NATO was created in order to defend Europe from the threat of the Soviet Union. That threat has long since disappeared, but NATO still exists, and has substantially expanded both its membership and its vision of its role to include so-called ‘out of area operations.’ But it is unclear what benefits either Europe or North America have gained from this expansion. In this talk, Professor Robinson will examine the arguments for and against NATO’s continued existence, and will challenge whether the organization continues to serve a useful purpose.

Paul Robinson is a professor in the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Ottawa. A former officer in both the British and Canadian armies, Professor Robinson received a doctorate from Oxford University, and has taught in Ottawa since 2006. He is the author of numerous books and articles on Russian and military history, military ethics, international security, and defence policy.