

# Enemy at the Gates? Understanding the annexation of Crimea by looking at NATO enlargement

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## Table of contents

1.1 Introduction	3
2.1 Motivations behind the annexation	6
2.2 The historical roots of liberalism in IR	9
2.3 Method	12
3.1 Results	14
3.2 Analysis	20
4.1 Conclusion	26
5.1 Reference list	28
5.2 Appendix	30

## Introduction

The on-going Ukraine crisis is about to enter into its fourth year as some of the problems that started with President Yanukovich's decision to suspend negotiations between Ukraine and the European Union (EU) are yet to be resolved. Although the Euromaidan demonstrations achieved the goal of restarting negotiations with the EU, the Russian Federation imposed a heavy price on Ukraine for what was in President Putin's eyes the illegal overthrow of a democratically elected, pro-Russian president. After occupying Crimea and holding a referendum on its political status, the Russian Federation officially annexed Crimea on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 2014. These events were soon followed by similar separatist demands in other parts of Ukraine, most notably the Donbass region. The pro-Russian protests in the Donbass region escalated into an armed conflict between government forces and separatist forces of the self-declared Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics. These two separatist states both heavily rely on Russian support for their war effort.

The great extent of Russian involvement in the Ukraine crisis is difficult to explain solely on account of the removal of Yanukovich, who was even hated by Putin according to WikiLeaks (Götz, 2015, 5). The reasons for Russian involvement in the Ukraine crisis are to be found in the strategic implications of the fall of Yanukovich. Different academics have examined the Ukraine crisis and have given different explanations for the strategic motivations behind Russian actions in Ukraine. The following is a simple categorization of these academic explanations: geopolitics, Russian domestic politics, Russian identity, and Putin's personality. These explanations roughly correspond to the International Relations (IR) theories of realism, liberalism, constructivism, and strategic perspective. Whereas other explanations tend to focus on Russia and Putin, geopolitical explanations focus more on international politics. Therefore, geopolitical explanations provide a broader context for understanding the Ukraine crisis (at the cost of in-depth knowledge) and take into account other relevant actors apart from Russia or Putin as opposed to other explanations.

One notable example is the geopolitical explanation of John Mearsheimer (2014a), which points towards the West in order to explain the Ukraine crisis. Supposedly, the Western policies of NATO enlargement, EU expansion, and democracy promotion in Ukraine threatened Russian core strategic interests to such an extent that Moscow felt forced to annex Crimea and to support separatism in the Donbass region. The prospect of NATO membership for Ukraine and the loss of the Sevastopol naval base was especially unacceptable to Russia (Mearsheimer, 2014a, 1). The

events in Ukraine took Western elites by surprise because of their flawed view of international politics. The lack of appreciation for the logic of realism among Western elites combined with the heavy emphasis on liberal principles such as the rule of law, economic interdependence, and democracy as the basis of European security have led to the crisis. The Ukraine crisis therefore shows that realpolitik still remains relevant in the twenty-first century (Mearsheimer, 2014a, 2). Mearsheimer also points out the numerous objections Russia made against NATO enlargement after the end of the Cold War. The first and second round (1999, 2004) of NATO enlargement brought in 10 new members (9 of which were former Warsaw Pact members). The Russians had complained bitterly from the start, but they were too weak to block NATO's eastward expansion at this time. When NATO considered admitting Georgia and Ukraine at the Bucharest summit in 2008, Putin warned that this represented a direct threat to Russia. This point was made clear with the Russian invasion of Georgia in 2008. Despite this NATO did not abandon its goal of bringing in Georgia and Ukraine and continued to expand with Albania and Croatia becoming members in 2009 (Mearsheimer, 2014a, 3). The strategic importance of Ukraine to Russia becomes clear when looking at the Western invasions Russia has suffered in the past. The logic behind the position of Russia is therefore easy to understand from a geopolitical perspective as great powers are always sensitive to potential threats near their home territory (Mearsheimer, 2014a, 6). The failure of the West to foresee the Ukraine crisis is strongly related to the liberal domination of the discourse on European security. While most realists had opposed NATO enlargement, many liberals favoured enlargement believing that the US would be seen as a benign hegemon and not viewed as a threat by Russia. There was even less opposition to NATO enlargement in Europe as many Europeans were confident (in part due to the success of the EU) that liberal principles could function as the foundation for peace in Europe and that geopolitics was no longer relevant. In short, Russia has been following realist dictates, whereas Western elites adhere to liberal notions of international politics. In doing so, the West has unknowingly provoked the crisis (Mearsheimer, 2014a, 7).

Although Mearsheimer and other academics focusing on the role of the West represent a small minority in the academic debate on the Ukraine crisis, the claim by Mearsheimer about the liberal domination of Western discourse on European security is interesting as it gives chance to reflect on the nature of Western policy. This claim will therefore be researched by gauging the level of liberal rhetoric by NATO leaders. The following question serves to guide this research: **How much did NATO rely on liberal principles in order to justify its eastward enlargement?**

The Ukraine crisis has not only sparked much debate in the academic realm, but also in Western society at large. Russian involvement in the Ukraine crisis, especially the annexation of Crimea, has arguably led to much controversy with regard to a number of topics. Among these topics are the purpose and costs of NATO, the EU and its policy of enlargement, Putin and his personality, and the security of the Baltic States and other Eastern European countries. Two of these debates, the purpose and costs of NATO and the security of Baltic States, will now be explored in their relation to the Ukraine crisis as to make clear the social relevance of this research, while the academic relevance of this research will be addressed in the literature review.

Firstly, the purpose and costs of NATO have increasingly been the subject of social debate as the *raison d'être* of NATO has become less clear. Lord Ismay famously summed up the purpose of NATO in the following way: “To keep the Russians out, the Americans in, and the Germans down.” However, with the threat of the Soviet Union gone and with many conflicts taking place outside the Western world, the purpose and the benefits of NATO have become less evident to the average taxpayer. As a result, many European governments can get away with ignoring the ‘2% of GDP for defence norm’ without having to fear much popular criticism. The purpose and benefits of NATO were also often times brought into question by the newly elected United States (US) president Donald Trump during his 2016 presidential campaign. In relation to the Ukraine crisis, this social debate about NATO seems to indicate that Russia is not considered a serious enough a threat by most Western citizens despite the annexation of Crimea.

Secondly, Russian involvement in the Ukraine crisis and the annexation of Crimea sparked much fear among the Eastern European members of NATO as the perceived Russian threat became more imminent. The Baltic States are especially concerned with developments in Ukraine and frightened of Russia as these states also have significant Russian minorities living within their borders similar to Ukraine. In order to defend and show commitment to these NATO members, NATO officials decided to dedicate significant military forces to the Baltic States and Poland as part of the ‘Enhanced Forward Presence’ strategy. Although this strategy was only employed with the aim of reassurance and deterrence, the Russians are likely to perceive NATO’s Enhanced Forward Presence as an aggressive move (security dilemma). The social relevance of this research is therefore arguably also linked to the social debate on the military build-up in Eastern Europe.

One final note: due to the controversy surrounding the social debate on the Ukraine crisis, the word expansion has been avoided in relation to NATO due to certain negative connotations.

## Motivations behind the annexation

Despite representing only a small minority of the academic community, Mearsheimer's article did merit a direct response from Michael McFaul (US Ambassador to Russia 2012-2014) and Stephen Sestanovich (US Ambassador-at-Large for the Former Soviet Union 1997-2001). Both found Mearsheimer's geopolitical explanation to be lacking as it did not take into consideration domestic factors in Russia. Both strongly emphasized the role of Putin in relation to the Ukraine crisis as it was supposedly Putin's determination to uphold an image of strong leadership back home that motivated Russian actions in Ukraine (McFaul, 2014, 169), (Sestanovich, 2014, 172).

McFaul (2014) finds fault with the NATO enlargement argument as Russia had enough strength to invade Ukraine in response to NATO enlargement much earlier. The argument also does not account for the era of cooperation between the US and Russia, which lasted from spring 2009 to January 2012 (McFaul, 2014, 167). Several foreign policy successes were achieved by the US in this period of cooperation and not once did NATO expansion ever come up as an issue in any of the discussions Obama held with Putin and Medvedev (McFaul, 2014, 169). It was not until the 2011-2013 Russian protests (sparked by Putin's announcement to run for President) that relations with the US declined. The US had to be recast as a subversive enemy in order for Putin to mobilize his electoral base and discredit the opposition. Hence Putin often framed competition with the US in zero-sum terms. When events unfolded in Ukraine, Putin perceived the crisis as another zero-sum struggle between the US and Russia. Putin was therefore not reacting to NATO enlargement, but trying to shift the balance of power in favour of Russia (McFaul, 2014, 170).

Sestanovich (2014) uses Mearsheimer's own words to point out that Russia's aggressive policy on Ukraine was there long before NATO expansion. Furthermore, NATO membership for Ukraine had been taken off the table. Russian actions in Ukraine were Putin's attempt to recover from the political humiliation (Sestanovich, 2014, 172). With regard to Mearsheimer's criticism of liberalism Sestanovich explains that the means of achieving Western policy have always been far more traditional. US commitment to Europe security in the form of military presence has not significantly diminished in the past two decades. Liberal rhetoric by Western elites should not be taken at face value (Sestanovich, 2014, 173). Sestanovich goes on to describe how all of Europe, including Russia, benefited from NATO enlargement as Western elites are less frightened due to the protection of NATO, thereby leading to greater stability in Europe (Sestanovich, 2014, 174).

In a reply to both McFaul and Sestanovich, Mearsheimer points out several inaccuracies in their critique of his first article. First of all, the Ukraine crisis was triggered by EU expansion, not NATO enlargement. However, NATO enlargement did exacerbate the crisis as the prospect of Ukrainian membership still enjoyed support from the US, a fact Sestanovich tries to downplay (Mearsheimer, 2014b, 175). Fear rather than resentment motivated Russian actions in Ukraine and the failure to acknowledge this (like McFaul and Sestanovich demonstrate) helped precipitate the crisis. McFaul's 'era of cooperation' argument does not hold either as Medvedev shares most of Putin's foreign policy views and complained bitterly about the 'endless enlargement' of NATO (Mearsheimer, 2014b, 177). Sestanovich's claim that US foreign policy and NATO enlargement are grounded in realism is inconsistent with realism as Russia was (and still is) a weak declining power. Hence the threat of Russian aggression was rarely used to justify NATO enlargement; the benefits of expanding the democratic peace eastward however were (Mearsheimer, 2014b, 178).

Mearsheimer is not alone in believing that Putin and other Russians genuinely feared that the Ukraine crisis was a direct threat to Russian national security. After decrying the Russian intervention in Ukraine in the first part of his article, Allison (2014) goes on to examine different explanations for the Russian actions in Ukraine. It is concluded that both strategic concerns and domestic political consolidation played an important role in Russian decision making with regard to the Ukraine crisis (Allison, 2014, 1296). Charap & Garden (2014) also believe that Russia was genuinely concerned with national security and not necessarily trying to reassert dominance over the Near Abroad. The Russian population in Crimea actually gave Russia leverage over Ukraine (Charap & Garden, 2014, 12). In another article by Charap (2014) the point is made again that Russia perceives NATO enlargement as a threat and that Euro-Atlantic institutional architecture is the root cause of the Ukraine crisis. Redman (2014) stresses the importance of Ukraine to the success of the Eurasian Economic Union and that Russia is willing to go to great lengths in order to protect its interests in the Near Abroad. Treisman (2014) also rejects the notion that Putin has an imperialist agenda and describes the annexation of Crimea as an improvised gambit designed due to fear of losing the Sevastopol naval base. After having examined different explanations for the Ukraine crisis, Tsygankov (2015) concludes that the West triggered the Russian reaction. The diversionary (domestic), divergent nationalities (ideational), and resentment (Putin's personality) arguments lack explanatory power and the nexus of Russian interests/values provide a far better understanding of Russian foreign policy (Tsygankov, 2015, 297). Götz (2015) also explains the

annexation of Crimea as largely being the result of geopolitical concerns on the part of Russia as opposed to the personality of Putin. Ukraine is of great geopolitical importance to Russia due to the long shared border, the strong economic ties, and the Sevastopol naval base. EU and NATO membership for Ukraine was therefore considered a direct threat to the Russian national interest by the Russians. Public opinion in Russia on Ukraine would not change without Putin and even prominent opposition figures have argued for Russian dominance in the post-Soviet space (Götz, 2015, 7). Geopolitics, Russian domestic politics (democratic contagion and diversionary theory), Russian identity, and Putin's personality are also examined by Götz (2016) in another article on Russian Near Abroad policy. It is concluded that all explanations are somewhat lacking and that Russian policy vis-à-vis post-Soviet states should be researched through a multi-layered analysis taking into account factors on all levels: international, domestic, and personal (Götz, 2016, 21).

However, it has been argued in a large number of articles that Russian actions in Ukraine can be understood by looking at Russian domestic politics and especially Putin's personality. In Freudenstein's article (2015) domestic consolidation and regime survival are seen as the primary motivations behind Putin's actions vis-à-vis Ukraine and it is argued that Putin's removal would allow for better relations with the West. Mearsheimer's geopolitical explanation has only limited explanatory power (Freudenstein, 2015, 229). Lipman (2016) also argues that the annexation of Crimea was a diversionary tactic used by Putin in order to achieve domestic consolidation in the aftermath of the 2011-2013 Russian protests. Mankoff (2014) believes that Putin is aggressively seeking to reassert Russian dominance over former Soviet states, but that this aggressive strategy has only undermined his plans for the Eurasian Economic Union and strengthened the opposition to Russian influence in the Near Abroad. Marten (2015) places even greater emphasis on Putin's (unpredictable) personality and KGB background in order to explain Russian actions in Ukraine. Mearsheimer's geopolitical explanation is seen as illogical as the annexation of Crimea meant a significant loss of influence over Ukraine (Marten, 2015, 190). Stoner and McFaul (2015) bring up arguments for domestic consolidation similar to 2014 McFaul article along with poll numbers indicating a significant rise in domestic popularity for Putin after the annexation of Crimea.

This literature review seems to indicate that there is no strong academic consensus on the reasons behind Russian actions in Ukraine. Mearsheimer's geopolitical explanation has received both support and criticism from other academics. This research might contribute to this academic debate by examining Mearsheimer's claim about the liberal domination of Western discourse.



## The historical roots of liberalism in IR

As discussed earlier, the claim is that Western elites have a flawed view of international politics, due to the heavy reliance on liberal principles such as the rule of law, economic interdependence, and democracy for the stability of European security. Western discourse on European security is dominated by liberal thinking and most liberals support NATO enlargement. Most liberals also falsely assumed that the US would be perceived as a benign hegemon by other states. In order to properly research the reliance of NATO on liberal principles to justify its eastward enlargement, it is necessary to explore some of the core tenets of liberalism (IR) in this theoretical framework.

Broadly speaking, liberalism can be defined as a political philosophy founded on ideas of liberty and equality. Another definition of liberalism is “liberty under law” (Balaam & Dillman, 2011, 53). Liberalism can be best understood as a reaction to tyrannical government. John Locke basically laid the foundation of liberal philosophy when arguing for the **natural rights of men** to life, liberty and property in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century. He also argued that the function of government is to defend these rights in what can be understood as a social contract (Held, 2006, 62). When liberalism grew as an ideology in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, economic liberalism became more prominent. Adam Smith argued for little to no government interference in the market (*laissez-faire*) in order to achieve more economic growth (Balaam & Dillman, 2011, 54). David Ricardo expanded upon Smith by arguing for **free trade** among nations based on the principle of comparative advantage, which holds that a free international market is more efficient and therefore more stimulating to general economic growth as opposed to an international market limited by government-imposed trade barriers. Economic liberals view the world economy as a positive sum-game (Balaam & Dillman, 2011, 61). As liberalism grew into the dominant political ideology in Western Europe during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the democratic element became more important as Western governments were dealing with a growing popular demand for more democratic government. John Stuart Mill responded to this development by criticizing absolutism and stressing the importance of political participation for creating a direct interest in government. Mill conceived of democratic politics as a vital mechanism for the cultivation of human reason and moral self-development. **Democratic government** not only counters tyranny, but also functions to create a developed citizenry (Held, 2006, 82). The rule of law, economic interdependence, and democracy principles are respectively rooted in the liberal concepts of the natural rights of men, free trade, and democratic government.

In the context of IR, liberalism is a school of thought that focuses on the possibilities for greater international cooperation based on liberal principles. The multiple strands of liberalism in IR (economic, social, political, and ideational) provide different theories explaining under which circumstances the likelihood of international conflict decreases and how to improve the chances of successful international cooperation. These liberal theories and their underlying assumptions will be explained in order to make clear the importance of the three liberal principles of the rule of law, economic interdependence, and democracy with regard to international politics.

Writing about the foundations of political order, Fukuyama (2014) describes the rule of law as rules that are binding even on the most politically powerful actors in a given society. This is very different from rule by law, in which case the law merely represents commands issued by the ruler that are not binding to the ruler himself (Fukuyama, 2014, 24). The rule of law together with accountability ensure that government is responsive to the interests of the whole of society. Both function as a constraint on state power, which is necessary for having a balanced politically developed liberal democracy (Fukuyama, 2014, 25). The rule of law is also critical for economic development as without property rights and contract enforcement, it is difficult for businesses to break out of small circles of trust. It also has intrinsic value as it recognizes the dignity of human agency (Fukuyama, 2014, 37). Based on the social and ideational strands of liberalism, domestic values affect foreign policy (Nye & Welch, 2007, 61). Respect for the rule of law domestically should therefore increase the likelihood of compliance with international law. The rule of law is also an essential part of democratic peace theory, which holds that democracies are less likely to engage in armed conflict with other identified democracies (Nye & Welch, 2007, 62).

Economic interdependence is the result of a high level of division of labour between states also known as the transnational division of labour. The principle of comparative advantage holds that stronger transnational division of labour will lead to higher overall economic growth due to greater market efficiency. Economic interdependence is however not only beneficial to economic growth in general, but it also creates stronger incentives for states to maintain peace and to avoid war in the international system as states with shared economic interests are less likely to engage in armed conflict with one another. Enhancing economic interdependence through trade also has the benefit of giving states the opportunity to define their interests in a way that makes war much less important to them as states are allowed to transform their position in the international system through economic growth instead of military conquest (Nye & Welch, 2007, 58). Free trade and

economic interdependence therefore feature heavily in the economic strand of liberalism. Critics of economic liberalism will however often point out that the success of free trade and economic interdependence is fully dependent on the willingness of a hegemonic power to accept the costs associated with keeping international markets open by providing certain states with international public goods at its own expense. This criticism of economic liberalism is grounded in hegemonic stability theory, which holds that international markets work best when there is a single dominant state willing to fulfil the role of hegemon (Balaam & Dillman, 2011, 65). The role of the US in the post-war international system serves as a good example of hegemonic stability theory (Nye & Welch, 2007, 58), (Balaam & Dillman, 2011, 65).

Democracy, or government by consent of the governed, is also an important element of liberalism in the context of international politics. As mentioned earlier, the rule of law together with accountability ensure that government is more responsive to the interests of the whole of society. The word accountability here refers to modern democracy (Fukuyama, 2014, 25). This democratic accountability is therefore also an essential element of democratic peace theory as democracies are less likely to engage in armed conflict with other identified democracies (Nye & Welch, 2007, 62). Democracy is also somewhat related to institutional liberalism, which claims that international institutions and organizations increase cooperation among states due to their stabilizing effect on the international system. Institutions stabilize the international system in a number of ways: they provide a sense of continuity, they provide an opportunity for reciprocity between states, they provide a flow of information, and they provide states with the opportunity to resolve conflict through bargaining. This stabilizing effect on the international system reduces the acuteness of the security dilemma and allows people to develop peaceful expectations (Nye & Welch, 2007, 60). These liberal institutions are obviously founded on democratic principles.

The history of liberalism is strongly intertwined with rise of the modern state. This could to a large extent explain the heavy reliance of Western elites on liberal principles such as the rule of law, economic interdependence, and democracy. The rule of law is rooted in the natural rights of men, economic interdependence is rooted in free trade/comparative advantage, and democracy is rooted in the idea that democratic government is vital for having a developed citizenry. Liberal thinkers will also promote these principles in international politics based on the different strands of liberalism: democratic peace theory (social/ideational), economic liberalism, and institutional liberalism. These liberal principles will now be linguistically dissected in order to be researched.

## Methods

The research question of how much NATO relied on liberal principles to justify its eastward enlargement deals with a qualitative matter as it focuses the research on the nature of the language (i.e. words) used by NATO officials. The broader claim about the liberal domination of Western discourse on European security is also clearly a qualitative matter as it pertains to discourse (i.e. words). Therefore, due to the qualitative nature of the subject matter, it has been decided to use the method of content analysis. Content analysis is an unobtrusive (and therefore efficient) form of social research and also particularly well suited to the study of communications (Babbie, 333, 2007). Although limited to the use of qualitative data, content analysis can be approached in both a qualitative and a quantitative way depending on the type of research question. The decision to use the quantitative approach was already given away in the research question as the question of ‘how much’ indicates that this research pertains to quantity. The quantitative approach ensures that the coding process (the process whereby raw data are transformed into standardized form suitable for machine processing and analysis) has greater reliability, although this may come at the cost of some validity. Nonetheless, the quantitative approach will be used as this research is more concerned with the manifest (surface) content of NATO discourse and less concerned with latent (underlying) content (Babbie, 338, 2007). The decision between either the quantitative or qualitative approach is important, because these approaches are grounded in certain assumptions about the nature of the discourse material. One might assume that the material is representational in nature and focus on manifest content or one might assume that the material is instrumental in nature and focus on latent content (Hermann, 2008, 156). For the sake of reliability, this research will focus on the manifest content and leave the research of latent content to other researchers.

156 official documents (25 press releases and 131 speech transcripts) have been retrieved from [www.nato.int](http://www.nato.int) for this research using the dates of all the NATO summits from 1991 to 2008 as a selection criterion. Another selection criterion was that documents had to be at least partly in English and therefore a number of French and a few Spanish documents have not been taken into account. Lastly, all discourse material had to be produced by NATO officials, thereby excluding all speeches by guest speakers. The selected documents function as the units of analysis for this research, while the sentences within these documents function as the units of observation. Using Provalis Research’s QDA Miner 4 Lite sentences will be auto-coded as liberal whenever at least

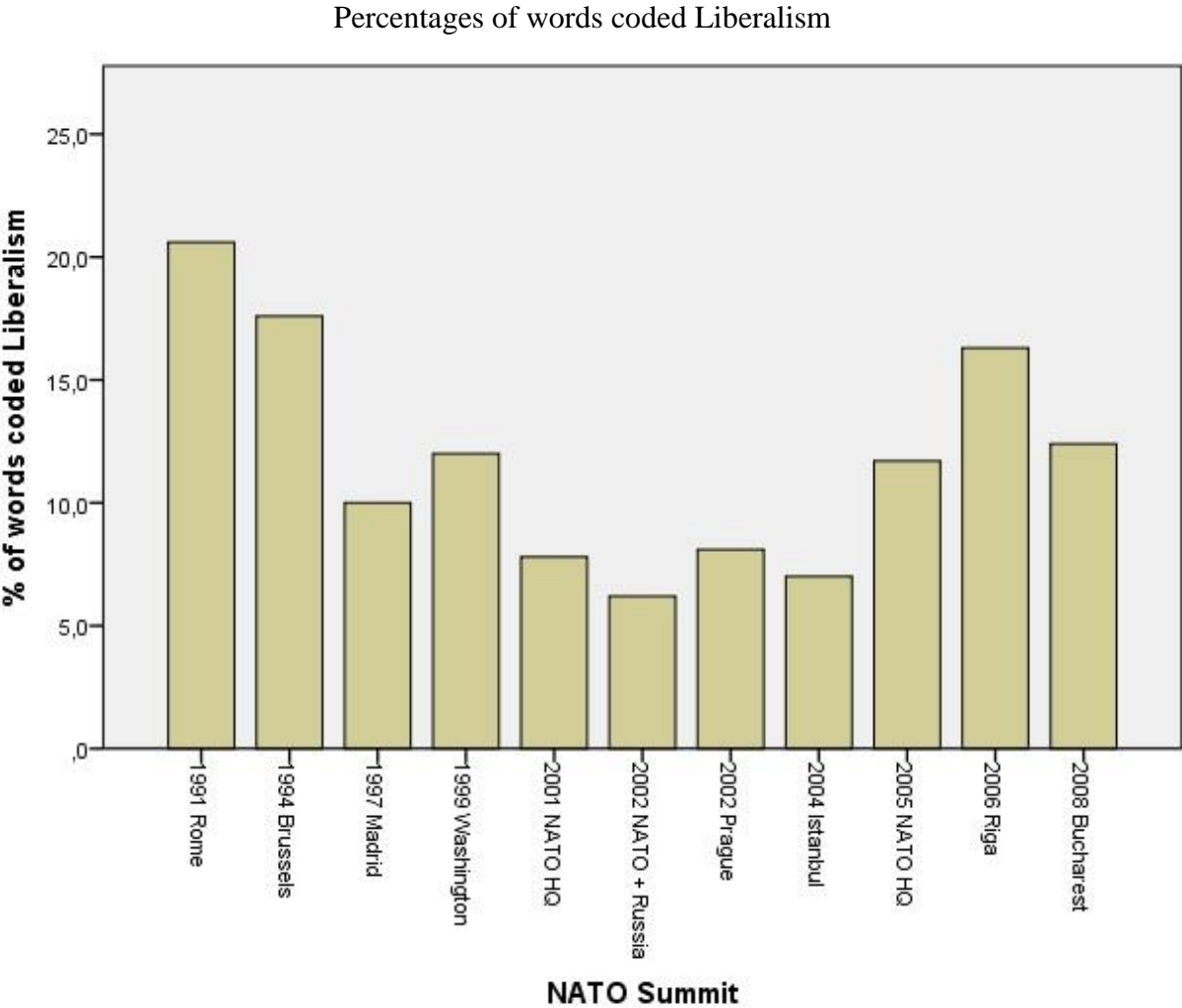
one of the three liberal principles has been referenced. Auto-coding will also be used to code all of these sentences with the specific liberal principle(s) being referenced. It might be possible that the total number of sentences coded as liberal will be smaller than the sum of all sentences coded rule of law, economic interdependence and democracy as some sentences might make reference to more than one liberal principle. All coding is based on an extensive thesaurus (see appendix). It should also be noted that auto-coding allows for the coding of so-called false positives (wrongly coded sentences) e.g. when a coded liberal principle is actually being used in a negative sense.

Although calculating the frequency of coded sentences in relation to the total amount of sentences might be sufficient when working with content analysis in certain cases, it has been decided to also examine co-occurrence between liberal discourse and enlargement discourse in this research as the research question pertains to the relationship between liberal principles and NATO enlargement. Taking into account the co-occurrence of liberal discourse and NATO enlargement, allows for a better understanding of the function of liberal principles in NATO discourse. For co-occurrence to be made possible, auto-coding will be used to code all sentences making use of expansionist language (see appendix). Having done this, QDA Miner Lite 4 will be instructed to find all co-occurrent cases between sentences coded liberalism and sentences coded expansionism within a margin of one paragraph. Resulting co-occurrent cases (sentences) will be coded as co-occurrent liberalism (or what can be considered relevant liberalism in light of the research question). It should be noted that the word expansionism was chosen for practical reasons only.

Finally, after having calculated the number of cases of co-occurrence between liberal and expansionist discourse, it should be possible to introduce the method of bivariate correlation in order to further examine the relationship between liberal and expansionist discourse. Setting the number of sentences coded expansionist (X) against the number of cases coded as co-occurrent liberalism (Y) per NATO summit should give some insight into the extent that NATO officials rely on liberalism to justify NATO expansion. Using the number of cases coded as co-occurrent liberalism for the Y-variable, as opposed to number of cases coded liberalism, has the advantage of excluding irrelevant liberal discourse with regard to NATO expansion. This should therefore give a more accurate representation of the relation between liberal and expansionist discourse. Based on this description of the expansionism and (co-occurrent) liberalism variables, the following hypothesis has been formulated: **The greater the number of sentences coded expansionism, the greater the number of sentences coded co-occurrent liberalism.**

## Results

As can be seen from the first results (see table 1), liberal principles have been consistently used during NATO summits starting with the 1991 Rome summit and ending with 2008 Bucharest summit in both the press releases by NATO and speeches by NATO officials. Liberal principles were coded 175 times in all NATO press releases and 230 times in all NATO speeches with the total number of sentences coded liberal being 405. So far for frequency. With a total amount of 156 documents, there is an average of roughly 2.5 liberal principles per document. However, a more accurate and more detailed description of the percentage of liberalism can be seen in graph 1, which is based on the results presented in the tables 8 up to and including 18 in the appendix.

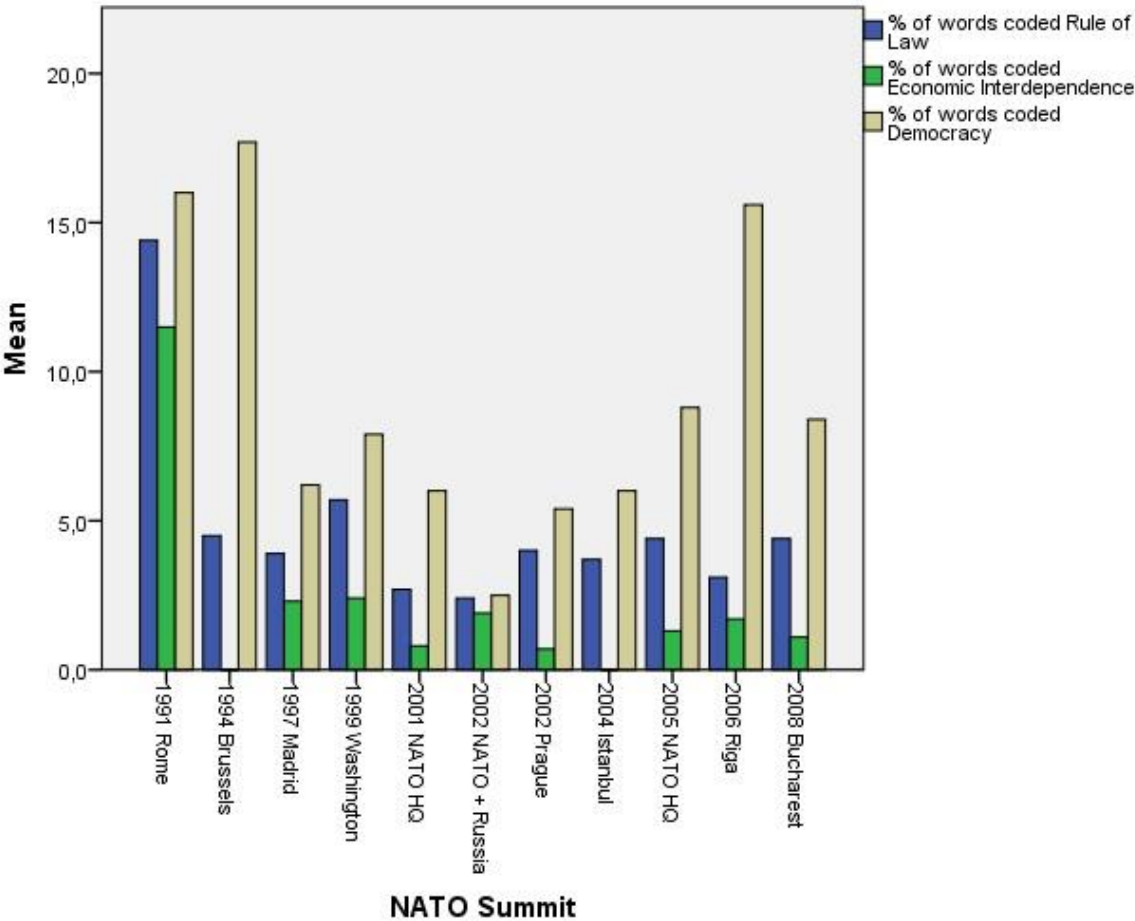


Graph 1. The percentages of words making up sentences coded liberalism for each NATO summit.

When looking at graph 1 a steady decline can be observed in the use of liberal principles starting from the 1991 Rome summit and reaching its lowest point at the 2002 NATO + Russia (Rome) summit. The use of liberal principles increased at the 2002 Prague summit, but liberal principles once again became less prevalent at the 2004 Istanbul summit. During the 2005, 2006 and 2008 summits liberal principles enjoyed relatively high levels of prominence comparable to the levels seen in '90's. However, the 1991 Rome summit, and to a lesser extent the 1994 summit, clearly demonstrate the highest usage of liberal principles by NATO officials over the entire period.

Going into greater detail, the frequencies of each liberal principle were as follows: rule of law – 179, economic interdependence – 59, democracy – 282 (see table 2, 3 and 4) with all three being mentioned in both press releases and speeches. As for the percentages, see graph 2 below.

Percentages of words coded rule of law, economic interdependence and democracy



Graph 2. The percentages of words making up sentences coded as rule of law, economic interdependence, or democracy for each NATO summit.

It is clear based on both frequency and percentage that democracy is the most commonly used liberal principle by NATO officials as democracy consistently dominates over rule of law and economic interdependence. Although not as prevalent as the democracy principle, the principle of rule of law is also consistently used by NATO officials in all summits. This cannot, however, be said about the principle of economic interdependence, which was not referenced in any way during both the 1994 Brussels summit and the 2004 Istanbul summit. It is interesting to note that the three liberal principles achieve similar results at the 1991 Rome summit and the 2001 NATO + Russia summit with the former being relatively high for all and the latter being relatively low for all. Overall the rule of law principle averages at roughly 5%, the economic interdependence principle at roughly 2.5%, and the democracy principle at roughly 10% based on graph 2.

As for the balance between the rule of law, economic interdependence and democracy principles, it is relatively stable as can be seen from all the pie charts in the appendix. Economic interdependence is the only principle to truly fluctuate in relation to the other principles over the entire period. While it took up around 20% of all liberal coding at the 1991 Rome summit and even 30% at the 2002 NATO + Russia summit, the economic interdependence principle was not mentioned at all during two of the summits (1994 & 2004). The overall balance between rule of law, economic interdependence, and democracy principles can be seen in the pie chart below.

The balance between the rule of law, economic interdependence and democracy principles

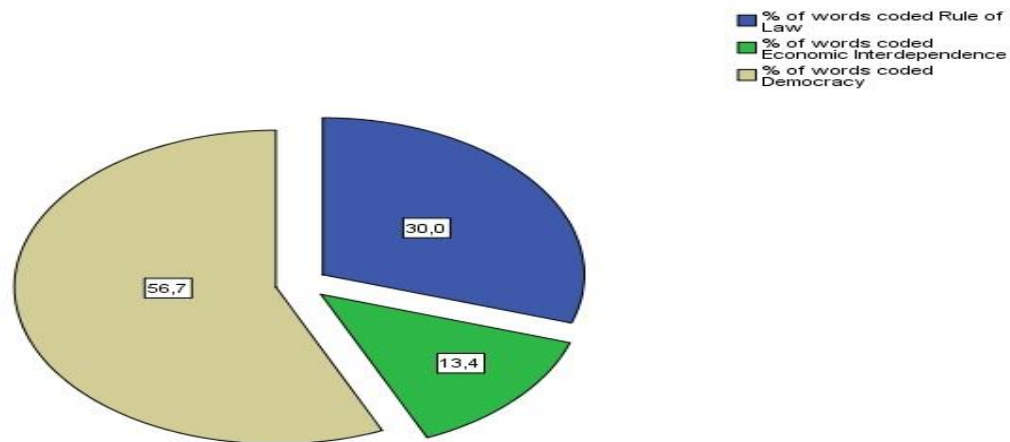
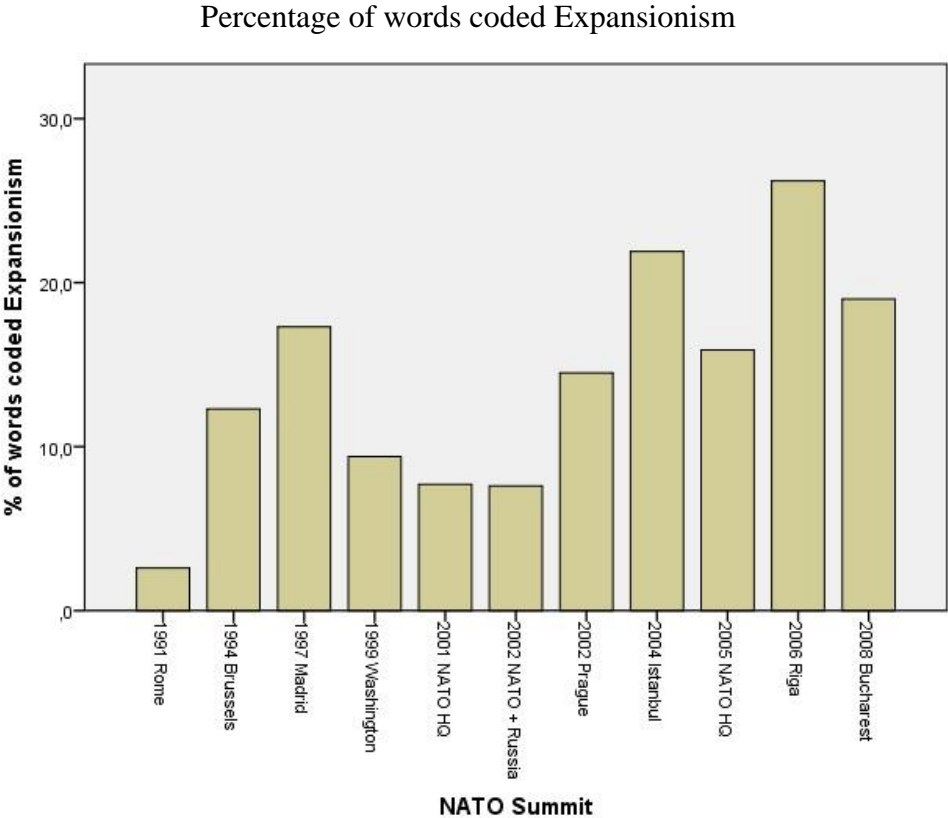


Chart 1. The balance between the rule of law, economic interdependence, and democracy principles based on every NATO summit from 1991 up to and including 2008.



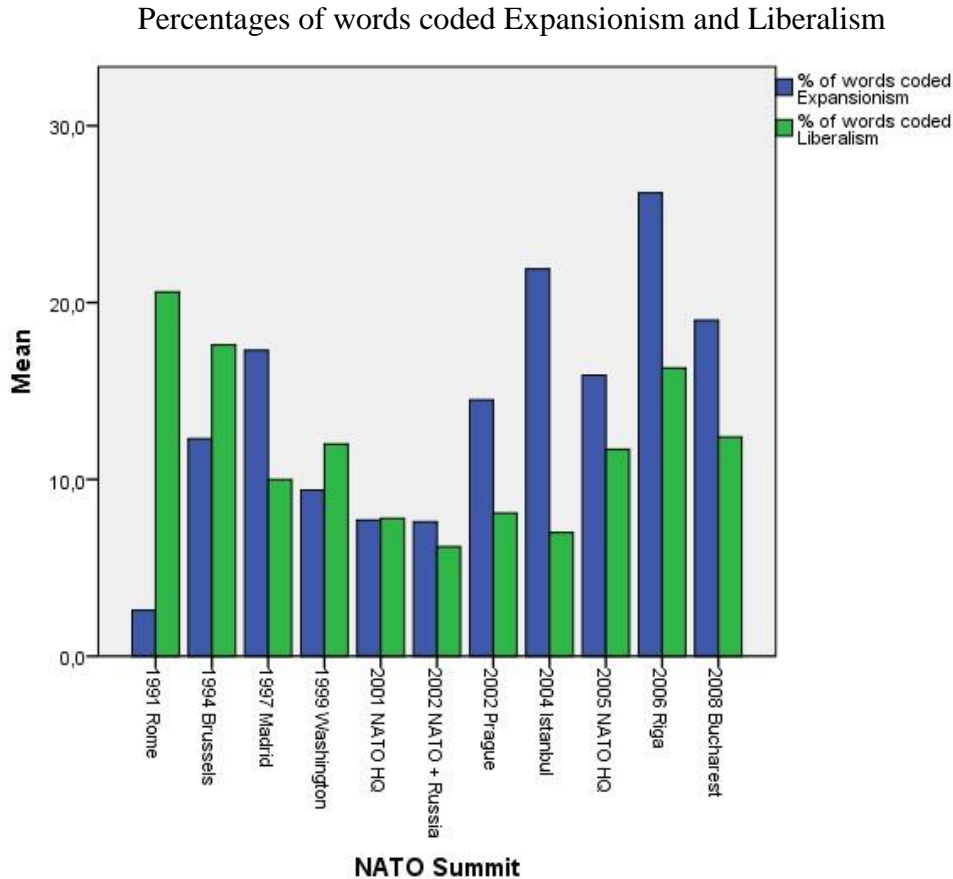
Now that the frequency and relative use (percentages) of liberalism and the separate three liberal principles have been discussed, it is important to examine the expansionism variable as this is necessary to establish what is to be considered relevant liberalism based on co-occurrence. The results for the expansionism variable are as follows: 201 sentences were coded expansionism in press releases and 414 sentences were coded expansionism in speeches making up a total of 615 sentences being coded expansionism (see table 5). So far for the frequency of expansionism.



Graph 3. The percentage of words making up sentences coded expansionism for each NATO summit.

Greater insight can be gained by looking at the percentages of words coded expansionism over the entire period. One of the first things to be noted when looking at graph 3 is that expansionism became more prevalent after the turn of the millennium as the highest levels of expansionism are recorded at the 2004 Istanbul, 2006 Riga, and 2008 Bucharest summits. Among the lowest are the 1991 Rome summit, the 2001 NATO HQ summit, and the 2002 NATO + Russia summit, all of which score less than 10 percent. It is interesting to note that the expansionism variable shows a clear upward trend, whereas the liberalism variable shows a downward trend although making a

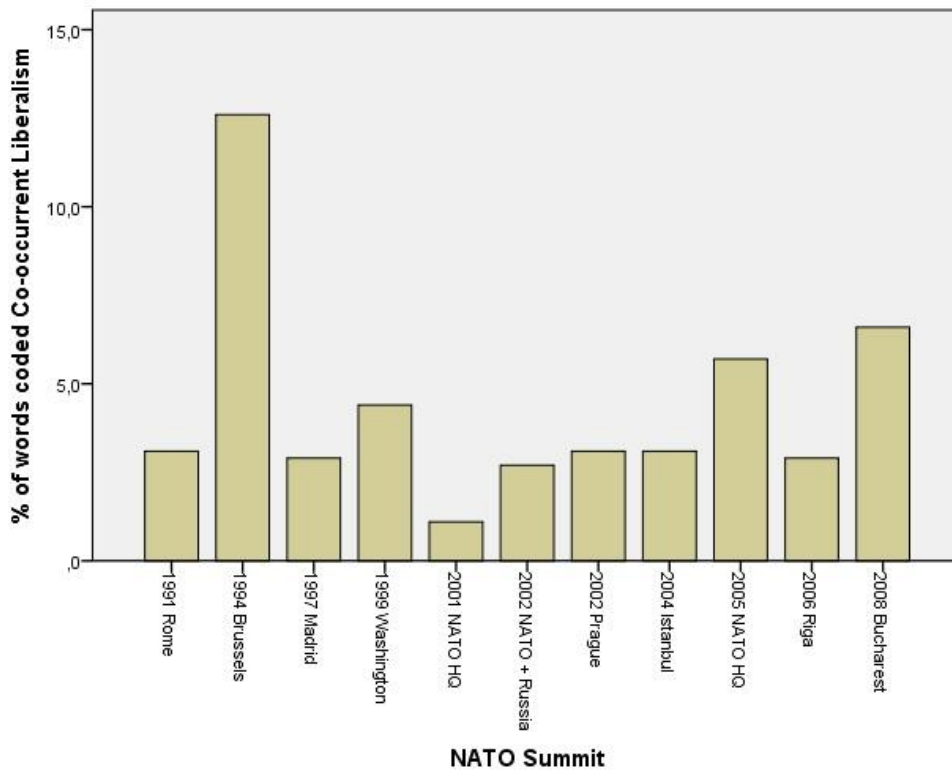
recovery towards the end (see graph 1). For a direct comparison between the expansionism and liberalism variables see graph 4. The greatest mismatch between expansionism and liberalism is visible at the 1991 Rome summit and the 2004 Istanbul summit, while the 2001 NATO HQ and 2002 NATO + Russia summits seem to demonstrate the most balance between the two variables.



Graph 4. The percentages of words making up sentences coded Expansionism and Liberalism for each NATO summit.

With the two variables of expansionism and liberalism having been described, it is now time to look at the co-occurrence between them. Again, whenever sentences coded liberalism were within 1 paragraph of sentences coded expansionism, these sentences would receive the additional coding of co-occurrent liberalism. This process produced the following results with regard to frequency: co-occurrent liberalism was coded 99 times in NATO press releases and 54 times in speeches by NATO officials with a total number of 153 sentences coded co-occurrent liberalism (see table 6). With a total of 156 documents, co-occurrent liberalism nearly averages 1 sentence per document.

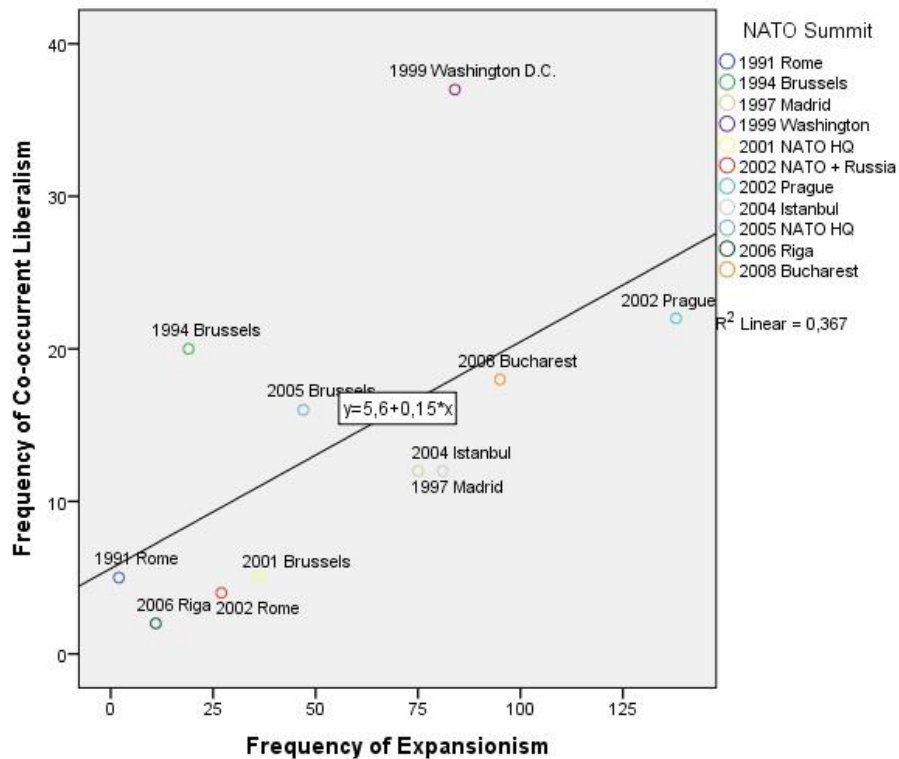
Percentages of words coded Co-occurrent Liberalism



Graph 5. The percentages of words making up the sentences coded co-occurrent liberalism for each NATO summit.

Looking at the percentages of words making up sentences coded co-occurrent liberalism for each NATO summit reveals that the relationship between expansionism and liberalism has remained relatively stable over the entire period with one major exception: the 1994 Brussels summit (this is likely due to  $N = 4$ ). The 2001 NATO HQ and the 2002 NATO + Russia summit demonstrate the lowest levels of co-occurrent liberalism, which was to be expected based on graph 1. Higher levels of co-occurrent liberalism are visible at the 2005 NATO HQ and 2008 Bucharest summit, which also makes sense in light of graph 4 as higher levels of both expansionism and liberalism were recorded at these summits. Co-occurrent liberalism scored an average of 4.4 percent over the entire period. Although these results reveal that there is consistent co-occurrence between expansionist and liberal discourse, the exact relationship between expansionism and liberalism remains unclear. Co-occurrent liberalism can, however, be used to gain further insight into this relationship through the method of bivariate correlation with expansionism (X) serving as the independent variable and co-occurrent liberalism (Y) serving as the dependent variable.

Bivariate correlation between Expansionism (X) and Co-occurrent Liberalism (Y)



Graph 6. The bivariate correlation between expansionism (x) and co-occurrent liberalism (y).

The graph above was made by placing the results for expansionism and co-occurrent liberalism next to each other per each summit. This led to the following results: a correlation (R) of 0.6059 and coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ) of 0.367 with a significant p-value of 0.048 based on  $N=11$  (see table 7). The coefficient of determination has been made visible in the graph as a regression line and it makes clear that on average for every sentence coded expansionism, 0.367 sentence is coded co-occurrent liberalism. The correlation between the expansionism and co-occurrent liberalism variables is therefore positive. A correlation (R) of 0.6059 based on 11 NATO summits ( $N=11$ ) is significant as the p-value (0.048) is less than 0.05, which is the most commonly used maximum value with regard to determining statistical significance. **H1 can therefore be accepted**

When looking at graph 6 two outliers stand out in relation to the regression line: the 1994 Brussels summit and the 2002 Prague summit. The former shows a relatively high frequency of liberalism based on its low expansionism frequency, whereas the latter demonstrates a relatively low frequency of liberalism based on its high expansionism frequency. These outliers make for interesting exceptions, but the overall results are nonetheless in favour of the hypothesis (H1).

## Analysis

The results revealed a consistent use of liberal principles in NATO discourse by NATO officials during all NATO summits in the period from 1991 up to and including 2008. The results have also shown a steady rise in expansionist discourse in the same time period. Moreover, the results for co-occurrence revealed that expansionism and liberalism have frequently gone together in NATO discourse. Finally, a significant positive relation was shown between the expansionism and co-occurrent liberalism variables using the method of bivariate correlation. All of the results will now be analysed in order to create a better understanding of the role of liberalism in NATO discourse starting with liberalism, expansionism, and finally the relation between these two variables.

Although liberalism was consistently used by NATO officials, there was some fluctuation in the levels of liberal discourse from summit to summit. This is especially true when looking at the three liberal principles (rule of law, economic interdependence, and democracy) specifically. These fluctuations can partly be explained by looking at the political and historical contexts in which these summits took place. As described earlier, the 1991 Rome summit (and to a lesser extent the 1994 Brussels summit) showed the highest levels of liberalism in NATO discourse over the entire period. These high levels of liberalism in NATO discourse can be explained by the political context of that time: the aftermath of the Cold War. As the threat of communism had only recently diminished, most NATO discourse was very likely still framed within a capitalist versus communist framework of the international system. This ideological competition must have been a driving force for NATO officials to emphasize the virtues of liberalism in contrast to the evils of communism, thereby leading to high levels of liberalism in NATO discourse (especially during the 1991 Rome summit). Moreover, euphoric NATO officials may have perceived and heralded the collapse of the Soviet Union as a triumph for liberalism over its main ideological competitor, thereby also leading to high levels of liberalism in NATO discourse (especially during the 1994 Brussels Summit).

This ideological competition would of course steadily diminish as the threat of communism dissipated and Eastern European countries slowly transformed from socialist states to liberal democracies. The level of liberalism in NATO discourse during the 1997 Madrid summit was already considerably less than in the previous two summits. A small spike in the level of liberalism in NATO discourse at 1999 Washington summit can be explained by the fourth round of NATO

expansion, which led to memberships for the Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary. This round of expansion had great historical significance as this was the first time former Warsaw pact members had become full-fledged members of NATO. Liberal principles in NATO discourse during this summit were very likely used to contrast the communist past of these countries with the liberal future that laid ahead of them as part of the NATO community.

From the 2001 NATO HQ summit to the 2004 Istanbul summit liberalism was somewhat less prominent in NATO discourse. This can partly be explained by the increased security and stability of Europe. Although Islamic terrorism had come to replace communism as the number one threat to Western civilisation, the threat was less imminent and less close to home. Moreover, Islamism (or political Islam) makes less of a viable ideological alternative to most Westerners and therefore would have given NATO officials less reason to emphasize the virtues of liberalism in comparison to the ideological competition resulting from the Cold War. It is more likely that the threat of Islamic terrorism created a greater emphasis on security in NATO discourse perhaps even at the expense of liberalism. This seems to be especially true for the 2002 NATO + Russia summit, which had the lowest levels of liberalism in NATO discourse. In order to get the Russian support for the War on Terror, NATO officials most likely placed greater emphasis on (mutual) security interests, while at the same time keeping liberal rhetoric to a minimum as not to draw attention to political and ideological differences between the liberal West and authoritarian Russia. It is also interesting to note that the fifth round of NATO expansion in 2004 did not result in an increase in liberalism in NATO discourse, despite the accession of several former Warsaw pact members (Bulgaria, Romania and Slovakia) and even former members of the Soviet Union (the Baltic states). Again, this may have been because of a priority on security over ideology i.e. liberalism.

When examining the three liberal principles separately, the most interesting development is the decline of the principle of economic interdependence in NATO discourse, which strongly coincides with the decline of the communist threat. With the collapse of the Soviet Union capitalism i.e. economic liberalism slowly became a more widely accepted doctrine and thereby also a less defining characteristic of the West and by extension NATO. Although more prominent in NATO discourse, the rule of law principle is also a less defining characteristic of the West as authoritarian countries are also very capable of achieving rule of law. As Europe became more stable and secure (peace in the Balkans), it seems the rule of law principle became less useful to NATO officials. The most dominant liberal principle in NATO discourse is clearly democracy.

With the exception of the 2002 NATO + Russia summit, the democracy principle featured heavily in all NATO discourse. This makes sense as it is the democracy principle that most strongly sets NATO members apart from the rest of the world. As opposed to the rule of law and economic interdependence, the democracy principle has proven to be a greater challenge for other countries to adopt. It is therefore likely that NATO officials placed a greater emphasis on the democracy principle due to the unique success of Western democracy as opposed to the other two principles. Overall, the democracy principle follows the general pattern of liberalism from summit to summit, albeit with greater peaks. As with liberalism in general, the greater prominence of the democracy principle in NATO discourse during the 1991 Rome summit and 1994 Brussels summit was very likely due to the ideological competition between capitalism and communism. As opposed to the other two principles and liberalism in general however, the democracy principle was also heavily referenced by NATO officials during the 2005 Brussels, 2006 Riga, and 2008 Bucharest summits. A possible explanation for the increased use of the democracy principle during this period could be the need to justify the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq based on the idea of liberal internationalism.

In general, expansionism has followed an upward trend in NATO discourse. Starting from an ultimate low point at the 1991 Rome summit and with an early peak at the 1997 Madrid summit, it seems expansionism became structurally prominent in NATO discourse after the 2002 NATO + Russia summit. Once again, this overall development can partly be explained by taking into account the political and historical contexts. With the collapse of the Soviet Union, the purpose and future of NATO became uncertain as the threat of a Soviet invasion had always been its *raison d'être*. The enlargement of NATO was therefore an unlikely topic of discussion among NATO officials, which to a large extent explains the low level of expansionism in NATO discourse during the 1991 Rome summit. The situation changed as the Clinton administration began pushing for NATO to expand in the mid-1990s (Mearsheimer, 2014, 2). This is reflected in the higher levels of expansionism during the 1994 Brussels summit and 1997 Madrid summit with the latter summit serving as a platform to formally invite the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland to join NATO. Further plans for enlargement were unlikely to be high on the agenda after the fourth round of NATO enlargement as the three subsequent summits (1999, 2001, 2002+Russia) show relatively low levels of expansionism in NATO discourse. It is not until the 2002 Prague summit, which saw the formal invitation of Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia to join NATO, that the level of expansionism in NATO discourse started to rise. The high level of

expansionism in NATO discourse during the 2004 Istanbul summit was very likely due to the positive response to accession among the numerous NATO officials representing the new member states. Expansionism featured most heavily in NATO discourse at the 2006 Riga summit, which could in part be explained by the attempt by NATO to enhance cooperation with non-members through established programmes (e.g. Partnership for Peace, Mediterranean Dialogue, Istanbul Cooperation Initiative). Finally, the 2008 Bucharest summit served as a platform to formally invite Albania and Croatia in what would ultimately lead to the sixth round of NATO enlargement, which should explain the relatively high levels of expansionism in NATO discourse during this summit.

Again, co-occurrent liberalism (or what can be understood as relevant liberalism in the light of the research question) refers to all liberalism in NATO discourse within one paragraph of expansionism, thereby approximating the relationship between expansionism and liberalism. This relationship, which has been quite consistent from summit to summit, can be better understood by examining at the political and historical contexts of the NATO summits. As described earlier, there was likely much liberalism in NATO discourse at the 1991 Rome summit due to the victory over the Soviet Union and little expansionism due to the uncertain future of NATO, thereby leading to modest levels of co-occurrent liberalism. The 1994 Brussels summit saw very high levels of co-occurrent liberalism (ultimate outlier), which was likely due to the triumph of liberalism over communism still being heralded in NATO discourse combined with the announcement by NATO officials to further expand the alliance. Expansionism and liberalism were both relatively high at the 1997 Madrid summit and the 1999 Washington summit, but only modestly interconnected at the former and somewhat more interconnected at the latter. This could be because the 1997 Madrid summit was focused more on plans for enlargement, while the 1999 Washington celebrated both the success of the fourth round of NATO enlargement and the merits of liberalism in light of the communist past of the new members. The levels of co-occurrent liberalism remain modest and steady for the next four summits, which could again be due to the emphasis on the War on Terror. The 2005 NATO HQ summit shows much co-occurrent liberalism, which is likely due to speeches by NATO officials with regard to the situation in Ukraine (Orange Revolution). The 2006 Riga summit saw high levels of both expansionism and liberalism in NATO discourse, but a modest level of co-occurrent liberalism. This is likely the case, because expansionism in NATO discourse was directed at non-members with shared security interests, while liberalism in NATO discourse was focused on justifying the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq based on liberal internationalism. The



2008 Bucharest summit had high levels of both expansionism and liberalism and the second highest level of co-occurrent liberalism. This high level of co-occurrent liberalism is likely the result of the formal invitations being extended to Albania and Croatia to join NATO and the welcoming of Georgia and Ukraine's aspirations to join NATO (expansionism), which were both argued as positive developments based on the merits of liberalism:

**“NATO welcomes Ukraine’s and Georgia’s Euro-Atlantic aspirations for membership in NATO. We agreed today that these countries will become members of NATO.** Both nations have made valuable contributions to Alliance operations. **We welcome the democratic reforms in Ukraine** and Georgia and look forward to free and fair parliamentary elections in Georgia in May. MAP is the next step for Ukraine and Georgia on their direct way to membership.” (Bucharest Summit Declaration, 6).

Co-occurrent liberalism has therefore had a modest but consistent presence in NATO discourse over the entire period, thereby indicating that there is indeed a positive relation between expansionism and liberalism. However, the exact nature of this positive relation remained unclear. It was therefore decided to use the method of bivariate correlation in order to properly investigate the relation between expansionism and (co-occurrent) liberalism in NATO discourse. The results indicated that the relation was not only positive, but also significant. On average 100 cases of expansionism are co-occurrent with 37 cases of liberalism, which makes the relation positive. As this research covers 11 NATO summits (N=11), the relation between expansionism and co-occurrent liberalism is also significant with a p-value of 0,048. Again, this indicates that, although modest, the relation between expansionism and liberalism has been quite consistent in NATO discourse during all of NATO summits in the 1991-2008 time period.

In summary, liberalism was more prominent in NATO discourse in 1990s than in later years, most likely due to the aftermath of the Cold War. Liberalism made a slight comeback toward the end of the period, most likely due to the reliance of NATO officials on liberal internationalism to justify the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Expansionism in NATO discourse follows a rather predictable pattern with peaks in expansionism occurring near rounds of NATO enlargement. Co-occurrent liberalism was revealed to be modest, but consistent in NATO discourse over the entire period. The exact relation between expansionism and (co-occurrent) liberalism was ultimately revealed to be positive and significant through using the method of bivariate correlation.

## Conclusion

This research started out with the academic discussion surrounding the Ukraine crisis. Political scientists and other academics have put forward different explanations, which roughly fall into the following four categories: geopolitics, Russian domestic politics, Russian identity, and Putin's personality. For this research it was decided to take a closer look at a claim in John Mearsheimer's geopolitical explanation for the Ukraine crisis, which unconventionally pointed towards the role of the West. In his explanation NATO enlargement, EU expansion and democracy promotion were perceived as the deep causes of the Ukraine crisis. These policies were made possible in part due to the liberal domination of Western discourse on European security. Liberal principles are supposedly more important than the logic of realism to Western elites. Their adherence to liberal notions of international politics meant that most Western elites favoured NATO enlargement. This claim in Mearsheimer's explanation of the Ukraine crisis led to the following research question: How much did NATO rely on liberal principles in order to justify its eastward enlargement?

This research seems to indicate that NATO officials do indeed consistently rely on liberal principles to justify NATO expansion. Liberalism has featured extensively in NATO discourse during all NATO summits in the 1991-2008 period. Liberalism was very prominent in NATO discourse during the 1991-1999 period, most likely due to the Cold War aftermath. Liberalism was less prominent in NATO discourse during the 2001-2004 period, most likely due to the priority of security over liberalism. Liberalism once again became more prominent in NATO discourse in the 2005-2008 period, which was likely the result of liberal internationalist arguments being made by NATO officials in support of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. The three specific liberal principles of the rule of law, economic interdependence and democracy promotion showed different patterns over the entire period. The rule of law principle was quite consistent in NATO discourse with the two highest peaks very likely being the result of instability in the Balkans. The economic interdependence principle seems to have disappeared in NATO discourse together with the threat of communism. The democracy principle always featured most heavily in NATO discourse and remained relevant in 2005-2008 period, which was likely also the result of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq being argued based on liberal internationalism. Expansionism was prominent in NATO discourse before and after NATO rounds of enlargement as was to be expected. Talk of enhanced cooperation with non-members may have also contributed to expansionism in NATO discourse.

Finally, research was done into the relation between expansionism and liberalism by looking for co-occurrence between the two variables. The results showed that there was steady co-occurrence between expansionism and liberalism from summit to summit. The exact nature of this relation was further examined using the method of bivariate correlation, which revealed that the relation was not only positive, but also significant. For every 100 cases of expansionism in NATO discourse, there were 37 cases of co-occurrent liberalism. This answers the research question and gives reason to believe Western elites do indeed favour NATO enlargement based on liberalism.

However, it should be noted that this research is not definitive and that further research into the relation between expansionism and liberalism is still necessary. First of all, the results are merely statistical indicators of expansionism and liberalism in NATO discourse. Although this research pertains to a qualitative matter (discourse), the method of content analysis was used in a quantitative manner. Future research into the relation between expansionism and liberalism could therefore greatly benefit from the method of discourse analysis, which would certainly provide a much richer description and deeper understanding of the NATO discourse itself and increase the internal validity of the relation between expansionism and liberalism in NATO discourse. Moreover, this research only covered manifest content in NATO discourse. Further research can therefore still be done into latent content in NATO discourse in order to find out whether the use of liberalism is representational or actually instrumental in nature (as was argued by Sestanovich).

This research also does not provide answers to the broader claims by Mearsheimer, such as NATO enlargement, EU expansion, and democracy promotion being the deep causes of the Ukraine crisis or the liberal domination of Western discourse on European security or the greater importance of liberal principles over the logic of realism. Similar research could be done to find out whether liberalism does indeed dominate Western discourse on European security or to what extent liberal principles are in fact more prominent than realist concepts in Western discourse.

Nonetheless, the results of this research do support Mearsheimer's claim that NATO enlargement has often been buttressed with liberalism as expansionism is indeed often followed by liberal arguments. It could therefore also very well be true that liberalism has come to dominate NATO discourse to such an extent that there is hardly any opposition to NATO enlargement among Western elites. If so, then there might indeed be a degree of blindness or even a lack of respect among Western elites with regard to certain sensitive geopolitical issues that have for a long time been crucially linked with the peace and stability of Europe, such as the neutrality of Ukraine.

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## Appendix

Table 1. Number of cases coded *liberalism*

	Press Releases	Speeches	Total
1991	19	-	19
1994	22	1	23
1997	20	16	36
1999	53	51	104
2001	-	33	33
2002 + Russia	-	25	25
2002	12	47	59
2004	6	18	24
2005	7	29	36
2006	12	-	12
2008	24	10	34
<b>Total</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>405</b>

Table 2. Number of cases coded *rule of law*

	Press Releases	Speeches	Total
1991	9	-	9
1994	6	-	6
1997	6	8	14
1999	24	28	52
2001	-	12	12
2002 + Russia	-	9	9
2002	3	26	29
2004	3	10	13
2005	2	14	16
2006	3	-	3
2008	10	6	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>179</b>

Table 3. Number of cases coded *economic interdependence*

	Press Releases	Speeches	Total
1991	6	-	6
1994	-	-	-
1997	4	3	7
1999	11	7	18
2001	-	4	4
2002 + Russia	-	9	9
2002	2	4	6
2004	-	-	-
2005	2	2	4
2006	1	-	1
2008	1	3	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>59</b>

Table 4. Frequency of cases coded *democracy*

	Press Releases	Speeches	Total
1991	13	-	13
1994	23	1	24
1997	14	9	23
1999	37	30	67
2001	-	25	25
2002 + Russia	-	12	12
2002	8	31	39
2004	6	13	19
2005	5	20	25
2006	11	-	11
2008	17	7	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>282</b>

Table 5. Number of cases coded *expansionism*

	Press Releases	Speeches	Total
1991	2	-	2
1994	17	2	19
1997	27	48	75
1999	58	26	84
2001	-	36	36
2002 + Russia	-	27	27
2002	19	119	138
2004	21	60	81
2005	5	42	47
2006	11	-	11
2008	41	54	95
<b>Total</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>615</b>

Table 6. Number of co-occurrent cases coded *co-occurent liberalism*

	Press Releases	Speeches	Total
1991	5	-	5
1994	19	1	20
1997	9	3	12
1999	25	12	37
2001	-	5	5
2002 + Russia	-	4	4
2002	12	10	22
2004	5	7	12
2005	5	11	16
2006	2	-	3
2008	17	1	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>153</b>



Table 7. Correlation between cases coded expansionism and cases coded co-occurrent liberalism

	Expansionism	Co-occurrent Liberalism
1991	2	5
1994	19	20
1997	75	12
1999	84	37
2001	36	5
2002 + Russia	27	4
2002	138	22
2004	81	12
2005	47	16
2006	11	2
2008	95	18
<b>N</b>	<b>11</b>	
<b>R</b>	<b>0.6059</b>	
<b>R<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>0.3671</b>	
<b>P-value (&lt;0,05)</b>	<b>0.048178</b>	

Table 8. 1991 Rome Summit results

<b>1991 Rome Summit (3 documents)</b>	Number of Words	Percentage of Words	Number of documents	Percentage of documents
Rule of Law	636	14,4%	3	100%
Economic Interdependence	511	11,5%	2	66,7%
Democracy	710	16%	3	100%
Liberalism (in general)	914	20,6%	3	100%
Expansionism	115	2,6%	1	33,3%
Co-occurrent Liberalism	139	3,1%	1	33,3%

Table 9. 1994 Brussels Summit results

<b>1994 Brussels Summit (4 documents)</b>	Number of Words	Percentage of Words	Number of documents	Percentage of documents
Rule of Law	257	4,5%	2	50%
Economic Interdependence	0	0%	0	0%
Democracy	999	17,7%	4	100%
Liberalism (in general)	996	17,6%	4	100%
Expansionism	693	12,3%	4	100%
Co-occurrent Liberalism	711	12,6%	4	100%

Table 10. 1997 Madrid Summit results

<b>1997 Madrid Summit (15 documents)</b>	Number of Words	Percentage of Words	Number of documents	Percentage of documents
Rule of Law	464	3,9%	4	26,7%
Economic Interdependence	275	2,3%	5	33,3%
Democracy	736	6,2%	7	46,7%
Liberalism (in general)	1176	10,0%	8	53,3%
Expansionism	2042	17,3%	12	80%
Co-occurrent Liberalism	338	2,9%	4	26,7%

Table 11. 1999 Washington D.C. results

<b>1999 Washington D.C. Summit (29 documents)</b>	Number of Words	Percentage of Words	Number of documents	Percentage of documents
Rule of Law	1659	5,7%	20	69%
Economic Interdependence	687	2,4%	12	41,4%
Democracy	2302	7,9%	23	79,3%
Liberalism (in general)	3472	12%	26	89,7%
Expansionism	2719	9,4%	17	58,6%
Co-occurrent Liberalism	1279	4,4%	11	37,9%

Table 12. 2001 NATO HQ results

<b>2001 NATO HQ Summit (9 documents)</b>	Number of Words	Percentage of Words	Number of documents	Percentage of documents
Rule of Law	285	2,7%	5	55,6%
Economic Interdependence	86	0,8%	4	44,4%
Democracy	638	6,0%	8	88,9%
Liberalism (in general)	822	7,8%	8	88,9%
Expansionism	817	7,7%	8	88,9%
Co-occurrent Liberalism	114	1,1%	4	44,4%

Table 13. 2002 NATO + Russia (Rome) results

<b>2002 NATO + Russia Summit (18 documents)</b>	Number of Words	Percentage of Words	Number of documents	Percentage of documents
Rule of Law	260	2,4%	9	26,3%
Economic Interdependence	209	1,9%	9	31,6%
Democracy	268	2,5%	12	44,4%
Liberalism (in general)	662	6,2%	13	72,2%
Expansionism	814	7,6%	11	61,1%
Co-occurrent Liberalism	292	2,7%	8	44,4%

Table 14. 2002 Prague Summit results

<b>2002 Prague Summit (33 documents)</b>	Number of Words	Percentage of Words	Number of documents	Percentage of documents
Rule of Law	933	4%	19	57,6%
Economic Interdependence	164	0,7%	5	15,2%
Democracy	1256	5,4%	21	63,6%
Liberalism (in general)	1883	8,1%	25	75,8%
Expansionism	3339	14,5%	29	87,9%
Co-occurrent Liberalism	721	3,1%	11	33,3%

Table 15. 2004 Istanbul Summit results

<b>2004 Istanbul Summit (19 documents)</b>	Number of Words	Percentage of Words	Number of documents	Percentage of documents
Rule of Law	330	3,7%	8	42,1%
Economic Interdependence	0	0%	0	0
Democracy	536	6,0%	9	47,4%
Liberalism (in general)	627	7,0%	11	57,9%
Expansionism	2472	21,9%	15	78,9%
Co-occurrent Liberalism	345	3,1 %	5	26,3%

Table 16. 2005 NATO HQ Summit Results

<b>2005 NATO HQ Summit (9 documents)</b>	Number of Words	Percentage of Words	Number of documents	Percentage of documents
Rule of Law	383	4,4%	8	88,9%
Economic Interdependence	116	1,3%	2	22,2%
Democracy	754	8,8%	7	77,8%
Liberalism (in general)	1009	11,7%	8	88,9%
Expansionism	1370	15,9%	8	88,9%
Co-occurrent Liberalism	490	5,7%	6	66,7%

Table 17. 2006 Istanbul Summit results

<b>2006 Riga Summit (1 document)</b>	Number of Words	Percentage of Words	Number of documents	Percentage of documents
Rule of Law	169	3,1%	1	100%
Economic Interdependence	89	1,7%	1	100%
Democracy	841	15,6%	1	100%
Liberalism (in general)	878	16,3%	1	100%
Expansionism	1409	26,2%	1	100%
Co-occurrent Liberalism	154	2,9%	1	100%

Table 18. 2008 Bucharest Summit results

<b>2008 Bucharest Summit (16 documents)</b>	Number of Words	Percentage of Words	Number of documents	Percentage of documents
Rule of Law	1136	4,4%	6	37,5%
Economic Interdependence	277	1,1%	3	18,8%
Democracy	2032	8,4%	10	62,5%
Liberalism (in general)	3011	12,4%	11	68,8%
Expansionism	4599	19%	11	68,8%
Co-occurrent Liberalism	1606	6,6%	4	25,0%

## Thesaurus

### **Rule of law:**

- Accountability
- Civil rights
- Civil liberty
- Constitution
- Equality
- Freedom
- Freedom of association
- Freedom of choice
- Freedom from want
- Freedom from fear
- Freedom of movement
- Freedom of religion
- Freedom of speech
- Freedom of the press
- Human rights
- International legality

- International Law
- Justice
- Law and order
- Lawful
- Legal
- Liberty

**Economic interdependence:**

- Commerce
- Division of labor
- Economic cooperation
- Economic integration
- Economic liberty
- Free trade
- Free market
- International trade
- Laissez-faire
- Open market
- Property rights
- Prosperity
- Prosperous
- Trade
- Trade agreements

**Democracy:**

- Autonomy
- Democracy
- Democratic
- Democratic consent
- Democratic control

- Democratic representation
- Democratic values
- Free elections
- Home rule
- Independence
- Government by consent
- Good governance
- Liberal democracy
- Political freedom
- Popular consent
- Popular sovereignty
- Self-government
- Self-rule
- Self-determination
- Sovereignty

**Expansionism:**

- Accede
- Accession
- Enlarge
- Enlargement
- Enlarging
- Expand
- Expanding
- Expansion
- Join
- Joining
- Kiev
- Membership
- Spread

- Spreading
- Ukraine
- Ukrainian