

SS.7.C.4.2

Recognize government and citizen participation in international organizations.

- **NATO – North Atlantic Treaty Organization.** Formed after World War II: US, England, Canada, France & others agreed to have their military forces train together and to defend each other. NATO countries were concerned about the spread of communism – fearful that the Soviet Union and other communist nations might provoke World War Three. Currently 29 countries are members of NATO.
- **UN – The United Nations.** Also formed after World War II. Unlike NATO, communist countries and others not friendly to the US & its allies are part of the UN. Goal of the UN is to provide a way for its members to solve disputes without war. Currently, 193 countries are members of the United Nations. UN has many specialized agencies, including:
 - WTO – World Trade Organization
 - WHO – World Health Organization
 - International Court of Justice (aka “World Court)

Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs) are organizations such as the International Red Cross. They are not connected to the government of any country. They rely on donations and volunteers.