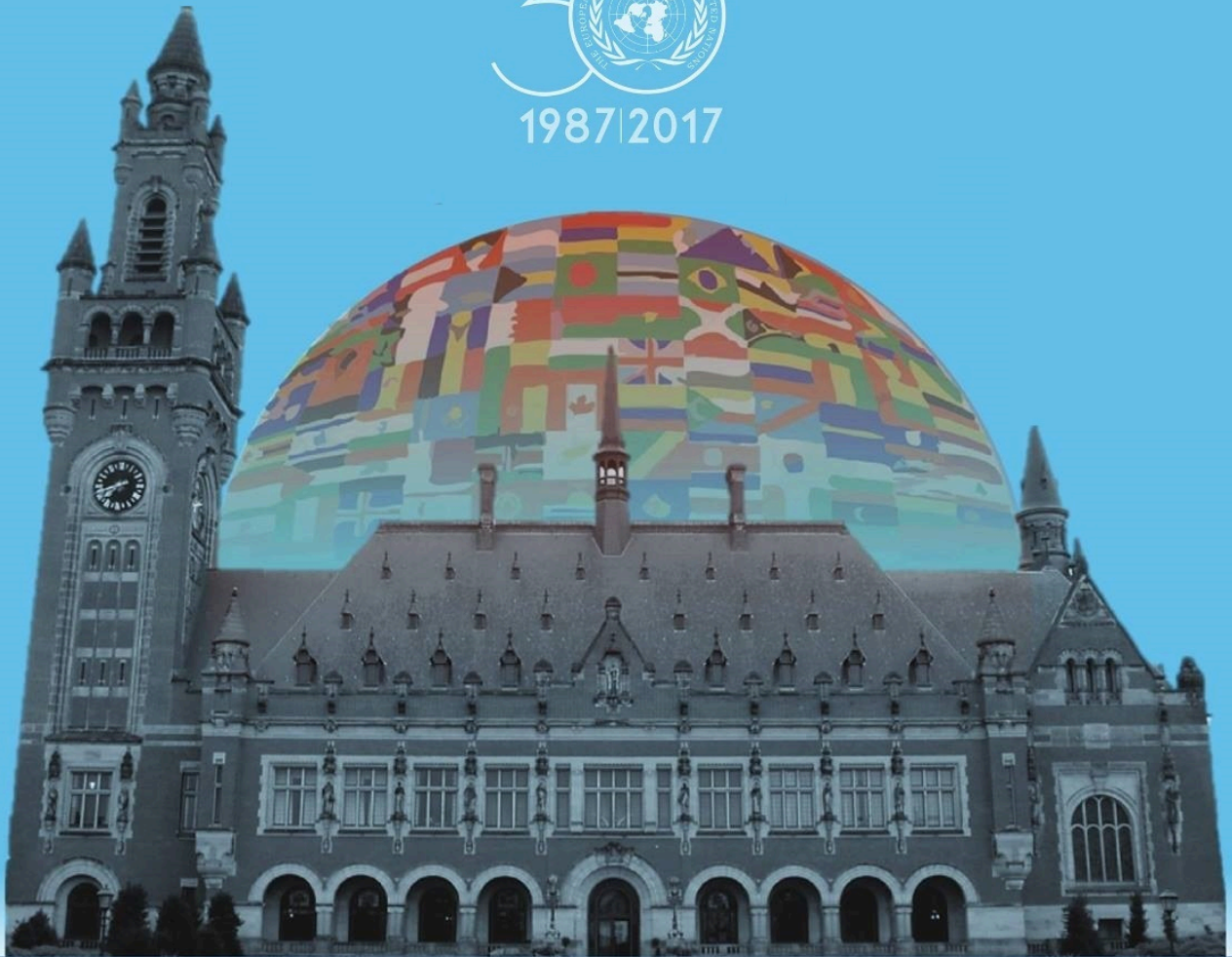


# TEIMUN

THE EUROPEAN INTERNATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

## NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL

NATO'S RELATIONS WITH GLOBAL PARTNERS IN ASIA-PACIFIC



## Welcome Letter

Honorable delegates,

It is with pleasure that we welcome you to the North Atlantic Council of The European International Model United Nations of 2017! We hope you are excited to participate in the council, and share with us in what will undoubtedly be an unforgettable experience.

As an international organization with the primary purpose of international security and collective defense, all decisions made by the council must be taken with complete consensus. While this will invariably make this a challenging experience, we are certain that the topics we will be discussing in July will give rise to intense, yet fruitful debate. The issue of NATO's relations with its partners in the Asia-Pacific is of increasing relevance to the alliance and the international community in recent years.

In this background paper, we will discuss firstly NATO's establishment, its history of involvement in the Asia-Pacific, and the means with which it fosters relations with its partners in the region. We will then discuss the pressing issues facing NATO and its allies in the region –from NATO's relationship with an emerging China, to its disputes with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. We will then pose certain questions that you, the delegates, will attempt to answer while drafting resolutions during the conference.

While it is our hope that this background paper will be sufficient to prepare you to participate in the council, we urge you to actively research the issues and the position that your country holds. We hope that, through your research, you will be able to bring your own contributions to the debate.

We are looking forward to meeting you all in July and being a part of what we are sure will be a rewarding experience. Please feel free to contact us with any questions that you may have regarding the topics or the workings of Model UN.

Best regards,

Kareim Nassar & Olivia Dudley.

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## Introduction

The North Atlantic Council (NAC) is the principal decision-making body within the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).<sup>1</sup> NATO is a political and military alliance comprised of twenty eight states in North America and Europe. The express purpose of the organization is to safeguard the security and freedom of its members through political and military means.<sup>2</sup> In the event that diplomatic efforts fail, NATO has the capacity needed to undertake military and nonmilitary measures to address a full spectrum of crises.<sup>3</sup> These military measures are conducted under Article 5 of the Washington Treaty, which holds that an armed attack against one member will be considered an armed attack against all, allowing for the exercise of the right of individual and collective self-defense afforded to them by Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations.<sup>4</sup> This forms the basis of NATO's existence as a collective security alliance.



**Figure 1:** Member States of NATO, Graphicriver.

<sup>1</sup> "North Atlantic Treaty Organization". *Nato.int*. N.p., 2016. Web. 18 May 2017.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> "Crisis Management". *NATO*. N.p., 2015. Web. 18 May 2017.

<sup>4</sup> "The North Atlantic Treaty". *NATO*. N.p., 2016. Web. 18 May 2017.

The Asia-Pacific is a geographic region comprising the countries near the Western Pacific Ocean. Containing more than half of the world's population, the Asia-Pacific is a center of global trade and industry.<sup>5</sup> A large chunk of the region fell under the dominion of the Empire of Japan during the first half of the century, setting the stage for decades of conflict and instability following the end of the Second World War. In recent years, the People's Republic of China (PRC) has rapidly modernized, becoming the second largest economy in the world<sup>6</sup>, and a military power in its own right.<sup>7</sup> In light of China's alarming rate of military development, old territorial disputes have reignited, raising tensions in the region. Another issue facing the region is the increasing threat of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, also known as North Korea. Their attempts to modernize their ballistic missile program, coupled with the frequent hostile rhetoric coming from the capital, Pyongyang, has leaders in the Asia-Pacific on edge.

## Historical Background

Established in 1949, following the end of the Second World War and the beginning of the Cold War, NATO was created for the primary purpose of serving as a deterrent to a conventional war with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) and, later, the members of the Warsaw Pact.<sup>8</sup> Conventional wisdom has it that, prior to the start of the Korean War in 1950, NATO was still in the process of establishing itself as a collective security organization.<sup>9</sup> During the United Nations intervention in the Korean Peninsula direct military cooperation between NATO members and states that would become partners of NATO in the Asia-Pacific, resulted in the primary outreach of NATO beyond its initial membership<sup>10</sup>, and, in the case of the Republic of Turkey, served as a stepping stone for future membership in the organization.<sup>11</sup> Following the end of the Cold War and, in recent years, the United States' pivot towards Asia, NATO has increased cooperation with partners in the region in order to reassert its presence in Asia-Pacific, including

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<sup>5</sup> "Defining Asia Pacific | APCS". *Apcsummit.org*. N.p., 2017. Web. 18 May 2017.

<sup>6</sup> "China Overview". *Worldbank.org*. N.p., 2017. Web. 18 May 2017.

<sup>7</sup> (www.dw.com), Deutsche. "China's Military Progress Challenges Western Dominance, Says IISS". *DW.COM*. N.p., 2017. Web. 18 May 2017.

<sup>8</sup> "Milestones: 1945–1952 - North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), 1949". *History.state.gov*. Web. 18 May 2017.

<sup>9</sup> Kaplan, Lawrence S. "Lawrence A. Kaplan, NATO Before The Korean War: April 1949–June 1950.". *Kent State University Press* (2013)

<sup>10</sup> "United Nations Forces In The Korean War | The Armed Forces | Australia's Involvement In The Korean War". *Korean-war.commemoration.gov.au*. N.p., 2017. Web. 18 May 2017.

<sup>11</sup> Weitz, Richard. "Turkey: Forgotten Ally In A Forgotten War - By Richard Weitz". *Hudson.org*. N.p., 2012. Web. 18 May 2017.

sending their first ever military delegation to China in 2012.<sup>12</sup>

## **NATO Partners in Asia-Pacific**

While the focus of NATO remains on Eastern Europe and Western Asia, the alliance has made the effort to increase cooperation with its partners in the Asia-Pacific. Following the 2010 Lisbon Summit, NATO adopted a new Strategic Concept that aimed to modernize its approach to territorial defense.<sup>13</sup> The Strategic Concept is an official document drafted by the NAC which outlines the fundamental security tasks of the organization. One method the alliance affirmed was to strengthen its relationships with its global partners. Asia-Pacific, being a hotbed of political unrest and the focal point of China's influence both economically and militarily, is of special concern to the alliance. In 2014, NATO's Deputy Secretary General reminded the international community of the region's importance to the alliance, stressing that NATO remains committed to long-term engagement with Asia through cooperation with states in the region.<sup>14</sup>

Japan is arguably one of NATO's most important partners in the region. NATO-Japanese cooperation officially began in 1990 following an increase in dialogue on common security interests.<sup>15</sup> This cooperation deepened in April 2013 following the signing of a joint political declaration setting out their shared strategic interests in promoting global peace through pursuing a rules-based international order.<sup>16</sup> Japan views NATO as an additional avenue to raise international awareness on the security situation in the region.<sup>17</sup> A prime area of concern for Japan in Asia-Pacific is the emergence of China as a global power. Though Japan is not a member of the alliance, the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between Japan and the United States of America could mean that any military confrontation with the People's Republic of China could invoke a NATO intervention.<sup>18</sup>

The Republic of Korea is another major ally of NATO. Dialogue between the alliance and the Republic of Korea began in 1995 when then foreign minister, Ban Ki Moon, visited the NATO headquarters and addressed the NAC.<sup>19</sup> With the

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<sup>12</sup> Moens, Alexander, and Brooke A Smith-Windsor. *NATO And Asia-Pacific*. 1st ed. Print.

<sup>13</sup> Childs, Nick. "Nato Considers New Mission Statement - BBC News". *BBC News*. N.p., 2010. Web. 18 May 2017.

<sup>14</sup> Moens, Alexander, and Brooke A Smith-Windsor. *NATO And Asia-Pacific*. 1st ed. Print.

<sup>15</sup> "Relations With Japan". *NATO*. N.p., 2016. Web. 18 May 2017.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>17</sup> Review, NATO. "NATO Review - Asia, NATO And Its Partners: Complicated Relationships?". *Nato.int*. N.p., 2010. Web. 18 May 2017.

<sup>18</sup> "MOFA: Japan-U.S. Security Treaty". *Mofa.go.jp*. Web. 18 May 2017.

<sup>19</sup> "The Republic Of Korea: A Partner In Tackling Global Security Challenges". *NATO*. N.p., 2013. Web.

establishment of a single Partnership Cooperation Menu open to all NATO partners, the Republic of Korea has been able to participate in approximately 1,400 cooperation activities with the alliance, including yearly education, training, and consultation events.<sup>20</sup> In September 2012, the Republic of Korea formalized its relationship with the alliance through the development of an Individual Partnership and Cooperation Program that promotes political dialogue and cooperation in a number of shared interest areas, including response to terrorism, multinational peace-support operations and enhancing interoperability, as well as cooperation under NATO's Science for Peace and Security Program.<sup>21</sup> From 2010 to 2013, the Republic of Korea led an integrated civilian-military Provincial Reconstruction Team of around 470 personnel in the Parwan Province as part of stabilization efforts in Afghanistan.<sup>22</sup> South Korea has also cooperated with NATO in the Gulf of Aden by deploying naval forces to provide escort to merchant vessels passing through waters with a high risk of piracy.<sup>23</sup>

Cooperation between NATO and the Commonwealth of Australia stretches back decades, starting with cooperation during the war in the Korean Peninsula. For almost a decade, Australia has also cooperated with NATO in Afghanistan, contributing to the alliance's Resolute Support Mission in order to aide in the development of the Afghan security forces and institutions.<sup>24</sup> Australia also cooperates with NATO through its participation in Operation Ocean Shield, combating piracy off the coast of Somalia, as well as participating in joint military exercises, Smart Defense projects, and science and technology cooperation.<sup>25</sup> The Australian Government and the North Atlantic Council maintain periodic dialogue, including the participation of former Prime Minister Julia Gillard and Defense Minister Stephen Smith in the 2010 Lisbon Summit and the 2012 Chicago Summit.<sup>26</sup> Australia is one of five partners –alongside Jordan, Finland, Sweden, and Georgia –which the organization has identified as making particularly significant contributions to NATO operations, calling it an "Enhanced Opportunity" partner in the 2014 Wales Summit.<sup>27</sup>

The relationship between NATO and New Zealand is built on the premise that

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19 May 2017.

<sup>20</sup> "Partnership Tools". *NATO*. N.p., 2015. Web. 18 May 2017.

<sup>21</sup> "Relations With The Republic Of Korea". *NATO*. N.p., 2016. Web. 19 May 2017.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

<sup>24</sup> "Relations With Australia". *NATO*. N.p., 2017. Web. 19 May 2017.

<sup>25</sup> "NATO Welcomes Deepened Cooperation With Australia". *NATO*. N.p., 2015. Web. 19 May 2017.

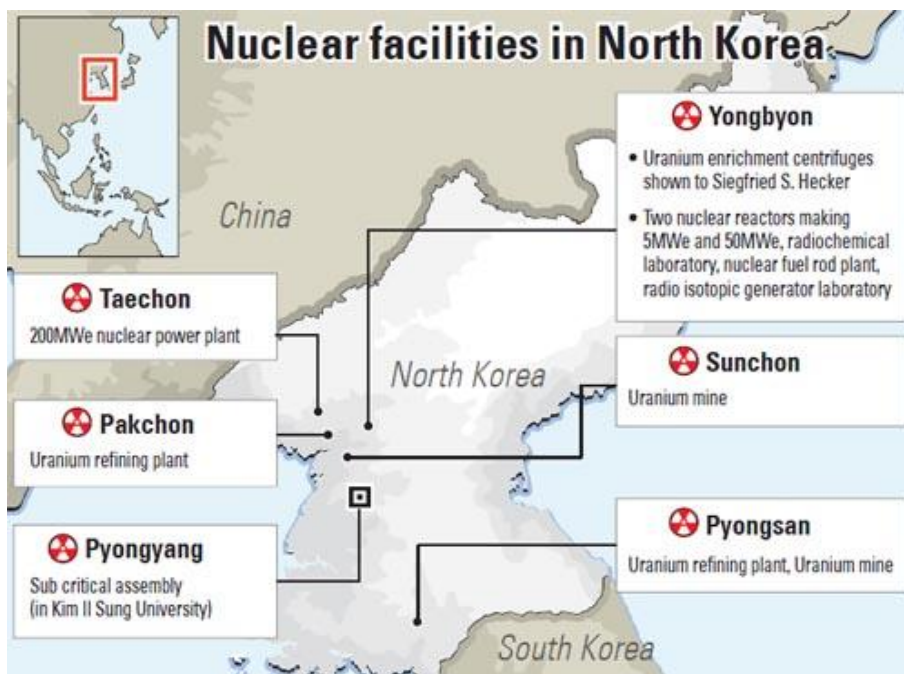
<sup>26</sup> "Relations With Australia". *NATO*. N.p., 2017. Web. 19 May 2017.

<sup>27</sup> "NATO Welcomes Deepened Cooperation With Australia". *NATO*. N.p., 2015. Web. 19 May 2017.

both share common challenges. New Zealand has cooperated with NATO in Afghanistan, contributing personnel to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).<sup>28</sup> After almost two decades of increased cooperation between the two on issues such as combating terrorism and climate change, the relationship was formalized in June of 2012 following the signing of the NATO-New Zealand Individual Partnership Cooperation Program (IPCP).<sup>29</sup> The IPCP aims to increase cooperation through: Maintaining a strategic and inclusive approach to New Zealand’s participation in future NATO-led operations and missions; enhancing the New Zealand Defense Force’s professionalism and interoperability between NATO and New Zealand; and building capacity and capability through joint training and exercises and the exchange of civilian and military personnel.<sup>30</sup> The IPCP also focuses on improving future cooperation in areas such as disaster relief, joint training, cyber-defense, and crisis management.<sup>31</sup>

## Pressing Issues

### *The North Korean Nuclear Program*



**Figure 2:** North Korean Nuclear Facilities, Korea JoongAng Daily.

<sup>28</sup> "NATO And New Zealand Sign New Partnership Accord". NATO. N.p., 2012. Web. 19 May 2017.

<sup>29</sup> "New Zealand Signs Nato Partnership Deal - BBC News". BBC News. N.p., 2012. Web. 19 May 2017.

<sup>30</sup> *Individual Partnership And Cooperation Programme Between New Zealand And NATO*. 1st ed. 2012. Web. 19 May 2017.

<sup>31</sup> "NATO And New Zealand Sign New Partnership Accord". NATO. N.p., 2012. Web. 19 May 2017.

Since the end of the Korean War, tensions between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the West have been ever-present. In 2006, the DPRK tested their first nuclear fission weapon at the Punggye nuclear weapons test site.<sup>32</sup> Following the nuclear test, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) responded by imposing a wide array of economic sanctions on the DPRK.<sup>33</sup> In the following decade, the DPRK began a consistent pattern of vowing to end their nuclear program, only to conduct subsequent nuclear weapons tests when negotiations failed to yield the desired outcome.<sup>34</sup> The United States, along with NATO, has been heavily involved in attempting to dismantle the North Korean Nuclear Program, succeeding in stalling its progress through a campaign of cyber warfare.<sup>35</sup>

With the threat of a direct military conflict looming, NATO partners in the region are weary. While the DPRK still does not have the capability to hit the United States mainland with a nuclear warhead, intelligence experts believe they may have the capability to strike mainland Japan.<sup>36</sup> The implications of such an attack would undoubtedly trigger US involvement based on the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between the United States and Japan, which may ultimately lead to NATO military involvement. The People's Republic of Korea also has valid reason to fear a military conflict with the North. In April 2017, US Vice President Mike Pence visited the demilitarized zone (DMZ) and declared that "the era of strategic patience is over",<sup>37</sup> signaling the adoption of a more aggressive policy towards the DPRK by the new US administration. The DPRK currently maintains an extensive system of long range artillery aimed at large population centers in South Korea.<sup>38</sup> Another war on the Korean Peninsula could mean untold casualties. Due to the heightened tensions in the region, South Korean President Moon Jae-In has signaled that his administration might be willing to reopen a channel of dialogue with the North in order to avoid conflict.<sup>39</sup>

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<sup>32</sup> "Everything You Need To Know About North Korea's Nuclear And Missile Programs". *The National Interest*. N.p., 2017. Web. 19 May 2017.

<sup>33</sup> "SECURITY COUNCIL CONDEMNS NUCLEAR TEST BY DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA, UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTING RESOLUTION 1718 (2006) | Meetings Coverage And Press Releases". *Un.org*. N.p., 2006. Web. 19 May 2017.

<sup>34</sup> "North Korea Nuclear Timeline Fast Facts". *CNN*. N.p., 2017. Web. 19 May 2017.

<sup>35</sup> Lockie, Alex. "North Korea's Embarrassing Missile Failure May Have Been Due To US Cyber Sabotage". *Business Insider*. N.p., 2017. Web. 19 May 2017.

<sup>36</sup> "Expert: North Korea Could Hit Japan With A Missile In Ten Minutes". *The National Interest*. N.p., 2017. Web. 19 May 2017.

<sup>37</sup> "Pence Tells North Korea: 'The Era Of Strategic Patience Is Over'". *NPR.org*. N.p., 2017. Web. 19 May 2017.

<sup>38</sup> "How North Korea Would Retaliate". *Stratfor.com*. N.p., 2017. Web. 19 May 2017.

<sup>39</sup> "South Korea's Moon Says 'High Possibility' Of Conflict With North Amid Missile Improvements | The Japan Times". *The Japan Times*. N.p., 2017. Web. 19 May 2017.



## Dispute over the Diaoyu/Senkaku Islands



**Figure 3:** Diaoyu/Senkaku Islands, BBC.

An area of special concern in the Asia-Pacific is the territorial dispute over the Diaoyu/Senkaku Islands. A group of eight small, uninhabited islands in the East China Sea, the Diaoyu/Senkaku Islands are of little significance in and of themselves. However, ownership of the islands would provide exclusive access to rich fishing grounds and vast oil and natural gas reserves.<sup>40</sup> The People's Republic of China claims that the Diaoyu Islands have been Chinese sovereign territory for at least as far back as the 15th Century<sup>41</sup>, while the Japanese claim to have discovered the Senkaku Islands in 1884, then a terra nullius, before annexing them the following year.<sup>42</sup> The Chinese hold that the Diaoyu Islands were among the Islands ceded to it by the 1945 Potsdam Declaration, while the Japanese believe the Islands to have been among those exempted under Article 8 of the declaration.<sup>43</sup>

<sup>40</sup> Jash, Amrita. "Diaoyu/Senkaku Islands Dispute: Identity Versus Territory - Policy Forum". *Policy Forum*. N.p., 2016. Web. 28 May 2017.

<sup>41</sup> "Who Really Owns The Senkaku Islands?". *Economist.com*. N.p., 2013. Web. 28 May 2017.

<sup>42</sup> "Narrative Of An Empty Space". *Economist.com*. N.p., 2012. Web. 28 May 2017.

<sup>43</sup> Ji, Guoxing. (1995). Policy Paper 19: Maritime Jurisdiction in the Three China Seas. *Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation*. UC San Diego: Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation

The Senkaku Islands are currently under the control of Japan.<sup>44</sup> In 2012, the Japanese government purchased the islands from their Japanese civilian owner. This led to public and diplomatic outrage in China, reigniting the dispute.<sup>45</sup> Since then, Chinese government vessels have sailed passed the islands regularly, seen as a breach of sovereignty by the Japanese Government.<sup>46</sup> In 2013, China announced the creation of an air-defense zone over the islands which would require all aircraft in the zone to identify themselves and comply with rules set by Beijing.<sup>47</sup> The establishment of the air-defense zone stoked fears that the dispute may lead to a military confrontation in the region.

The United States firmly holds that the Senkaku Islands belong to Japan.<sup>48</sup> This position has been a point of contention between the US and China for the past few years. In 2014, then US president Barack Obama explicitly stated that the United States is duty bound to protect all territories under Japanese administration, including the Senkaku Islands.<sup>49</sup> The implications of this declaration are clear; a military confrontation between the PRC and Japan over the islands would trigger US military involvement, which may, in turn, lead to NATO intervention.

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<sup>44</sup> "Senkaku Islands Q&A". *Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan*. N.p., 2017. Web. 28 May 2017.

<sup>45</sup> "How Uninhabited Islands Soured China-Japan Ties - BBC News". *BBC News*. N.p., 2014. Web. 28 May 2017.

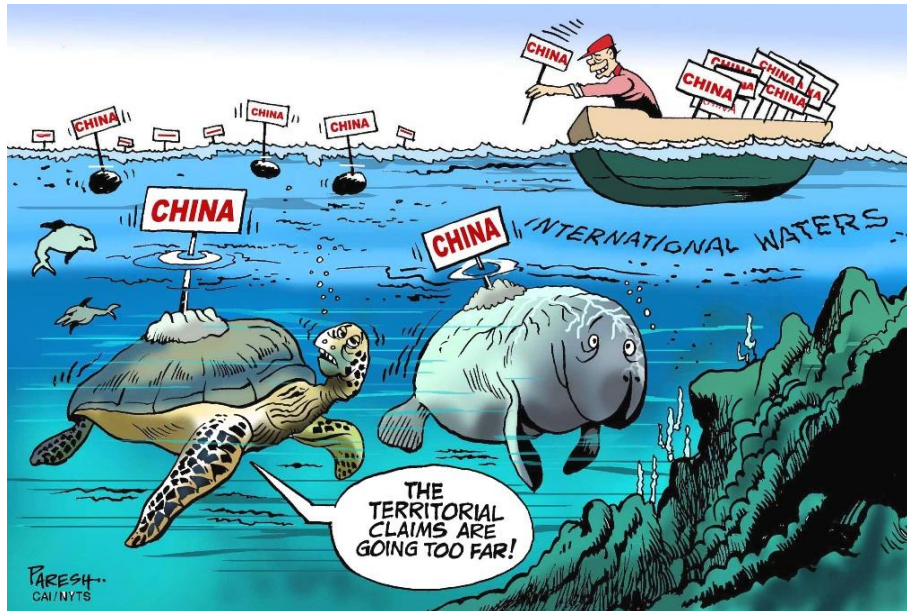
<sup>46</sup> "Japan Talks Tough On Senkaku Islands Dispute With China". *Foreign Policy*. N.p., 2016. Web. 28 May 2017.

<sup>47</sup> "How Uninhabited Islands Soured China-Japan Ties - BBC News". *BBC News*. N.p., 2014. Web. 28 May 2017.

<sup>48</sup> "Mattis: US Will Defend Contested Senkaku Islands On Japan's Behalf". *Stars and Stripes*. N.p., 2017. Web. 28 May 2017.

<sup>49</sup> McCurry, Justin, and Tania Branigan. "Obama Says US Will Defend Japan In Island Dispute With China". *the Guardian*. N.p., 2014. Web. 28 May 2017.

## South China Sea Dispute



**Figure 4:** Political Cartoon on the South China Sea Dispute, *The Japan Times*.

In the past few years, the territorial dispute regarding ownership of the Spratlys and the Paracel island chains in the South China Sea has been a point of contention in the region. Ownership of territory in the region would entail claiming territorial waters of the utmost significance. One third of global maritime traffic travels through the region, totaling over five trillion dollars in annual trade.<sup>50</sup> China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Taiwan, Malaysia, and Brunei all have competing claims on the island chains. The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which came into force in 1982, enshrined the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), a 200 nautical mile area which extends sole exploitation rights to coastal nations over marine resources.<sup>51</sup> The EEZ was never intended to serve as a security zone, however all parties to the dispute have been accused of militarizing the region.<sup>52</sup>

<sup>50</sup> "South China Sea | Conflict And Diplomacy On The High Seas". *Projects.voanews.com*. N.p., 2017. Web. 19 May 2017.

<sup>51</sup> United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

<sup>52</sup> "South China Sea | Lowy Institute". *Lowyinstitute.org*. Web. 19 May 2017.



**Figure 5:** Territorial Claims in the South China Sea, BBC.

While NATO has been explicit in its intent to refrain from becoming involved in the dispute,<sup>53</sup> the involvement of the United States of America and the importance of the region in which the dispute is taking place, means NATO involvement cannot be completely ruled out. In the previous year, Japan has become increasingly involved in the dispute, with increased presence of Japanese warships in the area.<sup>54</sup> Beijing has been quick to characterize Japanese military presence in the region as a provocation, with a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson in December 2016 urging Tokyo to “refrain from causing trouble in the region.”<sup>55</sup> The risk that a military conflict in the region could disrupt global trade has led to concern by NATO partners in the Asia-Pacific.<sup>56</sup>

<sup>53</sup> Daiss, Tim. "South China Sea Disputes Off-Limits, Says NATO". *Forbes.com*. N.p., 2016. Web. 19 May 2017.

<sup>54</sup> "Japan Is Becoming Player In South China Sea Sovereignty Dispute". *VOA*. N.p., 2016. Web. 19 May 2017.

<sup>55</sup> *ibid*

<sup>56</sup> "South Korea And The South China Sea: A Domestic And International Balancing Act". *Nbr.org*. Web. 19 May 2017.

## **Conclusion**

NATO presence in the Asia-Pacific is a complex issue with far reaching geopolitical implications. The previous decade has seen an increase in diplomatic and military cooperation between NATO and its global partners in the region. With tensions in the Asia-Pacific at the level they currently are, the risk of conflict is growing steadily. As an organization whose purpose is collective defense, NATO must examine its role in the Asia-Pacific, and it must assess what its partnerships in the region entail.

The North Atlantic Council must adopt an appropriate policy for dealing with provocations by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The risk of a rogue nuclear state realizing intercontinental ballistic capabilities could be disastrous for NATO partners and member states alike. The NAC must also adopt a policy towards an emergent China. The rapid rise of a global power has seldom been peaceful, and NATO must be prepared to deal with the ever-changing political landscape in the Western Pacific.

To conclude, the Asia-Pacific is likely to be the geopolitical focal point of the coming years. The risk of disaster is undeniable, however, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization has the potential to be a force for stability in the region. It will be the responsibility of the North Atlantic Council at TEIMUN 2017 to foster the type of international cooperation required to ensure that the alliance is prepared to tackle the current, and future, threats from the Asia-Pacific.

## **Questions a Resolution Must Answer (QARMAS)**

1. In what ways, if any, should the North Atlantic Council foster an increase in cooperation between the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and its Partners in the Asia-Pacific?
2. In light of the current security situation in the Asia-Pacific, what role should be adopted by NATO with regards to an increased Chinese presence in the region?
3. How will the reexamining of the United States' policy towards the DPRK and the region as a whole affect NATO's role in the Asia-Pacific?
4. What role, if any, does the North Atlantic Treaty Organization have in the territorial disputes in the South China Sea and the East China Sea?
5. What policy should be adopted to mitigate the threat of a nuclear North Korea to its allies in the Asia-Pacific?

## **Additional Readings**

1. Beyond Afghanistan: NATO's Global Partnerships in the Asia-Pacific  
[https://www.files.ethz.ch/isn/141292/rp\\_75.pdf](https://www.files.ethz.ch/isn/141292/rp_75.pdf)
2. The Rise of China and Possible Implications for NATO  
[www.nato-pa.int/Docdownload.asp?ID=B488944A4D04020401CB](http://www.nato-pa.int/Docdownload.asp?ID=B488944A4D04020401CB)

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