

EDAM's Selected Works on NATO

The Iran War: Fracture in the International Order and NATO (30.03.2026)

Ambassador (R) Tacan İldem reads the Iran war as far more than a regional clash, casting it as a stress test for a fraying international order. He argues that eroding American leadership and a sidelined United Nations have made crises harder to manage, while President Trump's conduct strains the Alliance itself. He also flags the Turkish angle: even with missiles crossing its airspace, Ankara kept its composure and held back from invoking Article 4. The piece is a pointed reflection on NATO's cohesion and the limits of global governance.

NATO's Reflection Process on the Southern Neighborhood(s) (09.05.2024)

Ambassador (R) Tacan İldem examines NATO's rethink of its Southern Neighborhood, from the Middle East and North Africa to the Sahel. He argues that terrorism, migration, fragile governance and the growing reach of Russia and China make the south central to the Alliance's 360-degree security, not a lesser concern than the east. Rather than new institutions, he urges NATO to get more from the partnership tools it already has, in closer step with the EU, UN and African Union. His central plea is that the reflection process end in real policy, not paperwork.

NATO's Role in Addressing Security Threats and Challenges in the Black Sea (01.11.2023)

In a joint report with the Sofia Security Forum and the New Strategy Center, EDAM argues that NATO's Black Sea posture needs more than traditional deterrence. It highlights resilience, intelligence-sharing, technology and closer NATO-EU coordination, with Bulgaria, Türkiye and Romania at the heart of a tighter trilateral effort. The report makes the case for treating the Black Sea as a central pillar of Euro-Atlantic security rather than a secondary theater. It reads as a regional blueprint for keeping deterrence credible against persistent Russian pressure.

Rethinking the Iran Challenge from the Perspective of NATO (31.07.2023)

Dr. Can Kasapoğlu turns the spotlight on a threat Western capitals tend to underrate when they debate Türkiye's F-16 modernization: Iran. He highlights Tehran's fast-growing missile, drone and long-range strike capabilities, boosted by Russian and North Korean support, and asks what they mean for Türkiye's defense. He argues that technology controls and the S-400 fallout have left Ankara struggling to build credible countermeasures. It is a sharp reminder that Iran, not just intra-Alliance politics, belongs at the center of the F-16 debate.

Is There a Need to Develop a NATO Strategy for the Black Sea Security? (06.07.2023)

Ambassador (R) Tacan İldem asks whether NATO needs a dedicated Black Sea strategy as Russian pressure and great-power rivalry intensify. He traces Türkiye's long-held preference for regional ownership and

cooperative security, and explains why the war in Ukraine has narrowed that space. He argues for a holistic, multi-domain approach that links the Black Sea, Mediterranean and Caspian and deepens cooperation among riparian allies. It is a clear-eyed look at managing escalation while standing behind Ukraine and Georgia.

Finland and Sweden on the Ragged Road to Vilnius NATO Summit (01.02.2023)

Ambassadors (R) Tacan İldem and Fatih Ceylan trace Finland and Sweden's bumpy path toward NATO membership after Russia's aggression reshaped European security. They discuss how the Madrid Trilateral Memorandum, Türkiye's counterterrorism concerns and incidents like the Quran burning stalled ratification. The authors show how the process became tangled in Turkish domestic politics and election timing ahead of the Vilnius Summit. Their account is a concise study of how alliance enlargement plays out amid competing national interests.

China West Relations and The Scholz Visit (08.11.2022)

Ambassador (R) Ali Tuygan examines the widening rift between China and the West, and where Germany fits in. He discusses NATO's warnings over China's nuclear build-up and its alignment with Russia, and the friction that AUKUS stirred. He then turns to Chancellor Scholz's visit to Beijing and Berlin's decision to keep trading with China despite the tensions. The result is a compact look at how Europe hedges between confrontation and commerce with Beijing.

A Recast Strategic Landscape from One NATO Summit to the Next (04.07.2022)

Ambassador (R) Ali Tuygan reads the 2022 G7 Elmau and NATO Madrid summits together as a turning point for transatlantic security. He highlights their condemnation of Russia, the pledges to Kyiv, and the G7's \$600 billion answer to China's Belt and Road. He also notes the unfinished business: no endgame in Ukraine and strains over food, energy and enlargement. His assessment is a crisp reminder of how hard lasting allied solidarity is to build.

Toward NATO's Madrid Summit (13.06.2022)

Ambassador (R) Ali Tuygan surveys the road to NATO's Madrid Summit through the themes of the Brussels Communiqué. He discusses how Russia's invasion of Ukraine galvanized unprecedented unity, even as efforts to isolate Moscow met resistance beyond the West. He highlights the challenges piling up, from enlargement and defense spending to aligning on China and steadying the Black Sea. It serves as a useful primer on the questions facing the Alliance as Madrid approached.

The War in Ukraine and Turkey's Relations with NATO Allies (27.04.2022)

Ambassador (R) Ali Tuygan examines how the world answered Russia's invasion of Ukraine and what it means for Türkiye. He discusses the Western resolve behind the 40-nation Ukraine Contact Group and Germany's shift toward sending heavy weapons. He argues that the war's course could reshape Ankara's

calculus and even warm US-Turkish ties, even as Western criticism of Türkiye's rights record persists. The piece is a concise take on Türkiye's balancing act amid the crisis.

Turkish Perspectives on the new NATO Strategic Concept (29.03.2022)

EDAM analyst Zeynep Başaran lays out the new NATO Strategic Concept from the perspective of an indispensable ally, Türkiye. She explains why the 2010 Concept no longer fits and previews what the 2022 Madrid document is likely to say about Russia, China and the south. She argues that counterterrorism should run through all of NATO's core tasks and raises Ankara's concern over Allied ties with non-state actors in Syria. It is a concise guide to what Türkiye wants from the Alliance's new blueprint.

Towards a New NATO Strategic Concept (28.03.2022)

Ambassador (R) Tacan İldem frames the debate over NATO's next Strategic Concept, arguing the 2010 version no longer fits a world remade by Russia's war on Ukraine. He highlights a revisionist Russia and terrorism as enduring threats and urges a sharper read on a rising China and the deepening Moscow-Beijing alignment. He calls for holding NATO's technological edge and making the Alliance as strong politically as it is militarily. He closes by laying out the hard questions the new Concept must answer.

Maintaining NATO's Collective Technological Edge: Geopolitics of Emerging Defense-Technologies (28.03.2022)

Dr. Can Kasapoğlu asks how NATO keeps its technological edge as emerging and disruptive technologies reshape war. He highlights the Alliance's priority fields, from AI and autonomy to hypersonics and space, and credits steps like DIANA and the NATO Innovation Fund while flagging the gaps. He argues that China is the nearer challenge, given its R&D strength, and singles out hypersonic weapons as especially dangerous. His piece maps what NATO must do to avoid falling behind in the next technological race.

Ebbs and Tides in NATO-China Relations (07.02.2022)

Ambassadors (R) Fatih Ceylan and Tacan İldem argue that China can no longer be treated as a distant economic power now that its reach extends to NATO's doorstep. They trace a thin, wary history of NATO-China contact and highlight how Allied and US strategy diverge on whether China is a challenge, an opportunity, or both. The authors call for patient, institutionalized dialogue, from a NATO-China working group to liaison offices in Brussels and Beijing. Theirs is a measured case for engaging Beijing without slipping into a Cold War reflex.

A Turkish Perspective on NATO 2030 and the Transformation of the Alliance (February 2021)

Writing in the shadow of the pandemic, Ambassador (R) Alper Coşkun asks what NATO must become to stay relevant in an age of disruptive technology and internal friction. He sets the Alliance's own NATO 2030 reflection process against a blunter Turkish grievance: that Ankara's calls for solidarity have too often gone unanswered. Returning to the flashpoints of blocked defence plans, the S-400 and CAATSA sanctions,

he argues that Turkey's choices are realpolitik, not a drift away from NATO. The result is a concise case for why Turkey remains central to the Alliance's future, and what it expects in return.

Anti-Unmanned Aerial Vehicles Warfare and Its Strategic Implications (02.12.2020)

Ambassador (R) Fatih Ceylan examines the scramble to counter the drones now shaping modern conflict. He discusses the full counter-UAV toolkit, from jamming and directed-energy weapons to trained birds of prey, and argues that defenses must be layered like ballistic missile defense. He warns that autonomous, stealthy and hypersonic systems are raising the bar, and presses NATO for civil-military cooperation and a proper legal framework. He even ventures that today's military drones could be museum pieces by the mid-2030s.

Tensions Between NATO Allies Greece and Turkey (07.09.2020)

Ambassador (R) Ali Tuygan examines a tense moment between two NATO allies, Greece and Türkiye, as their rivalry flared during the pandemic. He argues that both economies were hurting and that recovery, not military posturing over the Eastern Mediterranean, should come first. Drawing on his years as ambassador in Athens, he recalls how an earlier "period of dialogue" cooled tensions through cooperation and trade. His piece is a timely reminder that diplomacy, not confrontation, serves both countries' interests.

A Proposed Frame for a New Strategic Concept for NATO (May 2020)

Ambassador (R) Fatih Ceylan offers a blueprint for NATO's next Strategic Concept, written as if adopted by Allied leaders. He argues the Washington Treaty must be honored in full and the transatlantic bond kept at the Alliance's center, with Russia and terrorism as the two principal threats. He works through NATO's three core tasks, from an ironclad Article 5 to leaner partnerships and an Open Door for the Balkans by 2030. It amounts to a concise vision for a more relevant, resilient and politically stronger Alliance.

Reflections on the Impact of the Novel Coronavirus on Defence and Security: A Case for NATO (24.03.2020)

Ambassador (R) Fatih Ceylan makes the case that the COVID-19 pandemic is a security story, not just a health one. He discusses how the outbreak disrupted NATO exercises and operations and argues the Alliance needs a proper Counter-Pandemics Concept. He proposes deployable response teams and better medical evacuation, while urging members to reprioritize rather than slash defense budgets. It is an early, practical argument for treating pandemic readiness as part of Alliance resilience.

NATO at Seventy (06.12.2019)

Ambassador (R) Ali Tuygan reads NATO's seventieth-anniversary summit in London less as a celebration than as an exercise in damage control. He highlights the fault lines on display, from Trump's doubts over Article 5 to Macron's "brain death" remark and Erdoğan's demands on terrorism. He argues that the resulting

declaration was thin on real conviction about the Alliance's health. He ends on a pointed image: Russia opened its Power of Siberia pipeline to China on the very same day.

New Perspectives on Shared Security – NATO's Next 70 Years (14.05.2019)

EDAM's Sinan Ülgen and Emre Kürşat Kaya report on a NATO-backed gathering that asked where the Alliance goes next. They discuss the day's calls for a more holistic approach to the southern flank and stronger resilience against cyber and hybrid warfare, with Türkiye's role a live topic. A second session, they note, weighed what artificial intelligence means for the military, from strategic communication to information warfare. Their write-up offers a window into the ideas shaping NATO's next seventy years.

Türkiye NATO'da Olmasaydı? (10.12.2019)

Sinan Ülgen ve Büyükelçi (E) Fatih Ceylan, kışkırtıcı bir soruyla yola çıkıyor: Türkiye NATO üyesi olmasaydı ne olurdu? Yazarlar, kimi gerçek tarihsel olaylara kimi geleceğe dönük varsayımlara dayanan bir dizi senaryoyla üyeliğin Türkiye'ye kattığı güvenceyi sınıyor. Boğazlar'dan Doğu Akdeniz'e, düşürülen Rus uçağından olası bir siber saldırıya uzanan kurgularda, İttifak şemsiyesinden yoksun bir Türkiye'nin ne denli savunmasız kalacağını gösteriyorlar. Yazı, üyeliğin çoğu zaman görünmez kalan değerini çarpıcı biçimde hatırlatan bir düşünce denemesidir.