



**Pekka Kallioniemi** @P\_Kallioniemi

Jan 19 · 14 tweets · [P\\_Kallioniemi/status/1616000266352078849](https://twitter.com/P_Kallioniemi/status/1616000266352078849)

In today's [#vatnik](#) soup and the newest edition of "You pronounced this nonsense, not me", I'll talk about the NATO expansion and how - according to Russia - NATO and the West are actually at fault for the war in Ukraine.

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In 2007, around the same time when Russia started their "economic war" against Europe, Putin held a fiery speech at a Munich Security Conference in which he accused the West of expanding NATO, thus breaking a "solemn pledge" given by a US secretary ...

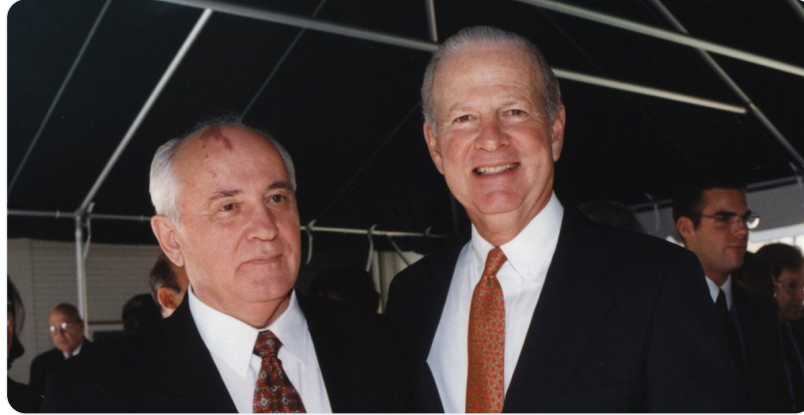
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... of state James A. Baker to Mikhail Gorbachev in 1990. According to some, Baker promised Gorbachev that NATO would not expand to the east if Russia accepted Germany's unification.

But this was never agreed. What Baker actually promised was that NATO would expand ...

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... "not one inch eastward", but he was referring to Germany, not Eastern Europe. No agreements on hindering NATO expansion were signed, and Gorbachev himself confirmed that NATO's enlargement was not discussed.

Allegedly Putin never forgave Gorbachev for his "blunders".

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## Russia's Putin pays tribute to Gorbachev but won't attend funeral

*Russian President Vladimir Putin denies the man who failed to prevent the collapse of the Soviet Union the full state honours.*



It took Putin, right, more than 15 hours after Mikhail Gorbachev's death to publish a restrained message of condolence [File: Christian Charisius/Reuters]

1 Sep 2022



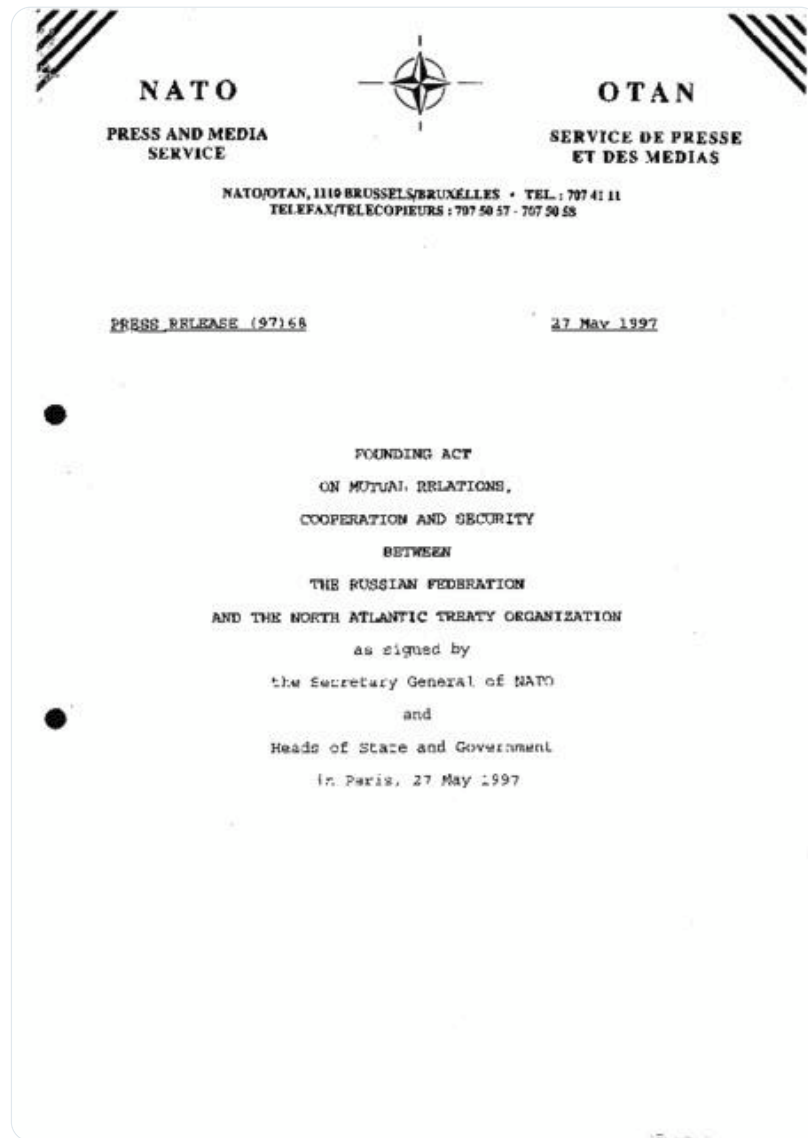
Russian President Vladimir Putin is to miss the funeral of the last Soviet leader, [Mikhail Gorbachev](#), denying the man who failed to prevent the collapse of the Soviet Union the full state honours granted to former President Boris Yeltsin.

Instead, the only formal agreement between the USSR and NATO countries was the Treaty of Final Settlement with Respect to Germany, which related only to troop placement & nuclear weapons inside Germany and former East Germany - & the promise made with this treaty has been kept. 5/13



While some of the old Warsaw Pact countries were asking for membership to join NATO in 1997, the NATO-Russia Founding Act was signed at the same time. The act stated that "NATO and Russia do not consider each other as adversaries" and that NATO expansion ...

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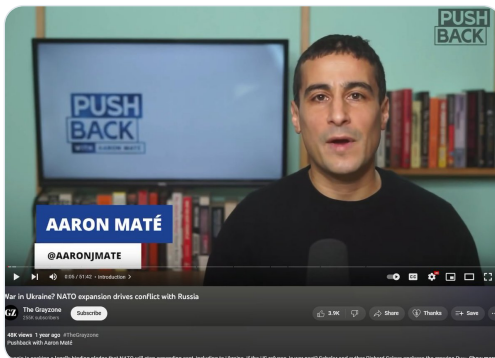
... is "a process that will continue". Before this, in 1993, Boris Yeltsin's wrote a letter to Bill Clinton saying that "Any possible integration of east European countries into NATO will not automatically lead to the alliance somehow turning against Russia."

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Yet, academics like Stephen Cohen, John Mearsheimer, the Grayzone bloggers and other pro-Russian propagandists refer (or referred) to the Baker-Gorbachev "agreement" all the time, stating that the US and NATO betrayed Russia's trust.

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## Why the Ukraine Crisis Is the West's Fault

The Liberal Delusions That Provoked Putin

*John J. Mearsheimer*

According to the prevailing wisdom in the West, the Ukraine crisis can be blamed almost entirely on Russian aggression. Russian President Vladimir Putin, the argument goes, annexed Crimea out of a long-standing desire to resuscitate the Soviet empire, and he may eventually go after the rest of Ukraine, as well as other countries in eastern Europe. In this view, the ouster of Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich in February 2014 merely provided a pretext for Putin's decision to order Russian forces to seize part of Ukraine.

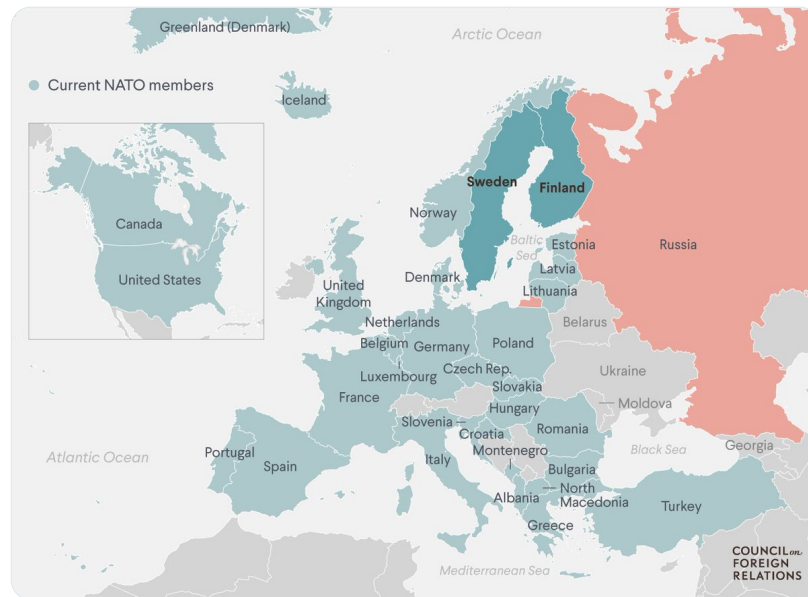
But this account is wrong: the United States and its European allies share most of the responsibility for the crisis. The taproot of the trouble is NATO enlargement, the central element of a larger strategy to move Ukraine out of Russia's orbit and integrate it into the West. At the same time, the EU's expansion eastward and the West's backing of the pro-democracy movement in Ukraine—beginning with the Orange Revolution in 2004—were critical elements, too. Since the mid-1990s, Russian leaders have adamantly opposed NATO enlargement, and in recent years, they have made it clear that they would not stand by while their strategically important neighbor turned into a Western bastion. For Putin, the illegal overthrow of Ukraine's democratically elected and pro-Russian president—which he rightly labeled a "coup"—was the final straw. He responded by taking Crimea, a peninsula he feared would host a NATO naval base, and working to destabilize Ukraine until it abandoned its efforts to join the West.

Putin's pushback should have come as no surprise. After all, the West had been moving into Russia's backyard and threatening its core strategic

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Now, it's worth mentioning that NATO does not force anyone to join its ranks. Each country can put in their membership applications, and after it has been ratified by all other members, the country gets to join NATO. So, completely voluntary.

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NATO has carried out an offensive military operation without the UN Security Council mandate once, in 1999 in Yugoslavia. This triggered some discussions on the operations legitimacy: its critics argued that the campaign violated international law and supporters argued...

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... that the attack brought an end to the ethnic cleansing of Kosovo's Albanians.

During the 90's Russia had no interest (or resources) to stop the NATO expansion, and Hungary, Czech Republic and Poland joined the alliance in 1999.

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Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia joined the club in 2004, as did Slovakia. Actually, of the members added between 1990 and 2020, all were either formerly part of the Warsaw Pact or former Yugoslavia.

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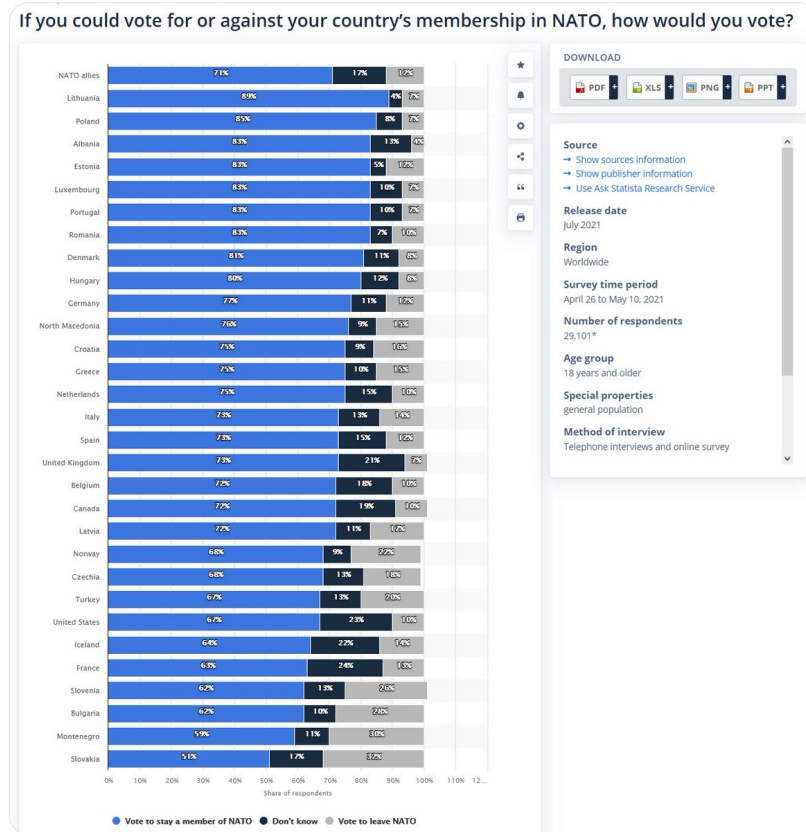




It's strange how all these countries, previously oppressed by the USSR, wanted to join NATO as soon as they could.

For example in Hungary, 85% of voted in favor of joining NATO. It's almost like they were still afraid of Russia's imperialistic endeavours.

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In today's #vatnik soup I'll discuss Russkiy mir, the "Russian World". It's a concept that comprises of core culture of Russia, including its traditions & interactions with other cultures. This series is an attempt to explain motivations behind Russia's actions & motivations.1/17



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Russkiy Mir 2:

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In today's #vatnik soup I'll continue talking about Russkiy mir, the "Russian World". This time I'll focus on the Russian idea of nationality, "Narodnost", and I'll also discuss Russian imperialism.

The first can be found here:  
[twitter.com/P\\_Kallioniemi/...](https://twitter.com/P_Kallioniemi/...)

1/12



A photograph showing a man in a heavy, brown winter coat and hat, eating a large, round piece of bread from a white plate. He is outdoors in a snowy environment. In the background, there is a building with a sign that reads "P 054 AH 177 RUS" and other people in winter clothing.

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In today's #vatnik soup I'll discuss Russkiy mir, the "Russian World". It's a concept that comprises of core culture of Russia, including its traditions & interactions with other cultures. This series is an attempt to explain motivations behind Russia's actions & motivations.1/17



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NATO vs Russia:



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In today's #vatnik soup and 3rd edition of "You pronounced this nonsense, not me", I'll explain why  is definitely NOT fighting NATO as they say. 1st of all, why are they claiming this without showing any proof? There are two reasons: 1)  always lies, & 2) they're losing. 1/9



5:39 AM · Dec 5, 2022



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