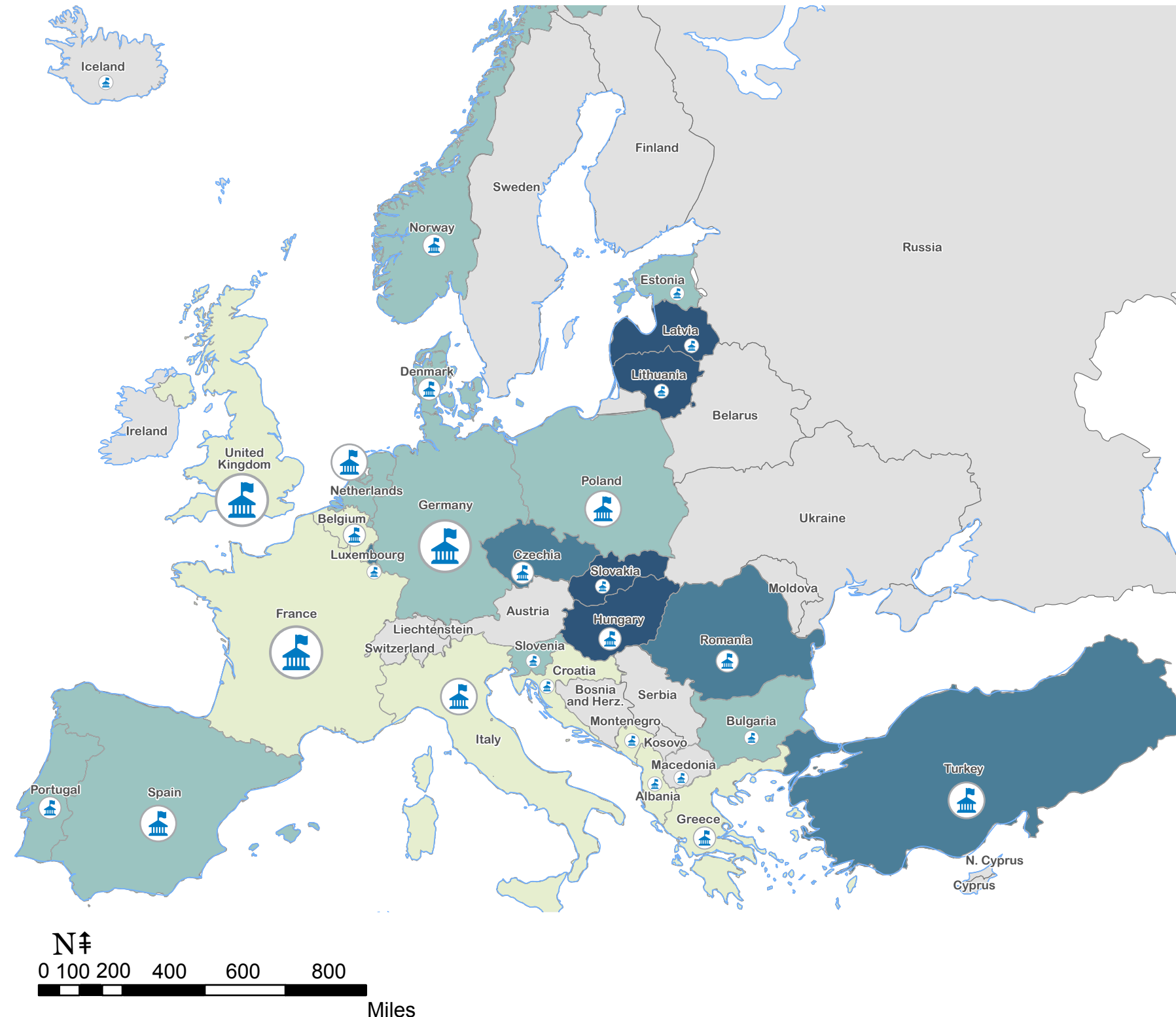
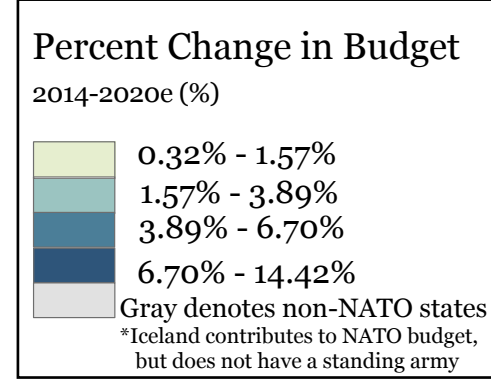
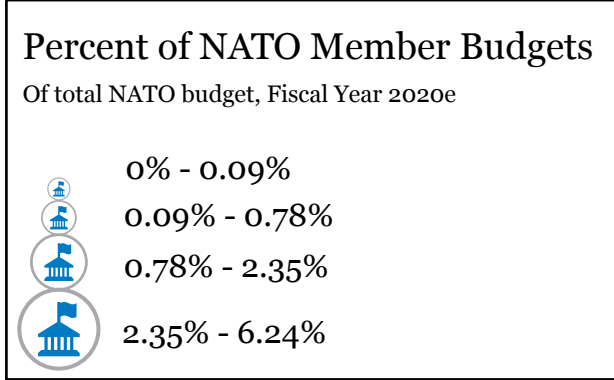
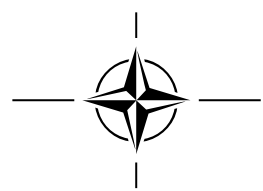


# Defense Budgets of European NATO Member States: What It Means



## A Whiff of War

*NATO forces are integral in responding to and assisting in three types of conflict: Developing World Internal Conflicts, counteracting Rogue States, and containing authoritarian regimes, particularly Russia.*



## The Threat:

*Russia poses a serious threat to the NATO alliance. The 2014 annexation of sovereign Ukrainian territory has influenced the defense spending increases in Latvia and Lithuania, who fear a potential invasion. Turkey is also entangled in attribution conflict with Russia in Syria, so Turkey has increased its budget accordingly.*

## The "Big Three"

*The United Kingdom, France, and Germany possess the largest European defense budgets and share of NATO's expenditures. As a result, they have powerful militaries that do not require large increases in defense spending.*

Europe North Albers Equal Area Conic  
54° N, 15° E  
Map Sources: Esri, GEBCO, Delorme, NaturalVue  
Data: NATO website  
Graphics: Noun Project; Kelsey Chisamore, P. Vignesh  
Cartographer: Patrik Kjos