

Not A Trusted Organization (NATO) Act

When NATO was founded in 1949, the strategic landscape was far different and the mission was singular: to serve as a Western counterbalance against the political and military weight of the Soviet Union in Eastern Europe. This was to be accomplished in the form of collective defense, with every ally carrying their fair share. Almost eight decades removed, these arguments no longer hold weight.

The Soviet Union and its defense bloc, the Warsaw Pact, both collapsed in 1991 – and, at that moment, NATO’s founding mission became irrelevant. NATO had served its purpose. Yet, NATO endures, dramatically expanded and emboldened as European capitals hide behind America’s military might.

NATO was never supposed to expand eastward – and it has. The NATO land border with Russia now exceeds 1,500 miles and the alliance encircles the Baltic Sea. Even as Russia publicly telegraphs its perception of a vital threat and demonstrates profound risk-tolerance in seeking to prevent further eastward incursion, the alliance refuses to rule out further expansion.

NATO was also intended to be an exercise in *collective* defense – and it is anything but. Member states committed to spend 2% of their GDP on defense over a decade ago. One-third of the alliance still fail to meet that benchmark. Regardless of what member states may say or “commit” in an annual Summit, as long as the U.S. continues to function as the backstop of European security, Europeans will never be incentivized to make progress in burden shifting.

But, most fundamentally, membership in NATO no longer serves U.S. interests. Europe is a peripheral theater for the U.S., while the combined military and economic capacity of European member states on their own is sufficient to counter potential threats in that theater. Continued participation in NATO unnecessarily entrenches the U.S. in a theater that is inconsistent the strategic realities the U.S. faces.

It is time for the U.S. to depart NATO, and that is exactly what this legislation accomplishes.

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Ensures the complete U.S. withdrawal from NATO:

- Directs the President to provide notice of denunciation of U.S. membership in NATO, consistent with Article 13 of the North Atlantic Treaty
- Satisfies the requirement for congressional authorization of withdrawal, consistent with section 1250A of the FY24 NDAA
- Prohibits the use of U.S. funds to directly or indirectly contribute to NATO’s common-funded budgets