# Naval War College Review

Volume 53 Number 3 *Summer* 

Article 14

2000

# NATO Transformed: The Alliance's New Roles in International Security

Frederick Zilian

Follow this and additional works at: https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review

## Recommended Citation

Zilian, Frederick (2000) "NATO Transformed: The Alliance's New Roles in International Security," *Naval War College Review*: Vol. 53: No. 3, Article 14.

Available at: https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review/vol53/iss3/14

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at U.S. Naval War College Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Naval War College Review by an authorized editor of U.S. Naval War College Digital Commons. For more information, please contact repository.inquiries@usnwc.edu.

#### Book Reviews 211

resource for every serious international practitioner.

> JAMES P. TERRY Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps, Retired

Yost, David S., NATO Transformed: The Alliance's New Roles in International Security. Washington, D.C.: United States Institute of Peace Press, 1998. 450pp. \$19.95

For the student or policy analyst of European security, David Yost, professor of international relations at the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, has written an exceptional book. An expert on European security issues, he has an impressive academic background and has spent time in the world of policy making at the Pentagon (net assessments). With this work Yost does not simply provide a history of a post-Cold War Nato grappling to adapt to a world where the principal impetus for its existence-the Soviet threat-has passed. He offers a comprehensive account of the two new roles that Nato has assumed: cooperation with former adversaries and other non-Nato states in the Euro-Atlantic region, and crisis management and peace operations. As part of his investigation into cooperation with former adversaries, he presents a full analysis of Nato enlargement, an issue that drew much

attention in 1998 and 1999 and is still pertinent today. In addition, Yost provides a full analysis of the implications of these new roles, especially regarding their relationship to Nato's first and continuing role: the collective defense of the territorial integrity of its member states. Thus this book is not only a recent, political-military, Euro-Atlantic history but also an analysis of current and future issues for policy makers within Nato states and, indeed, states aspiring to membership. Additionally, Yost, relying mainly on the scholarship of Inis Claude and Martin Wight. offers the reader the international political theory (collective security, collective defense, and balanceof-power politics) necessary to provide a conceptual and historical foundation for his analysis of current issues.

Yost's analysis is systematic, wide ranging, and compelling. He is fastidious in clarifying the issues and then presenting, in scholarly depth, their many sides before offering his own sense. In the opening pages he provides his thesis: Nato has two new principal roles, but its original function of collective defense remains paramount. The alliance has increasingly taken on collective-security activities on a selective basis. This raises three issues, the most important of which is how to reconcile the new roles (thus "devising positive synergy")

1

### 212 Naval War College Review

with Nato's original purpose. Yost argues that the allies "have little choice but to follow a two-track policy—pursuing collective security aspirations... while maintaining their collective defense posture and orientation." Collective defense persists as the only firm foundation for alliance cohesion and strength.

The abridgement of his thesis in the opening chapter is fully remedied in his last chapter, "Prospects and Challenges," in which he gives fuller expression to the logical end points of the analysis presented in the body of his work. For the researcher, the lack of a bibliography is a drawback, although full citations are offered in the endnotes. Yost might have enriched even more the depth and balance of his analysis by including more references to the many challenges Nato has faced and surmounted in its fifty-year history.

As a reference, this book offers a number of helpful features. Its four appendices contain the Nato Treaty, the Partnership for Peace framework, the founding act between Nato and the Russian Federation, and the charter of partnership between Nato and Ukraine. Two useful glossaries and a schematic help in clarifying and making understandable the many organizations and terms currently constituting the European security architecture. Two maps, contrasting the Euro-

Atlantic region in 1988 and in 1998, are also supplied.

Yost began his research for this book in 1996–97 as a fellow at the United States Institute of Peace; his work continued until the spring of 1998. Yost's analysis of the issues is given weight not only by his scholarship but also by the quantity and quality of his primary and secondary sources, and by the many interviews he conducted on both sides of the Atlantic.

FREDERICK ZILIAN
Portsmouth Abbey School

Eberstadt, Nicholas. *The End of North Korea*. Washington, D.C.: American Enterprise Institute Press, 1999. 191pp. \$14.95

The End of North Korea provides a nuanced and accessible, if wordy, analysis of North Korea's economic situation and political behavior. Nicholas Eberstadt. a visiting scholar at the conservative think tank American Enterprise Institute (AEI) and a visiting fellow at the Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies, has been watching North Korea for many years. He has written a timely book that will be of particular interest to the policy community.

One of his major themes is that politics decisively dominated economics in North Korea in the past