

## U.S. should reduce its NATO funding

By BAILEY GREEN Monday, June 4, 2012

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, commonly referred to as NATO, was an alliance formed to defeat communism. Having achieved that goal, the alliance's mission has changed to protecting all members from global threats.

Today, America is the main leader of NATO. We provide the most funding, military supplies and soldiers to the alliance. Because of this, it is almost as if America is unnecessarily operating and funding two armies. Due to our nation's current economic distress, it is necessary that America cuts part of its funding to NATO.

Malou Innocent of the Cato Institute said that NATO is unique because it is the only international organization to have its own military. Because of this, NATO is able to protect its members effectively.

However, NATO's military is so heavily made up of American soldiers that it's as if other countries fight in wars at America's expense. This is something that Americans cannot afford. From a perspective outside of NATO, our power and influence in the organization are described as being excessive.

Dmitry Cherkashin of the Russian Embassy said that America donates too much money to an organization that doesn't positively affect us as much as it should. He agrees that the organization does positive things for the world, but one country should not have so much power or give so much funding to it.

America should cut its funding, and other countries should increase theirs in order to make NATO a truly internationally run organization.