

North

Atlantic

Treaty

Organization

&

RUSSIA

Russia's views on
the three newest
members of NATO
using sentiment
analysis

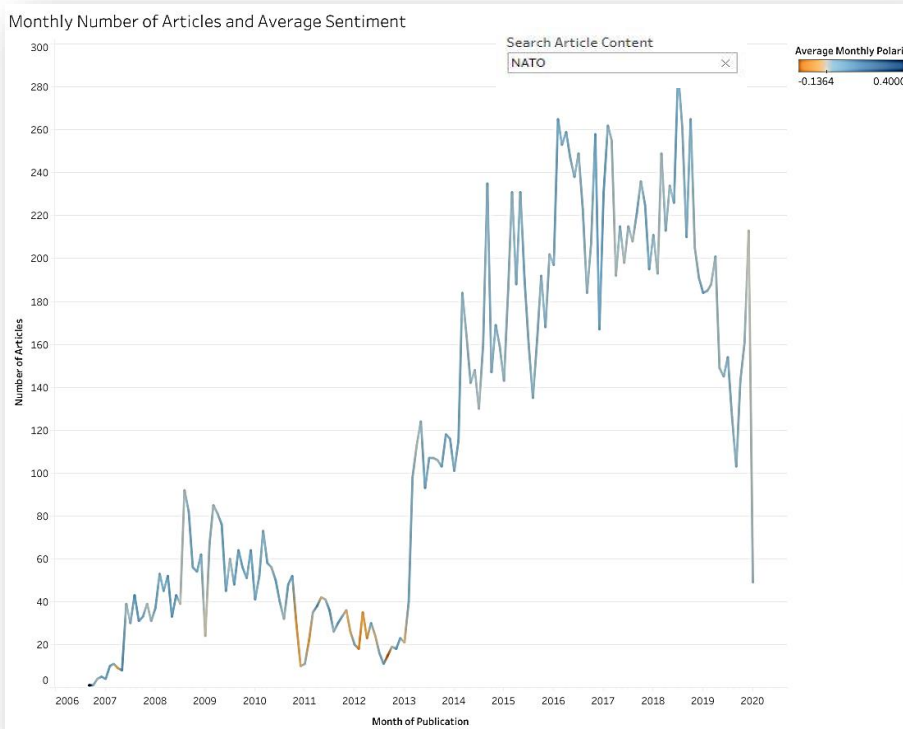
Leslie Wilson

Russia & NATO Relations

NATO

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, founded in 1949, was created by two North American and ten Western European countries to ensure members have a level of security within their respective regions. Currently, NATO has thirty “members” or countries working together around the world. The latest four countries under NATO are Albania, Croatia, Montenegro, and North Macedonia.

Due to several conflicts involving NATO alliances, the relationship has deteriorated.



The **Russia Today sentiment graph**, taken from focusdataproject.com, demonstrates the average monthly polarity for the word “NATO”. The string of light blue to gray indicates how articles containing the word “NATO” are close to neutral. The dips in the graph represent the number of articles released for the month. **Based off the timeline and seesaw effect of the graph line, one can assume, Russia discusses NATO less when conflict arises between the country and organization.**



NATO-Russia Founding Act of 1997 is used to establish cooperation between both NATO countries and Russia



NATO-Russia Council (NRC) 2002 was created for NATO members and Russia to achieve a stable relationship between both parties



Russia Deploys Military Troops to Georgia 2008 resulting in a suspension of meetings between the NRC & Russia



Russia's Illegal Occupation of Crimea, Ukraine 2014 furthered strained the relationship between NATO and Russia

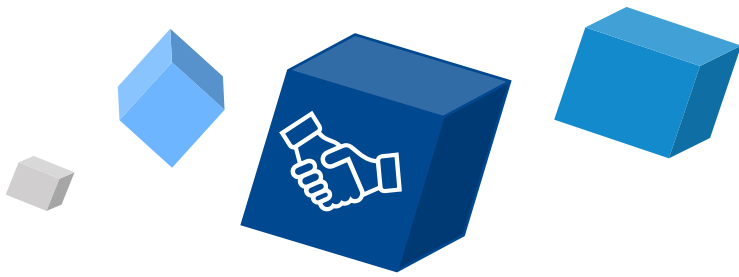


Nerve Agent Attack UK 2018 led officials to lose trust in Russia because of their involvement with the attack



Present Day Due to several conflicts between Russia and NATO their bleak relationship is indefinitely paused





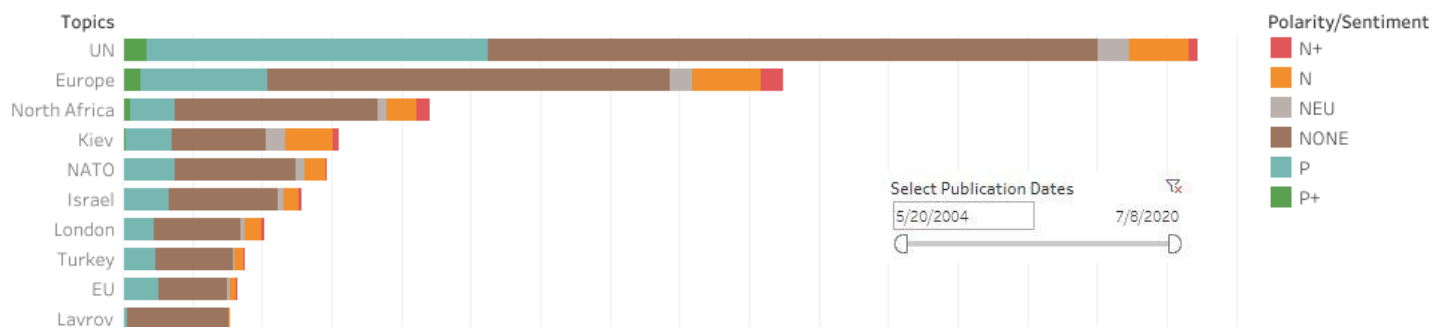
AMN, NATO & Russia

AMN

Albania, Montenegro, and North Macedonia, (AMN) were all accepted into NATO in the past eleven years. Albania was accepted in 2009, while Montenegro in 2017. The latest addition to NATO was North Macedonia in 2020.

NATO

Top Topics (with Sentiment)



From 2004 to 2020, NATO is the fifth most talked about topic in The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation website. In terms of sentiment, NATO topics tend to sway towards positive, however “NONE” is the strongest sentiment indicating how most NATO topics lack sentiment.

Russia

Because NATO members are slowly expanding around Europe, Russia is becoming more surveillant, and suspicious over NATO affairs. According to Bearing Witness, a report published by Booz Allen Hamilton, Vladimir Putin views NATO as Russia’s ‘enemy’ because Ukraine and Georgia were offered NATO membership in 2007 (Bearing Witness, pg. 11). Since NATO will continue to expand membership to other countries, Russia will continue to doubt and question the organization’s purpose.

NATO members all mapped below



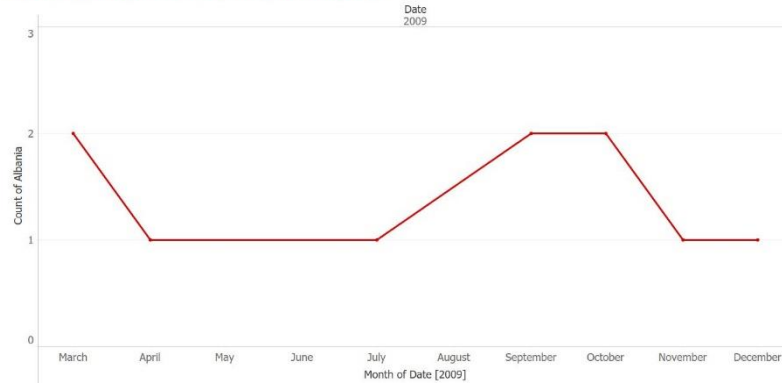
Russia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs on

AMN

Albania

Membership Date: April 1, 2009

Albania Mentioned in Headline and Article



For the year 2009, Albania was mentioned ten times in headlines and content on the Ministry of Foreign affairs website. Interestingly, Albania was mentioned more in September and October, than the month Albania was accepted into NATO.

Date	Sentiment	Emotion
24-Mar-09	Negative	☹️
16-Apr-09	Positive	😊
14-Sep-09	Negative	☹️
30-Sep-09	Positive	😊

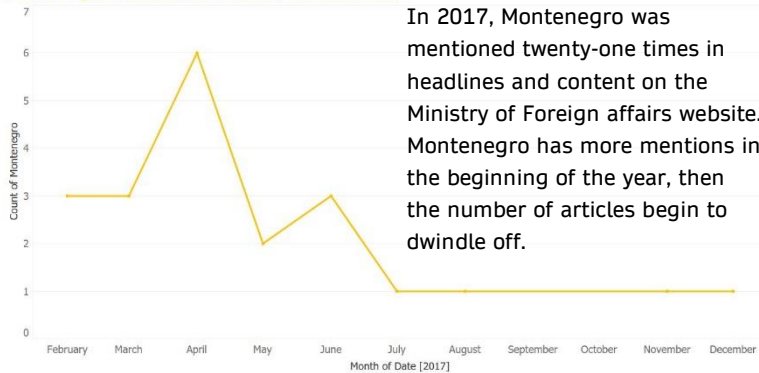
- Legend
- 😊 Happy
 - ☹️ Angry
 - 😄 Excited

The Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has not released an official statement regarding the acceptance of Albania as a NATO member. There was, however, an article regarding the NATO bombing of Yugoslavia, and 'Albanian Extremism' released on March 24, 2009. The emotion yielded from the article was angry, and the sentiment was negative. The tone set for the rest of the upcoming months regarding the word "Albania" was both negative and positive, with angry and excited leading as the strongest emotions.

Montenegro

Membership Date: June 5, 2017

Montenegro mentioned in Headline and Article



In 2017, Montenegro was mentioned twenty-one times in headlines and content on the Ministry of Foreign affairs website. Montenegro has more mentions in the beginning of the year, then the number of articles begin to dwindle off.

Date	Sentiment	Emotion
6-Jun-17	Positive	?
1-Jul-17	Positive	😊
3-Aug-17	Neutral	😊
9-Nov-17	Positive	?

- Legend
- 😊 Happy
 - ? No Result
 - 😄 Excited

Similar to Albania, no official statement has been released involving Montenegro membership. On June 6, 2017, Russia's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sergey Lavrov, commented on Montenegro stating, "We have already covered Montenegro being dragged into NATO. Our Western colleagues, primarily the United States and the leading EU countries, are obsessed with getting the Balkans on their side". The overall sentiment for the article is positive, however no results were yielded from emotion. Emotionless results indicate how the API had difficulty distinguishing the complexity of emotions in the article. The rest of the results regarding the word "Montenegro" were generally positive.

North Macedonia

Membership Date: March 27, 2020

North Macedonia mentioned in Headline and Article



Between 2019 and 2020, North Macedonia was mentioned in headlines and articles thirteen times. For the month of March 2019, North Macedonia was mentioned twice, compared to March 2020 where the country was talked about only once.

Date	Sentiment	Emotion
12-Nov-19	-	?
27-Feb-20	-	?
31-Mar-20	Positive	☹️
7-Apr-20	Neutral	😊

- Legend
- ☹️ Angry
 - ? No Result
 - 😄 Excited

Unlike the first two countries, Albania and Montenegro, an article about North Macedonia membership to NATO was officially released on March 31, 2020. The overall sentiment for the article was positive, while the emotion displayed was angry. The disparity between sentiment and emotion demonstrates the how negative feelings overrides positive words. Although positive words were used in the article, there was still a negative feeling to North Macedonia joining NATO.

References

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3. Office of the Historian, "North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), 1949", Department of State, n.d., accessed July 31, 2020, <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1945-1952/nato>
4. "Relations with Montenegro", North Atlantic Treaty Organization, December 14, 2017, accessed July 31, 2020, https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_49736.htm
5. "Relations with the Republic of North Macedonia", North Atlantic Treaty Organization, March 30, 2020, accessed July 31, 2020, https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_48830.htm
6. "Relations with Russia", North Atlantic Treaty Organization, August 5, 2019, accessed July 31, 2020, https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/topics_50090.htm