

## CFE (Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe)

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Recently, Russia formally withdrew from **CFE (Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe)** treaty designed to **de-escalate potential East-West conflicts**, in a latest sign of rising tensions between Russia and **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)**.

[ref- armscontrol]

### **About CFE:**

- **Negotiation and Conclusion:** The CFE Treaty was negotiated and concluded in 1990 during the last years of the Cold War, **establishing limits** on **conventional military equipment** in Europe and mandating the **destruction of excess weaponry**.
- **Purpose:** The treaty aimed to maintain a **military balance** between **NATO** and the **then-Warsaw Pact countries** by placing limits on the deployment of conventional military equipment.
- **Post-Cold War Context:** The treaty symbolized the optimism for a new architecture of global and European security based on cooperation, especially in the post-Cold War era.
- **Russian Suspension:** Russia suspended its participation in 2007 and formally halted it in 2015, citing NATO's alleged breach of the treaty.
  - In 2023, Russia withdrew from the treaty, prompting the United States and NATO allies to suspend their participation in response.

### **About Warsaw pact:**

- **Formation and Purpose:** The Warsaw Pact, formally known as the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance, was signed in 1955 in Warsaw, Poland, between the Soviet Union and seven Eastern Bloc socialist republics.
  - It served as a **collective defense treaty** during the Cold War.
- **Counterweight to NATO:** Dominated by the Soviet Union, the Warsaw Pact was established as a counterweight to NATO and the Western Bloc, aiming to maintain a balance of power.
- **Military and Economic Components:** The Warsaw Pact had both military and economic aspects, serving as a complement to the **Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (Comecon)**
  - Comecon was the **regional economic organization** for the Eastern Bloc states of Central and Eastern Europe.
- **Proxy Wars and Ideological Conflict:** While there was **no direct military confrontation** with NATO, the conflict between the two organizations was fought on an ideological basis and through proxy wars, leading to the expansion of military forces in both blocs.
- **Invasion of Czechoslovakia:** The Warsaw Pact's largest military engagement was the invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968, which contributed to the **unraveling of the pact**.
  - Czechoslovakia was its own member state.
- **Decline and Dissolution:** The Warsaw Pact began to unravel with the spread of the Revolutions

of 1989 in the Eastern Bloc.

- **East Germany** withdrew in 1990, and the pact was declared at an end in 1991 by the remaining member states.
- **Post-Dissolution Developments:** After the dissolution, several former Warsaw Pact countries, including **East Germany**, joined **NATO** in the following years.
  - The Soviet Union dissolved in December 1991.