

Academic WorldQuest

Official Study Guide | 2023-2024 | World Affairs Council of the Desert



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The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO): Alliance and Collective Defense in a Changing World

In 1949, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was founded with the signing of the Washington Treaty. This security alliance consists of 30 member countries spanning North America to Europe, and its primary mission is to ensure the protection of its members' freedom and security through political and military means. As NATO approaches its momentous 75th anniversary, explore its foundational principles, objectives, and its pivotal role in fostering collective defense and security cooperation among nations in North America and Europe. This topic will also delve into the evolving challenges and opportunities confronting NATO in the ever-changing global landscape of the 21st century, providing you with a comprehensive perspective on this enduring alliance's past, present, and future.

Sources

- [“What’s NATO All About?”](#) Stuff You Should Know
- [“How Secretary Albright Advocated to Expand NATO”](#) National Museum of American Diplomacy
- [“NATO and the Invasion, One Year On”](#) Center for Strategic and International Studies
- [“NATO’s Sub-strategic Role in the Middle East and North Africa”](#) German Marshall Fund
- [“What Happened at NATO's Vilnius Summit?”](#) Center for Strategic and International Studies
- [“Future of NATO”](#) by Sarwar Kashmeri for Great Decisions (FPA)
Please note that this source will be available later this fall and the password requirement will be lifted.

The Global South

The term "Global South" encompasses less economically developed regions primarily found in Africa, Latin America, Asia, and Oceania. It serves as a lens to underscore the profound disparities in wealth, influence, and progress when compared to the more affluent and developed Global North, consisting of North America, Europe, and select parts of East Asia. This division can be traced back to historical factors such as colonization and the processes of globalization. Within the Global South, numerous challenges persist, including poverty, limited access to education and healthcare, and environmental concerns. Nonetheless, it is essential to recognize the considerable cultural, economic, and political potential inherent in these regions. As our world continues to grow more interconnected, this topic will delve into the ever evolving role of the Global South in international affairs, politics, and development.

Sources

- **“Everyone's talking about the Global South. But what is it?”** *Associated Press*
- **“Urbanization in the Global South”** Oxford - African Centre for Cities
- **“The Realities of Current Urbanization in the Global South”** World Resources Institute
- **“The race for the Global South”** International Political Sociology Journal
- **“China-Global South Relations”** Atlantic Council
- **“BRICS: Emerging counterweight in a multipolar world?”** *Deutsche Welle News*
- **“A [new] world order: What, why, and how?”** Stimson Center

Women's Contributions to Track II Diplomacy

Diplomacy encompasses a myriad of forms, each serving a distinct purpose in international relations. Scholars have classified these forms into different "tracks." Track I diplomacy centers around official government-to-government negotiations and interactions, while Track II diplomacy operates on unofficial channels, engaging non-state actors like civil society groups, academics, and individuals to address complex global issues. Within the sphere of Track II diplomacy, women have emerged as integral contributors. Their involvement injects a rich tapestry of diverse perspectives and innovative problem-solving approaches into diplomatic discourse, with a resolute focus on human rights, gender equality, and social justice. As women actively participate in these unofficial dialogues, they promote inclusivity, counteract historical gender imbalances in diplomatic settings, and amplify a broader spectrum of voices. This topic will spotlight the profound influence of women's contributions in Track II diplomacy, underscoring how their diverse perspectives and collaborative endeavors enrich the effectiveness of diplomatic efforts and contribute to the advancement of a more harmonious global landscape.

Sources

- **“The gender turn in diplomacy: a new research agenda”** International Feminist Journal of Politics
- **“Reframing Women’s Roles in Peace Processes: Beyond the Negotiating Table”** Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security
- **“Advancing Women’s Participation in Track II Peace Processes: Good and emerging practices”** Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security
- **“Building Peace in the Shadow of War: Women-to-Women Diplomacy as Alternative Peacebuilding Practice in Myanmar”** Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding
- **“Women’s informal peace efforts: Grassroots activism in South Sudan”** Chr. Michelsen Institute
- **“Tajikistan’s Peace Process: The Role of Track 2 Diplomacy and Lessons for Afghanistan”** United States Institute of Peace “ Pg. 9-13, 20-28
- **“‘Not a noisy gun’: The women peacebuilders of Liberia”** *Al Jazeera*

Navigating AI: The Global Workforce

In the rapidly evolving landscape of artificial intelligence (AI), one of the most critical challenges we face is the transformation of the global workforce. As AI technologies continue to advance and reshape industries worldwide, questions about employment, skills, and the broader socio-economic impact become increasingly pertinent. This topic delves into the multifaceted dimensions of how AI is impacting jobs, industries, and the workforce on a global scale. It seeks to shed light on the opportunities and challenges posed by AI, the need for reskilling and upskilling, and the strategies required to ensure a future where humans and AI can coexist and thrive.

Sources

- **“Generative AI and jobs: A global analysis of potential effects on job quantity and quality”** International Labour Organization | Pg. 28-42
- **“The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on the Future of Workforces in the European Union and the United States of America”** White House | Pg. 4-23
- **“Here's how artificial intelligence is changing the job market”** *CNN*
- **“Workforce ecosystems and AI”** Brookings
- **“The three challenges of AI regulation”** Brookings
- **“‘Why would we employ people?’ Experts on five ways AI will change work”** *The Guardian*
- **“How to Solve AI's Inequality Problem,”** *MIT Technology Review*
 - It's recommended a coach or student makes a copy of this source upon first opening it, as it can only be accessed one time by each individual user.

Current Events

For the Current Events category questions are composed from the Monday and Thursday editions of Daily Chatter.

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Current events sources for the Local Competition will be composed of Daily Chatter Monday and Thursday Editions between November 1, 2023 to January 15, 2024. Earlier editions of Daily Chatter may be found at <https://www.dailychatter.com/archive/>.

National Competition

Current events sources for the National Competition will be composed of only Daily Chatter Monday and Thursday Editions between January 1, 2024 and March 31, 2024.

Will we see you in Washington?

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