

After learning about this year's History Day theme, Turning Points in History, I chose to do a project on the formation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). I first heard about NATO when I heard about the war in Ukraine. I thought the war in Ukraine was interesting because it was impacting the world. I wanted to understand NATO's role in the war. It seemed like a good idea to start with the history of NATO to make sense of the present events.

I conducted my research by starting on NATO's official website. It provided information and articles on how NATO works and what it is currently doing. Though the official NATO website was helpful, I needed to branch out to other sources to learn about what happened before it was created. I found books that helped explain some of the major events in NATO's history like the Cold War. Finally, I found several profiles of experts on the NATO website, and selected one to contact for my interview. I emailed Jamie Shea, the retired Deputy Assistant Secretary-General for External Relations, and he responded quickly. Mr. Shea was able to answer some of my more specific questions that I could not find in other sources such as "How does NATO's purpose compare from its initial creation to today?"

I chose a website for my project because I thought it would be interesting to present information in a digital format. The first step in creating my project was writing my thesis as a framework for my project. After that, I wrote my script, which provided all of the words and information I would put on my website. Next, I found pictures to put on my website. Finally, I made my website using the pictures and script in the nhd.org website builder. I used the same color scheme as the NATO logo and made the layout easy to read by putting pictures next to the words they correlated with. I learned to work with the website builder and how to make the pages on my website look professional.

I argue that on April 4, 1949, the founding and creation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, was a pivotal turning point in global politics and conflicts. NATO ensured the safety of its member countries by promising assistance from the other members if one of them was under attack. NATO's prevalence and purpose evolved and grew in the public eye as new countries joined NATO and conflicts arose.

My topic is a turning point in history because it changed world conflicts and politics. It created one of the biggest alliances in the world with a policy of mutual defense, which deters attacks and provides protection to its members.. Since it was created, NATO has been involved in political decisions and conflicts between countries to keep peace because an alliance of NATO's size is quite a deterrent.