

**GREAT DECISIONS DISCUSSION GROUP**  
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**KATONAH VILLAGE LIBRARY**  
**April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013**  
**10:15 A. M. – 12:15 P. M.**

# **NATO: Is Europe's Savior in 1950 Headed for Retirement in 2020?**

Topic Leader: Tyler Beebe

## **AGENDA**

### 10:15: Kickoff

- Welcome and Introduction of Guests & New Participants
- Administrative Items
- Topic Leader Presentation
- Group Discussion

***CHAPTER MOTTO - "DISCUSSIONS SHOULD BE CONDUCTED WITHOUT FONDNESS FOR DISPUTE OR DESIRE FOR VICTORY" – BEN FRANKLIN***

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS AND TOPICS**

- May 14, 2013 -- **China in Africa**  
Topic Leader: Joe Adams

## **TODAY'S TOPIC**

NATO was founded in 1949 with three key objectives: to keep the Soviet menace at bay, involve the U.S. in shoring up Europe's weakened defenses and to make sure a defeated but potentially resurgent Germany was reintegrated back into the fabric of Europe.

As time passed, NATO's well executed primary mission has become broader in scope but less focused, creating mounting disagreement and less unanimity among its members. Just in the last few years, NATO's actions in Libya and Afghanistan have proven constructive, yet they were tainted with signs of weakness and discord.

Today's discussion, following a viewing of the FPA's DVD, will address the original intent of NATO's founders, review its success in countering the Soviet threat, assess its interventions in the former

Yugoslavia, Libya and Afghanistan, and look at its embarrassing setback as it moved to expand its reach a bit too close to Moscow.

We will also look at the three groupings within NATO today which are making it difficult to keep the organization focused on a clearly defined goal.

Finally, we will review whether the European Union's Common Security Defense Policy (CSPD) could be a viable replacement for NATO and, if so, what that would imply for the U.S. role in European defense.

Possible discussion topics may include:

- How recent and pending military spending reductions will impact NATO's ability to carry out its mission of collective defense.
- If 60 years of European economic success and political stability created a situation in which NATO members should increase spending for their own security.
- Whether NATO is still important to the United States and to what extent the "pivot to Asia" signals a reduction in America's prioritization of European security.

## **SUGGESTED READINGS**

- **NATO: Crisis? What Crisis?** by Mark Webber, Chapter 3 of the FPA 2013 Briefing Book. (Two copies are available at the Katonah Library Reference Desk for use in the library.)
- **NATO 2.0 Reboot or Delete?** By Sarwar Kashmeri, Potomac Books, Dulles VA, 2011