New Cold War: NATO – Russia Rivalry

Prof. M. Muslim Khan

Deptt. of Political Science, Jamia Millia Islamia (Central University), New Delhi, India.

Abstract:

The Cold War rivalries between United States of America and Soviet Union after the Second

World War till 1991 had divided the entire world into two blocs with extreme hostilities against each other on ideological lines. America and its allies formed NATO defence bloc to protect and promote liberal-democratic ideology. while Soviet Union and its allies formed Warsaw Pact defence bloc to promote and protect communist -socialist ideology. These organizations started countering each other to fulfill their interests and animosities all over the world. This generated arms race and development of nuclear weapons of mass destructions by them which could destroy the entire world. Russian Leader Gorbachev's reforms of Glasnost and Perestroika led to the end of Communist rule and abolition of Warsaw Pact in 1991. There was reduction in Cold War animosity. Measures were adopted for disarmament of nuclear weapons. People all over the world felt relief and hoped that the Cold War had ended but it emerged again between America and Russia within a few years. America did not dissolve NATO. Both America and Russia started new interventions and rivalries cropped up. The recent deployment of NATO forces and missiles in Eastern European countries have led to the emergence of New Cold War. This New Cold War is not based on Ideological fight. It is totally a fight for power and hegemony. The present paper tries to study and explore the dimensions of new Cold War and its impact.

New Cold War: NATO – Russia Rivalry

After the Second World War the power rivalry, Ideological differences and animosity between the United States of America and Soviet Union (USSR) led to the emergence of Cold war. North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) was founded during the beginning of Cold War on 4th April 1949 by the United States of America, Canada and ten West European countries- United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Denmark, Iceland, Italy, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Norway and Portugal, who were the original signatories of North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). In 1952 Greece and Turkey joined NATO. West Germany joined NATO in 1955. The NATO agreement was for collective self defence. The Treaty had agreement that "an armed attack against one or more of them…shall be considered an attack against them all". In case of attack, all ally would take action including the use of armed forces against the aggressor. Its need was immediately felt by US and West European countries after the blockade of West Berlin by Soviet Union supported East Berlin. In fact the creation of NATO after the Second World War, was part of a broader effort to serve three objectives: (I) deterring Soviet expansionism, (II) forbidding the revival of nationalist militarism in Europe through a strong North American presence on the continent, and (III) encouraging European political integration.[1] The Second World War had devastated Europe, on the other hand Soviet Unions' aggressive policy of overthrowing democratic governments by its backing and communist revolutions had created new threats for peace, democracies, freedom and stability in Europe and outside. Against NATO, Soviet Union formed Warsaw Pact with East European States in 1955 to create a rival power group. There started intense power rivalries and animosities between NATO and Warsaw pact countries. France withdrew from NATO in 1966 but rejoined in 2009. NATO kept on growing and after the collapse of Soviet Union in 1991 even some Warsaw Pact countries joined NATO. For example in 1999 three former members of Warsaw Pact countries, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Poland joined NATO. In 2004 seven East European countries including, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania joined NATO. At present NATO has 28 countries as its members.

During the Second World War (1939-1945) the European powers- Britain, France, Germany and Italy etc. were destroyed as great powers. Ideologically USA and its NATO bloc stood for protection of democracies and liberalism. Soviet Union and its Warsaw Pact bloc were communist controlled countries believed in tight state control under the Marxist communist philosophy. Large scale nuclear and non-nuclear armaments were developed by both power blocs. The two power blocks developed and deployed atom bombs, nuclear bomb bombers, inter-continental ballistic missiles (ICBMS), sub-marine launched ballistic missiles (SLBMS) and large number of nuclear warheads which threatened the survival of the world. Though USA and Soviet Union avoided direct wars but got engaged in proxy wars. They supported countries and rebel forces opposed to rival block all over the world.

By 1991 political situation had totally changed due to the end of Cold War. The reforms and dissolution of the Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact paved the way. Communist rule ended in Soviet Union. The world expected that the long standing ideological bitterness and military rivalry between American led NATO bloc and Soviet Union led Warsaw Pact countries since the end of Second World War, would come to an end after Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's Perestroika policy since mid 1980s onwards. By Perestroika Gorbachev started a process of major political and economic reforms in Soviet Union towards liberalization. He adopted Glasnost policy for bringing openness and change in foreign policies to end Cold War. In this effort United States of America also extended cooperation with Gorbachev to end the Cold War. Both powers signed four important treaties for disarmament. In 1987 Intermediate – Range Nuclear Force (INF) Treaty was signed to eliminate intermediate range and short range nuclear missiles of the Soviet Union and America ranging from 500 to 5,500 Kilometers.[2] It also required destruction of their launchers, associated support structures and support equipments within three years after the treaty entered in force. After this, the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (the CFE

Treaty) was signed in 1990.[3] This treaty fixed the ceiling of major weapons for NATO and Warsaw Pact organizations on parity basis. In this treaty, there was an agreement on limiting number of tanks to 40,000, armoured combat vehicles to 60,000, artillery guns to 40,000, fighter aircrafts to 13,000 and attack helicopters to 4,000, within the areas of both groups.[4] So that each group could keep only half number of these defence items. Later on even ceiling on military man-power was agreed in this treaty. The third major agreement signed between America and Soviet Union was the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START-I). American President George Bush and Soviet Union's President Gorbachev signed START-I, the first Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty on 31st July 1991 meant for limitation in nuclear ballistic missiles.[5] By this time America and Soviet Union had 98 % of all the nuclear warheads of the world which were weapons of mass destruction and they could destroy the entire world many times. Under START-I agreement both USA and Soviet Union agreed for reduction of strategic nuclear arms on equal basis, which had to be carried out in three phases over seven years, from the date the treaty entered in force. Under this agreement both USA and Soviet Union had to limit their strategic nuclear arms so that they each should not have more than (i) 1600 Strategic Nuclear Delivery Vehicles (SNDVs) – including Sub-marine Launched Ballistic Missiles (SLBMs), Inter-Continental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs) and bombers, and (ii) 6000 nuclear warheads.[6] U.S. President George Bush ordered for removal of weapons covered under START-I from active installation. 400 Tomahawk missiles were removed from the ships and 24 hours active defence cover was terminated by U.S. Soviet Union's President Gorbachev ordered for reduction in nuclear weapon production and armed manpower in his country. He ordered for removal of nuclear missiles from active installations. On 3rd January 1993 START-II was signed by the American President George H. W. Bush and Russian President Boris Yeltsin to have two third reduction in nuclear strategic missiles (ICBMs, SLBMs) and bombers from pre START level.[7] After the reductions were to be complete in 2001, on Soviet Union side Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine would have no strategic nuclear forces. On completion, the strategic arsenals of USA and former Soviet Union (Russia) would have been reduced by 30/40 percent.

These four agreements brought enormous relief to the world as they tried to end Cold War hostilities and reduce nuclear armaments of mass destruction. The Communist regime ended in Soviet Union and many of its regions became independent leaving the main land Russia. Russia became the main inheritor of former Soviet Union's power structure and economy. In Russia the post-Communist regime even dissolved Warsaw Pact on 1st July 1991, which brought an end to 36 year old Soviet power bloc based on the Communist ideology. Russia also cooperated with NATO in peace keeping operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina in Europe in 1995-1996. Russia had to loose control over 1/3rd of its territory as many regions of the former Soviet Union became independent forming 15 new countries. Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia, the three Baltic States after becoming independent from Soviet Union, joined European Union and NATO.[8] The 12 other independent states from Soviet Union viz., Kazakhtan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Russia formed a Common Wealth of Independent States (CIS), though later on Georgia backed out of CIS in 2008. On the other hand, then prevailing economic crisis in Russia made it weak by putting it in a decade long economic problems. Many of the former Warsaw Pact countries joined NATO group.

After the dissolution of Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact there was no relevance of American led NATO military bock to continue. It was created mainly as an anti-Soviet anti-communist defence organization in 1949. In such situation America and the West should have dissolved their military alliance the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). On the contrary, subsequently NATO started playing a very dominant role in the world politics as an unchallenged supreme powerful military alliance. It played high handed role in many countries and conflicts, especially in Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria. NATO's war against the secessionists in Kosovo (1999) annoyed Russian government and soldiers. After Kosovo's independence Russia withdrew from NATO – Russian military cooperation which was formed in 1991.

Russia had joined North Atlantic Cooperation Council in1991 for military cooperation with NATO. In 1994 NATO and Russia had signed Partnership for Peace Programme. In 2002 NATO-Russia Council (NRC) was formed to serve as a forum for consultation on security issues and cooperation. Russia withdrew from START-II on 14 June 2002 which was ratified by both USA and Russia but not implemented till then, in response to U.S. withdrawal from the ABM Treaty.[9] As START was not taking off, America and Russia signed Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty (SORT) on 24 May 2002 for reducing strategic arms till 31 December 2012. Under this treaty each party agreed to limit their nuclear arsenals between 1700 and 2,200 operationally deployed warheads.[10]

New Cold War

   The situation deteriorated due to the military action of Russia in Georgia in August 2008. It led to the suspension of SORT. Russian militarily intervened in Ukraine during 2014-2016 civil war. Russia occupied Crimea of Ukraine in March 2014. In reaction NATO decided to suspend practical cooperation with Russia on 1st April 2014. U.S. President Barack Obama condemned Russian occupation of Crimea. United States and other Western powers expelled Russia from the G 8 Group. A New Cold War started between NATO and Russia. NATO forces have been deployed in the countries near Russia. NATO's military exercises were organized in member country Poland near Russia. America launched missile defence system in Romania. It is also building another missile defence system in Poland. On the other side, Russia has adopted its own counter measures

Deployment of NATO Forces in Eastern Europe near Russia:

    In June 2016, NATO countries decided to set up 4000 troops in Eastern Europe, especially in Poland, Romania, Bulgaria and Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania) on rotational basis. There has been long demand by Poland and Baltic countries for NATO forces. The US Presidential candidate and former Secretary of States, Hillary Clinton said, "a small but symbolic" permanent troop's presence would show the Russian President Vladimir Putin that NATO is serious about collective defence of East Europe. The NATO alliance held Summit from 8 to 13 July 2016 in Warsaw (Poland) and finally took the decision to deploy 4000 troops in Eastern Europe facing Russia. At Warsaw NATO Summit the U.S. President Barack Obama announced the deployment of 1000 U.S. troops to Poland as part of NATO forces. President Obama described NATO Summit in Warsaw (Poland) as the "most important moment" for the alliance since the end of Cold War.[11] The United Kingdom would lead one battalion and agreed to send 500 solders for a NATO battalion based in Estonia. Canada and Germany would lead two more battalion in Lithuania and Latvia. The NATO forces have already been reaching in those countries. By this move NATO forces have come up to the borders of Russia to counter Russian aggression. NATO perceives that Russia is acting very aggressively since 1914, following its armed takeover of Crimea and military backing to separatist rebels in Ukraine's eastern region.

NATO Military Exercises in Poland:

   NATO troops exercises in Poland in June 2016, which was called Anaconda-16. In this exercise 31,000 troops, fighter jets and war ships participated from 20 NATO countries. America alone had sent 14,000 troops, fighter jets, helicopters and warships. It was a ten days military exercise of NATO at the military base near Wedrzyn in Poland. Poland is an Eastern European country and former ally of Russia. It was a former member of Warsaw Pact organization and situated close to Russian border. The Anakonda-16 exercise gave extreme tension to Russian authorities. In fact the Anakonda-16 exercise in   Poland was to show the might of NATO and America to Russia. It was to build a   confidence among NATO members of Europe especially Eastern Europe, who had got threatened since the Russian occupation of Crimea in

2014. The exercise was at such a time when there was already a tense relationship between NATO and Russia which was growing since the Russian takeover of Crimea. The conflict was continuing in eastern Ukraine. In the Baltic Sea there was frequent cross fly over by Russian jets over U.S. warships. In the Gulf region, Russia was helping anti-American President Asaad's regime in Syria and fired several missiles against rebels. It even targeted pro-American rebels. For several years America had been fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan. It has spent huge resources in fighting with terrorists and Islamic State in Iraq. It wants President Asaad's regime to end in Syria for peace in the region. About the exercise in Poland, one of the U.S. battalion Commander Lt. Col. Michel Wagner even reported to have said that his troops were preparing for possible more high level warfare in Europe.

U.S. Missile Defence System in Eastern Europe:

United States launched ground based anti-ballistic Missile Defence System Aegis Ashore in East European country Romania in May 1016 at Devesulu base. America has said that this in not against Russia and it is only for defence of European countries from missile attack from rough states like Iran and Islamic State. Another anti-ballistic missile defence base of NATO is being constructed in Poland which would be complete by 2018. However Russia has argued that from these bases NATO can launch missiles targeting Russian cities. Even U.S. Tomahawk cruise missiles can be launched from these facilities. Tomahawk is intermediate to long range missiles and they can carry conventional and nuclear warheads. They have been extensively used by America during the 1991 Gulf War and 1993 Iraq War, in 1998 against targets in Afghanistan and Sudan, in 2008 against targets in Somalia, in 2009 in Yemen and in 2011 in Libya against President Gaddafi's forces. America fired 47 Tomahawk missiles on 23 September 2014 against Islamic State of Iraq and Levant (ISIL) targets.

Russia's Counter Measures:

Russia is opposing U.S. missile defence bases in Romania and Poland. It has started defence preparedness as Russian President Putin said that foreign policy cannot be based just on promises. Reacting to NATO's move, Russia has decided to deploy three newly created military divisions to protect its southern and western borders. The Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said in an interview with the Russian media that these divisions would total 30,000 troops and will be in place by this year. He said that it was a direct response to NATO's plan to deploy thousands of troops in Baltic region and Poland. Russia has deployed advanced S–400 anti-aircraft missiles in Kaliningrad which is near the Baltic States. Putin has threatened to permanently deploy the 9K720 Iskander – M ballistic missiles in Kaliningrad. The Russian President Vladimir Putin has threatened that Russia will retaliate against the placement of US missiles in nearby countries such as Romania and Poland. There is more threat in the language of Putin who said in Greece on 27 May 2016:

"We have the capability to respond. The world saw what our medium range sea-based missiles are capable of (in Syria). But we violate no agreements. And our ground- based Iskander missiles have proven themselves as superb".[12]

Putin rejected America's argument that its allies have threats from Iran.[13] This may lead to a dangerous situation. The forces and missiles deployment may lead to conflicts and even a devastating war involving the NATO forces and domestic forces of its allies on one side and Russian forces on the other side. There is the past long history of Cold War conflicts between NATO leader America and Soviet Union. The possibility of present bitter New Cold War turning in to a hot war in near future may not be ruled out. It has already set in an arms race. In case of war between NATO and Russia there is the danger of nuclear war as well.

Past Cold War Conflicts:

After the Second World War, Cold War emerged from a conflict between U.S. President Harry Truman and Soviet Union leader Stalin over the future of Eastern Europe. U.S. President Harry S. Truman adopted steps to counter Soviet Union's influence in Eastern Europe and outside. This was called Truman Doctrine which began the Cold War between America and Soviet Union. The past Cold War continued till 1991. Truman wanted to counter Soviet leader Stalin's efforts to spread Communist revolutions in other countries. In mid-1948 Soviet Unions' Forces blocked West Berlin (Germany) on orders of its leader Stalin. This was first major conflict of Cold War. Then West Berlin was under the joint command of America, England and France surrounded by Soviet Union's controlled East Germany. Stalin ordered Berlin Blockade (24 June1948 – 12 May 1949) preventing supplies of food materials and other items from arriving in West Berlin.[14] In June 1950 North Korea invaded South Korea. America came in providing military support to South Korea under the United Nations' move, while Soviet Union and China provided military support to North Korea. Soviet Union was having high spirit as it had detonated atom bomb in 1949 and launched Sputnik long range ballistic missiles in 1950 that could reach up to America. After that Soviet Union wanted to engage America directly.

Soviet military started repression in Berlin (Germany) in 1953 for suppressing anti – Communist riots. Many Soviet leaders viewed anti-Communist riots as attack on Russian

support. In Hungary, Soviet Military invaded to suppress anti-Communist revolt in 1956. Soviet leader Brezhnev adopted policy to suppress anti-Communist/anti- Socialist revolts in socialist countries (Brezhnev Doctrine).[15]. The threat of Soviet military intervention was used to secure Communist regime in Poland two times in 1956 and 1981. In German city Berlin a wall was constructed in 1961 dividing Berlin on the line of Soviet supported and American supported areas. The Berlin Wall continued till 1989. In October 1962, Soviet Union installed nuclear missiles in Cuba just 90 miles away from American border. Due to this there was a tense political and military stand off on the side of America. In 1960s United States started deploying thousands of tactile nuclear weapons in the territories of its Western European allies to respond to the threats of Soviet Union. U.S. deployed intermediate-range nuclear missiles in its allies Turkey and Italy. U.S. supported Brazilian military to overthrow the government of President Joao Goulat in 1964 due to his leaning towards Soviet Union. In 1968 Soviet Union used Military to suppress anti-Communist revolt in Czechoslovakia. In April 1965 U.S. sent 22,000 troops to occupy Dominican Republic for one year to stop revolutionaries from capturing power. U.S. supported General Suharto to control government in Indonesia during 1965-1966. Suharto did mass killings of nearly half-a-million people branding them sympathizers of the communist party and other left wings.[16]

During the Vietnam War (Nov. 1955 to 30 April 1975) between non-Communist South Vietnam and Communist controlled North Vietnam, America sent huge military to fight in favour of South Vietnam against the Communist controlled North Vietnam. American President Kennedy had deployed 16,000 U.S. troops in South Vietnam till his assassination on 22 November 1963. His Successor President Johnson increased U.S. troops in Vietnam to 2,00,000 in 1965 and further to over 5,00,000 troops.[17] On the other side, North Vietnam was supported by Soviet Union and China. Soviet provided 15000 soldiers and huge military and economic aid to North Vietnam.[18] While China had sent 3,20,000 soldiers to fight against American supported South Vietnam. The estimated total casualties in this war ranged between 8,00,000 to 3.1 million. Finally American forces withdrew in 1973 and later on South Vietnam was annexed by North Vietnam. In Chile, America blocked elected Marxist Presidential candidate Salvador Allende from forming the government for many months.

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By mid-1970s U.S. and Soviet Union did show some restraint in Cold War politics. The efforts of U.S. President Nixon and Soviet Union's President Brezhnev did reduce some tensions. They started talks for limiting strategic arms, START. U.S. started relations with China. U.S. President Jimmy Carter also tried to normalize the tensions. However, by 1979 again Cold War erupted in full swing. Soviet Union occupied Afghanistan in 1979. NATO leader America reacted to this by halting talks on START. American hostage crisis in Iran (1979) after revolution further aggravated tensions of America. American president Reagan deployed huge number of forces in the bases of Kenya, Bahrain and Indian Ocean to deal with any eventuality. Soviet Union shot down Korean Air Lines Flight 007 in 1983 on entering Soviet air space, killing 269 people.

In West Asia Soviet Union was having close relationship with Communist ruled South Yemen since 1969. It was a close ally of Iraq during President Saddam Hussain's rule. Against this America helped Iran in eight years Iran-Iraq war (1980-1988). America provided military help to Saudi Arabia against the threat of Saddam Hussain of Iraq. America provided full economic and military support to Israel and made it a close ally. Soviet Union was helping Palestinians and leader Yasser Arafat's liberation struggle (PLO) against U.S. supported Israel.[19]

In Africa Soviet Union was close to Egypt during the rule of President Nasser and provided huge economic and military aid. During the rule of President Anwar Sadat there was Egypt-Israel war in 1973 and Egypt was defeated. Israel was supported by America. After this President Anwar Sadat sidelined Soviet Union and developed close relationship with America saying that Soviet support was not adequate. Fearing an internal war America mobilized huge force to protect Sadat's rule and gave economic help up to $ 4 billion. Soviet Union was providing economic and military help to Algeria. Soviet Union had been supporting Somalia's military officer Mohamed Siad Barre who had captured power after a coup and established a Socialist Democratic Republic. In Ethiopia a radical army officer Derg removed pro-American ruler Haile Salassie in 1974. Soviet Union provided help to the Ethiopean government of Derg. Soviet Union and Cuba provided full help to Ethiopia during Ethiopia-Somalia war (1977-1978). On the other side pro-American regimes of Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Iran were helping Somalian ruler Barre. It was observed that Somalia was getting American arms and tanks through Saudi Arabia and Iran.[20] In Angola during the two decades of civil war after independence in 1975 between the ruling MPLA government and rebel UNITA forces, Soviet Union and its ally Cuba provided support to MPLA government. A large number of Cuban forces were stationed in Angola to help MPLA government. On the other side America and its ally South Africa provided help and support to UNITA rebels. South Africa's defence forces (SADF) made direct invasions against Angola many times.[21]

New Cold War Politics and Emerging Trends:

After seeing the past Cold War conflicts, the present NATO and Russian rivalry possess a serious threat to the world peace. The major difference between past Cold War and New Cold War is that while in the past Cold War conflict was on ideological differences, in the New Cold War there is no ideological difference. Both NATO and Russia have liberal-democratic ideology, though Russia has slightly conservative outlook to safeguard its old values. This time Russian leader Putin has adopted the policy of hyper-nationalism and started military aggression not only in the European countries like Georgia and Ukraine but even in the West Asia. Russia has been providing support to the Syrian President Assad. President Putin has sent forces to drop missiles and bombs on Assad's opponents and Islamic State's fighters in Syria and Iraq. Even Russia dropped bombs on civilians, hospitals, schools, etc. and it has killed thousands of people there. Putin's support in favour of Shia leader of Syria President Assad was not liked by America, which wanted Assad to step down from power. America was supporting some

anti-Assad rebels in Syria as well. On the other hand, Russian forces are also targeting pro–American rebels in Syria. Russia's fight against Islamic State has also serious consequences for it at home. Russia has twenty million Muslims who are Sunni. Thousands of Russian Sunni Muslims have joined Islamic State on the call to fight in Syria and Iraq against President Assad and Western NATO forces led by the United States of America. Back home these Sunni fighters would become a serious threat to Russian government and social harmony of Russia. In Ukraine, Russia has already dragged its feet and it has become successful in bringing some areas under its control like seizure of Crimea in March 2014. It is providing support to the rebels in Eastern Ukraine. This has caused the Western countries to impose sanctions against Russia.

In Iraq, America has been fighting against Islamic State and frequently bombing in the areas controlled by it. America has been engaged in Iraq since its fight against President Saddam Hussein. The American and Russian bombing in Iraq and Syria and actions by terrorists have led to large scale killings and exodus of Arabs moving to European Union countries as refugees. The Arab refugees' problems and question of accommodation have created a crisis of governance across Europe. There is also resentment amongst local European citizens against the influx of refugees in their countries. In the United Kingdom in a referendum on 23 June 2016, 52% people voted for leaving European Union (EU). United Kingdom's moving out of the European Union (Brexit), somewhere reflects the resentment against Arab refugee influx as one of the factors. In UK referendum people voted for exit from European Union (EU) as the EU was asking United Kingdom to keep Arab refugees. In near future some other members may also decide to leave European Union on the same issue. Arab unrest has its linkage in the recent terrorist actions in France, Belgium and Turkey. There was the downing of Russian passenger aeroplane by terrorists in Senai (Egypt) on 31st October 2015 killing 224 people on board. There was the shooting down of Russian fighter plane by Turkey near its border. Islamic State terrorists have attacked six NATO countries – the United States, Canada, France, Belgium, Denmark and Turkey, since 2014. Even the terrorist plots have been unearthed in other NATO countries, United Kingdom and Germany. In this context, NATO's aggressive militarization of Europe has to be seen as a design to counter both the Islamic State as well as the Russian aggression in Europe. Turkey's government was unable to stop infiltration of Islamic State militants into its territory. Turkey's government has already paid the price after these incidents as a military coup was organized against President Erdogan's civilian government on 16th July 2016. Though the coup failed but it resulted in heavy casualty.[22]

Deployment of NATO forces in Eastern Europe has put pressure on Russia's continuing aggression in Ukraine. On the other hand, the Russian President Putin has set up his own national security goals. He has been trying to create a sphere of influence in post–Soviet space to increase his influence in Europe and Euro - Asia. He has been trying to weaken and divide NATO and European Union by increasing his influence in European continent and world politics. Russia has already got engaged in war in Georgia and Ukraine and it is adopting measures to counter new NATO military deployments.

The existing situation is beneficial for the NATO countries both politically as well as economically. Politically, NATO has increased its influence and reached up to the borders of Russia by deploying forces, which it was not able to reach during the earlier Cold War. For example, it has deployed forces in Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania), which were earlier parts of Soviet Union. Poland, Romania and Bulgaria where NATO forces are deployed, were earlier members of Warsaw Pact with Soviet Union. Economically, NATO's resources have increased due to joining of more members from Eastern European countries. On the other hand, the present situation is politically and economically damaging for Russia. Russia's defence mobilization for countering NATO's move and engagement in Ukraine and Syria has been causing significant economic and political loss. Russian economy is not passing through a good phase. Russia's intervention in favour of Syrian President Assad has resented Turkey, which is a big

consumer of Russian gas and a hub for Russian gas transportation to Europe. At present, when the oil prices are low, Russia is more dependent on oil and gas sale for revenue. In such situation, its confrontation in Europe, Ukraine, Turkey or Islamic states is economically damaging. Besides this a danger of direct military confrontation of Russia with the NATO forces is also looming large that may even turn in nuclear war. NATO's Secretary General, Stoltenberg has already admitted that the military assets deployed to Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland are the biggest reinforcement of NATO since the Cold War.[23] One has to see in the light of **NATO's Article 5** that the attack on any one member would be considered as an attack on all NATO members. In such case, any escalation of conflict between Russia and any NATO member would lead to a major war. The military preparedness of both sides has been becoming dangerous day by day. This New Cold War is not based on ideological fight. It is totally a fight for power and hegemony.

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