

Agreements with countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. These commitments may require the dispatch of forces during times of international crisis to preserve allied and American interests, thus limiting the availability of forces for the Central Front. Likewise, the Soviet Union devotes significant forces (approximately fifty-three divisions during peacetime) to the protection of its land border with the People's Republic of China, a requirement that would demand additional forces in the event of open hostilities with the Chinese. The analyst's assumptions regarding the commitment of forces to other regions bears directly on his portrayal of the force balance along the Central Front.

3. Reliability of Allied Forces - Questions of reliability focus on the resolve of allied countries to discharge their military obligations during times of war. For example, the reliability of the East Europeans is thought likely to depend on the politico-military circumstances surrounding the outbreak of war, the expected duration of the fighting, and the anticipated success (or failure) of Warsaw Pact forces on the battlefield. Soviet allies may be reluctant to participate fully in an unprovoked or costly war of expansion against the West. They may be less reluctant to fight, however, if facing the perceived threat of "resurgent West German revanchism."⁶

Concerns of alliance solidarity are not unique to the Warsaw Pact. France does not participate in the integrated military command of NATO, although provisions have been made for the war-time cooperation of French and NATO forces. This

⁶ This is the desire to reunite the two Germans as one political entity, attributed to the West Germans by Soviet commentators. This raises the spectre, in East European minds, of a powerful and united Germany once again marching eastward as in the Second World War.