



Ottawa Landmine Convention

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Why in News?

NATO members: Poland, Finland, and the three **Baltic states (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania)** are withdrawing from the **1997 Ottawa Convention**, citing **increased security threats from Russia** amid the ongoing **Russia-Ukraine war**.

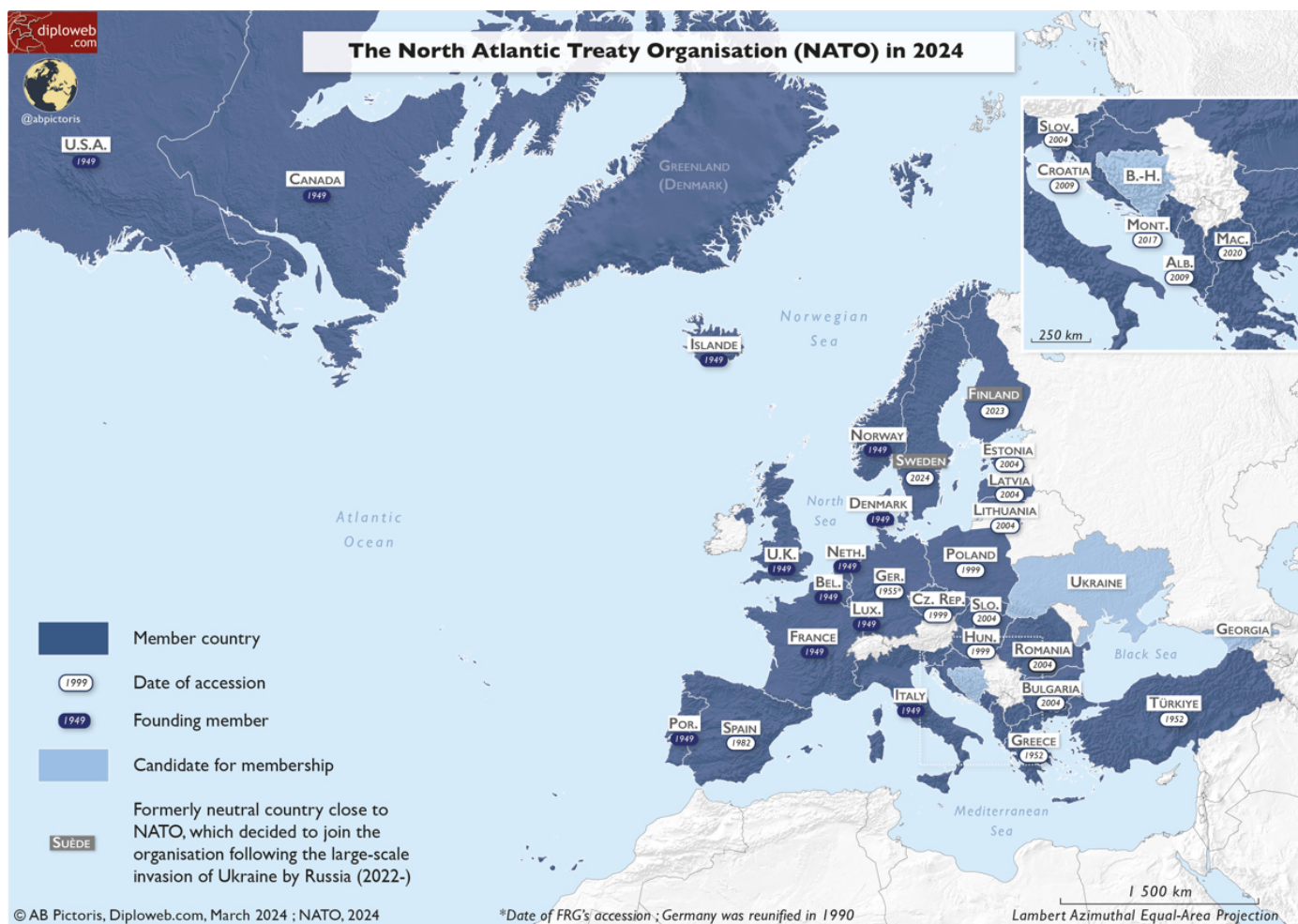
- They fear a **ceasefire may let Russia re-arm** and **endanger their security**.

What is Ottawa Convention 1997?

- **About:**
 - It is an international agreement that **prohibits the use, production, stockpiling, and transfer of anti-personnel landmines**.
 - Landmines are concealed explosive devices that are activated by proximity or pressure.
 - **Anti-personnel mines** are specifically designed to cause harm or injury to individuals, including soldiers.
 - It obligates signatories to **destroy stockpiles within 4 years, clear mined areas, and assist victims**.
- **Objective:** It aims to **mitigate civilian harm** caused by **landmines**, which remain lethal long after conflicts end.
- **Adoption:** Finalized at the **Diplomatic Conference in Oslo** on 18th September 1997 and entered into force on **1st March 1999**.
- **Scope:** Bans anti-personnel landmines but **does not apply to anti-vehicle mines** (designed to damage or destroy vehicles).
- **Membership:** 164 States countries.
 - Major powers like the **US, Russia, and India** are **not parties**.

2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions

- The Convention **prohibits** all use, production, transfer and stockpiling of cluster munitions.
 - **Cluster munitions** are weapons that release **many smaller explosives (bomblets) over a large area**, often harming **civilians and creating lasting humanitarian risks**.
- It has 112 state parties and 12 signatories. Recently, Lithuania has withdrawn from the **2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions**, which **bans weapons that spread smaller bombs over a wide area**.
 - **India, along with the US, Russia, China, Ukraine, and Israel**, has **refrained from signing the treaty**, primarily due to **military and strategic considerations**.



UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year's Questions (PYQs)

Prelims

Q. Which one of the following is used as an explosive? (2009)

- (a) Phosphorus trichloride
- (b) Mercuric oxide
- (c) Graphite
- (d) Nitroglycerine

Ans: (d)