

NATO's southern flank: The neglected theatre of transatlantic security?

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Essay questions

- Is the Euro-Atlantic community responding effectively and efficiently to new security threats arising in the Southern flank?
- Is a NATO “Mediterranean Strategy” needed?
- Will the Trump Administration succeed in re-balancing intra-NATO imbalances?
- Is NATO obsolete?

Problem with NATO's Southern flank

■ Lingerin9 issues

- NATO's core business: Central Europe
- From UK to US control
- Soviet/Russian southward ambitions
 - "Of all the challenges facing the United States today, one of the most crucial is the restoration of sense of direction and purpose to its policy on NATO's southern flank" (CSIA European Security Working Group, *International Security*, 1978-79)

■ New issues

- Post-2011: long-term instability and power vacuum
- State failures: Libya and Syria
- Disrupting non-State actors: illegal traffics; migration flows; terrorism
- State actors: Iran and Russia

Post-Cold War NATO

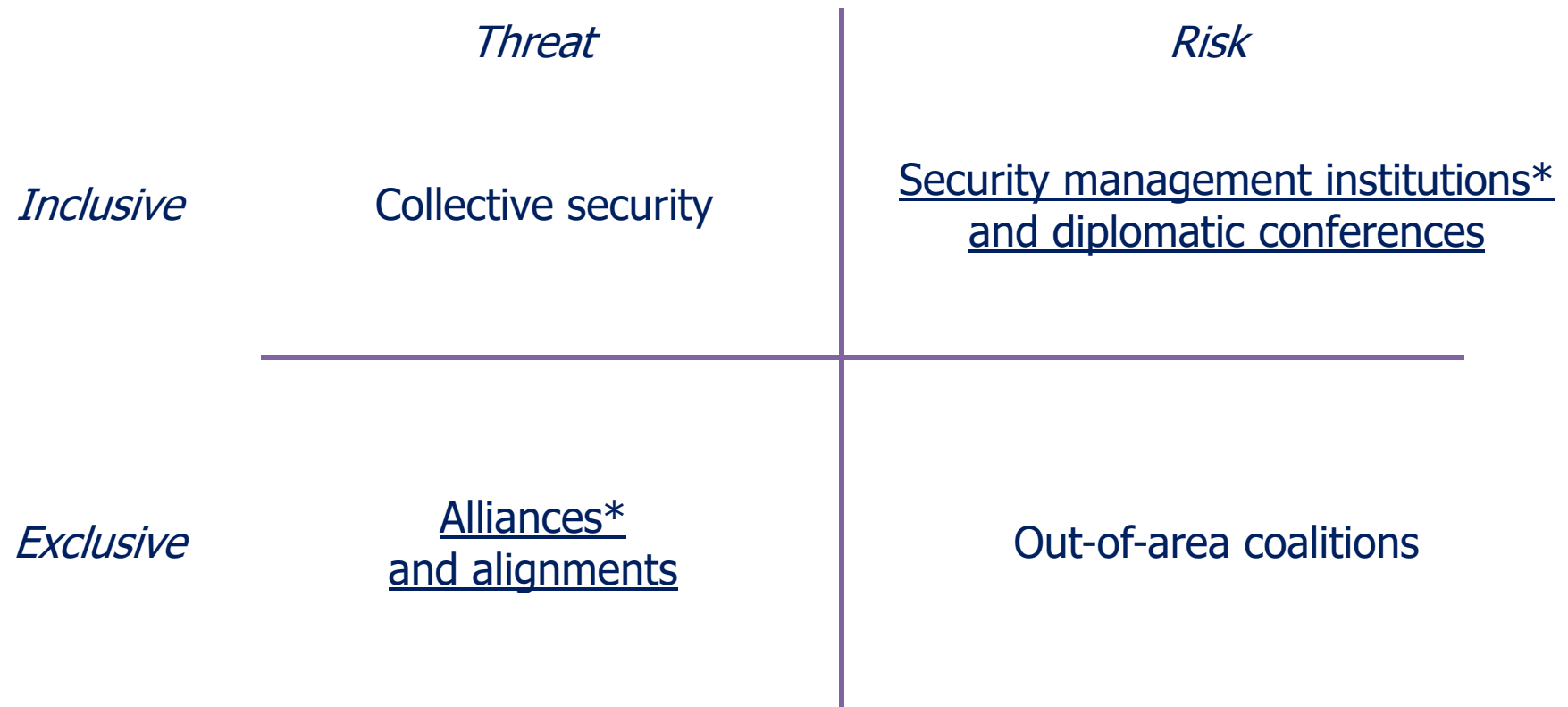
■ Multidimensional adaptation



- ✓ **Objectives:**
Collective defense & Collective security
- ✓ **Military:**
*Defense and deterrence
Inter-operability*
- ✓ **Strategic:**
*New doctrines
Out-of-area operations*
- ✓ **Institutional:**
*Partnership & enlargement
Reform of I.M.C.S.
NATO-EU cooperation*

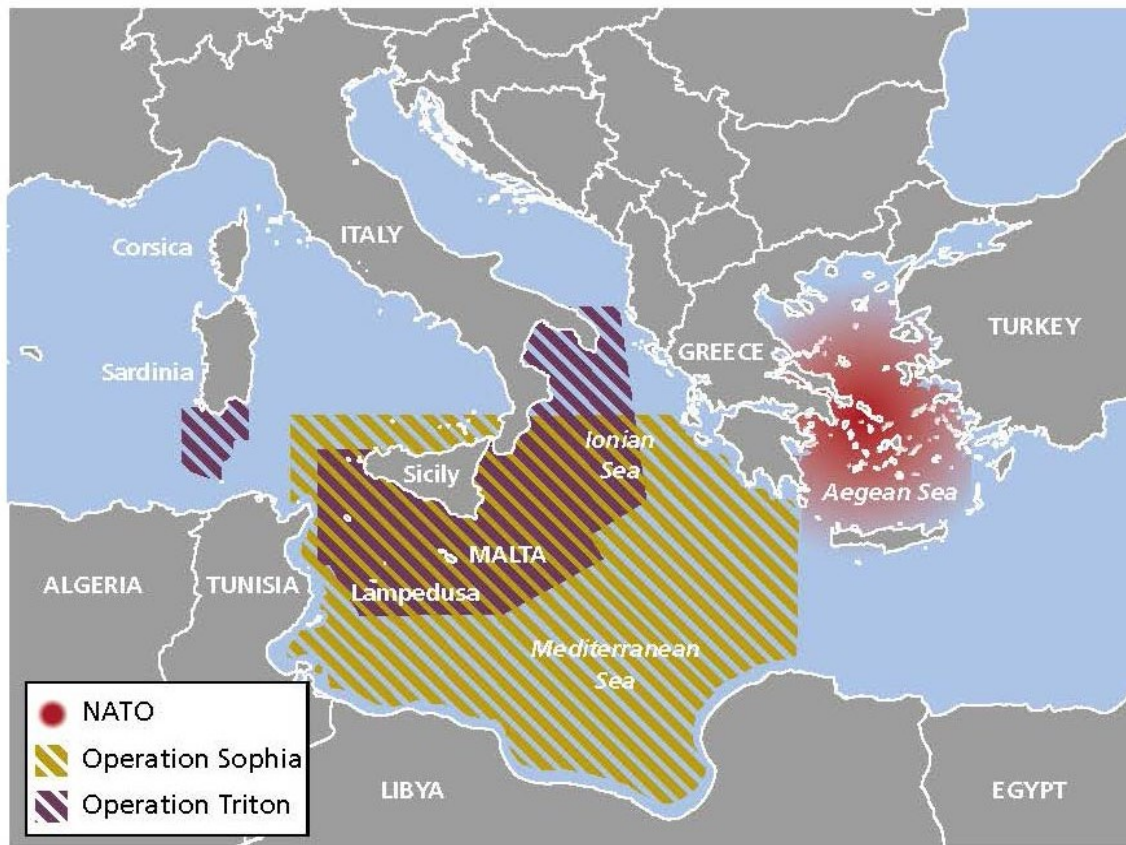
Post-Cold War NATO

- *Imperfect Unions: Security Institutions Over Time and Space (1999)*



21st century Mediterranean security

■ NATO at work



✓ Partnerships

2004: Med. Dialogue

✓ Defense and deterrence

2010-... NATO BMD

✓ Operations

2001-16 Active Endeavour

*2016-... **Sea Guardian***

2011 Unified Protector

2013 Turkish air defense

2016-... Aegean Sea

✓ EU operations

2013(-18) EUBAM Libya

2014-... Triton

2015-(18) EUNAVFOR Sophia

NATOs' current posture

■ Strategic Concept (Nov. 2010)

- Art. 4: "... continue fulfilling effectively three essential core tasks"

- a) Collective defense
- b) Crisis management

"... actively employ an appropriate mix of those political and military tools to help manage developing crises [...] before they escalate into conflict; to stop ongoing conflicts [...]; to help consolidate stability in post-conflict situations [...]"

- a) Cooperative security
- Artt. 36 and 37: reform and transformation

■ Maritime Strategy (Mar. 2011)

- The maritime contribution to Alliance security

- ❖ Deterrence and collective defense
- ❖ Crisis management
- ❖ Cooperative security
- ❖ *Maritime security*

- ✓ I.S.R. / Maritime interdiction missions / Energy security

Problems for NATO “Med. Strategy”

- Priority to Eastern flank (and High North)
 - Wide spectrum of issues: what goals and tools?
 - Blow to institutionalist theories?

- Legacy of 2011 Libya operation
 - Power vacuum; Jihadism
 - Europe’s backlash: crisis & unemployment; xenophobia & populism; “2 percent rule”

- Contradictory US leadership
 - Obama: “leading from behind”; Pacific
 - Trump: NATO skepticism; Russia

- Absence of “Mediterranean lobby” within NATO
 - No unifying threat
 - Bilateral relations and free-riding