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# Mutual and Balanced Force Reductions

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### Mussolini, Alessandra (1963-)

Granddaughter of Italian dictator Benito Mussolini and a leading figure of the neofascist Italian Social Movement and its successor, the National Alliance Party. In early 1992, Alessandra Mussolini won a seat in the Italian Chamber of Deputies as a representative of her native Naples. The following year she ran for mayor of Naples but lost. Despite her loss, Mussolini has continued to be an important political force. She is a controversial figure because of the pride she expresses in her infamous grandfather. Mussolini is the oldest daughter of Benito Mussolini's youngest son. Neapolitan actress Sophia Loren is her aunt. Before running for office Mussolini had a brief acting career in B movies and attended a medical program. Dissatisfied with these pursuits, she campaigned for office using her name, good looks, and connections to advantage.

Mussolini has stressed her desire for a stronger nation. She has called for tighter control of immigration, a reduction in the size of the government, and tougher measures against crime. Though an important woman in politics, Mussolini does not describe herself as a feminist. But she has supported measures to eradicate the obligatory assignment of the paternal surname to children and to grant maternity leave to female members of parliament.

On November 14, 1996, Mussolini resigned from the right-wing National Alliance (AN). She said that her resignation resulted from differences with party leader Gianfranco Fini, who slighted her when he reorganized the party leadership. However, the resignation followed the inclusion of her husband, head of the state railroad's real estate division, in a corruption inquiry concerning the former head of the state railroad. Mussolini, who upset her AN colleagues on the Naples city council by supporting the city's left-wing administration, led by former Communist Antonio Bassolino, continued to hold her seat in parliament as an independent.

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### Mutual and Balanced Force Reductions

Arms control reduction talks initiated in October 1973 that sought to limit conventional forces in central Europe between the Warsaw Pact and NATO. These negotiations were terminated in February 1989 and replaced by broader talks on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) in March 1989.

The participants of these negotiations were the seven Warsaw Pact and twelve NATO allied countries. The MBFR talks were precipitated by the "Mansfield resolutions," introduced into the U.S. Senate by Senator Mike Mansfield, which unilaterally sought to withdraw American ground troops from Europe. The objective of these talks, besides being used by U.S. and NATO leaders to forestall the passage of these resolutions, was to create a stable military balance in the zone surrounding East and West Germany, to limit rising defense costs for both alliances, and to reinforce warming East-West relations. Central obstacles to this agreement dealt with the disparity in size of NATO and Warsaw Pact ground forces, the types of forces to be reduced, how the phasing of reductions would take place, the status of Soviet forces stationed outside central Europe, and verification of draft treaty force limitations.

Most of these obstacles to a MBFR agreement were solved between 1975 and 1978 by means of bilateral concessions; however, a dispute over data concerning the size of Warsaw Pact ground troops stationed in central Europe ensued, and this deadlocked the talks over the next decade. In an attempt to break the impasse, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev introduced proposals in April 1986 that became known as "the Budapest Appeal" and formed the basis of new negotiations that resulted in the CFE treaty in March 1989.

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### Myrdal, Gunnar (1898–1987)

Swedish political economist, noted for his study *An American Dilemma: The Negro Problem and Modern Democracy* (1944), which pointed out the problems of race relations in the United States. He had done an earlier study of Sweden's declining population, which he published with his wife, Alva Reimer, in 1934; this led the Carnegie Corporation to invite him to do the survey on the American Negro, which he began in 1938. The book illustrated the great gap between America's ideal of equality and the reality of the negro condition of Black Americans at that time, and pointed to the need for change to lessen the gap between blacks and whites. Myrdal used anthropological, economic, sociological, legal, and political data gathered from diverse sources.

(Karl) Gunnar Myrdal was born in Gustaf, Sweden, and attended the University of Stockholm, where he re-

ceived both a law degree and a Ph.D. He became a professor of economics at Stockholm University in 1933 and served as a Social Democrat in the Riksdag (upper house of parliament) from 1936 to 1938. During the 1930s he assisted the Swedish government in initiating a national program of state responsibility for welfare for children.

Myrdal returned to parliament in 1944 and served in the cabinets of Per Albin Hansson and Tage Erlander from 1945 to 1947. After 1947 he was executive secretary of the United Nation's Economic Commission in Europe, assisting in the rebuilding of Western Europe at the time of the U.S. Marshall Plan. He resigned his professorship at Stockholm University in 1950 but resumed it again in 1960 as a professor of international economics. His publications include *Monetary Equilibrium* (1939), *An International Economy: Problems and Prospects* (1956), *Value in Social Theory: A Selection of Essays on Methodology* (1958), *Development and Underdevelopment, Rich Lands and Poor: The Road to World Prosperity* (1958), *Beyond the Welfare State* (1960), *Challenge to Affluence* (1963), and *The Challenge of World Poverty* (1970).

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