

NATO, 1949

- North Atlantic Treaty Organization
- military/defence alliance by western countries
- founded in 1949 (consequence of the Berlin Blockade)
- most important: Article 5

“The Parties agree that an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all”

Warsaw Pact, 1955

- Treaty of Friendship, Co-operation, and Mutual Alliance
- Reaction to the FRG's entry into NATO
- military alliance
- 14 May 1955, signed by the USSR and other Communist countries
- included a decree about the united commander of the armed forces
- committee located in Warsaw, always headed by a Soviet officer
- USSR ensured that it could position armed forces in all member states, strengthened its hegemony

Poznań 1956 Uprising

- first protest against the Communist government
- began on 28 June
- workers from Poznań demonstrated for better conditions and pay and against a recent rise in taxes
- more than 100,000 people gathered in front of the headquarter of the city officials
- protest became violent when the crowd took over the prison and freed political prisoners and seized fire arms
- Communist Party's and secret police's buildings were ransacked
- Soviet forces surrounded the city and took detainees for brutal interrogations
- rebellion was brutally crushed, dozens of people died, hundreds of them were wounded
- led the way towards changes and reforms such as wage raises

Sources:

Finale Prüfungstraining Geschichte 2015

www.local-life.com/poznan/articles/poznan-1956