



POLI 150: Encouraging Cooperation Through The United Nations

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Today's Class

- The UN as a Solution to Anarchy
- Practical Considerations for the UN
- Good Enough Global Governance?



Overcoming Barriers to Cooperation

- Simple games featuring strategic interaction show that cooperation is difficult to achieve
- We've discussed several ways to improve the prospects of cooperation, but they all rely on structuring interactions
- One avenue for changing rules of interaction → international institutions



United Nations: Historical Context

- League of Nations fails to gain support and prevent conflict
- During WWII, US and UK present plan for postwar order in Atlantic Charter
- Atlantic Charter lays the groundwork for the UN following WWII



United Nations: Guiding Principles

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



United Nations: General Assembly





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- 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



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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 -



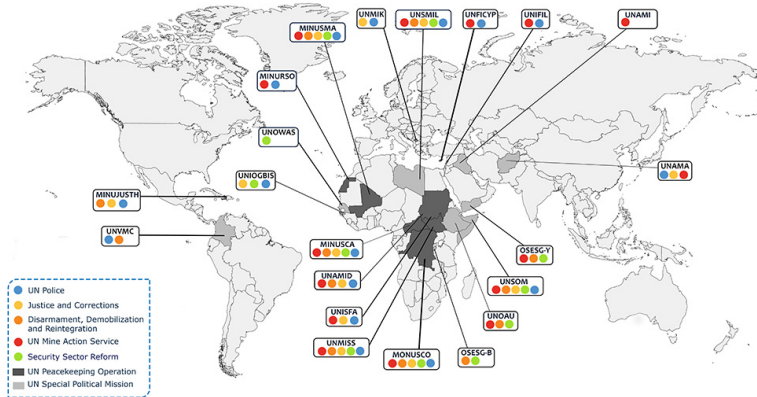
UNSC: What Does it Do?

- 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 terms of a peace agreement or ceasefire



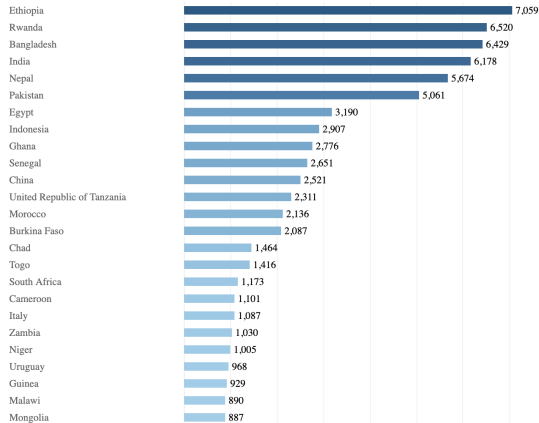
Peacekeeping in 2019

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





Peacekeeping in 2019







Peacekeeping 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



Effective (if limited) Global Governance

- Anti-piracy organizations involve US, NATO, Iran, China, Saudi Arabia, etc.
- Climate agreements outside of the UNFCCC
- Bilateral trade agreements outside of the WTO-led Doha Round
- Regional vs. international mediation