

# NATO-RUSSIA RELATIONS: EVOLUTIONS AND CONTROVERSIES

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**Abstract:**

*The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is a political-military alliance that formed in 1949, through the North Atlantic Treaty, signed in Washington on April 4, 1949 and comprises 29 states from Europe and North America.*

*The Warsaw Pact or the Warsaw Treaty, officially called the "Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance", was established as a military alliance of the countries of Eastern Europe and the Eastern Bloc as a response to the creation of NATO's alliance, signed in Warsaw on 14 May 1955, comprised 8 states and was dissolved at the meeting in Prague on 1 July 1991.*

*After the break-up of the Soviet Union in 1991, former opponents - Russia and NATO - were forced to find new forms of coexistence in a totally different security environment than the previous one. This has prompted both sides to cooperate in various forums, partnerships, councils, programs, contacts, summits and academic exchanges.*

*Over the last decade, NATO-Russia relations have been a significant part of European security policy even though the "special" and sometimes controversial relationship between the two entities has evolved much including many activities in various areas of cooperation.*

**Keywords:** *NATO, Russia, North Atlantic Cooperation Council, NATO-Russia Council, Partnership for Peace, security, controversies.*

## INTRODUCTION

The idea that the NATO-Russia relationship began to develop officially after 1991 is justified by a series of important historical events that have contributed to the founding of this relationship.

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