

Trump upends decades of NATO doctrine with views on treaty

Domestic furor, unease abroad

By **MATTHEW LEE**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump's suggestion that the United States might abandon its NATO treaty commitments has upended decades of American foreign policy dogma and doctrine in both parties. It has created a domestic furor and fueled angst not only across Europe but in Asia, where Trump's complaints about allies not paying their own way have also resonated.

Trump's mere musing that he would review allies' financial contributions in this case those owed by Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania before acting under NATO's Article 5 mutual defense clause if they were attacked by Russia could rock the foundations of the security architecture that has underpinned European stability since the end of World War II.

That possibility, and the global instability that would likely follow, is not something NATO leaders or their nervous citizens will countenance lightly, particularly since they responded, without question, under Article 5 when the United States was attacked on Sept. 11, 2001.

U.S. administrations have complained, often bitterly, that

many NATO members are not footing their share of the alliance's bills. The U.S. accounts for more than 70 percent of all NATO defense spending. Only four other allies Britain, Estonia, Greece and Poland meet the minimum 2 percent of gross domestic product on defense that NATO requires. But Trump's floating the idea that that spending target would be a prerequisite for the U.S. to defend them is an abrupt break for the most powerful member of NATO, which styles itself as the most successful military alliance in world history.

Estonian President Toomas Hendrik Ilves noted pointedly in a tweet that Estonia "fought, with no caveats," on behalf of the U.S. in Afghanistan.

In 2002, the only time Article 5 has ever been invoked, NATO surveillance planes patrolled American skies and deployed a third of the troops in Afghanistan for a decade. More than 1,000 non-American troops died in Afghanistan.

"We are equally committed to all our NATO allies, regardless of who they may be. That's what makes them allies," Ilves tweeted.

His fellow Eastern European leaders sought to calm the furor.

"Regardless of who will be the president of America, we will trust in America," Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskaitė told reporters in Vilnius in remarks that were echoed by

Czech Prime Minister Bohuslav Sobotka. "The United States always stood with nations which were under attack and it will continue doing so."

NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg said "solidarity among allies is a key value for NATO," a stand that "is good for European security and good for U.S. security," he said.

"The United States has always stood by its European allies. Now the U.S. is stepping up its support once again, and increasing its presence," Stoltenberg said. The U.S. placed new troops recently in Poland.

Yet, analysts and citizens throughout Eastern Europe, where fears of Russian aggression run high since it annexed the Ukrainian region of Crimea, expressed deep concern, notably since just two weeks ago NATO-country leaders reaffirmed that they "stand together, and act together, to ensure the defense of our territory and populations, and of our common values."

In Warsaw, average Poles were alarmed.

"His words were irresponsible and they inspired fear in me. I'm worried about the world's future, about Poland's future," said 39-year-old schoolteacher Lidia Zagorowska.

"If I were a U.S. citizen I would never ever vote for Trump. Let that be my answer," said Katarzyna Woznicka, 54, walking her dog in downtown Warsaw.

Trump promises that 'safety will be restored'

Businessman formally accepts Republican nomination for president

By **JULIE PACE** and
ROBERT FURLOW
Associated Press



AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster

Businessman Donald Trump, the Republican nominee for president, speaks during the final day of the Republican National Convention in Cleveland Thursday night.

CLEVELAND — Declaring America in crisis, Donald Trump pledged to cheering Republicans and still-skeptical voters Thursday night that as president he will restore the safety they fear they're losing, strictly curb immigration and save the nation from Hillary Clinton's record of "death, destruction, terrorism and weakness."

Confidently addressing the finale of his party's less-than-smooth national convention, the billionaire businessman declared the nation's problems too staggering to be fixed within the confines of traditional politics.

"I have joined the political arena so that the powerful can no longer beat up on people that cannot defend themselves," Trump said.

The 71-year-old celebrity businessman's acceptance of the Republican nomination caps his improbable takeover of the GOP, a party that plunges into the general election united in opposition to Clinton but still divided over Trump.

His address on the closing night of the convention marked his highest-profile opportunity yet to heal those divisions and show voters he's prepared for the presidency. Ever the showman, he fed off the energy of the crowd, stepping back to soak in applause and joining the delegates as they chanted, "USA."

As the crowd, fiercely opposed to Clinton, broke out in its oft-used refrain of "Lock her up," he waved them off, and instead declared, "Let's defeat her in November." Yet he also

accused her of "terrible, terrible crimes" and said her greatest achievement may have been staying out of prison.

He offered himself as a powerful ally of those who feel Washington has left them behind.

"I'm with you, and I will fight for you, and I will win for you," he declared.

He accused Clinton, his far-more-experienced Democratic rival, of utterly lacking the good judgment to serve in the White House and as the military's commander in chief.

"This is the legacy of Hillary Clinton: death, destruction, terrorism and weakness," he said. "But Hillary Clinton's legacy does not have to be America's legacy."

In a direct appeal to Americans shaken by a summer of violence at home and around the world, Trump promised that if he takes office in January, "safety will be restored."

As he moves into the general election campaign, he's sticking to the controversial proposals of his primary campaign, including building a wall along the entire U.S.-Mexico border and suspending immigration from nations "compromised by terrorism."

But in a nod to a broader swath of Americans, he said young people in predominantly black cities "have as much of a right to live out their dreams

as any other child in America." He also vowed to protect gays and lesbians from violence and oppression, a pledge that was greeted with applause from the crowd.

"As a Republican, it is so nice to hear you cheering for what I just said," he responded.

Trump was introduced by his daughter Ivanka, who announced a childcare policy proposal that the campaign had not mentioned before.

"As president, my father will change the labor laws that were put in place at a time when women weren't a significant portion of the workplace, and he will focus on making quality childcare affordable and accessible for all," she said.

Trump took the stage in Cleveland facing a daunting array of challenges, many of his own making. Though he vanquished 16 primary rivals, he's viewed with unprecedented negativity by the broader electorate, and is struggling in particular with younger voters and minorities, groups GOP leaders know they need for the party to grow.

The first three days of this week's convention bordered on chaos, starting with a plagiarism charge involving his wife Melania Trump's speech and moving on to Texas Sen. Ted Cruz's dramatic refusal to endorse him from the convention stage.

Clinton looks to steal Trump's thunder with her VP pick

Kaine a leading contender

By **KATHLEEN HENNESSEY** and
CALVIN WOODWARD
Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Hillary Clinton moved closer to introducing her running mate, snatching attention from newly crowned Republican nominee Donald Trump just hours after he closed out his convention with a fiery and foreboding turn at the podium.

Crews were still sweeping confetti from the GOP convention hall floor, as the Clinton campaign signaled an announcement was coming soon. In a tweet Friday morning, her campaign urged supporters to text the campaign to get first word. Virginia U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine had emerged as the leading contender, according to Democrats familiar with Clinton's search.

The news could quickly steal Trump's thunder. In an 75-minute speech Thursday night, Trump made forceful promises to be the champion of disaffected Americans, capping his convention on a high note for the party, not a moment too soon after shows of disharmony and assorted flubs before the four-day closer.

Speaking to "the forgot-



AP Photo/Andrew Harnik

A photograph of Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton is displayed on a smartphone as she takes a selfie with a supporter after speaking at a rally at the Culinary Academy of Las Vegas in Las Vegas Tuesday.

ten men and women of our country," the people who "work hard but no longer have a voice," he declared: "I am your voice." With that, he summed up both the paradox and the power of his campaign — a billionaire who made common cause with struggling Americans alienated from the system, or at least a portion of them.

Democrats offered a different assessment, with Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta arguing that Trump "offered no real solutions to help working families get ahead or to keep our country safe, just more prejudice and paranoia. America is better than this. America is better than Donald Trump."

Clinton opens a two-day campaign swing Friday in Florida and is expected to introduce her running mate either at a Friday afternoon rally at the state fairgrounds in Tampa or on Saturday at Florida International University in Miami.

Kaine, 58, appeared to be the favorite for her choice, according to two Democrats, who both cautioned that Clinton has not made a decision and could change direction.

The Democratic convention in Philadelphia, which starts Monday, is expected to be a more orderly affair than the Republican event in Cleveland. Clinton is, if anything, disciplined.



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