

# NATO –USA & UKARINE: INTERNATIONAL REALTION

*NEWS: As US position on Ukraine-NATO shifts, a recall — and why it matters*

## WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

On February 12, 2025, US President Donald Trump spoke with Russian President Vladimir Putin and shifted US policy by dismissing Ukraine's potential NATO membership, marking a significant realignment away from previous US support for Ukraine's NATO aspirations and potentially reshaping future NATO dynamics and East European security.

### 1. NATO: Background and Expansion

- **Origins and Purpose:** NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) was formed in 1949 by 12 countries from Europe and North America, focusing on collective defense where an attack on one is considered an attack on all (Article 5).
- **Historical Expansion:**
  - **1990 Assurance:** US Secretary of State James Baker assured Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev that NATO would not expand eastward beyond its boundaries at the time.
  - **Post-Cold War Expansion:**
    - 1999: Czechia, Hungary, and Poland joined NATO.
    - 2004: Seven more countries, including Baltic states and Eastern European countries, were admitted.
    - 2009-2020: Further expansion included Albania, Croatia, Montenegro, and North Macedonia.
    - 2023-2024: Finland and Sweden joined, making Sweden the 32nd member.

### 2. Russia's Perspective on NATO Expansion

- **Security Threat:** Russia views NATO's approach towards its borders as a security threat and a violation of past agreements, seeing the alliance as a Western tool to contain its influence.
- **Strategic Response:** Firm opposition to Ukraine joining NATO, viewing it as a direct challenge to Russian national security and sphere of influence.

### 3. Ukraine and NATO

- **2008 Bucharest Summit:** NATO offered Ukraine a path towards membership but without a specific timeline, leading to heightened tensions with Russia.
- **Russian Actions:**
  - 2014: Annexation of Crimea following Ukraine's NATO aspirations.
  - 2022: Full-scale invasion of Ukraine, citing NATO expansion as a primary justification.

- **2024 Reaffirmation:** During the Biden Administration, NATO reiterated Ukraine’s potential future membership, exacerbating Russia-Ukraine tensions.

## Nato's European expansion since 1949

- Founder members 1949
- Joined 1950-1996
- Joined 1997-2022
- Joined since 2022
- Applying to join



Source: Nato



### 4. Trump’s Recent Statement and Policy Shift

- **Statement Details:** On February 12, 2025, US President Donald Trump spoke with Russian President Vladimir Putin, dismissing the idea of Ukraine joining NATO and indicating a major shift in US policy.
- **Policy Implications:**

- Possible weakening of NATO's unity and encouragement of Russian strategic ambitions in Eastern Europe.
- Vice President Vance also avoided discussing Ukraine at the Munich Security Conference in 2025, further indicating a shift in US priorities.

### 5. Implications for Global and Regional Politics

- **Impact on Russia-Ukraine War:** Trump's policy shift could alter the trajectory of the nearly three-year-long conflict.
- **European Concerns:** The US Vice President criticized Europe's dependence on US military support, potentially urging European NATO members to increase their defense spending and strategic autonomy.
- **Potential Realignments:** This policy change might redefine transatlantic relations and the broader global security structure.

### 6. Analysis of Trump's Disruptive Role in NATO

- **Strategic Realignment:** Trump's stance may realign US foreign policy away from previous administrations' support for Ukraine's NATO membership, potentially reshaping NATO's strategy and cohesion.
- **Broader Security Implications:** A realigned US policy under Trump could lead to shifts in NATO's engagement strategies, defense commitments, and member contributions, impacting overall alliance dynamics.

### 7. Future Outlook

- **Uncertainties and Predictions:** The long-term consequences of the US's shifted stance on Ukraine and NATO could influence future diplomatic relations, alliance politics, and regional stability in Eastern Europe.
- **Potential Scenarios:**
  - Increased European military and strategic autonomy.
  - A recalibrated NATO strategy that might either deter Russian aggression or encourage it, depending on the cohesion and response of NATO members.

This detailed exploration contextualizes the significant elements surrounding NATO's expansion, Russia's security concerns, and the profound implications of the recent US policy shift under President Trump's administration.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-global/as-us-position-on-ukraine-nato-shifts-a-recall-and-why-it-matters-9841663/>