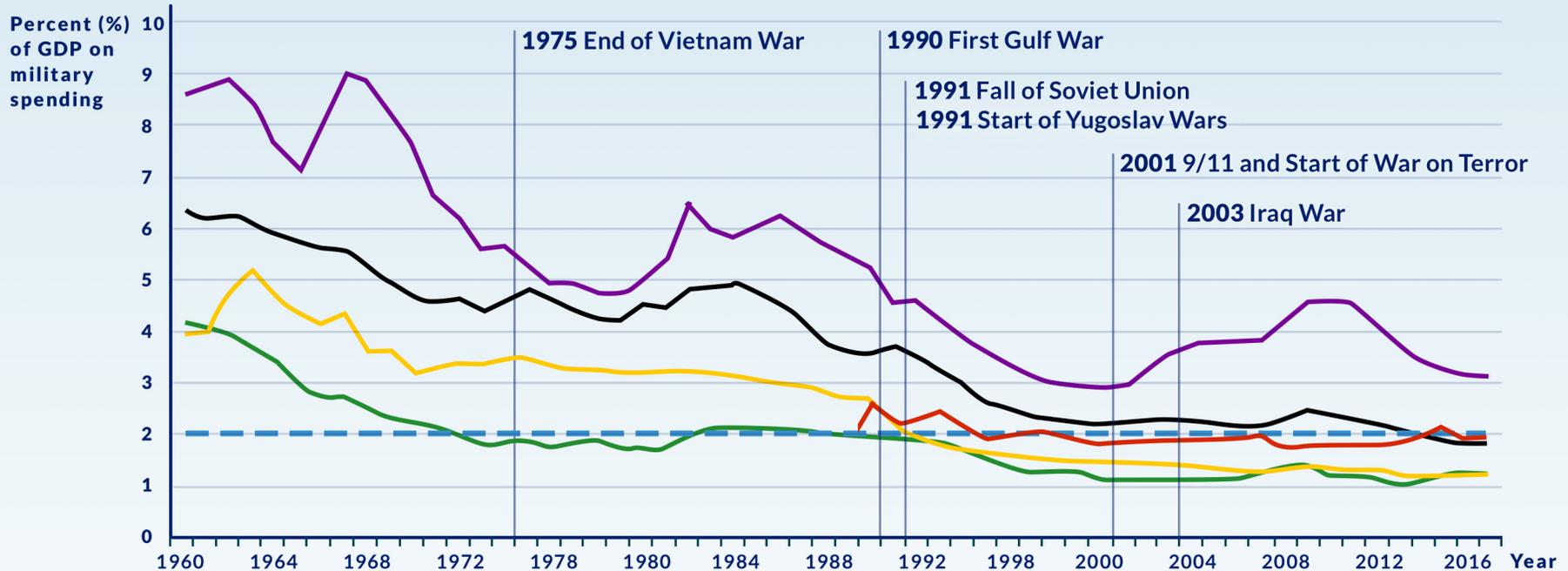


# NATO AT 70: MILITARY SPENDING (AS A PERCENTAGE OF GDP) OVER TIME

In April of 1949, twelve nations came together to found the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). World War II had ended, and the Cold War just begun. Now, 70 years later, the organization includes 29 members across North America and Europe. The Cold War is over, and military spending as a percentage of GDP has declined precipitously since the fall of the Soviet Union.

However, the organization is far from obsolete. NATO allies banded together to take action in the Balkans in the 1990s, as well support the United States following the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks. Today, NATO acts as a check on Russia in Eastern Europe. This month, we take a look at current debates on NATO members' military spending in this historical context.





**NATO**  
TWO PERCENT TARGET



**UNITED STATES**  
joined 1949



**POLAND**  
joined 1999



**UNITED KINGDOM**  
joined 1949



**GERMANY**  
West Germany joined 1955  
German reunification 1990



**CANADA**  
joined 1949