

ASSESSMENT OF THE ANGLO-PORTUGUESE ALLIANCE IN INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE FORMATION

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Abstract

*This paper assesses **The Anglo-Portuguese Alliance** birthed through the Treaty of 1373, but formalized via the Windsor Treaty in 1386. This study adopts a qualitative, descriptive approach, relying on secondary data obtained through desk research. The theoretical framework considered most effective for this analysis is **realism**, particularly its emphasis on strategic interests and power dynamics - Realism highlights how nations prioritize their own security and survival in an anarchic international system and the alliance between Britain and Portugal is a prime example of this dynamic in the international system. Findings show the significant factors that made the alliance the oldest running in the world, its key successes and challenges vis-à-vis the crucial need for reform to enable it meet the demands of the 21st century. The study recommends the restructuring of the fundamental aspects of the alliance, to encompass modern realities.*

Key Words: Alliance, Treaty, Challenges, Reform, Changing-World, International Cooperation

Introduction

There are several alliance treaties between England and Portugal, the most significant being the Treaty of London in 1373, which marked the foundation of the Anglo-Portuguese alliance. In total, between 1353 and 1943, thirty-two treaties and conventions were signed by the two countries for commercial and military purposes, according to Lynne Booker (2020) of the Algarve History Association. The Anglo-Portuguese Alliance, also known as the Oldest Alliance, is a long-lasting pact of friendship and mutual support between the United Kingdom (UK) and Portugal, dating back to 1373. It's considered the world's oldest military alliance, with backgrounds tracing back to 1294 and made official with the signing of Treaty of Windsor in 1386. Historical origin of the coalition began with a commercial agreement in 1353 and was converted into a military and political alliance in 1373. As regards its formalization, the Treaty of Windsor in 1386 solidified the alliance with a pact of perpetual friendship. The Anglo-Portuguese Treaty is symbolic of an 'Enduring Legacy' in view of the fact that the alliance has undergone numerous historic eras, including periods when Portugal came under the control of Spain as well as the Napoleonic Wars era.

Apart from military cooperation, the alliance is inclusive of political support. The alliance has involved mutual support in times of conflict, including the Napoleonic Wars where Britain sent troops to Portugal. Economic ties have also come to the fore, courtesy of the alliance which has fostered economic cooperation, including trade and investment between the two nations. As to its

relevance in this modern era, while the military aspects have seen less focus in recent times, the alliance continues to be a cornerstone of the relationship between the two countries, fostering cultural exchange and diplomatic cooperation. Perhaps, this fact earns the alliance, the Anglo-Portuguese Partnership, the accolade of the world's oldest known historical alliance, with the initial treaty going back to the Anglo-Portuguese Treaty, which has the primary goal of pooling military resources against prospective adversaries.

Materials and Methods

This study on the Assessment of the Anglo-Portuguese Alliance adopts a qualitative, descriptive approach, to explore the historical background, objectives or goals, impact or legacy and challenges of the alliance. The materials used are from secondary sources such as journals, articles, a variety of official and published records, online books, papers, as well as sundry data from library, internet, etc. obtained through desk research which provide copious basis for analysis.

Literature Review

The Anglo-Portuguese Alliance, the world's longest-standing alliance, has been considered to be a hardy and advantageous partnership, branded by its lasting solidity and reciprocal backing, despite ages of tension. It has outlived times of political and social change, including wars, revolutions, and the rise and fall of empires. The alliance has been celebrated for its unfaltering nature, its ability to adjust to changing circumstances, and its lasting bequest as a classical example of transnational diplomacy (Booker, 2020). In assessing the Anglo-Portuguese Alliance, below are salient highlights:

Longevity and Resilience: The alliance's strength lies in its ability to withstand challenges and maintain a strong bond over centuries. The Anglo-Portuguese Alliance, established in the late 14th century, stands out for its remarkable longevity and resilience, enduring over six centuries of tumultuous history. It has proven its durability by surviving major historical events, including wars, political transformations, and global challenges. The alliance has not only persisted but has adapted and strengthened over time, showcasing its enduring importance and strategic value for both nations (Stone, 1994; Newitt, 2009; Booker, 2020). The following are some of the attributes showcasing the longevity and resilience of the Anglo-Portuguese Alliance (Reis, 2025; Lawton, 2018):

1. **Unparalleled Endurance:** The Anglo-Portuguese Alliance is widely recognized as the oldest continuous alliance in the world, having outlived countless other alliances that have faded over time. Its survival spans centuries of shifting political landscapes, wars, and global power dynamics.
2. **Adaptability and Strength:** The alliance has demonstrated its ability to adapt to changing times, remaining relevant and strengthening its ties even in the face of evolving geopolitical realities. It has weathered significant historical events, including the two World Wars, the rise and fall of empires, and the rise of the European Union.
3. **Strategic Importance:** The alliance has been a source of mutual benefit for both nations, providing stability and cooperation in times of uncertainty. Its strong historical ties have allowed both countries to navigate complex international relations.

4. Modern Relevance: The alliance continues to be a significant factor in both nations' foreign policies, shaping their interactions and cooperation in the 21st century. The UK and Portugal continue to deepen their cooperation on shared priorities, such as defending democracy, free trade, and human rights, according to a 2023 joint declaration. (Lawton, 2018; Reis, 2025).

5.

Mutual Benefit: Both nations have benefited from the alliance, particularly during times of conflict and economic hardship. The Anglo-Portuguese Alliance, dating back to 1373, has provided numerous mutual benefits to both nations. It offered Portugal a strong alliance against potential threats, particularly Castile, and later, security for its expanding maritime empire. For Britain, it ensured access to strategic advantages in the Portuguese mainland and islands, and a share in the profits of the Portuguese Empire (Fernando, 2025; Hugh, 1970). Benefits of the alliance for Portugal include (Silva, 2022; Trowbridge, 2016; Stone, 1994):

1. Security and Stability: The alliance provided a crucial guarantee of Portugal's independence and security, both domestically and in its colonial empire.
2. Geopolitical Support: It offered an essential counterweight to the power of Castile, particularly in the early years of the alliance.
3. Military Assistance: The alliance ensured military aid from England in times of need, as demonstrated during the Peninsular War against Napoleon and other conflicts.
4. Trade and Economic Ties: The alliance fostered a climate of mutual trade and prosperity, as seen with the increased commercial ties promoted by Queen Philippa.

5.

Benefits of the alliance for Great Britain include (Silva, 2022; Trowbridge, 2016; Stone, 1994):

1. Strategic Advantage: The alliance provided Britain with access to strategic ports and territories in Portugal, contributing to its global naval power and trade routes.
2. Economic Gains: Britain benefited from the trade and economic opportunities within the Portuguese colonial empire.
3. Military Cooperation: Portugal provided valuable assistance to Britain in various conflicts, including the Boer War 1, despite the efficiency of some Portuguese armed support.
4. Diplomatic Influence: The alliance gave Britain a strong ally in Europe and a significant voice in global affairs

In essence, the Anglo-Portuguese Alliance has been a mutually beneficial partnership for both nations, providing security, trade, and strategic advantages for centuries (Trowbridge, 2016; Silva, 2022; Stone, 1994).

Model for Diplomacy: The Anglo-Portuguese Alliance is often cited as an example of a successful and enduring international partnership. The Anglo-Portuguese Alliance, dating back to the Treaty of Windsor in 1373, is often cited as a model for diplomacy due its longevity and enduring nature. This alliance demonstrates the benefits of strategic partnerships, even with fluctuating geopolitical landscapes. Its durability highlights the importance of shared values and interests in forging strong, long-lasting relationships between nations.

Here's a more detailed look at why the Anglo-Portuguese Alliance is considered a model for diplomacy (Trowbridge, 2016; Silva, 2022; Stone, 1994):

1. Longevity and Resilience: The alliance has endured for over 650 years, weathering numerous political and historical changes. This resilience showcases the strength of the bond forged between the two nations.
2. Shared Values and Interests: The alliance has been based on shared cultural and social values, as well as common interests, which have fostered a strong and enduring relationship.
3. Mutual Benefit: The alliance has provided mutual benefits to both nations, contributing to the economic, political, and military stability.
4. Adaptability: While the alliance has remained a core element of the relationship, it has also been adapted to changing circumstances, demonstrating its flexibility.
5. Cultural Exchange and Understanding: The alliance has facilitated cultural exchange and understanding between the two countries, promoting a deeper appreciation for each other's heritage.

In conclusion, the Anglo-Portuguese Alliance serves as a powerful example of how a strong and enduring partnership, built on shared values and mutual benefit, can contribute to the stability and cooperation on the international stage (The Anglo-Portuguese Society, 2024).

Adaptability: The alliance has evolved over time to meet the changing needs of both nations, adapting to different eras and geopolitical contexts. The Anglo-Portuguese Alliance, dating back to 1373, demonstrates remarkable adaptability, surviving centuries of political, economic, and social changes. It has adapted to evolving threats and opportunities, remaining a strong and enduring alliance.

Key aspects of the alliance's adaptability include:

1. Shifting Geopolitical Landscape: The alliance has weathered various political transformations and global challenges, adapting to changing power dynamics and interests.
2. Adapting to Economic Changes: While the alliance's roots are in military cooperation, it has also adapted to evolving economic relationships, including trade and investment, as described by Jeronimo Martins (2025).
3. Evolution of Military Cooperation: The alliance has evolved from mutual military aid against specific threats to a more comprehensive security partnership, reflecting changing military technologies and global threats as explained by Portuguese With Carla (2025).
4. Maintaining Relevance in Modern Diplomacy: The alliance continues to be relevant in modern international diplomacy, serving as a model of long-standing alliance and mutual benefit, as noted by GOV.UK blogs (2016) and Foreign Affairs (2022).

Examples of Adaptability of the Anglo-Portuguese include:

- a. Peninsular War: The alliance proved crucial in resisting Napoleon's invasion of Portugal, with British forces supporting the Portuguese in the conflict.
- b. World War II: Portugal's neutrality in World War II, while not a direct military engagement, was vital for Britain's war effort, demonstrating the alliance's continual importance.
- c. Brexit: The UK's departure from the European Union has raised concerns about the future of bilateral relations, but the alliance continues to adapt to the new context.

In conclusion, the Anglo-Portuguese Alliance's longevity and resilience are a testament to its ability to adapt to changing circumstances, evolving from a primarily military alliance to a multifaceted partnership encompassing diplomacy, trade, and cultural exchange (British Online Archives, 2023).

Historical Significance: The alliance has played a role in shaping the history of both Portugal and the UK, influencing events like the Peninsular War and the World Wars. The Anglo-Portuguese Alliance, dating back to 1373, is significant for being the world's oldest continuous alliance between two nations. It has shaped the history of both countries, influencing their interactions in trade, politics, and even military affairs for centuries. The alliance has been a cornerstone of Portuguese foreign policy, providing crucial security and support, and it has been invoked during key historical events like the Napoleonic Wars and World War II. Key aspects of the historical significance of the Anglo-Portuguese Alliance include:

1. Early Origins: The alliance's roots can be traced back to the Treaty of London in 1373, signed by King Edward III of England and King Ferdinand and Queen Eleanor of Portugal. This treaty formalized a pact of perpetual friendship, mutual aid, and protection.
2. Dynastic Ties: The marriage of John I of Portugal to Philippa of Lancaster in 1387 strengthened the alliance further, solidifying it through dynastic union.
3. Shared Interests: Over time, the alliance became intertwined with shared interests in maritime trade and exploration, particularly after the Portuguese Age of Discovery.
4. Military Support: The alliance provided mutual military assistance, as seen in the Peninsular War when the UK supported Portugal against Napoleon's forces.
5. Strategic Importance: Portugal's geographic location, particularly the Azores Islands, provided strategic advantages for the UK, and the alliance facilitated the use of Portuguese territory during World War II, like the lease of air bases in the Azores.
6. Continuity and Adaptability: Despite changing political landscapes and regimes, the alliance has remained fundamentally valid, adapting to new circumstances while maintaining its core principles.
7. Enduring Legacy: The alliance continues to be a significant factor in the relationship between the two nations today, with Portugal and the UK both being members of NATO. (Trowbridge, 2016; Leite, 1998; Army News, 2023).
- 8.

Continued Relevance: While its form may have evolved, the fundamental principle of the alliance remains relevant in the modern era. The continued relevance of the Anglo-Portuguese Alliance is a complex issue with historical roots and contemporary considerations. While the alliance has seen periods of strain and shifting dynamics, its enduring cultural and political significance remains, particularly in the realm of historical narrative and shared cultural heritage. Historical Context (Trowbridge, 2016; Leite, 1998; Army News, 2023):

- i. The Anglo-Portuguese Alliance, established in 1386, is one of the oldest alliances in the world.
- ii. It has been instrumental in shaping both nations' destinies, particularly during periods of geopolitical tension and colonial expansion.
- iii. The alliance has faced challenges, including periods of disagreement and competition over colonial territories

Contemporary Relevance (Trowbridge, 2016; Leite, 1998; Army News, 2023):

- i. The alliance continues to be referenced in discussions about cultural exchange, diplomacy, and shared values.
- ii. It is seen as a cornerstone of the “special relationship” between the two countries.
- iii. While its military significance may have diminished, the alliance’s symbolic and cultural weight remains significant, fostering a sense of shared history and mutual respect.

Challenges and Criticisms (Trowbridge, 2016; Leite, 1998; Army News, 2023):

- i. The enduring presence of the British military in Portugal after the threat of invasion had passed caused resentment among Portuguese military and government officials.
- ii. Some view the alliance as a legacy of colonialism and exploitation, citing instances of British intervention and disregard for Portuguese interests.

Overall, the Anglo-Portuguese Alliance’s continued relevance is multifaceted, encompassing historical significance, cultural exchange, and diplomatic ties. While it has faced challenges and criticisms, its enduring symbolism and the shared history it represents contribute to a sense of cultural continuity and mutual understanding between the two nations (Trowbridge, 2016; Leite, 1998; Army News, 2023).

Areas of Strength: The alliance has provided a strong framework for diplomatic relations, economic cooperation, and mutual security. The Anglo-Portuguese Alliance, dating back to 1373, is a remarkable example of enduring international cooperation. Its strength lies in its long-standing history, shared maritime interests, and the mutual benefits derived from the alliance, which have shaped the history and foreign policy of both nations (Neupane, 2023)..

Key areas of strength of the Anglo-Portuguese Alliance include (Russell, 1955; Neupane, 2023):

1. **Historical Depth and Endurance:** The alliance’s roots in the 14th century provide a foundation of trust and understanding that has spanned centuries, enduring political changes and global conflicts.
2. **Shared Maritime Interests:** Both nations have historically been major maritime powers, and the alliance has facilitated cooperation in trade, navigation, and defense of their global interests.
3. **Mutual Benefit and Strategic Value:** For Portugal, the alliance provided a guarantee of independence and security against potential rivals, while for the UK, it contributed to the defense of its global empire and commercial interests.
4. **Flexibility and Adaptability:** The alliance has demonstrated the ability to adapt to changing circumstances, evolving from its original military focus to encompass broader economic and political cooperation.
5. **Foundation for Cultural Exchange and Shared Values:** Beyond political and military aspects, the alliance has fostered cultural exchanges and mutual respect, contributing to a deeper understanding between the two nations.
6. **Influence on European Geopolitics:** The alliance has played a role in shaping European power dynamics, as seen in its influence on the Peninsular War and the rise of the British Empire.

7. Continued Relevance in the Modern Era: The alliance remains a significant factor in the bilateral relationship between the UK and Portugal, with mutual cooperation in areas like defense, trade, and cultural exchange.

8.

Areas of Improvement: While the alliance has been generally successful, there have been periods of strain, particularly during the scramble for Africa in the 19th century. The Anglo-Portuguese Alliance, while historically significant, faces challenges in the modern era. Its focus on mutual security and trade, while still relevant, needs updating to address contemporary geopolitical realities. Areas of improvement include enhancing cultural exchange, exploring new economic partnerships, and modernizing the alliance's structure to better reflect evolving priorities (Myers, 2013).

Areas of Improvement as far as the Anglo-Portuguese Alliance is concerned include:

1. Modernizing Economic Ties:

- a. Beyond Trade: While trade remains crucial, the alliance could benefit from exploring new economic avenues like technology, innovation, and sustainable development.
- b. Investment and Collaboration: Strengthening investment flows and fostering collaborative projects in areas like renewable energy, biotechnology, and artificial intelligence could create mutually beneficial outcomes.
- c. Addressing Trade Imbalances: While trade between the two countries is substantial, imbalances could be addressed through initiatives that promote diversification and mutual investment.

2. Enhancing Cultural Exchange (Myers, 2013; Prestage, 1934):

3.

- a. People-to-People Connections: The alliance could benefit from increased initiatives that facilitate cultural exchange programs, student exchange programs, and collaborations in arts and humanities.
- b. Promoting Linguistic Diversity: Encouraging the learning of both English and Portuguese could foster deeper understanding and appreciation of each other's cultures.
- c. Joint Cultural Projects: Collaborating on cultural projects, such as film festivals, exhibitions, or artistic collaborations, could further strengthen the bond between the two nations.

4. Adapting to Modern Geopolitical Realities (Myers, 2013; Prestage, 1934):

5.

- a. Beyond Military Security: While mutual security remains a cornerstone of the alliance, its focus could be broadened to encompass other areas like cyber security, counter-terrorism, and climate change cooperation.
- b. Strengthening Global Influence: The alliance could work together to advocate for common values and interests on the global stage, particularly in areas like human rights, sustainable development, and international governance.
- c. Modernizing the Alliance Structure: The alliance's framework could be modernized to better reflect evolving priorities and incorporate new technologies and approaches to diplomacy.
- d.

Future Prospects: The Anglo-Portuguese Alliance continues to be a valuable partnership in a complex and changing world. The Anglo-Portuguese Alliance, one of the world's oldest treaties, continues to have strong prospects for the future, though its nature and scope have evolved over time. While the alliance is still in force and both nations continue to support each other, its future is not without potential challenges, particularly in light of the changing global landscape and the UK's exit from the European Union (Myers, 2013; Prestage, 1934).

Highlights of future prospects of the Anglo-Portuguese Alliance include:

1. Strengths and Continued Relevance (Chandler, 1995; Esdaile, 2015)
 - a. Historical Legacy: The alliance, dating back to 1373, has demonstrated remarkable resilience and mutual benefit through centuries of changing political and economic conditions.
 - b. Shared Values and Interests: Despite differences in language, culture, and history, the two nations share a strong bond based on common values and evolving shared interests.
 - c. Economic Cooperation: The alliance provides a framework for cooperation in areas like trade, investment, and tourism, which benefits both nations economically.
 - d. Defense Cooperation: Recent agreements aim to strengthen bilateral defense relations, demonstrating the alliance's continued importance in a world of evolving security threats.
 - e. Political Influence: The alliance can serve as a platform for cooperation on global issues, such as climate change and human rights, and can be influential in international organizations like NATO.
2. Challenges and Considerations (Cleaver, 2023; Bethell, 2018; Leite, 1998; Churchill, 1943):
 - a. Brexit's Impact: The UK's departure from the EU has raised concerns about its impact on bilateral relations and the future of the European Union, which could affect the alliance's dynamics.
 - b. Shifting Global Dynamics: The rise of new powers and changes in global geopolitics present new challenges for all alliances, including the Anglo-Portuguese Alliance.
 - c. Evolving National Priorities: As nations evolve and their priorities change, the nature and scope of the alliance may need to be adjusted to remain relevant.
 - d. Potential for Disagreements: Despite the strong historical bond, there may be occasional disagreements or conflicts of interest that could strain the alliance.
3. Future Outlook (Cleaver, 2023; Bethell, 2018; Caldwell, 1942; Prestage, 1933):
 - a. The Anglo-Portuguese alliance is likely to remain a significant factor in international relations, but its future will depend on how both nations adapt to the changing global landscape and address the challenges it presents.
 - b. The alliance's continued relevance will require a willingness to adapt to evolving challenges, strengthen cooperation in key areas, and build on its strong historical foundation.
 - c. The future of the alliance may also depend on the willingness of both nations to engage in open and honest dialogue about potential challenges and to find common ground on issues of mutual concern.
 - d.

Theoretical Framework

This work assesses **The Anglo-Portuguese Alliance** which can be most effectively analyzed through the lens of **realism**, particularly its emphasis on strategic interests and power dynamics. Realism highlights how nations prioritize their own security and survival in an anarchic international system and the alliance between Britain and Portugal is a prime example of this dynamic.

An elaboration of this theoretical framework shows the following:

1. **Strategic Interests:** The alliance was forged and sustained because both nations recognized the mutual benefits of cooperating against common threats. For example, in the face of French and Spanish power, Britain and Portugal formed a counter-balance (Trowbridge, 2016; The GOV.UK blogs, 2016)
2. **Power Dynamics:** Realism also underscores how the stronger party (Britain) often exerted significant influence over the weaker partner (Portugal), potentially exploiting the alliance for its own gain. This dynamic is evident in the historical record, where British authorities sometimes invoked the alliance selectively or manipulated its terms to their advantage.
3. **Security Concerns:** The alliance provides a clear example of states seeking security through alliances in a system where they lack a world government to enforce peace.(The Council on Geostrategy (n.d); Elefteriu, 2023).
4. **National Interests:** Both nations pursued their own national interests within the framework of the alliance, whether those interests were related to trade, security, or dynamic concerns. For example, the Treaty of Windsor (1386) solidified the alliance through dynastic marriage and mutual defense obligations. (Livermore (2025).

Realism's suitability as a framework for the analysis of Anglo-Portuguese Alliance is hinged on the fact that it emphasizes the importance of power, security, and self-interest in international relations (Elashkar, 2020; Leite, 1998).

Findings and Discussion

Salient Provisions of the Anglo-Portuguese Treaty: The alliance which came to the fore following the signing of the Treaty of Windsor of 1373, established a “perpetual friendship, union, and alliance” between England and Portugal. It guaranteed mutual aid and commitment to never warring against each other, and it served as a foundation for the ongoing Anglo-Portuguese alliance. The treaty also included provisions for reciprocal assistance and trade, ensuring that both nations could trade on favourable terms.

Key provisions of the Treaty include:

1. **Perpetual Friendship and Alliance:** The treaty established a “perpetual friendship, union, and alliance” between the two nations, committing them to never warring against each other.
2. **Mutual Aid and Assistance:** Both nations agreed to provide each other with aid and support in times of need, including military aid, if requested.
3. **Trade and Commerce:** The treaty ensured that both English and Portuguese merchants could trade in each other's domains under the same favourable terms as the subjects of that country, fostering economic ties.
4. **No Friendship with Enemies:** The treaty stipulated that neither nation would form friendships or alliances with the enemies of the other.

5. Reciprocal Assistance: If either nation was attacked or threatened, the other was obligated to provide assistance and defense.

Highlights of Landmark Implementation: The Anglo-Portuguese Treaty of 1373, signed in London, laid the foundation for a lasting alliance between England and Portugal, with examples of its implementation including military support and trade agreements. The treaty, which formalized a verbal agreement made in 1294, provided for mutual defense and aid, as well as trade and transit rights. Here are some examples:

1. Military Support: The alliance was invoked during the Battle of Aljubarrota in 1385, where English reinforcements helped John I of Portugal secure the throne.
2. Trade and Transit: The treaty guaranteed freedom of trade and transit for citizens of each nation in the other's territory, as if they were natives.
3. Defense and Security: The treaty's provisions for mutual aid were invoked during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, including the successful defense of Portugal against a Spanish invasion in 1762 and the thwarting of Napoleon's attempts to conquer Portugal during the Peninsular War.
4. Political and Diplomatic Support: The treaty provided a basis for the marriage of John I of Portugal to Philippa of Lancaster, further strengthening the alliance.
5. World War II: During WWII, Portugal, despite its neutrality, granted the British Royal Navy facilities for refueling in Portuguese ports, citing the alliance.
6. Falklands War: In 1982, the treaty was invoked again, requesting the use of air and naval facilities in the Azores during the Falklands conflict.
7. Contemporary Relevance: The alliance remains valid and is recognized by both the United Kingdom and Portugal.

Challenges in the Implementation of the Anglo-Portuguese Alliance: The implementation of the Anglo-Portuguese Treaty of 1373, while initially intended as a strong foundation for alliance, faced significant challenges, including political shifts, dynastic conflicts, and the temporary suspension of the treaty during the Iberian Union. While the treaty laid the groundwork for a long-lasting alliance, its effectiveness was sometimes hampered by changing political landscapes and rivalries.

Here's a more detailed look at the challenges:

1. Initial Unclear Objectives: The treaty, signed in 1373, was initially intended to address the threat from Castile and to establish a stronger military alliance between England and Portugal. However, the initial military objectives of the alliance ultimately failed, and the treaty's effectiveness in achieving its primary goals was questioned.
2. Dynastic Conflicts and Political Shifts: The alliance was further tested by dynastic conflicts and political shifts. For example, the marriage of Philippa, daughter of the Duke of Lancaster, to John I of Portugal in 1387 added a dynastic element to the alliance, helping to maintain it during periods of uncertainty. However, the Iberian Union (1580-1640) saw Portugal under Spanish rule, effectively suspending the treaty and leading to a period of political and military distance between the two nations.
3. The Iberian Union: The period of Spanish rule over Portugal from 1580 to 1640 (Iberian Union) presented a major challenge to the alliance. During this time, the Anglo-Portuguese treaty was effectively suspended, and Portugal's relationship with England was strained.

4. Temporary Suspend of Treaty: During the Iberian Union, the initial Anglo-Portuguese treaty of 1373 was temporarily suspended, while the Treaty of Windsor (1386) was also affected.
5. Ongoing Challenges: Even after the restoration of Portuguese independence in 1640, the alliance continued to face challenges, including economic crises, and conflicts with other European powers.

Despite these challenges, the Anglo-Portuguese alliance has endured for over 650 years, surviving major historical events and political transformations. The alliance has been invoked numerous times throughout history, including during World War II, where Portugal played a crucial role in supporting the Allied cause, despite its own neutrality (Araujo (2020)).

Conclusion

The Anglo-Portuguese Treaty of 1373, signed at Windsor, cemented a lasting bond between England and Portugal, promising mutual aid, trade, and military support, and is considered the world's oldest active political alliance. It arose from Hundred Years' War and John of Gaunt's claim to the Castilian throne. The treaty's clauses, including those on mutual security and commercial ties, were crucial in solidifying the alliance.

In terms of context, the treaty emerged from the Hundred Years' War, where England and France were locked in conflict and involved various powers supporting either side, John of Gaunt, a claimant to the Castilian throne, sought support from Portugal.

Key provisions indicate that the treaty established "perpetual friendships, unions, and alliances". It included promises of mutual aid, trade opportunities, and military support.

On impact, the treaty not only solidified the alliance but also influenced the course of the Hundred Years' War and expanded the conflict to the Iberian Peninsula.

The Anglo-Portuguese Alliance has a long-lasting legacy, having endured for over 650 years, remaining in force and evolving to meet contemporary challenges like terrorism, cyber-security, and climate change.

In the area of modern relevance, the alliance continues to be a cornerstone of international relations, with both nations cooperating on various issues, including defense, trade, and global concerns.

Recommendations

The 1373 Anglo-Portuguese Treaty, signed in London, established a "perpetual alliance" between England and Portugal, with provisions for mutual and strengthened commercial ties. It served as a foundational agreement, later reinforced by the Treaty of Windsor in 1386, and has remained in effect as the world's longest-standing continuous peace treaty.

Here's a breakdown of potential recommendations for the 1373 treaty, considering its historical context:

Mutual Security being the core of the treaty's strength lies in its commitment to mutual defense. This could be further reinforced by: modernizing the concept of "mutual aid", since the original treaty focused on military support, contemporary interpretations could extend this to include economic assistance, diplomatic cooperation, and even cyber-security support; establishing clear protocols for activation by defining specific circumstances under which mutual aid would be invoked would enhance the treaty's practicality and avoid ambiguity.

Commercial Ties in the treaty included provisions for fair trade between the two nations. This can be strengthened by promoting free trade by way of reducing tariffs and barriers to trade in order to solidify economic ties and foster mutual prosperity; encouraging investment by providing incentives for investment in each other's economies which would stimulate growth and create jobs; expanding cultural exchange by facilitating the movement of people and ideas in order to foster deeper understanding and strengthen the bond between the two nations.

Longevity and Adaptability which is the pivot of the treaty's enduring strength lies in its ability to adapt to changing circumstances which requires: regular reviews and updates, by periodically reviewing the treaty's terms to ensure they remain relevant to the evolving global landscape; flexibility in interpretation by allowing for a degree of elasticity in applying the treaty's principles to address new challenges and opportunities.

There's need for more public awareness. The treaty's historical significance and enduring value should be promoted through educational initiatives by integrating information about the treaty into school curricula and public education programs; cultural events and celebrations by organizing events that commemorate the treaty's anniversary and highlight the long-standing relationship between the two countries.

Practical considerations may include modernizing the original language of the treaty to reflect contemporary geopolitical realities and legal frameworks; integration with other treaties by viewing the treaty in conjunction with other existing agreements between the UK and Portugal, creating a comprehensive framework for cooperation; consultation and collaboration in the sense that any revisions or updates to the treaty should be undertaken in close consultation with both governments and relevant stakeholders.

By carefully considering these recommendations, the Anglo-Portuguese Treaty of 1373 can continue to serve as a powerful symbol of enduring friendship and cooperation between the two nations.

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