

# Dismantle the Globalized Military & Bring Peace to the World

By Nancy Price

After WWII, twelve countries founded the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in 1949 to provide collective security against the Soviet Union and the spread of communism. NATO should have closed its doors 35 years ago when, in the late 1980s, Soviet Premier Gorbachev brought an end to the Cold War with his policies of Glasnost (openness) and Perestroika (restructuring) and signed the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF Treaty) with President Reagan.

Refusing to allow the Soviet military to intervene in Eastern European democracy movements in Poland, Czechoslovakia and other places, Gorbachev brought the foundational basis of NATO to an end.

But NATO refused to die. From the late 1990s on, nineteen countries, mainly from Eastern Europe, became new members. Finland became a member in 2023 after Russia invaded Ukraine. Now NATO has increased to 31 countries.

It reconfigured itself into a multinational military organization dedicated to expanding global capitalism and defending corporate access to markets and resources around the world. NATO member countries commit to spend 2% or more of GDP for operations and missions, provide troops, and carry out joint military exercises. This evolution of NATO's role has led to huge protests across Europe.

Over years, NATO has expanded its reach by utilizing its "dialogue and cooperation" process and "Individual Partnership and Cooperation" program to develop long-term strategic relationships with countries around the world. These include strategically located countries like: Mongolia located between China and Russia; South Korea facing off against North Korea; Japan, Australia and New Zealand, connected with the Indo-Pacific region; and Colombia, the first Latin American partner.

## The US Global System of Commands

Two years before NATO was founded and the



beginning of the Cold War, the US Department of Defense (DoD) embarked on creating a Unified Command Structure encompassing the whole world. They organized these "unified combatant commands," on geographical areas of responsibility, and on areas of functional responsibility. The Unified Command Plan aligns the missions, responsibilities of each Command with US national security and foreign policy goals.

As an example, the Space Command works with allies and partners to plan, execute and integrate military space power into multi-domain global operations in order to deter aggression, defend national interests and, when necessary, defeat threats.

The US Unified Command Structure and NATO, along with allies and partners form the military backbone of a global commercial empire that includes the World Trade Organization, multiple bi-lateral and multi-lateral free trade agreements, the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, G-20 and G7. Our tax dollars fund this global Unified Command at a rate that far exceeds the 2% of GDP members of NATO provide.

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## NATO 75th Anniversary

On July 9-11, 2024, NATO will celebrate its 75th Anniversary in Washington, DC, and peace groups will organize a welcome. We can expect many presidents, prime ministers, foreign secretaries, and weapons dealers to attend. Let's give them a proper welcome! There will be a Peace Summit, Saturday, July 6 and No to NATO/Yes to Peace Rally, Sunday, July 7, and other actions in the days before and after this weekend. A peace walk from Maine to Washington, DC., with events along the way, is being planned (<https://peacewalk2024.org/>). For resources and to learn more and spread the word, go to <https://worldbeyondwar.org/nonatoyestopeace.org> Scroll down and after "Images" there is an excellent short video "Everything you didn't know about NATO." If you'd like to attend the summit, the rally or both, and be informed of webinars and zoom calls before these events go to <http://nonatoyespeace.org> If you want to receive emails, be sure to opt-in to emails.