

# Student presentation by Casper NATO and the Arab Spring:

A new role for the trans Atlantic  
alliance (?)

## Disposition

- NATO – What is NATO?
- NATO and Libya: Operation Unified Protector
- NATO after Libya: Article by Fogh Rasmussen
- Libya: Beyond Regime Change – Another Approach
- Conclusion

## NATO

- <http://www.nato.int>
- A political and military Alliance
  - Political?
    - *“NATO promotes democratic values and encourages consultation and cooperation on defense and security issues to build trust, and in the long run, prevent conflict”*
  - Military?
    - *“If diplomatic efforts fail, it has the military capacity needed to undertake crisis management operations”*

## NATO

- The Alliance’s Strategic Concept (2010)
  - Collective defense
    - Art. 5, the bedrock of the Alliance
  - Crisis Management
    - Address the full spectrum of crisis – before, during and after conflicts
  - Cooperative Security
    - Partnerships
    - Arms control, non-proliferation disarmament
    - Enlargement

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## NATO and Libya



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## NATO and Libya

– Operation Unified Protector

- The Libyan revolution began on 15th of February
- NATO implements an arms embargo and a no-fly zone on 23<sup>rd</sup> of March enforcing the UN mandate. The operation expanded the following weeks.
- Mandate: “To protect Libyan civilians and civilian populated areas.”

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## NATO After Libya

### – important key notes

- Shortfalls regarding military intervention have been primarily due to political, rather than military, constraints.
- At the current pace of cuts in military spending, it is hard to see how Europe could maintain enough military capabilities to sustain similar operations in the future.
  - Defense spending by the European NATO countries has fallen by almost 20% while India's defense spending grew 59%, and China's tripled.
- The biggest security challenges facing the West is rising debt levels in Europe and the United States.
- The projection of military power can help prevent and, in extreme cases, diminish trends, as well as ultimately open the way for political solutions.
- The United States will demand that Europeans assume their responsibilities in preserving order, especially in Europe's periphery.
- The way forward lies not in spending more but in spending better
  - Pursuing multinational approaches, making the transatlantic compact more strategically oriented, and working with emerging powers to manage the effects of the globalization of security.
- The future of NATO according to Mr. Fogh Rasmussen
- Europe should pursue a 'smart defense' approach which also means encouraging multinational cooperation.
- NATO can act as a matchmaker, bringing nations together to identify what they can do jointly at a lower cost, more efficiently, and with less risk.
- Efforts must be made to ensure that NATO and the EU cooperate more closely.
- The UN Security Council must remain the overall source of legitimacy for international peace and stability.

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## Libya: Beyond Regime Change – Another (Critical) Approach

- The intervention in Libya
  - France
  - US
  - GB and other Atlantic oriented states.
- NATO ended up being responsible for an intervention in a foreign country without any real purpose or strategy other than the immediate protection of the civilian population.
- Military versus Political NATO (?)
  - NATO's real intentions when weighing political and military goals against each other
  - The intervention in Libya clearly represents a return to the 'peace-making through air bombardments' of the 1990s, only now with a new geographical setting.
- Humanitarian intervention?
  - R2P – Security Council adopted in March 2011 UN resolution 1973 to pave the way for the Libya intervention
  - Why not in Syria, Bahrain or other places like Zimbabwe, North Korea and Burma?
  - The resolution contains no authorization as such to eliminate the Libyan state leadership. At the very least, regime change is a far-reaching interpretation of a mandate given to protect civilians
- The intervention in Libya as a paradox
  - Cuts in defense spending
  - NATO already pressured in Afghanistan
  - Why?
    - NATO did it because it could.

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## Conclusion

- NATO should recognize that imposed regime change is a far-reaching interpretation of the 'R2P' doctrine.
- At this initial stage, winning the peace must remain the primary ambition. The promotion of democracy remains a long-term goal based on the ability to deliver political and social benefits to the broader population.
- Is the democratization of the World a Western crusade in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?

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