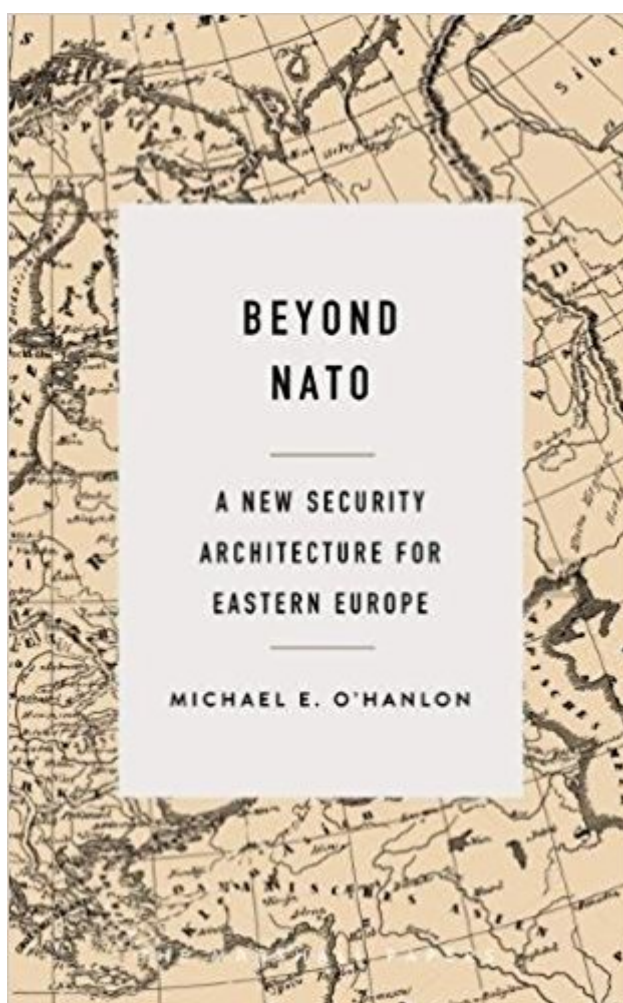


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Beyond NATO: A New Security Architecture For Eastern Europe (The Marshall Papers)



Synopsis

In this new Brookings Marshall Paper, Michael O'Hanlon argues that now is the time for Western nations to negotiate a new security architecture for neutral countries in eastern Europe to stabilize the region and reduce the risks of war with Russia. He believes NATO expansion has gone far enough. The core concept of this new security architecture would be one of permanent neutrality. The countries in question collectively make a broken-up arc, from Europe's far north to its south: Finland and Sweden; Ukraine, Moldova, and Belarus; Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan; and finally Cyprus plus Serbia, as well as possibly several other Balkan states. Discussion on the new framework should begin within NATO, followed by deliberation with the neutral countries themselves, and then formal negotiations with Russia. The new security architecture would require that Russia, like NATO, commit to help uphold the security of Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova, and other states in the region. Russia would have to withdraw its troops from those countries in a verifiable manner; after that, corresponding sanctions on Russia would be lifted. The neutral countries would retain their rights to participate in multilateral security operations on a scale comparable to what has been the case in the past, including even those operations that might be led by NATO. They could think of and describe themselves as Western states (or anything else, for that matter). If the European Union and they so wished in the future, they could join the EU. They would have complete sovereignty and self-determination in every sense of the word. But NATO would decide not to invite them into the alliance as members. Ideally, these nations would endorse and promote this concept themselves as a more practical way to ensure their security than the current situation or any other plausible alternative.

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Customer Reviews

Mike O'Hanlon's book addresses one of the most consequential security issues of our day—the increasing hostility between the United States and Russia. Indeed, if we do not address it successfully, we may very well blunder into a military conflict with Russia, one that could all too easily escalate into a nuclear conflict that would threaten our very civilization. And he argues, correctly I believe, that the conflict over what Russia calls the “near abroad” is one fundamental cause of that hostility. He proposes a concrete step to lower the tensions that continue to stoke that hostility; basically setting up those nations as neutral nations, not aligned with either Russia or the West; and in particular, excluded from NATO membership. This is a controversial proposal, and one with real drawbacks for the nations involved. But the problem has eluded other solutions, and the consequences of not solving it could be catastrophic.

O'Hanlon makes a thoughtful and well-argued case for his proposal and it deserves serious consideration. — William J. Perry, 19th U.S. Secretary of Defense

NATO expansion has gone far enough. Western nations should negotiate a new security architecture for eastern Europe to stabilize the region and reduce the risks of war with Russia. This new security approach would revolve around permanent neutrality for Finland and Sweden; Ukraine, Moldova, and Belarus; Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan; and finally Cyprus plus Serbia, as well as possibly several other Balkan states. These countries could still join economic and political groups as desired. Russia would have to settle “frozen” and “simmering” conflicts as part of the arrangement. Discussion on the new framework should begin within NATO, followed by deliberation with the neutral countries themselves, and then formal negotiations with Russia.

A concise and cogent policy piece on how the US and its western allies should treat states in Europe and Russia's “near abroad” with an interest in joining NATO. Whatever your position may be on this timely issue as Russian/NATO relations fray, Michael O'Hanlon offers food for thought those who value the endangered world liberal order. His pragmatic prescriptions adhere to an Aristotelian

mean, which may not satisfy those on opposite ends of the ideological continuum on this contentious issue, but may be the best we can hope for. Dr. David Dickson, Adjunct Associate Professor, George Washington University

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