

PSCI 2500 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
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20th Century Expansion of Global Governance

LEAGUE OF NATIONS



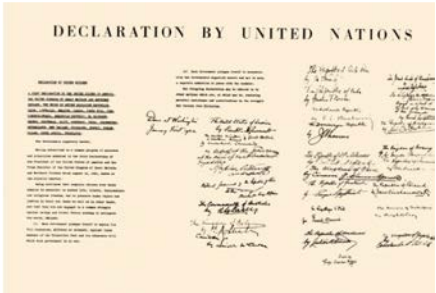
SOCIETE DES NATIONS



United Nations

Response: the United Nations


**DECLARATION BY UNITED NATIONS**



1942 Declaration of the United Nations

United Nations Conference on International Organization

- April to June 1945.
- Continuing negotiations over structure and process.
- The UN formally came into existence in October 1945.




70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: 2015

Text: Preamble of the United Nations Charter  
 Video released in September 2015 [youtube.com/watch?v=gCOKMw5TB0]

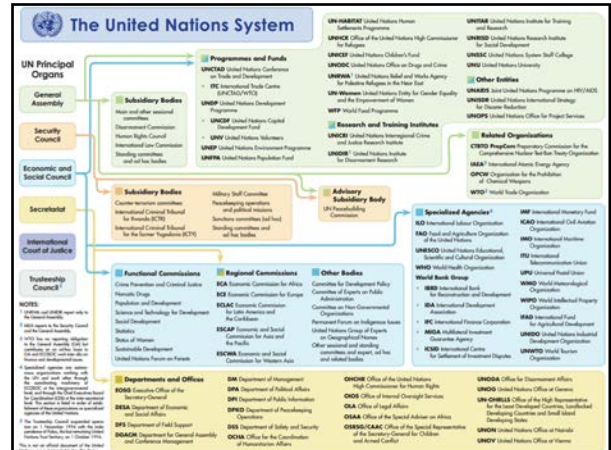
The United Nations

- Given the failure of the League, how was the UN organized?



### General Rules

- UN Charter supersedes all other treaties.
- Charter § 2.1: "sovereign equality of all its members."
- § 2.4: "all members shall refrain... from the *threat or use of force*."
- § 2.7: the UN "*cannot intervene*" in sovereign matters.



### General Assembly

- No limit to topics of discussion (as long as sovereignty is not violated).
- Each state has one vote.
- Decisions require two-thirds majority.
- Elects non-permanent members of Security Council.

### General Assembly

- But: decisions are not legally binding.
  - status: recommendations to states or Security Council.
- Democratic but weak.
- Useful as forum for discussion, agenda-setting, public attention to issues, pressure on states and Security Council.



### Security Council

- 15 members:
  - Five permanent members:
    - the "P5" – China, France, Russia, UK and US.
  - 10 rotating members, 2-year terms.
  - Regional representation:
    - Africa
    - Asia
    - Latin America/Caribbean
    - Eastern Europe
    - Western Europe/Other


### Security Council

- Decisions require all nine votes and no "no" votes from P5 (veto power).
- Decisions are binding on UN members.
- Security Council: not very democratic, more authoritative (effective).



### The UN

- Given the failure of the League, how was the UN organized?
- Both democratic (GA) and centralized (SC).
- P5 veto ensures:
  - Challenges in making decisions, but also...
  - ...continuity and stability.



### Security Council Reform

- Current arrangement reflects world in 1945.
- Issues:
  - should there be better geographical representation?
  - should any state have veto power?
  - should the size increase now that the UN has 193 members?
  - should economic power = political power?
  - how to balance representation with efficiency?

### Country Rankings – Various Criteria

Should such factors determine permanent membership or veto?

Population	Size of Economy	UN Dues	Defense Budget
China	USA	USA	USA
India	China	Japan	China
USA	Japan	China	Saudi Arabia
Indonesia	Germany	Germany	Russia
Brazil	UK	France	UK
Pakistan	France	UK	India
Nigeria	India	Brazil	France
Bangladesh	Italy	Italy	Japan
Russia	Brazil	Russia	Germany
Mexico	Canada	Canada	South Korea

### Discussion: Security Council Reform

Rank order these criteria for consideration of reform:

- democratic process
- efficiency in decision-making
- fair geographic representation
- fewer permanent members
- larger council
- more permanent members
- powerful country representation
- small country representation