



POLI 150: Overcoming the Prisoner's Dilemma in the International System

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Today's Class

- Review of Prisoner's Dilemma & Games
- International Institutions as a Solution
- Practical Considerations for Institutions



Prisoner's Dilemma

		Actor 2	
		C	D
Actor 1	C	$-1, -1$	$-10, 0$
	D	$0, -10$	$-5, -5$



Prisoner's Dilemma

		Actor 2	
		C	D
Actor 1	C	$-1, -1$	$-10, 0$
	D	$0, -10$	$-5, -5$



Prisoner's Dilemma Equilibrium

- There is a unique equilibrium: both actors will defect
- We know this because there's no unilateral deviation that is profitable
- Why can't the actors agree to cooperate given that each would be better off?
- Each has an incentive to defect!



Prisoner's Dilemma Reminders

- We assume that the actors are rational → can rank their preferred outcomes and make purposive decisions
- We assume complete information about the structure of the game
- The actual value of the payoffs does not matter, but the ranking does
- Prisoner's can't cooperate because they always have a profitable deviation when the other side cooperates



Iterating the Prisoner's Dilemma

- One method for trying to encourage cooperation is by iterating this game
- What sorts of strategies could you imagine for an iterated prisoner's dilemma?
- Two that have gained a lot of popularity are tit-for-tat and grim trigger



Practice Time!

- Now it's your turn!
- Let's try to solve two other common games that have been applied to international relations: Chicken & the Stag Hunt
- Feel free to get into small groups of 3 or 4 to work on these



Chicken

		Actor 2	
		<i>Swerve</i>	<i>Straight</i>
Actor 1	<i>Swerve</i>	3, 3	2, 4
	<i>Straight</i>	4, 2	1, 1



Chicken Solution

		Actor 2	
		<i>Swerve</i>	<i>Straight</i>
Actor 1	<i>Swerve</i>	3, 3	2, 4
	<i>Straight</i>	4, 2	1, 1



Chicken Dynamics

- Chicken is an example of coercion: threatening force to improve your own payoff
- As we discussed previously, coercion is risky; it could lead to the worst possible outcome
- The best examples of chicken in international relations are nuclear crises



Stag Hunt

		Actor 2	
		<i>Stag</i>	<i>Rabbit</i>
Actor 1	<i>Stag</i>	4, 4	1, 3
	<i>Rabbit</i>	3, 1	2, 2



Stag Hunt Solution

		Actor 2	
		<i>Stag</i>	<i>Rabbit</i>
Actor 1	<i>Stag</i>	4, 4	1, 3
	<i>Rabbit</i>	3, 1	2, 2



Stag Hunt Dynamics

- The stag hunt is an example of an assurance game dealing with problems of coordination
- Cooperation is only a best response if an actor believes the other will cooperate; the lack of trust drives suboptimal outcomes
- This applies to coordination situations and times when trust can lead to cooperation
- What is the “trusting outcome” in the prisoner’s dilemma?



Overcoming Barriers to Cooperation

- These simplistic games describe a great deal of international behavior
- Self-interested actors make decisions that have global consequences
- Cooperation is hard!
- Whose responsibility is it to encourage cooperation between international actors?
- How do we go about changing the rules of the game?



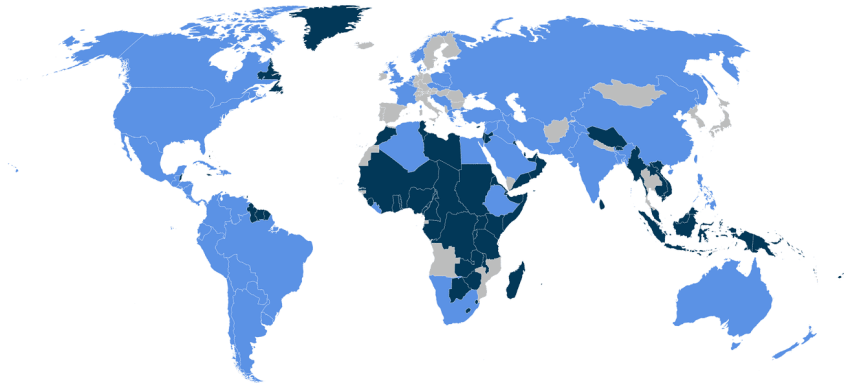
International Institutions

- One avenue for encouraging cooperation is through international institutions
- Institutions: sets of known rules that structure interactions
- United Nations is the most well known international institution
- Today, we'll talk about the guiding principles, structure, and effectiveness of the UN



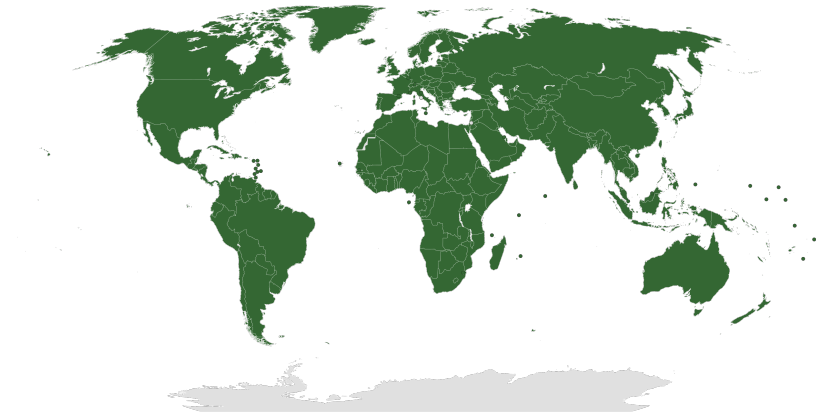
United Nations: Historical Context

- Following WWI, the victorious Allies attempted to create the League of Nations
- LoN fails to prevent conflicts and ultimately collapses
- Following WWII, the international community tried again by creating the UN





Current Members





Atlantic Charter





United Nations: Roots from Atlantic Charter

- The Atlantic Charter (1941) was the basis for the modern UN
- Agreements between the US and UK that spawned a larger agreement
- Territorial limitations: people have the right to self-determination
- Economic cooperation: trade barriers lowered, advancement of social welfare
- Peace: freedom of the seas, disarmament



United Nations: Guiding Principles

- Save future generations from war
- Human rights, equal rights
- Promote international law
- Promote social progress



United Nations: General Assembly

- The democratic heart of the UN: 193 states, 193 votes
- Discusses pressing topics, elects Secretary General and non-permanent UNSC members
- Talks have served as the basis for hundreds of treaties and resolutions
- The place where debate amongst all countries takes place, but decisions are not binding



United Nations: General Assembly





United Nations: Other Organs

- ECOSOC: discuss economic and social issues and make policy suggestions
- ICJ: judicial organ that settles legal disputes submitted by member states
- Secretariat: the executive arm that primarily has agenda-setting power; led by the Secretary General



United Nations: Security Council

- Tasked with protecting and maintaining international peace
- Consists of 15 different members, five of which are permanent: China, France, Russia, UK, US
- Non-permanent members rotate every two years



UNSC 2019

2019 Security Council Composition

PERMANENT 5 (P5)

- China
- France
- Russian Federation
- United Kingdom
- United States



ELECTED 10 (E10)

- Belgium -
- Côte D'Ivoire -
- Dominican Republic -
- Equatorial Guinea -
- Germany -
- Indonesia -
- Kuwait -
- Peru -
- Poland -
- South Africa -



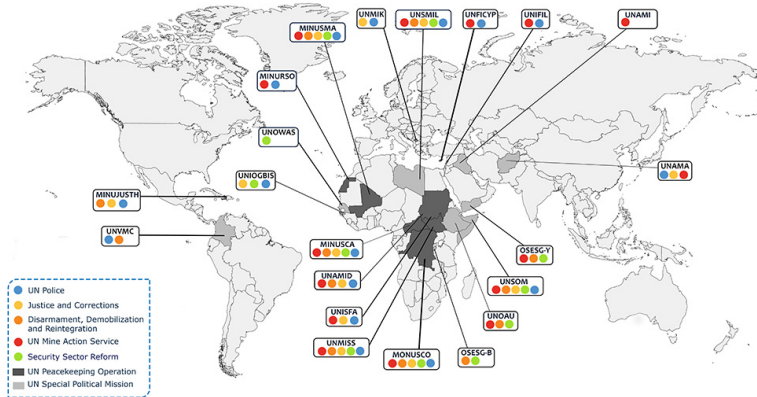
UNSC: What Does it Do?

- Brings parties together to solve conflicts peacefully via mediation
- Calls for economic and diplomatic sanctions against aggressive states
- Peace-enforcement: impose peace upon belligerents through military intervention (i.e. Libya in 2011)
- Peacekeeping: troops are deployed to monitor a peace agreement or ceasefire



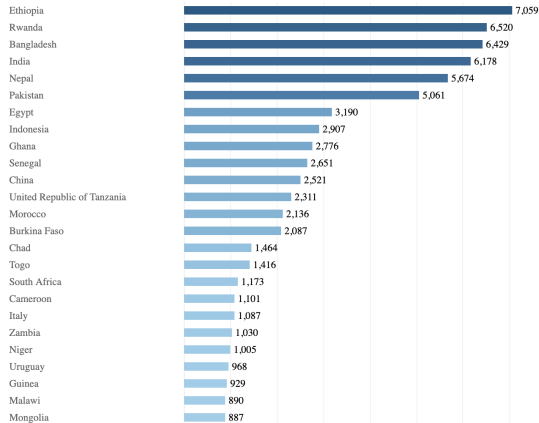
Peacekeeping in 2019

OROLSI Deployments to UN Peacekeeping Operations and UN Special Political Missions in 2019





Peacekeeping in 2019





Peacekeeping in 2019

Namibia	50								
Belgium	41								
Bhutan	41								
Bosnia and Herzegovina	37								
Lithuania	37								
Australia	36								
Philippines	35								
Armenia	34								
United States of America	34								
Chile	30								
Paraguay	30								
Brunei Darussalam	29								
Switzerland	29								
Bolivia	26								
Denmark	22								
Hungary	22								
Madagascar	22								
Samoa	18								
Slovenia	18								
Croatia	17								
Czech Republic	17								
Mexico	15								



Peacekeeping Funders

The top 10 providers of assessed contributions to United Nations Peacekeeping operations for 2018 are:

1. **United States** (28.47%)
2. **China** (10.25%)
3. **Japan** (9.68%)
4. **Germany** (6.39%)
5. **France** (6.28%)
6. **United Kingdom** (5.77%)
7. **Russian Federation** (3.99%)
8. **Italy** (3.75%)
9. **Canada** (2.92%)
10. **Spain** (2.44%)



UNSC Veto Power

- To pass, resolutions need 9 of 15 votes from the Security Council
- Crucially, the permanent members (P5) have veto power over any UNSC resolution
- This ensures that when the UN acts, it does so with the backing of the strongest international players
- However, there are some **downsides** to the veto power



The Future of the Veto

- Is it okay for states to use the veto to serve their own national interest?
- What changes would you make to the P5's ability to use the veto?
- Can we ever convince the P5 members to give up the veto power or is it here to stay?



Criticisms of the UN

- Bureaucratic and wasteful
- Ineffective at stopping conflict
- Serves national interests of strong & wealthy states



Successes of the UN

- Humanitarian aid (i.e. food, water, health) is being administered
- Peacekeeping has been successful despite high-profile failures
- Providing public goods: climate change responses, human rights, etc.



Has the UN Encouraged Cooperation?

- We started out asking how we could solve the prisoner's dilemma to encourage cooperation
- The UN is proof that cooperation is possible in a self-interested, anarchic system
- Cooperation still does not always occur, but it does more frequently because of international institutions



Good Global Governance?

- Patrick claims that we should ask for ‘good enough global governance’
- Argues that the UN is antiquated and that powerful states have no incentives to change it
- The UN does not act alone: several organizations that focus on smaller issues have arisen to combat specific problems
- Meeting basic performance thresholds is a more reasonable ask than solving all global issues