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UN Resolutions

Undergraduate Class Project Competition Entry

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## Introduction

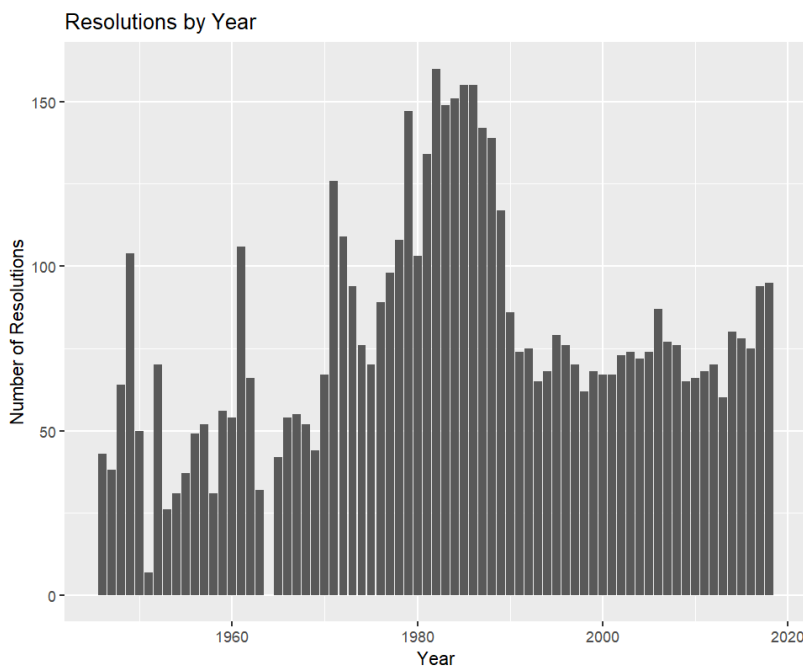
The United Nations has operated since 1945, discussing tens of thousands of resolutions that later go on to have major effects on global politics. Those resolutions touch on history-shaping issues including the Palestinian conflict and nuclear weapons. Additionally, countries around the world have the opportunity to debate these resolutions and weigh in on them. As a result, a deeper analysis of the resolutions is warranted. Within my project, I examine the activity of the UN over the course of its history as well as individual voting patterns for the United States.

## Methodology

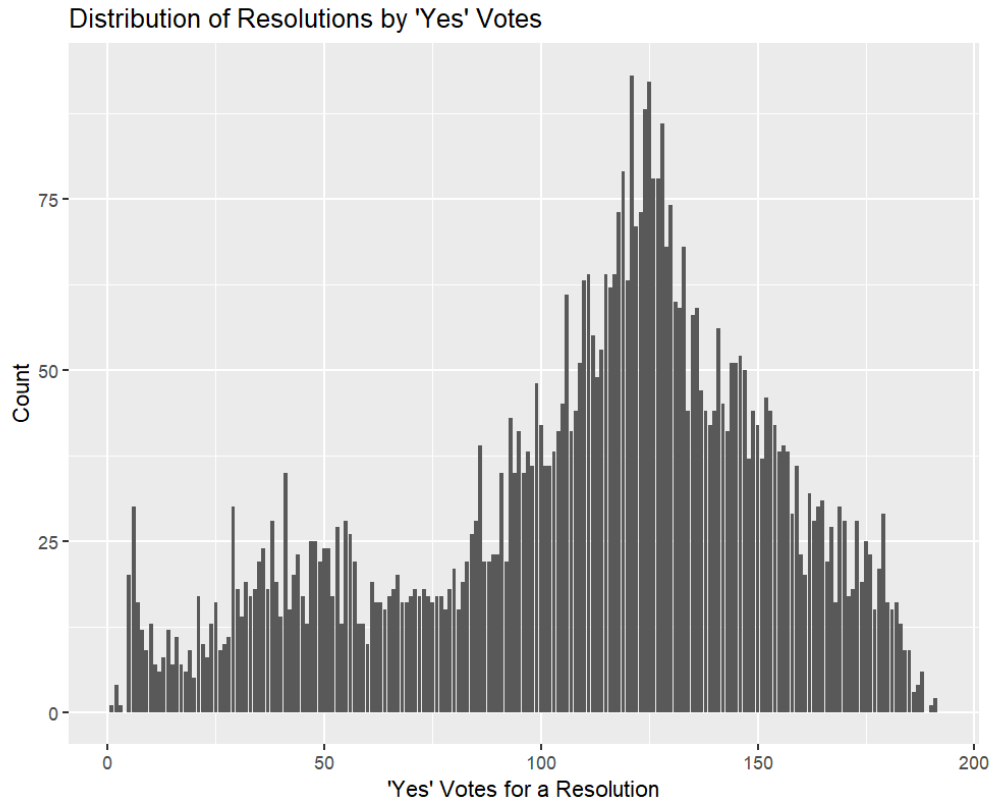
The project largely relies on data assembled from official UN records by Erik Voeten, Anton Strezhnev, and Michael Bailey. It encompasses roll-call votes from 1946 to 2018 and includes data on each country's individual votes as well as information about the subject of each resolution. I specifically looked at data on voting records for each resolution and records for the U.S.'s stances on different issues.

## Findings

The first major finding was that the UN grew more and more active during the first half of its existence. Its activity peaked around the 1980s, which was likely due to the time being the height of the cold war. Activity dropped immediately after but has slowly risen in recent years, possibly due to the Arab Spring and other Middle Eastern conflicts.



Another finding was that there have been significantly more UN resolutions that have received a high number of “Yes” votes. Compared to resolutions that received “No” votes, there were also a significant number of resolutions in which multiple countries abstained from voting.



Finally, I discovered that the United States has voted against more resolutions than it has approved. Resolutions about the Palestinian Conflict and human rights tend to receive a lot of “No” votes.

