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# NATO and the Korean War: A Context

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The Korean War “was a turning point in the history of the [North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)] alliance,” according to the leading U.S. historian of that alliance, because the conflict led to a “massive increase” in U.S. military assistance (including the commitment of American troops in 1951), the restructuring of NATO's organization, and the expansion of the alliance's “geographic shape” with the inclusion of Greece, Turkey, and the

Federal Republic of Germany. Because of the war, moreover, “the German question was revived and acquired an urgency that had been lacking before June 25, 1950.” All that is true, of course, although it may be suggested that these turning points had roots that reached back months before the beginning of the Korean War. It may also be suggested that the U.S. policies that transformed NATO were reactions less to the war...

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