

The Trump Prism on Allies

By Victor Cha, CSIS Geopolitics and Foreign Policy, December 11, 2024

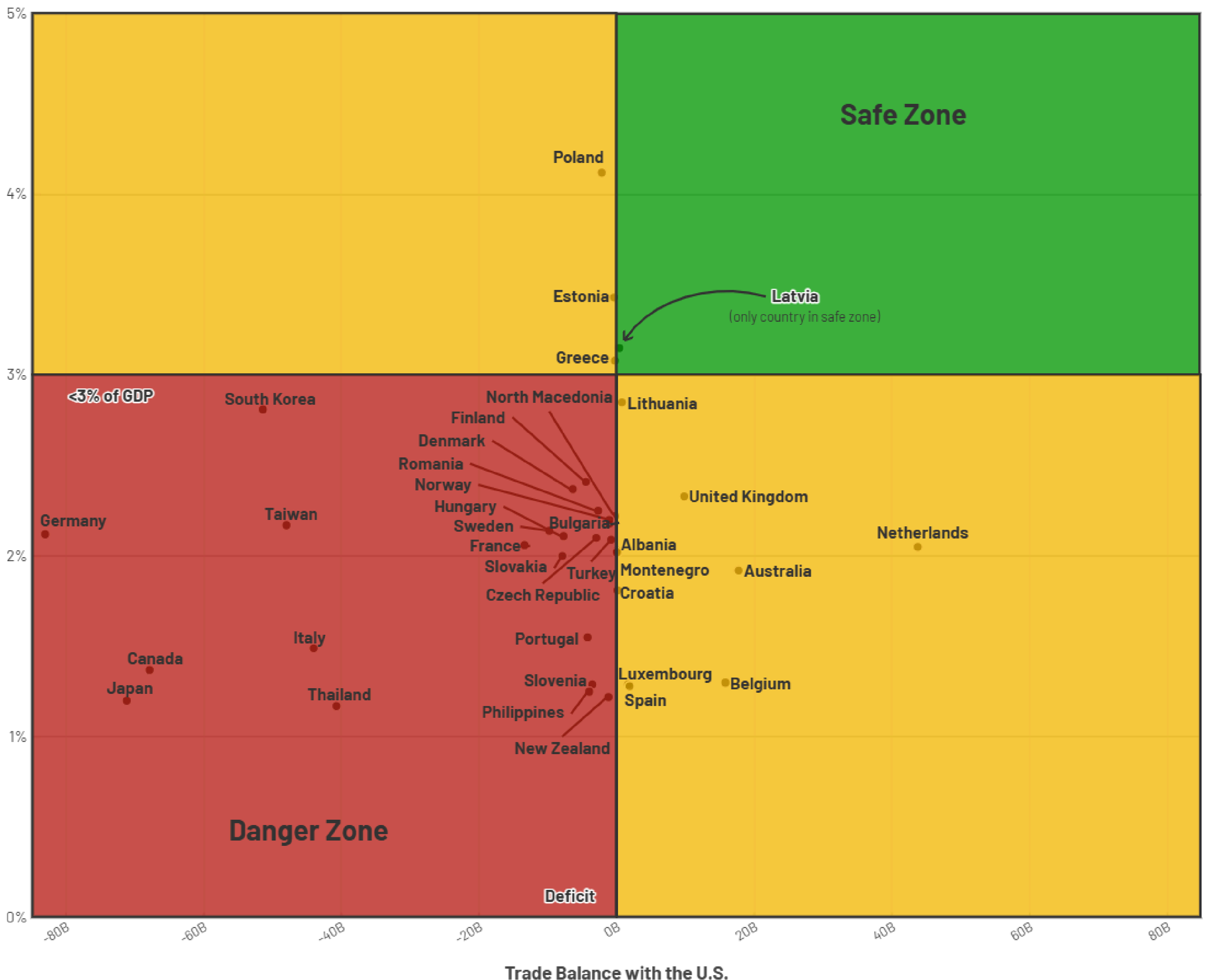
Former president and president-elect Donald Trump has talked at length about the need for allies and partners to do more and to pay their fair share. Which allies in Europe and Asia will Trump favor or show disdain for?

Based on his first term in office and campaign statements, Trump's barometer on allies is shaped by two key criteria:

- (1) whether the country has a trade surplus or deficit with the United States, and
- (2) whether the ally does its "fair share" on defense by spending at least 3 percent of their GDP.

The graphic below shows which NATO and Asian allies and partners are in the "Danger Zone" or "Safe Zone" with Trump based on these two metrics.

Military Expenditures as % of GDP



Source: Census, NATO, SIPRI

The Trump Prism on Allies

By Victor Cha, CSIS Geopolitics and Foreign Policy, December 11, 2024.

Country	Trade Balance with the U.S. (in billions \$)	Trade Surplus	Military Expenditures as % of GDP (Above 3%)	Military Expenditures as % of GDP
NATO Allies				
Albania	0.06	YES	NO	2.03%
Belgium	15.80	YES	NO	1.30%
Bulgaria	-1.06	NO	NO	2.18%
Canada	-67.86	NO	NO	1.37%
Croatia	0.13	YES	NO	1.81%
Czech Republic	-2.96	NO	NO	2.10%
Denmark	-6.38	NO	NO	2.37%
Estonia	-0.41	NO	YES	3.43%
Finland	-4.47	NO	NO	2.41%
France	-13.39	NO	NO	2.06%
Germany	-83.02	NO	NO	2.12%
Greece	-0.27	NO	YES	3.08%
Hungary	-7.71	NO	NO	2.11%
Iceland	-0.34	NO	N/A	N/A
Italy	-44.01	NO	NO	1.49%
Latvia	0.38	YES	YES	3.15%
Lithuania	0.77	YES	NO	2.85%
Luxembourg	1.68	YES	NO	1.29%
Montenegro	0.03	YES	NO	2.02%
Netherlands	43.74	YES	NO	2.05%
North Macedonia	-0.23	NO	NO	2.22%
Norway	-1.08	NO	NO	2.20%
Poland	-2.16	NO	YES	4.12%
Portugal	-4.23	NO	NO	1.55%
Romania	-2.69	NO	NO	2.25%
Slovakia	-7.89	NO	NO	2.00%
Slovenia	-3.54	NO	NO	1.29%
Spain	1.88	YES	NO	1.28%
Sweden	-9.79	NO	NO	2.14%
Turkey	-0.80	NO	NO	2.09%
United Kingdom	9.80	YES	NO	2.33%
Asian Allies				
Australia	17.72	YES	NO	1.92%
Japan	-71.18	NO	NO	1.20%
New Zealand	-1.19	NO	NO	1.22%
Philippines	-3.98	NO	NO	1.25%
South Korea	-51.40	NO	NO	2.81%
Taiwan	-47.98	NO	NO	2.17%
Thailand	-40.72	NO	NO	1.17%

Iceland does not have a standing military, therefore its military expenditure is left blank. NATO numbers are based off 2024 estimates.