

# Dangerous Crossroads: Extensive Russian and Allied War Games in Response to US-NATO Military Buildup

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Region: [Russia and FSU](#)

Theme: [US NATO War Agenda](#)

*Barely reported by the Western media, Russia has launched a series of war games in Europe and the Far East together with several of its allies. These war games are largely in response to NATO's military buildup on Russia's Western frontier, in Eastern Europe, The Baltic States and Scandinavia.*

*They also coincide with Donald Trump's decision to repeal the 1987 INF agreement signed between Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev. The Intermediate Nuclear Force **Treaty (INF)**, "aimed to eliminate short and medium range nuclear missiles."*

*We are at a dangerous crossroads in our history. The broader public must be informed, particularly in NATO countries. It is crucial to restore sanity in international diplomacy to prevent the unthinkable.*

*Examine the overlapping chronology of these war games. (September-December 2018).*

*The structure of military alliances has shifted. Russia and China have harnessed the support of two of Washington's (former?) allies, namely India and Pakistan, both of which are now full members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).*

October 25, 2018. NATO War Games. Largest since Cold War

NATO war games under Operation Trident Juncture commence on October 25, 2018. [Trident Juncture 2018](#) is NATO's largest exercise since the Cold War.

Around 50,000 troops, 250 aircrafts, aircraft carrier [Harry S. Truman](#), 64 vessels and 10,000 vehicles will participate to Nato's collective defence scenario (Article 5) from 25 October to 7 November 2018.

All Nato's members as well as NATO partners Finland and Sweden will participate. (See [Global Research](#), October 21, 2018)

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September 13, 2018. Russia-China-Mongolia War Games in Eastern Siberia. Russia's Largest War Games Ever

Russia, China and Mongolia undertook The Vostok-2018 drills in eastern Siberia close to China's border. The exercise was on on massive scale involving 300,000 Russian forces.

“The exercises, ... involve more than 1,000 military aircrafts as well as up to 36,000 tanks, ... China sent about 3,200 troops, 900 combat vehicles, and 30 aircrafts to join the drills” (Al Jazeera, September 13, 2018)



The Chinese media have described the People's Liberation Army involvement in the drills as the country's largest-ever dispatch of forces abroad for war games. **MLADEN ANTONOV/AFP**



President Vladimir Putin lauded Russian, Chinese and Mongolian troops for their skills, saying they 'demonstrated their capability to deflect potential military threats'. **ALEXEY NIKOLSKY/VIA AFP**

September 30, 2018. Russia-Serbia Air Drills

Together with Serbia, Russia launches air drill: “Pilots of Russia’s Aerospace Defence Forces and the Serbian Air Force and Air Defence will conduct a joint tactical flight exercise BARS-2018 on the territory of the Republic of Serbia.”

The drills will see the militaries from both countries practice intercepting aerial targets, air-to-air engagements and mid-air manoeuvres.

Aircraft will also carry out tactical strikes on ground targets and a search-and-rescue mission.

According to the Russian military, some of its most state-of-the-art planes and choppers will be used, including MiG-29 twin-engine jet fighter aircraft and Mi-8 medium twin-turbine helicopters.

The drills come as [Russia](#) revealed it had created one of the world’s most advanced missiles to date.

The Kremlin has boasted about its R-37M missile, which will turn the country’s air force into one of the [world’s most fearsome](#) and has a greater range than any belonging to the US military. (Daily Star, UK, September 30, 2018)

October 20, 2018: Russia-India Military Exercises Involving Land Forces, Navy and Air Force

India and Russia initiated a 10-days military exercises involving land forces, navy and air force. The war games were launched in the eastern military district of Russia. The timing of these war games coincides with the onslaught of those conducted by NATO in Scandinavia and the Baltic States.

In the midst of evolving security situation in the region, [India and Russia will hold a mega war game in October](#) involving their armies, navies and the air forces for the first time to further ramp up military ties.

The exercise Indra, which will be held in Russia from October 19 to 29, will primarily focus on achieving coordination between forces of the two countries in a tri- services integrated theatre command scenario, military sources said.

Of significance, the Russia-India war games are also marked by the establishment of joint command and control structures between the two countries.

What is at stake is a geopolitical realignment. We are no longer dealing with a bilateral military cooperation agreement. India has not only entered Russia’s military orbit, it is now a full member together with Pakistan of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

In recent developments, the SCO is evolving towards a de facto collective security arrangement with Russia and China playing a central role.

In turn, India is slated to acquire Russia’s S400 state of the art air defense system.

December 2018: India-China Joint Military Exercise

It is worth noting that India and China have also reasserted their intent to build upon a

military cooperation within the framework of the SCO:

[“India and China have agreed to resume the joint military exercise, Hand-in-Hand, which was suspended after the Doklam face-off. In sync with the renewed efforts by both countries to reset ties, the military exercise will take place in the second week of December in Kunming, China.”](#)

October 22, 2018: Russia-Pakistan Joint Military Training

Coinciding with the Russia-India war games (which started on October 20), Russia is also involved in a joint training exercise with Pakistan which started on Monday October 22.

Russian Army Contingent arrived in Pakistan to participate in Pak-Russia Joint Training Exercise ‘Druzhba-III’. This is 3rd exercise as part of Pak-Russia bilateral training cooperation. The 1st Exercise was held in Pakistan during 2016 while 2nd in Russia during 2017. [pic.twitter.com/Qbu8zx7tQl](https://pic.twitter.com/Qbu8zx7tQl)

What this ultimately suggests is that neither Pakistan nor India are no longer Washington’s trusted allies.

But also, the conflict between India and Pakistan, which dates back to the British empire, is in the process of being resolved under the auspices of the SCO.

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