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International Relations

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 Learning from Ngo’s

In this article it starts of with saying that the united states was apart of a important convention with other countries which was dealing with environmental issues.The countries that were involved as well as the united states came together specifically to discuss a important treaty on environmental matters that at the time had a lot of unanimous support.After this process of the United States started to listen to NGOS that had concerns about this treaty they then came to the decision that agreeing to this treaty would do more harm than good and immediately backed out the treaty.Though through investigations about this particular topic it would later come out that a large part of the campaign against the United States was built on misinformation.Though later on the article says that NGOS are impossible to get rid of in the international stage so then the question becomes “the real challenge is how to incorporate Ngo’s into the international system that takes into account diversity of scope and their various strengths and weaknesses and their capacity to disrupt as well as their capacity to create.” (Learning to live with Ngo’s,Slate Group) (pg.3)

Next it then goes on to say that Ngo’s are very vaguely defined in what they actually are and what they do.Though they are vaguely defined there are formal credited Ngo’s that are recognized by the UN social and economic council and were able to consult.Later on the author said that “Until recently clustered in developed and democratic nations now groups sprout from lima to Beijing"”(Learning to live with Ngo’s,Slate Group,1998) (pg.4).

Later on in the article it goes on to talk about  how Ngos can be essential to negotiating multilateral treaties that are effective.In the same paragraph the author expands on to say that Chemical manufacturing associations firstly helped set up an effective verification for the 1997 chemical weapons convention that was supported by the military and and industries.Later on the author claimed that “Ngo judgements can be decisive in promoting or withholding political support” (Learning to live with Ngo’s,Slate Group,1998) (pg.6).The world bank then had to learn this lesson first hand since other banks did business with a only a handful of Ngos.

The author then says that Ngos on the ground make the impossible possible by doing what governments cannot or will not as well as that Ngos have a natural advantage because of perceived neutrality and experience.Such as the red cross since they deliver food to political prisoners in exchange for staying silent about human rights violations.

In the next topic the author goes on to explain that since Ngos have become more involved they are exposed to alot of criticism since there was a recent study in bosnia about how Ngos advertised their peacebuilding to potential donors the effects of this raised questions as to where the Ngos were putting their money? The author then says that governments,and institutions have trouble working with Ngos and their dilemma is “who should participate and how”(Learning to live with Ngo’s,Slate Group,1998)(pg.10)?

The author then ends off to say that organization like the WTO,and other UN organizations have resisted more public participation citing that their issues require secrecy.Though both sides realize that their new system is no different than other competing interests that have fought since democracy was made.