Organization, 1955

<https://history.state.gov/milestones/1953-1960/warsaw-treaty>

[19] WHAT WAS THE WARSAW PACT?

[https://www.nato.int/cps/us/natohq/declassified\\_138294.htm#:~:text=The%20Berlin%20Wall%20fell%20in,Soviet%20Union%20in%20December%201991](https://www.nato.int/cps/us/natohq/declassified_138294.htm#:~:text=The%20Berlin%20Wall%20fell%20in,Soviet%20Union%20in%20December%201991)

[20] Strengthening Russia's Influence in International Affairs, Part II: Russia and Its Neighbors: A Sphere of Influence or a Declining Relationship?

<https://www.nti.org/analysis/articles/strengthening-russias-influence-in-international-affairs-part-ii-russia-and-its-neighbors-a-sphere-of-influence-or-a-declining-relationship/>

## Current Situation:

With the eruption of the conflict in the Russo-Ukrainian border and the continuous threats made from Russia to European countries, the expansion of an alliance formed for group protection is inevitable. One of the greatest controversies about NATO's expansion in Europe is the entrance of Finland and Sweden. These two countries have characterized themselves for being mostly neutral in all Europe's conflicts <sup>[21]</sup>. Finland was part of Russia until 1917 with the falling of Tsar Nicholas II and until 1940 several conflicts between the USSR and Finland occurred. Since the end of WWII, Finland has cooperated with NATO slightly and joined the EU in 1999. It is until 2022 that Finland has officially joined NATO and strived in the process <sup>[21]</sup>.

Sweden has established peaceful relations with Russia since 1809 with the conquest of modern day Finland. During WWII and the Cold War, Sweden remained neutral with both the United States and the Soviet Union, which allowed it to establish diplomatic relations with both <sup>[22]</sup>. It was until 1995 that Sweden joined the EU and joined the Schengen Area in 2001 <sup>[23]</sup>. Compared to other countries in Europe, Sweden carried peaceful relations with Russia, that's why their membership in NATO strikes Russia diplomatically. Although Putin has declared that it does not make up a threat to Russia's operations <sup>[24]</sup>.

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[21] Entre la guerra y el equilibrio: las claves de la relación histórica entre Finlandia y Rusia

<https://cnnespanol.cnn.com/2022/05/18/claves-relacion-finlandia-rusia-orix/>

[22] El origen de la tortuosa relación de Finlandia y Suecia con Rusia que puede acabar con su ingreso en la OTAN

<https://www.larazon.es/internacional/20220512/5slzhf36r5d47hcksuawb3364u.html#:~:text=Suecia%20y%20Rusia%20no%20han,Mundial%20y%20la%20Guerra%20Fr%C3%ADa>

[23] Sweden Profile Overview

[https://european-union.europa.eu/principles-countries-history/country-profiles/sweden\\_en](https://european-union.europa.eu/principles-countries-history/country-profiles/sweden_en)

[24] Putin afirma que la entrada de Finlandia y Suecia en la OTAN no supone una "amenaza inmediata" para Rusia

<https://elpais.com/internacional/2022-05-16/putin-afirma-que-la-entrada-de-finlandia-y-suecia-en-la-otan-no-supone-una-amenaza-inmediata-para-rusia.html>

Apart from these grand European nations, other nations around the world have expressed their support for NATO regarding the Ukrainian, even if they cannot apply for membership. Countries all around the world have expressed their support for Russia, such as Belarus, Cuba, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Kyrgyzstan, Syria and Iran <sup>[25]</sup>. The global tendencies wish to stay neutral, remain indifferent and condemn violations of Human Rights without being binding to one specific side.

The US has clarified that doors to join the ‘western bloc’ are open for any country and as the conflict evolves, numerous nations support this bloc. The US has also taken concrete actions of support and cooperation with the Ukrainian government <sup>[26]</sup>.

### **Major Blocs:**

1. **The United States and NATO:** The US government and NATO have been clear in their rejection of all Russian actions performed on Ukrainian soil and provide military, humanitarian and political support for Ukraine. As the purpose of NATO from the start, their interest is to spread capitalism and democratic ideas all over the world. To these nations the expansion of NATO reflects positively and assures transnational cooperation in case of international attacks in the Northern Atlantic zone. It is important to highlight that not all NATO countries will go to war with Russia as the US may appear to be, but by being inside of this treaty, they are ultimately agreeing to may cause collective attack if an offense is presented. For them, NATO is an open organization that only wishes freedom and democracy all over the world.

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[25] Countries Supporting Ukraine and Russia, Complete List with Reasons

<https://www.ssatripura.com/countries-supporting-ukraine-russia/>

[26] U.S. Security Cooperation with Ukraine

<https://www.state.gov/u-s-security-cooperation-with-ukraine/>

2. **European and EU Countries:** Not all European countries are inside the EU, especially those closer to Russia, but as self-defense countries may sign up for EU membership, such as Ukraine did. An eventual expansion of NATO may cause an expansion of the EU as well, considering that there are financial, political, and security benefits to those in the organization. For a country to enter the EU it must comply with all the membership requirements, and the most important of them is a “*stable institution guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights and respect for and protection of minorities*” [27]. It is important to highlight that a further Russian offense will be strongly felt in all of Europe with financial and humanitarian crises.

**3. Russia and supporters:** The expansion of NATO is a clear threat to the world, according to these nations. For them, NATO is an American imperialistic idea and tries to convey countries into blindly supporting the United States and western democracy in their unlawful actions around the world. Russia and its allies have clarified that they will go to war with the US if they do not respect Russia’s ideals and rightful belongings, such as Crimea, Lugansk and Donetsk.

4. **China:** Until now, China hasn’t been part of the conversation since it remains far from this conflict. China is the second world’s greatest economy and the military power that it owns is frightening to every country. China has already clashed with NATO previously, specifically in the independence of Taiwan from Mainland China. Currently, economic tensions between China and the US are guiding the world into what is believed to be an economic war. Expansion of NATO is then an expansion of the American economic model and economic growth for the United States.

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[27] Conditions for membership

[https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/enlargement-policy/conditions-membership\\_en](https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/enlargement-policy/conditions-membership_en)

## Guiding Questions

1. Is your country part of NATO or was part of the Warsaw Pact?
  - a. If not, what have been the relations with the US and Russia over the last years and during the Ukraine conflict?
2. After the Cold War which economic and political model did your country lean to?
  - a. Which one does it carry nowadays?
3. Would your country benefit from NATO expansion?
  - a. Would your country receive protection and support from NATO?
4. Has your country been a big role player in recent history?
  - a. Is your country relevant for current transnational issues?
5. What are the international repercussions for a NATO expansion and the worldwide balance of power?
  - a. Would this result in unavoidable conflict and risk of another world war?
  - b. Or would this bring peace and stability to the international community?