Journey Through History - New Topic-based Series

Study Notes

Topic 11 International cooperation since the 20th century

CONCEPT MAP

20th century

Continuous large-scale conflicts
(p.186-187)

- Increasing number and scale of destruction of conflicts
  - The two world wars caused heavy casualties and economic loss
- Attempts at promoting peace
  - Disarmament and peace conference, the Universal Peace Congress, the League of Nations

Extreme global economic inequality
(p.188-189)

- Unequal distribution of wealth
  - The United States and European countries dominate the global economy
  - The less developed countries lacked resources
- Vicious cycle of poverty
  - Less developed countries: unstable income + borrowed from the more developed countries → A portion of foreign loans was used to pay for the debt interest
  - Vicious cycle of poverty and debts

Background of international cooperation: General challenges for humanity since the 20th century

Exploitation and destruction of the environment *(p.190-192)*

- Population growth and environmental exploitation
  - Population growth and economic development caused further exploitation
- Environmental destruction
  - Deforestation, overfishing and over-cultivation destroyed the ecosystems
  - Improper waste disposal and emissions caused pollutions
- Global environmental crisis
  - Greenhouse effect
  - Ozone depletion
  - Harmful waste pollution across the world

Spread of diseases and problems of medical care *(p.193-194)*

- Infectious diseases and new diseases
  - Improvement of transportation and globalization enabled local infectious disease to turn into pandemics
  - The spread of flu, Ebola virus, AIDS
- Poor-quality medical care in less developed countries
  - Lacked medical basic medical knowledge
  - Heavily relied on more developed countries and international medical organization

A. Background of international cooperation: General challenges for humanity since the 20th century

1. Continuous large-scale conflicts

(a) Increasing number and scale of destruction of conflicts

• Nationalism, ideological differences, territorial disputes, and ethnic and religious conflicts had caused over fifty large-scale violent conflicts in the 20th century.
• Owing to the more advanced military technology, wars of the 20th century caused heavier casualties.
    - Over 80 million people died in the two world wars.
• Wars caused heavy economic losses.
    - Many affected countries faced serious economic and social problems and even humanitarian crisis in the post-war period.
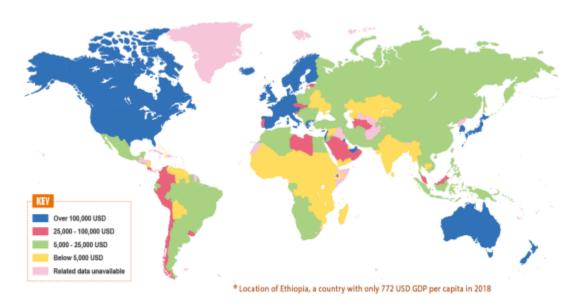
(b) Attempts at promoting peace

• In the early 20th century, the situation in Europe was getting tense.
    - Some countries called for disarmament and peace conferences.
    - Non-governmental societies took actions such as holding the Universal Peace Congress to promote peace.
    - However, they failed to stop the outbreak of WWI.
• After the war, the United States suggested establishing the League of Nations in 1920.
• The League aimed to settle disputes through international cooperation and stop aggression by collective security.
    - In the 1920s, it successfully mediated several disputes.
    - In the 1930s, it failed to stop the aggression of totalitarian states. A world war broke out again.

2. Extreme global economic inequality

(a) Unequal distribution of wealth

• Since the late 19th century, the United States and European countries had a large proportion of the world's wealth through colonial expansion.

- After WWII: Their domination over the global economy continued.
- In the late 20th century, the less developed countries were mainly located in Africa, Southeast Asia, South Asia and South America. The more developed countries were mainly located in Europe, North America and Oceania.
  - The latter only accounted for about 30% of the world population, but held nearly 80% of the world wealth and consumed about 70% of the world resources.
- The less developed countries had a huge population but lacked resources.
  - This worsened their economic and social problems.

The world distribution of wealth per adult in the late 20th century

(b) Vicious cycle of poverty

- The less developed countries mainly relied on exporting agricultural products and natural resources to earn foreign exchange.
  - As the prices were affected by global market demand, their earnings were unstable.
- They continued to borrow from the more developed countries for national development. A portion of foreign loans was even used to pay for the debt interest.
  - It led to a vicious cycle of poverty and debts.

3. Exploitation and destruction of the environment

(a) Population growth and environmental exploitation

- In the 20th century, the rise in food supply and level of medical technology increased humans' lifespan.
    - World population increased, from 1.6 billion in the early 20th century to 6 billion in the late 20th century.
- Population growth and economic development caused people to further exploit the environment for different resources.

(b) Environmental destruction

- Many countries experienced urbanization and industrialization in the 20th century.
- They neglected environmental protection, including formulating plans and regulations for sustainable development. It brought about problems of over-exploitation and pollution.
    - Deforestation, overfishing and over-cultivation destroyed the ecosystems.
    - Improper waste disposal and emissions caused pollutions.
- These destructions caused more frequent natural disasters and threatened human life.

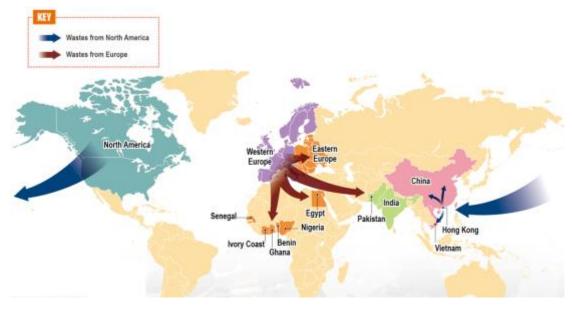|	
	Factories and cars emitted a large amount of harmful gases, causing air pollution.
	Untreated domestic and industrial sewage flowed into rivers, polluting drinking water.
	Drilling for oil and natural gas on the seas, together with the busy sea transport and oil spills from ships, caused marine pollution.
	Deforestation led to serious soil erosion. It also threatened the existence of wildlife.
	Overfishing put over 70% of fish under the threat of extinction.

(c) Global environmental crisis

(i)   Greenhouse effect and ozone depletion

- As a result of urbanization and industrialization, greenhouse gases were emitted into the atmosphere.
  - They blocked solar radiation from leaving the earth, causing a rise in world temperature.
- Global warming accelerated the melting of polar ice sheets.
  - Sea levels rose. Low-lying coastal areas faced the danger of being submerged.
- Some harmful gases even led to ozone depletion above Antarctica.
  - This increased the risk of getting skin cancer.

(ii)   Harmful waste pollution across the world

- Some more developed countries exported industrial, medical and even nuclear wastes to less developed countries for waste treatment.
- However, most of the less developed countries did not have proper waste treatment facilities.
- When the harmful wastes flowed into rivers or oceans, the polluted areas were enlarged.
  - Consuming contaminated water and seafood threatened the health of the people.

Major transfer route of electronic wastes

4. Spread of diseases and problems of medical care

(a) Infectious diseases and new diseases

- The improvement of transportation in the 20th century increased the accessibility of people, but also made the spread of diseases easier.
- Globalization enabled local infectious diseases to turn into pandemics.
    - 1957: the Asian Flu spread to Europe and North America and caused about 2 million deaths.
- New viruses and infectious diseases posed greater threats to mankind.
- The death rate of the Ebola virus, which first appeared in 1976, was over 50%.
    - It is still unpreventable and incurable.
- The first case of Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) was reported in 1981.
    - By 1999, over 30 million people were diagnosed with AIDS.
    - There is still no cure for the disease.

(b) Poor-quality medical care in less developed countries

- Hygiene was poor in less developed countries and people there lacked basic medical knowledge.
    - Food shortage, environmental pollution and wars made it more difficult for them to prevent and control epidemics.
    - Therefore, the death rate from diseases in less developed countries was relatively high.
- In the late 20th century, diseases which had been eliminated in more developed countries were still raging in less developed countries.
- Newly diagnosed AIDS patients were mostly found in Africa.
- As less developed countries lacked medical professionals and medicine, they heavily relied on the aid of more developed countries and international medical organizations.

Medical staff per 100,000 people in Europe and Africa in 1999

CONCEPT MAP

By 1945

The establishment and work of the United Nations *(p.196-200)*
- <u>Background</u>: Replaced the failed League of Nations
- <u>Establishment</u>: The United Nations was formally established after the signing of the *United Nations Charter* in 1945
- <u>Aims</u>: Maintain peace and promote development through international cooperation

Since 1945

Work and Achievements *(p.201-210)*

Peacekeeping *(p.201-202)*
- <u>Work</u>: Offering mediation, imposing sanctions, sending peacekeeping forces, monitoring ceasefire agreements
- <u>Achievements</u>: An important bridge of negotiation to settle disputes peacefully; contributed to long-lasting peace
- <u>Limitations</u>: Attempts at peacekeeping met with a lot of setbacks; difficult to stop ceasefire violations

Poverty reduction *(p.204-205)*
- <u>Work</u>: International Monetary Fund, World Bank, Food and Agricultural Organization
- <u>Achievements</u>: Helped poor countries increase revenue; promoted closer international cooperation
- <u>Limitations</u>: Rate of poverty reduction was still slow; official development assistance from more developed countries did not meet the target

Since 1945

Environmental protection *(p.205-206)*

- <u>Work</u>: United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, United Nations Environment Programme, Kyoto Conference
- <u>Achievements</u>: Breakthroughs in international environmental cooperation, enhanced global awareness of environmental protection
- <u>Limitations</u>: Many countries questioned the environmental treaties brought about by the UN; international treaties were not binding

Medicine and hygiene *(p.208-209)*

- <u>Work</u>: World Health Organization, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
- <u>Achievements</u>: Improved medical services through cooperation; helped control the spread of epidemics
- <u>Limitations</u>: Many less developed countries still lacked basic medical services; epidemics in some regions may be neglected; business considerations caused treatments and drugs to be in short supply

Technological Development *(p.209-210)*

- <u>Work</u>: International Telecommunication Union, International Atomic Energy Agency, Commission on Science and Technology for Development
- <u>Achievements</u>: Improved global technological levels and people's quality of life; brought about a series of international treaties
- <u>Limitations</u>: Unbalanced technological development between more and less developed countries; some countries used nuclear technologies to produce nuclear weapons

B. **The establishment and work of the United Nations**

1. **Background to establishment**

• The lesson of WWI led to the establishment of the League of Nations.
  - However, the League lacked experience and general support.
  - Its peacekeeping aim was also hindered by its institutional weaknesses.
• The outbreak of WWII urged the Allied Powers to set up a more capable international peacekeeping organization to replace the failed League.

2. **Establishment procedure**

(a) *Atlantic Charter*

• In August 1941, the United States and Britain issued the *Atlantic Charter*.
  - They proposed using peaceful methods to settle disputes and promote international cooperation after the war.
  - The *Atlantic Charter* was the basis for the United Nations.

(b) *Declaration of the United Nations*

• In January 1942, 26 countries signed the *Declaration of the United Nations*, promising not to negotiate with the Axis Powers for peace alone.
  - The term 'United Nations' first appeared in the *Declaration*.

(c) Establishment of the United Nations

• From April to June 1945, 50 countries drafted and signed the *United Nations Charter* at the San Francisco Conference.
• Later, Poland also signed the *Charter* and became the 51st founding member.
• On October 24, the *Charter* entered into force, marking the establishment of the United Nations.

3. **Aims**

- According to the *United Nations Charter*, the major aims of the UN include:

  - maintaining international peace and security through international cooperation;
  - eliminating the threats to peace and stopping aggression;
  - settling disputes between countries by peaceful means;
  - promoting friendly relations among nations;
  - promoting international cooperation in economic, social and cultural areas;
  - promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all.

4. Structure

- The UN has six organs to carry out its work.
  - They are responsible for different areas of work.

(a) General Assembly

- It is the major policy-making organ.
- It is made up of the representatives of all member states.
- It holds its annual meeting in September. Each member state has one vote.
- Its main functions include:

  - electing the non-permanent members of the Security Council, members of other UN bodies, and judges of the International Court of Justice;
  - approving the UN budget;
  - deciding on the spending of the UN funds and the admission of new members;
  - appointing the Secretary-General;
  - making suggestions on matters related to peacekeeping.

(b) Security Council

- It is made up of 15 (11 in 1945) members.
  - The United States, Russia (the Soviet Union, 1945-1991), Britain, France and China are permanent members.
  - The other non-permanent members are elected every two years.

- Each member state has one vote. Passing decisions on important matters requires nine affirmative votes (seven in 1945), including those of all five permanent members.
- Its major responsibility is to maintain world peace and security. It may impose economic sanctions or take military action against offending states.

Structure of the UN Security Council

KEY
- Permanent members
- Africa
- Asia
- Latin America
- Western Europe and others
- Eastern Europe

(c) Secretariat

- It is the administrative organ of the UN.
- It is headed by the Secretary-General who is appointed for a five-year term.
- Its main duties include:

  ■ supervising and implementing the decisions of all UN organs;
  ■ mediating and settling international disputes;
  ■ organizing international conferences on issues of worldwide concern;
  ■ administering peacekeeping operations.

(d) Trusteeship Council

- It was responsible for administering trust territories after WWII and helping them gain independence.
- 1994: It stopped operation after the last trust territory, Palau, gained independence.

(e) Economic and Social Council

- It is made up of 54 (originally 18) member states.
- It consists of anumber of specialized agencies and commissions, including the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Health Organization (WHO), and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), etc.
    - It is responsible for promoting sustainable development in economic, social and environmental areas.

(f) International Court of Justice

- Located in the Hague, it is the UN judicial organ.
  - It is formed by 15 judges of different nationalities elected by the General Assembly and Security Council.
- Its main duties are to settle international disputes, interpret international laws and give legal advice to the United Nations and its specialized agencies.

5. Work and achievements

(a) Peacekeeping

(i) Work

- The main functions of the UN are to settle disputes and maintain peace.
- The International Court of Justice arbitrates disputes between member states according to international laws.
  - All member states have to comply with decisions of the Court involving them.
- In case of military conflicts or wars, the Security Council usually starts with diplomatic mediation first.
  - Such as arranging negotiations and making settlement plans.
- If peaceful intervention fails, it can:
  - impose economic or military sanctions;
  - send peacekeeping forces to stop conflicts.
- The UN also monitors ceasefires, provides humanitarian aid to the people in conflict-ridden regions and helps reconstruct these regions.

(ii) Achievements

- In the 20th century, the UN became an important bridge of negotiation for the international society.
  - 1953: The UN successfully settled the dispute between Britain and France over the sovereignty of some islands in the English Channel.
  - 1948-2000: The UN had completed 48 peacekeeping operations.
- The work of the UN contributed to long-lasting peace.

- After the end of the Yugoslav Civil War (1991-1999), it helped refugees return home and provided humanitarian aid.
- It also helped local governments re-establish administrative organs.
• UN peacekeeping forces winning the Nobel Peace Prize showed that the work of the UN had won international recognition.

(iii) <u>Limitations</u>

• The UN failed to solve many disputes.
• 1950s-1990s: The White government of South Africa had ignored the UN's condemnation and upheld the policy of apartheid.
  - Some permanent members of the UN Security Council had also vetoed the decision to impose sanctions on South Africa.
• In the case of large-scale military conflicts, the warring parties would only accept the UN ceasefire order under public pressure or when the war had reached a stalemate. They might even break ceasefire.
• The UN lacked strong armed forces.
  - There were incidents where its peacekeeping forces were driven away or held hostage.
• All these undermined the prestige of the UN.

(b) Poverty reduction

(i) <u>Work</u>

• In the 20th century, the UN worked to reduce poverty through the following agencies:

  ■ **International Monetary Fund (IMF):** Established in 1944, it worked to oversee the global monetary system and provide loans to low-income countries.
  ■ **World Bank:** Established in 1944, it provided interest-free loans to poor countries and advice on economic development.
  ■ **Food and Agriculture Organization:** Established in 1945, it worked to promote the sustainable development of agriculture, improve the living standards of farmers, and eradicate poverty.

(ii)   Achievements

- The UN assisted less developed countries in improving the quantity and quality of their agricultural products, and their entry into the world market.
  - The increase in national income helped these countries break the vicious cycle of poverty.
- The UN held regular international conferences and promoted the signing of treaties.
  - Global cooperation became increasingly common.
  - In 1994, the *International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action* was adopted by 179 countries. It laid down the common goals of global sustainable development.

(iii)   Limitations

- The UN still had limited achievements in the area of poverty reduction.
  - The economy of the African country Ethiopia grew between 8%-10% annually in the 1990s, but the rate of extreme poverty decreased by less than 2%.
  - It showed that the rate of poverty reduction was still slow.
- According to the suggestion of the UN in 1970, official development assistance from more developed countries should amount to 0.7% of their national income.
  - Most donor countries did not meet the target.
  - It reflected the limitations of the UN on raising international aid.

(c) Environmental protection

(i)   Work

- In the 20th century, the UN held a series of international conferences to promote environmental protection:

  - **United Nations Conference on the Human Environment:** 113 countries attended the first meeting in 1972. They agreed to strengthen their cooperation in environmental protection.
  - **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP):** Established in 1972, it formulated guidelines to promote environmental protection and sustainable development.

■ **Kyoto Conference:** The major industrial countries signed the *Kyoto Protocol* at the Conference in 1997. It required the more developed countries to cut down emissions of carbon dioxide.

(ii) Achievements

• The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment was the first large-scale international conference on environmental cooperation.
  - It decided to hold the conference every ten years to achieve long-term cooperation.
• Through the work of the UN, many environmental protection declarations and treaties were signed.
• Its work enhanced global awareness of environmental protection.
  - Many governments had set up departments to deal with environmental issues and promote sustainable development.

(iii) Limitations

• Many countries questioned the environmental treaties brought about by the UN.
  - Some countries criticized that the carbon dioxide emission reduction targets in the *Kyoto Protocol* were not based on emissions per capita.
  - Some more developed countries were displeased with its failure to limit the emissions of less developed countries.
• These international treaties were non-binding.
  - There was no mechanism to punish signatories that violated the treaties.
• The UN lacked the authority to enforce the treaties.
  - It failed to force the United States to ratify the *Kyoto Protocol*.

(d) Improvement in medicine and hygiene

(i) Work

• In the 20th century, the UN mainly worked through the following organs to improve global medicine and hygiene:

■ **World Health Organization:** Established in 1948, its work included overseeing global hygiene and eradicating diseases.

- ■ **Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS):** As a specialized agency since 1996, its work included releasing data about AIDS and monitoring the trend. It also held activities to raise public concern for AIDS and preventive awareness.

(ii) <u>Achievements</u>

- The establishment of the WHO was a milestone in international healthcare cooperation.
    - It enacted regulations to protect public health and promoted cooperation between different parties.
    - It signed a cooperation agreement with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. It greatly improved medical services in Southeast Asia.
- The WHO helped control the spread of epidemics.
    - 1980: Following a global campaign led by the WHO, smallpox was eliminated.

(iii) <u>Limitations</u>

- By the end of the 20th century, less developed countries still lacked basic medical services.
    - Some diseases that were nearly eliminated in other areas still existed there.
    - Most of their assistance from the UN was spent on economic development, rather than on improving medicine and hygiene.
- International cooperation focused on prevention and treatment of specific diseases.
    - Epidemics in some regions may be neglected.
- The patent system and market demand caused some medicines or treatments to be too expensive or in short supply.

(e) Technological development

(i) <u>Work</u>

- In the 20th century, the UN promoted international cooperation in technology mainly through the following organs:

- **International Telecommunication Union (ITU):** As a specialized agency since 1947, its main work included standardizing telecommunication and strengthening the cooperation in telecommunication.
- **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA):** Established in 1957, its main work included formulating nuclear safety standards and helping member states develop nuclear energy.
- **Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD):** Established in 1992, it carried out scientific research and especially gave advice on the use of technology to less developed countries.

(ii) <u>Achievements</u>

- The UN improved global technological levels and quality of life.
  - The conferences held by the ITU provided a platform for exchanging telecommunications technology.
- The UN brought about international agreements.
  - According to the *Rio Declaration on Environment and Development* and *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* in 1992, more developed countries agreed to provide technical assistance to less developed countries for developing renewable energies.

(iii) <u>Limitations</u>

- In the 20th century, more developed countries refused to transfer their advanced technology to safeguard their interests.
  - Technological development of less developed countries remained stagnant. They had to rely on imported foreign technology.
  - This imbalance was not changed by the efforts of the UN.
- Though the UN encouraged peaceful use of technology, some countries used nuclear technologies to produce nuclear weapons.
  - The IAEA lacked the authority to stop them.
  - The *Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons*, signed in 1968, also depended on voluntary compliance by the signatories.

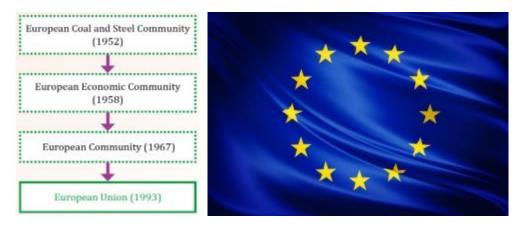***Extended topic: The work of other regional organizations and international non-governmental organizations**

✶ **Work of regional governmental organizations**

✧ **Formation of regional governmental organizations**

- In addition to the UN, other intergovernmental organizations were also formed in the 20th century.
- The European Union (EU) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations are both regional governmental organizations formed by countries of the regions.
  - They also work to promote global collaborations and world peace.

✧ **Evolution of European regional cooperation**

- 1952: The Western European countries began regional economic cooperation and formed the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC).
- Afterwards, more European countries became member states and increased their cooperative efforts.
  - Finally, the European Union was formed in 1993.
  - There were 12 founding members including Britain, France and Germany.

Logo of the European Union

✧ **EU promoting regional cooperation and integration**

- The EU aims to promote European cooperation and integration in economic, political and social areas.

- **Promoting population movement:** Citizens of EU member states have the same rights to live and move freely within the EU.
- **Promoting economic and trade cooperation:** The EU extended its single market to non-EU member parties in 1994. Later, the European Central Bank was set up and the Euro was introduced.
- **Promoting social and cultural cooperation:** The EU has common policies, covering issues such as agricultural policy, food safety, environmental standards, employment, justice and home affairs.

✧ **EU promoting international cooperation**

- The EU also works to promote international cooperation.
- It provided funding to support development programmes of the UN. It carried out operations to support the UN peacekeeping forces.
- It promoted the signing of the *Kyoto Protocol*.
- The EU has consistently devoted a lot of resources to aid less developed countries.
    - The European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO), set up in 1992, is responsible for coordinating its humanitarian aid work in different countries.

✧ **Formation of ASEAN**

- In 1967, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand formed the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Logo of the ASEAN

✧ **ASEAN promoting regional cooperation**

- The ASEAN works to maintain regional peace and strengthen cooperation and development of Southeast Asian countries in various areas.

- **Promoting economic and trade cooperation:** In 1992, trade among ASEAN economies was granted tariff preference; in 2002, the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) was established. Other different schemes have also been implemented, strengthening the cooperation.

■ **Promoting social and cultural cooperation:** Member states provide facilities to each other to support training and research and hold cultural exchanges. They promote understanding and friendship between peoples.
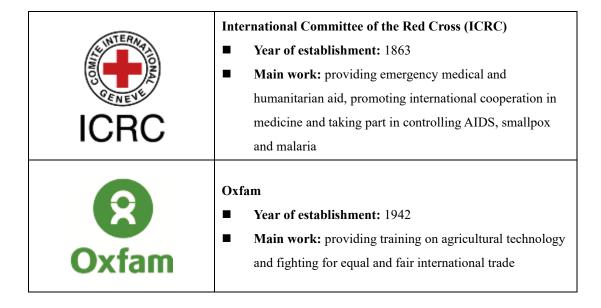
✧ **ASEAN promoting international cooperation**

• The ASEAN works to negotiate and cooperate with the international society.
• 1974: The ASEAN held meetings with the UN to promote different developments in the region.
• 1994: The ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) was established.
  - It became a key platform for dialogues and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.
• The ASEAN establishes relations with other regional governmental organizations such as the EU.
  - They exchange opinions on international issues and cooperate together.

✷ **Work of international non-governmental organizations (INGOs)**

✧ **Rise of INGOs**

• INGOs are non-profit making private organizations.
  - They aim to raise public awareness of different issues through international cooperation. They also provide direct aid to people in need.

	International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) ■ **Year of establishment:** 1863 ■ **Main work:** providing emergency medical and humanitarian aid, promoting international cooperation in medicine and taking part in controlling AIDS, smallpox and malaria
	Oxfam ■ **Year of establishment:** 1942 ■ **Main work:** providing training on agricultural technology and fighting for equal and fair international trade

	World Vision ■ **Year of establishment:** 1950 ■ **Main work:** promoting child sponsorship globally, providing medical technical support to countries in need and taking part in reconstructing disaster areas
	Greenpeace ■ **Year of establishment:** 1971 ■ **Main work:** promoting environmental education and energy conservation, conducting research on the environment, urging governments to introduce environmental laws and regulations
	Médecins Sans Frontières ■ **Year of establishment:** 1971 ■ **Main work:** providing emergency medical and humanitarian aid, training medical staff from less developed countries, taking part in constructing hospitals and providing vaccination services

✸ **Cooperation between international organizations**

✧ **Cooperation between INGOs: Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response (SCHR)**

Logo of the SCHR

- 1972: Oxfam, the League of Red Cross, and the Lutheran World Federation established the Committee.
- To respond to humanitarian emergencies effectively, it coordinates the work of different organizations and shares information about disasters.
- Today, nine of the world's leading humanitarian INGOs are its members.
- The Committee holds regular meetings annually.
- In times of natural disasters or wars, it represents its members and works with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

✧ **Cooperation between international governmental organizations and INGOs: the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)**

- 1992: The UN established the Committee to coordinate the cooperation between its aid organizations and INGOs.

Logo of the IASC

- It works to establish partnerships between them and improve the efficiency of aid work.

- Members of the Committee hold regular meetings to formulate humanitarian regulations and programs, facilitate the work of different organizations, and settle humanitarian disputes between members.

REVISION TIMELINE

Time	Important event	Extended point
1914	The First World War broke out	◆ Caused heavy causalities and destructions
1918	The First World War ended	
1920	The League of Nations established	◆ First peacekeeping international organization ◆ Aimed to settle disputes through international cooperation ◆ Aimed to stop aggression by collective security
1939	The Second World War broke out	◆ Caused heavy causalities and destructions
1941	Announcement of the *Atlantic Charter*	◆ The basis for the United Nations
1942	Signing of the *Declaration of the United Nations*	◆ The term 'United Nations' first appeared
1944	Establishment of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)	◆ Work of the UN: poverty reduction
	Establishment of the World Bank	◆ Work of the UN: poverty reduction
1945	The Second World War ended	
	The United Nations (UN) was formally established with the signing of the *United Nations Charter*	◆ To replace the failed League ◆ Aimed to international cooperation and maintain peace
	Establishment of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	◆ Work of the UN: poverty reduction
1947	The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) became a specialized agency of the UN	◆ Work of the UN: technological development
1948	Establishment of the World Health Organization	◆ Work of the UN: improvement in medicine and hygiene
1953	The International Court of Justice successfully settled the dispute between 1953 Britain and France over the sovereignty of some islands in the English Channel	◆ Work of the UN: peacekeeping
1957	Asian Flu spread to Europe and North America	◆ Caused about 2 million deaths
	Establishment of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)	◆ Work of the UN: technological development

1968	*The Treaty on the Non- Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons* was adopted	◆ Depended on voluntary compliance by the signatories
1972	United Nations Conference on the Human Environment was held	◆ Work of the UN: environmental protection ◆ The first large-scale international conference on environmental cooperation ◆ Decided to hold the conference every ten years to achieve long-term cooperation
	Establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	◆ Work of the UN: environmental protection
1976	Ebola virus first appeared	◆ Still unpreventable and incurable
1980	WHO eliminated smallpox	◆ Protecting public health
1981	First case of AIDS reported	◆ Still no cure for the disease
1992	Establishment of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)	◆ Work of the UN: technological development
	Announcement of the *Rio Declaration*	◆ More developed countries agreed to provide technical assistance to less developed countries for developing renewable energies
	Signing of the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*	
1994	Announcement of the *International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action*	◆ Laid down the common goals of global sustainable development
	Palau gained independence	◆ Last trust territory gained independence, the UN Trusteeship Council stopped operation
1996	Establishment of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)	◆ Work of the UN: improvement in medicine and hygiene
1997	Kyoto Conference was held, and representatives of major industrial countries signed 1997 the *Kyoto Protocol*	◆ Work of the UN: environmental protection ◆ Required the more developed countries to cut down emissions of carbon dioxide ◆ Many countries questioned the *Kyoto Protocol,* and the *Protocol* was non-binding
1999	The Yugoslav Civils War ended	◆ The UN helped refugees return home and provided humanitarian aid ◆ The UN helped local governments re-establish administrative organs

VOCABULARY LIST

Background of international cooperation: General challenges for humanity since the 20th century

1.   League of Nations
-    It was established in 1920. It aimed to settle disputes through international cooperation and stop aggression by collective security. It failed to stop the aggression of totalitarian states in the 1930s. A world war broke out again.

2.   Greenhouse effect
-    As a result of urbanization and industrialization, greenhouse gases were emitted into the atmosphere. They blocked solar radiation from leaving the earth, causing a rise in world temperature.
-    Global warming accelerated the melting of polar ice sheets. Sea levels rose. Low-lying coastal areas faced the danger of being submerged.

3.   Ozone depletion
-    Some harmful gases even led to ozone depletion above Antarctica. This increased the risks of getting skin cancer.

The establishment and work of the United Nations

1.   *Atlantic Charter* (1941)
-    The United States and Britain issued the *Atlantic Charter*. They proposed using peaceful methods to settle disputes and promote international cooperation after the war. The *Atlantic Charter* was the basis for the United Nations.

2.   *Declaration of the United Nations* (1942)
-    26 countries signed the *Declaration of the United Nations*, promising not to negotiate with the Axis Powers for peace alone.
-    The term 'United Nations' first appeared in the *Declaration*.

3. United Nations

- On October 24, 1945, the *United Nations Charter* entered into force, marking the establishment of the United Nations. There are 51 founding members of the UN.

- It aimed to maintain international peace and security through international cooperation.

4. United Nations Security Council

- It is made up of 15 (11 in 1945) members. The United States, Russia (the Soviet Union, 1945-1991), Britain, France and China are permanent members.

- Each member state has one vote. Passing decisions on important matters requires nine affirmative votes (seven in 1945), including those of all five permanent members.

- Its major responsibility is to maintain world peace and security. It may impose economic sanctions or take military action against offending states.

5. United Nations Economic and Social Council

- It is made up of 54 (originally 18) member states.

- It consists of a number of specialized agencies and commissions, including the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Health Organization (WHO), and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), etc. It is responsible for promoting sustainable development in economic, social and environmental areas.

6. International Monetary Fund (IMF, established in 1944)

- It worked to oversee the global monetary system and provide loans to low income countries.

7. World Bank (Established in 1944)

- It provided interest-free loans to poor countries and advice on economic development.

8. Food and Agriculture Organization (Established in 1945)

- It worked to promote the sustainable development of agriculture, improve the living standards of farmers, and eradicate poverty.

9. ***International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action* (1994)**

- It was adopted by 179 countries and laid down the common goals of global sustainable development.

10. **United Nations Conference on the Human Environment**

- 113 countries attended the first meeting in 1972.
- They agreed to strengthen their cooperation in environmental protection.

11. **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP, established in 1972)**

- It formulated guidelines to promote environmental protection and sustainable development.

12. **Kyoto Conference (1997)**

- The major industrial countries signed the *Kyoto Protocol* at the Conference. It required the more developed countries to cut down emissions of carbon dioxide.
- The emission reduction targets and the target countries of the *Kyoto Protocol* were questioned by many countries. Also, it was non-binding.

13. **World Health Organization (WHO, established in 1948)**

- Its work included overseeing global hygiene and eradicating diseases.

14. **Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS, established in 1996)**

- As a specialized agency of the UN, its work included releasing data about AIDS and monitoring the trend. It also held activities to raise public concern for AIDS and preventive awareness.

15. **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**

- As a specialized agency of the UN since 1947, its main work included standardizing telecommunication and strengthening the cooperation in telecommunication.

16. **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA, established in 1957)**

- Its main work included formulating nuclear safety standards and helping member states develop nuclear energy.

17. Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD, established in 1992)

- It carried out scientific research and especially gave advice on the use of technology to less developed countries.

18. *Rio Declaration on Environment* **and** *Development and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* **(1992)**

- More developed countries agreed to provide technical assistance to less developed countries for developing renewable energies.

19. The *Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons* **(1968)**

- The IAEA lacked the authority and the treaty depended on voluntary compliance by the signatories

🔑 **EXAMINATION TIPS**

✴ **Background of international cooperation: General challenges for humanity since the 20th century**

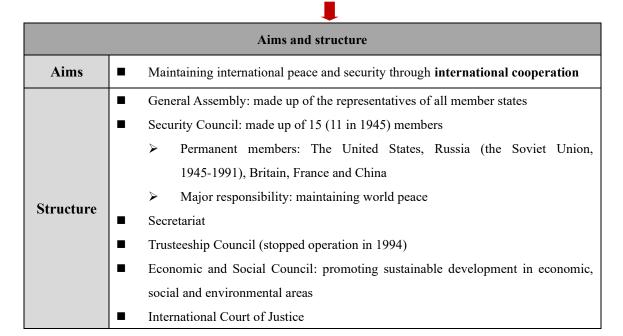| General Challenges	Main points
Continuous large-scale conflicts	■ Increasing number and scale of destruction of conflicts: the **two world wars** caused heavy casualties and economic loss ■ Early attempts at promoting peace: ended in failure ➤ Before WWI: disarmament and peace conferences; Universal Peace Congress; After WWI: the establishment of the **League of Nations**

Extreme global economic inequality	■ Unequal distribution of wealth
	  ➤ **More developed countries:** mainly located in Africa, Southeast Asia, South Asia and South America; **dominated the global economy**
	  ➤ **Less developed countries:** mainly located in Europe, North America and Oceania; had a huge population but **lacked resources**
	■ Vicious cycle of poverty
	  ➤ Earnings of the less developed countries were unstable, they continued to borrow from the more developed countries

Exploitation and destruction of the environment	■ Population growth and environmental exploitation
	■ Environmental destruction
	  ➤ Many countries neglected environmental protection., they **did not formulate plans and regulations for sustainable development**
	  ➤ Brought about problems of **over-exploitation** and **pollution**
	■ Global environmental crisis: **greenhouse effect; ozone depletion; harmful waste** pollution across the world

Spread of diseases and problems of medical care	■ Infectious diseases and new diseases
	  ➤ **The improvement of transportation** and **globalization** enabled **local infectious diseases to turn into pandemics**
	  ➤ The spread of Flu, Ebola virus, AIDS
	• Poor-quality medical care in less developed countries
	  ➤ Less developed countries heavily relied on the aid of more developed countries and international medical organizations

✦ **The establishment and work of the United Nations**

Background to establishment
■ The lesson of WWI led to the establishment of the League of Nations ■ The outbreak of WWII urged the Allied Powers to set up a **more capable** international peacekeeping organization to **replace the failed League**

Establishment procedure	
Atlantic Charter **(August 1941)**	■ The United States and Britain issued the ***Atlantic Charter*** ➤ Proposed using peaceful methods to settle disputes and promote international cooperation after the war ■ The *Atlantic Charter* was the **basis** for the United Nations
Declaration of the ***United Nations*** **(January 1942)**	■ 26 countries signed the ***Declaration of the United Nations*** ➤ Promising not to negotiate with the Axis Powers for peace alone ■ The term **'United Nations'** first appeared in the *Declaration*
Establishment of the United Nations (October 1945)	■ From April to June 1945: 50 countries drafted and signed the ***United Nations Charter*** at the San Francisco Conference ■ Poland signed the *Charter* and became the 51st founding member later ■ On October 24, the *Charter* entered into force ➤ Marking the establishment of the United Nations

Aims and structure	
Aims	■ Maintaining international peace and security through **international cooperation**
Structure	■ General Assembly: made up of the representatives of all member states ■ Security Council: made up of 15 (11 in 1945) members ➤ Permanent members: The United States, Russia (the Soviet Union, 1945-1991), Britain, France and China ➤ Major responsibility: maintaining world peace ■ Secretariat ■ Trusteeship Council (stopped operation in 1994) ■ Economic and Social Council: promoting sustainable development in economic, social and environmental areas ■ International Court of Justice

✶ **Work and achievements**

Areas	Work, achievements and limitations	
Peacekeeping	**Work**	Offering mediation, imposing sanctions, sending peacekeeping forces, monitoring ceasefire agreements
	Achievements	■ An **important bridge of negotiation** to settle disputes peacefully ■ Contributed to **long-lasting peace**
	Limitations	■ Failed to solve many disputes: the **White government of South Africa** had ignored the UN's condemnation and upheld **the policy of apartheid** from the 1950s to the 1990s ■ **Difficult to stop ceasefire violations**, incidents of UN peacekeeping forces being driven away or held hostage
Poverty reduction	**Work**	■ International Monetary Fund, World Bank, Food and Agriculture Organization
	Achievements	■ Helped **poor countries increase revenue** ■ Treaties were signed by nations, promoting closer international cooperation: *International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action* (1994)
	Limitations	■ **Rate of poverty reduction was still slow** ➢ The rate of extreme poverty in Ethiopia decreased by less than 2% in 1990 ■ **Official development assistance** from more developed countries **did not meet the target**

Areas	Work, achievements and limitations	
Environmental protection	**Work**	United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, United Nations Environment Programme, Kyoto Conference
	Achievements	■ Breakthroughs in international environmental cooperation: the **United Nations Conference on the Human Environment** decided to hold the conference every ten years (first meeting was held in 1972) ■ **Enhanced global awareness of environmental protection:** many governments had set up departments to promote sustainable development
	Limitations	■ Many countries **questioned** the environmental treaties brought about by the UN ➢ Some countries criticized that the carbon dioxide **emission reduction targets** in the *Kyoto Protocol* were not based on emissions per capita ➢ Some more developed countries were displeased with the failure of the *Kyoto Protocol* to limit the emissions of less developed countries ■ International treaties were **non-binding** ➢ The UN **failed to force the United States to ratify** the *Kyoto Protocol*

Areas	Work, achievements and limitations	
Medicine and Hygiene	**Work**	World Health Organization, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
	Achievements	■ **Improved medical services through cooperation** ➢ Enacted **regulations to protect public health** ➢ Signed a cooperation agreement with the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations** ■ Helped **control the spread of epidemics** ➢ The **Smallpox Eradication Programme:** smallpox was eliminated in 1980
	Limitations	■ Many less developed countries still **lacked basic medical services** ➢ Some **diseases** that were nearly eliminated in other areas **still existed** there ➢ Most of their assistance from the UN was spent on economic development ■ **Focused on prevention and treatment of specific diseases, epidemics in some regions may be neglected** ■ **Business considerations** caused treatments and drugs to be in short supply

Areas	Work, achievements and limitations	
Technological development	**Work**	■ International Telecommunication Union, International Atomic Energy Agency, Commission on Science and Technology for Development
	Achievements	■ Improved global technological levels and people's **quality of life** ➢ ITU **standardizing telecommunication** ■ Brought about a series of **international treaties** ➢ *Rio Declaration on Environment* and *Development and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* (1992) ➢ More developed countries agreed to provide technical assistance to less developed countries for **developing renewable energies**
	Limitations	■ **Unbalanced technological development** between more and less developed countries ➢ More developed countries **refused to transfer their advanced technology** ➢ The less developed countries had to rely on imported foreign technology ■ Some countries **used nuclear technologies to produce nuclear weapons** ➢ The *Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons* (1968) depended on voluntary compliance by the signatories

10X10 Q&A

1. Which of the following is <u>NOT</u> an attempt at promoting peace before WWII?
   A. Disarmament conferences
   B. The United Nations
   C. The League of Nations
   D. The Universal Peace Congress

2. Which of the following continents is <u>NOT</u> where the more developed countries located in?
   A. Europe
   B. Oceania
   C. North America
   D. Africa

3. Which of the following statements about the global environment crisis is correct?
   A. Global warming led to decrease in sea levels.
   B. Some harmful gases even led to ozone depletion above North Pole.
   C. Some more developed countries exported medical wastes to less developed countries.
   D. Greenhouse gases blocked nuclear radiation from leaving the earth.

4. Which of the following chronological order is correct?
   A. The outbreak of WWII → Announcement of the *Atlantic Charter* → Signing of the *Declaration of the United Nations* → Signing of the *United Nations Charter*
   B. Announcement of the *Atlantic Charter* → The outbreak of WWII → Signing of the *United Nations Charter* → Signing of the *Declaration of the United Nations*
   C. The outbreak of WWII → Signing of the *United Nations Charter* → Announcement of the *Atlantic Charter* → Signing of the *Declaration of the United Nations*
   D. Announcement of the *Atlantic Charter* → The outbreak of WWII → Signing of the *Declaration of the United Nations* → Signing of the *United Nations Charter*

5. Which of the following countries is <u>NOT</u> a permanent member of the UN Security Council?
   A. The United States
   B. China
   C. France
   D. Italy

6. When was the *International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action* adopted?
   A. 1945
   B. 1957
   C. 1982
   D. 1994

7. Which of the following statements about the *Kyoto Protocol* is <u>INCORRECT</u>?
   A. The carbon dioxide emission reduction targets were based on emissions per capita.
   B. It did not limit the carbon dioxide emissions of less developed countries.
   C. The United States failed to ratify it.
   D. It required the more developed countries to cut down emissions of carbon dioxide.

8. Which of the following organizations started the Smallpox Eradication Programme?
   A. United Nations Environment Programme
   B. Food and Agriculture Organization
   C. World Health Organization
   D. Commission on Science and Technology for Development

9. Which of the following matching is <u>INCORRECT</u>?
   A. The *Rio Declaration on Environment and Development*: signed in 1992
   B. The *Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons*: depended on voluntary compliance by the signatories
   C. Kyoto Conference: 113 countries attended
   D. World Health Organization: signed a cooperation agreement with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations

10. In 1953, the International Court of Justice successfully settled the dispute between which countries over the sovereignty of some islands in the English Channel?
    A. Britain and the Netherlands
    B. France and Britain
    C. The Netherlands and Belgium
    D. Britain and Norway

ADVANCED CHALLENGE

Study the Sources below and answer the questions that follow. *(12 marks)*

Source A: A scholar's comment on the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA, a specialize agency of the United Nations)

> The IAEA must work within the constraints its member states impose. It has no power to compel action or restraint or to inflict punitive sanctions on states. No nation, including the United States, will permit IAEA inspectors to roam freely in search for (nuclear energy) installations that should have been reported to it. … Within these constraints the Agency's limited but important task is to verify that governments, true to their word, are not secretly making the (nuclear) bomb.

Source B: An excerpt from the *International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade* (1990)

> The reactivation of development in the decade of the 1990s on a sustained basis will be linked to the ability of the less developed countries to participate in the rapid advances in science and technology… The knowledge gap (in science and technology) between the more developed and less developed countries has been widening, and measures are needed to help narrow it over the coming decade.

1. Cite clues from Source A to point out <u>TWO</u> tasks of IAEA. *(4 marks)*

2. According to Source B, what would be the key to the reactivation of sustainable development in less developed countries in the 1990s? *(1 marks)*

3. What were the limitations of the work of the United Nations in international cooperation in technology? Explain your answer with reference to Sources A and B, and using your own knowledge. *(7 marks)*

1.   **Cite clues from Source A to point out <u>TWO</u> tasks of IAEA.** *(4 marks)*

• **Task 1:**

• **Clue from the Source:**

• **Task 2:**

• **Clue from the Source:**

2.   **According to Source B, what would be the key to the reactivation of sustainable development in less developed countries in the 1990s?** *(1 marks)*

3.   **What were the limitations of the work of the United Nations in international cooperation in technology? Explain your answer with reference to Sources A and B, and using your own knowledge.** *(7 marks)*

Answer the following question in paragraph form and complete sentences. *(10 marks)*

In the 20th century, through which organs did the United Nations promote international cooperation in medicine and hygiene? What were the achievements of the relevant work of the United Nations?