



ELYSIAN

The official newsletter for DPSG MUN

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Is the Responsibility to Protect Doomed for Failure?

Trishala Mohan analyzes the increasing distrust towards a possibly failing doctrine

With Iraq facing a civil war between the Shias and the Sunnis, the doctrine of Responsibility to Protect has surfaced back to shore, dividing its supporters and the sceptics in two very distinct categories. The doctrine of "responsibility to protect" (R2P) holds that when a sovereign state fails to prevent atrocities, foreign governments may intervene to stop them.

Critics of the R2P have long accused international humanitarian action of being a form of imperialism cloaked

in humanitarianism. The misuse of this doctrine has been hotly debated due to the ever-looming, annoying next-door-neighbour known as the United States of America. The United States of America holds a very important seat in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

The attack on Libya which was carried out by the US without the blessing of the UNSC has put a serious question mark on the council's authority. For countries who are against the R2P (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa), this only strengthens their view that the humanitarian intervention has become nothing more than a fool

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fool proof excuse to start a war or a regime change. This is a huge violation of a nation's sovereignty. The already thin ice between imperialism and peaceful intervention is shattering, and it is vital that the UN decides its priorities before we all fall in the ice and get eaten by polar bears or seals.

The failure of the UN to take a stand on the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's destruction in Libya and its complete failure to protect the basic human right to the truth, life and ownership of property has created distrust in the R2P. However, it proved to be very effective in terms of multilateral, international diplomacy. This is all the proof needed to show that the US clearly does not have the world's best interests at heart. The brutal and violent revenge it took in Afghanistan after the 9/11 attack indicates that the US will do anything to stay at the top. Like a spoiled child, the US is able to get away with unacceptable actions in the name of 'humanitarian grounds', with the UN being ignorant parents who do not take the necessary actions. Bad USA, no sweets for you!

This clash between the ideologies of the society is now going to determine the future of this doctrine. What the UN needs to do now is to take its claws back from the US and assure the world that the UN is never going to interfere directly with the nation's affairs and take action adequately.

Editor's Note

Anushka Kaushik

Dear esteemed faculty, delegates, and organizing committee

It gives me great pride to be appointed as the Editor-in-Chief for this year's international press at DPSG Model UN. Elysian will be the official newsletter of the conference and will hopefully create a legacy of a strong and impactful international press corps in school conferences.

MUN-ing since grade 11, I can't emphasise the importance and benefits of participating in Model UNs at the school level enough. As the years have gone by, MUNs have become a distinct extracurricular for school students that combine academic rigour and a deep understanding of contemporary affairs.

The International Press at schools however I firmly believe have not reached the level that they can and they should. Simply put, there hasn't been enough institutionalization of the IP in school MUN's despite talent and interest for the same among students. The notion of a free and responsible press has been strongly built in conferences across India for the purposes of thought-provoking analysis and reportage. With DPSGMUN and a hardworking international press team, we take a step toward building that.

To all the Elysian members, I hope this experience proves to be as much a learning curve for you, as it'll undoubtedly be for me.

With that, I welcome you all to the Elysian.

"Freedom of the press is not an end in itself but a means to the end of achieving a free society"

-Felix Frankfurter

What did the Elephant trumpet to the Dragon, while they were looking at the Crescent Moon?

Oshi Verma investigates the complexities of Sino-Indian relations as geopolitics become a significant marker

India, ringed by nations like China and Pakistan; is standing on the surge of having a strong strategic policy challenge. We aspire to go beyond our geographical boundaries to deepen our influence, but to decide which direction is the major question. Should we look East or West or rather, have a far sighted vision when deciding our international relations?

Despite the media obsession over Pakistan, China undoubtedly poses the biggest strategic challenge to India.

Firstly, India wants to resolve the border dispute which China has ruled out. For the first time in centuries, China has completely secure land borders. It has resolved its land border disputes with 10 nations, including Russia and Vietnam, and is expected to do so with Bhutan soon; India being the sole exception. Not resolving the border dispute with India helps China in three ways. One, through good border management, it has put enormous psychological pressure on the Indian

armed forces, especially the army and air force.

Two, the disputed border is China's pressure point to keep India's strategic reach ambitions in check. And three, by keeping India's conventional capabilities distributed and thereby weak, it helps Pakistan to continue with its proxy war against India. While Delhi has accepted the Chinese formulation that it is enough to keep the disputed border peaceful, the worry is its independent media. For this reason, China regularly advises India to keep its media restrained.

Secondly, China continues with a low level support to insurgents in the Northeast. This probably explains the recent setting up of the new Assam Rifles (India's only paramilitary force headed by army officers but reporting to the ministry of home affairs) command headquarters in Silchar with jurisdiction over border states of Mizoram, Tripura and southern Assam. The other issue is the galloping bilateral trade towards USD 100 billion, heavily tilted against India. It already stands at a whopping USD 73.9 billion; India's trade deficit with China at USD 27.1 billion.

Thirdly, the question of the Dalai Lama and the future of Tibetan government-in-exile in India are of importance, while the Dalai Lama has been completely defanged by India in its appeasement policy towards China.

Lastly in a nutshell, amongst such geo-political realities, India, with some clear and bold thinking, must seize opportunities knocking at its doors. Regarding the border dispute, India, like China, should make its perception of the Line of Actual Control public; this is after all subject to mutually acceptable border resolution. Such transparency could include identification of areas of disputes as well. This will ensure that while India strengthens its border management, both sides, under the new Special Representatives talks, maintain stability amidst transparency. On bilateral trade, India needs to be vigilant on two counts: Chinese investments steer clear of sensitive sectors, and ways are found to keep trade deficit minimal. While Delhi appears to have exhausted the Dalai Lama card, it could still gain by advising the spiritual leader to identify his successor in his lifetime.



Decoding Political Socialisation

Ananya Singh sheds light on the development of political socialization and its importance in the 21st century

When faced with a crisis, it's quite common to observe some people actively participating in the combating process whereas some prefer to be sidelined and let others take action based upon their views. Similar is the case when it comes to political participation. Be it a fight against corruption or a bid to promote Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) rights, a quest to setup a new political party or a simple action such as casting their vote; people vary in their comportment. The zeal to be a part of the political process may not be uniform within society. These variations in people's behaviour arise out of a long process of learning which could be termed as political socialisation.

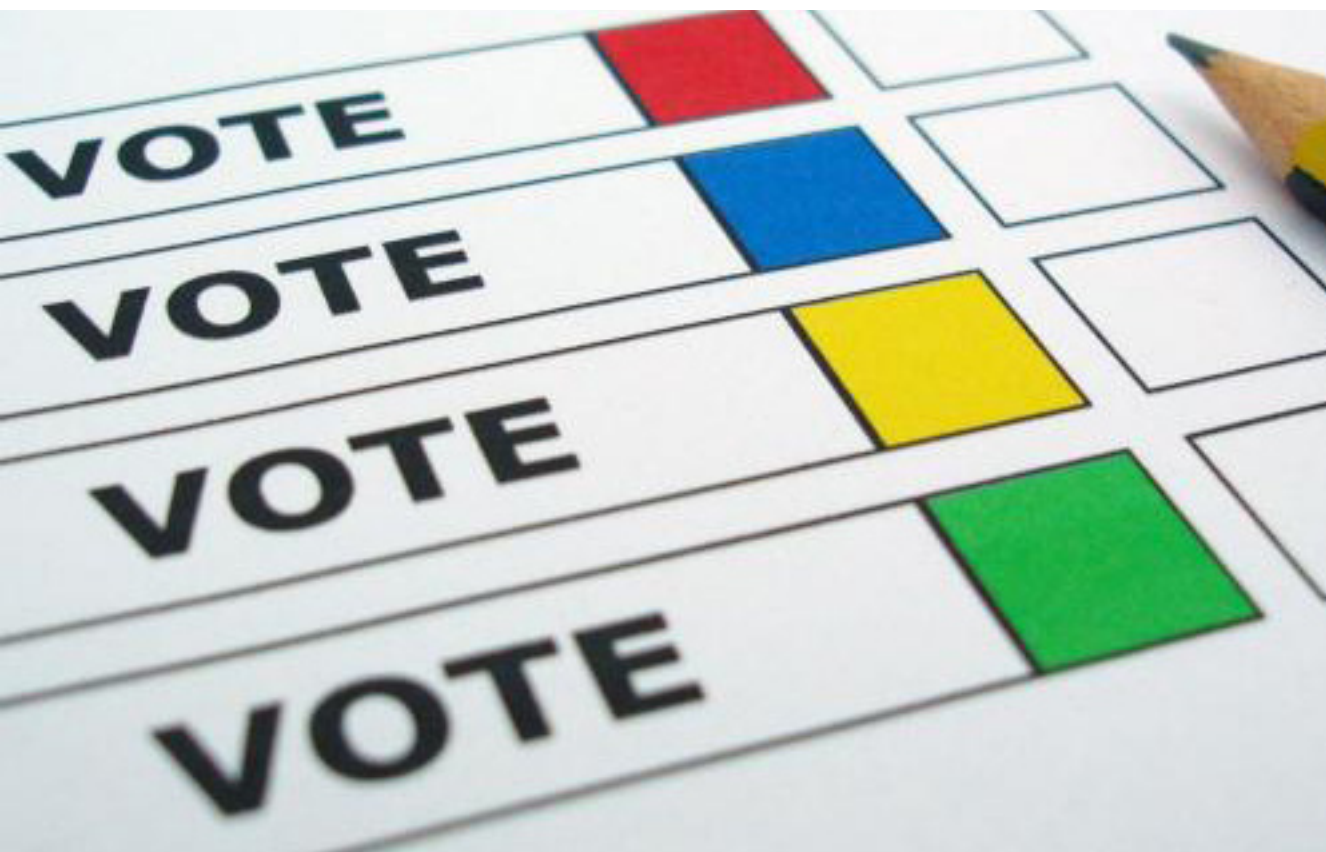
Political socialisation refers to the process by which an individual is made aware of the various political processes in his/her society, locality, and country. The acquisition of this culture happens mostly during the pre-adolescence and adolescence period when individuals are at the prime of their cognitive development. These cognitive gatherings may be in terms of the norms or codified rules.

Codified rules refer to the acquiring of knowledge about how the political sphere functions, its role, and how political leaders are elected. Normative learning means gathering of omnipresent and unspoken rules and processes of how the political sphere is constituted. Political socialization takes

place in individuals by means of various agents present in the society. These agents inculcate the 'rights' and the 'wrongs' of politics within growing individuals. These ideas may be carried by the individual for a portion or rest of his/her lifespan when he/she makes political decisions. There are a number of agents involved in the process of political socialization of an individual. Some of these agents can be chosen voluntarily while some cannot.

These agents are:

1. **Family:** The family constitutes of the first and immediate influence on an individual's values, choices and decisions. There is a constant relationship and interaction between an individual and his/her family due to which the political values or preferences as imbibed by the person are same or similar.
2. **School:** This refers to the knowledge acquisition about politics and the aspects and processes attached to the same in institutions of education. This is facilitated by way of textbooks and lectures by teachers.
3. **Peers:** Individuals interact with people in the same age bracket constantly at every stage of their lives. For most individuals, the opinion and inclination of their friends and peers is considered as valuable due to the same sharing common experiences and similar issues.



4. Religion: In most multicultural societies, religion plays an important role in determining the leadership choices of individuals. A number of religions require their followers to attend regular sermons or sessions to inculcate greater, more in-depth learning about the same. It is important to note that the authenticity of various religious 'classes' is often contested and their credibility is put to question, following qualms about the thin line

between propaganda and professing.

5. Mass media: The mass media of today remains one of the major important educators as well as influencers of political systems, parties, processes and leaders. It is widely accepted that the media is one of the main harbingers of social and political change and plays a crucial role in the downfall of unsatisfactory political empires.

6. Government: The government plays

one of the most instrumental roles in the process of political socialization right from the initial stages of cognitive development of individuals. It is this process of political socialisation that decides the role common people will play in the democracy. Building strong foundations for active participation in the polity at an early age seems a good idea if we are to create active participants in decision making in the future.

Protection of Witnesses: The Human Rights Debate

Saloni Chaudhary writes on the urgent need for review of international witness protection laws

Many countries are affected by criminal activities that have a profound impact on their human security and development. But very often, the ability of the judicial systems to obtain fair and unbiased trials in such cases is limited. One of the many reasons is the cooperation of the witnesses and the credibility of their statements.

The successes of International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia are indebted to the Mechanism that gives paramount importance to protection, safety and well-being of the witnesses.

A lot depends on the testimonies of

the witnesses which are to be reliable, accurate and complete but these may be jeopardized if the witness is facing verbal threats, intimidation, harassment, or assault.

The Mechanism is committed to witness security and has undertaken a plethora of steps to uphold it. These include non-disclosure of identity, closed court sessions, testimonies making use of modern communication devices such as video linking and also re-locating in extreme cases. Witness Support and Protection Unit (WISP) is charged with this job and is responsible for using innovative risk reduction techniques. WISP maintains a regular contact with the witnesses and offers them psychological training sessions so as to ease them off.

But despite all this, problems persist. These include cooperation between different countries, overlapping of rules, right to testify without intimidation and the balance between the rights of the accused and that of witness. Reform and review is needed to overcome these gaping loopholes in order for effective protection of human rights of witnesses.



R2P: Promoting Militarism?

Paramba Raghuvanshi laments the responsibility to protect as a tool of legitimizing military intervention

As every other norm or law has emerged out of the needs of the people or the necessities for that matter so did the R2P. It was majorly the outcome of the Rwanda genocide and the massacre at Srebrenica. The R2P is not a law but a norm firmly grounded in the international law. It basically relates to the laws peace, security, human rights and arm conflicts.

However, in my analysis, the R2P is promoting a new militarism by promoting war for supposedly worthy and justified reasons. Though the United Nations (UN) incorporated the R2P to provide security to its member nations, increased military interventions arouse taint this ostensibly noble principle.

International humanitarian law is about protecting people. The UN was designed to create and enforce

international law – and it did so with some success. World War III did not happen. Nonetheless, there were many armed conflicts after World War II. Their number increased until the early 1990s, and has somewhat declined since.

According to the conventional idea of sovereignty, however, international law only sees states as holders of rights and duties, regardless of how they treat their people. It must be recognized that individual persons have rights. There are global norms against atrocity crimes that empower the international community to act in the defense of civilians at risk of grave harm.

International law abolishes inter-state wars except in self-defense against armed attack. But today, wars tend to rage within the borders of countries. Some governments abuse sovereignty as a license to kill. In other cases, statehood is too weak to protect people from the violence of non-governmental militias.

Understanding the limits of military force in the Syrian case is critical to R2P's viability as an international norm. A failed intervention -- which would almost certainly involve the death of international troops -- would taint the idea among emerging powers like Brazil and India who are crucial to making it a widely accepted part of state practice in the 21st century. Such states, while open to R2P as a doctrine, are wary of its use to justify humanitarian intervention. A haphazard invocation of R2P in Syria could destroy the doctrine's international legitimacy just as it was being built, preventing R2P from becoming a shared framework for understanding the legal and moral role of sovereignty.

The R2P, hence, is a military intervention of the superior states in the inter states' conflicts of the inferior ones disguised as war for peace instead of the responsibility to protect.

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