



NATO: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

9 November 2009

NATO at its Birth

- At first a political association but evolved
- Soviet dominance of most of eastern Europe
- Obvious breakdown of the coalition that won the war
- Western Europe only beginning recovery
- 25 June 1950 Korean war

Purpose the Same in 2009 as in 1949?

- “To create a Europe whole and free”
- An alliance of democracies
- Ending the centuries-long European civil war
- Halt Soviet (Russian) conquest of Europe

Cold War Force Structure

- 26 divisions at its peak (12 German after 1955)
- 300,000 American service members/hostages
- French withdrew forces from NATO command in 1966
- USSR asked to join in 1954

Always an Alliance in Crisis

- Stationing of nukes
- Forward defense (Fulda vs. Rhine)
- Control of pre-positioned equipment
- Turkey and Greece
- Interoperability of equipment
- Consensus decision making of 'marching at the NATO pace'
- Post 1989 purpose
- Security contributors vs. consumers

Balkan Wars

- Near collapse of alliance
- First combat showed consensus decision making does not work
- Russians had unity of purpose but, fortunately, were weak

Post Cold War Expansion

- From 12 to 22 members and 28 partners
- Others knocking on the door
- South Ossetia was first clear message that there are limits (Melian dialogue)

Next Step in Expansion

- S1559: BiH and Montenegro
- Argument for all of the former Yugoslavia to end a subset of the centuries-long European civil war
- Russia
- Disagreement in the U.S. Congress

New Global Missions

- Energy
- Cyber
- WMD
- Terrorism
- Climate
- Narco trafficking

Tasks of the New NATO

- Reduce the perceived American threat
- Beef up the civilian side of counter-insurgency/counter-terrorism
- Reform governance and task organization of the alliance
- End the European civil war and help resolve the Islamic civil war