

United Nations



When: April 25, 1945

Where: San Francisco (present day New York City)

3.3.1 Challenges faced by the United Nations

- One of the allies' goals during WWII was to create an international organization to ensure global collective security.
- **Its purpose was to:**
 - (i) maintain international peace & settle disputes
 - (ii) develop equal rights & national self determination
 - (iii) solve social, economic & humanitarian problems
- **Some of the basic principles of the United Nations were:**
 - (i) the equality of all members
 - (ii) all members fulfill its UN obligations
 - (ii) settle disputes peacefully
 - (iv) refrain the use of force against any state
 - (v) help the UN in any action it undertakes
- **The League of Nations had been too weak to stop aggression because major powers were unwilling to give up their self interest to such an international organization.**
- **President Roosevelt** (*Atlantic Charter*) was determined to make the United Nations a strong organization by ensuring that all major powers be involved.
- To ensure American commitment the headquarters was put in the United States.
- The main problem was how to accommodate the national self interest of large & small powers.
- What was needed was a formula that would give major powers a greater role in the United Nations while still recognizing the need of all countries to have a voice.

- The solution was to divide the UN into **TWO** parts :
1. **General Assembly:**
 - All members met in the assembly to present their positions on issues.
 - Each country has **1 VOTE** (most decisions are reached by a simple majority)
 - On questions of peace or expulsion of a member, a majority of 2/3's is required.
 - Critics say the General Assembly is an ineffective “talk shop” where nations simply play politics.
 2. **Security Council:**
 - The **real power** behind the UN is the Security Council, which is made up of **TWO** groups:
 - A. Five permanent members: China, France, Britain, Russia and the United States. Permanent members have veto power which is the right to stop any UN action.
 - B. Ten non-permanent members: elected for two year terms
 - The major responsibility of the Security Council is to maintain peace and security.

NOTE:

- It can order a ceasefire, impose economic sanctions and authorize the use of military force against an aggressor.
- Critics point out that the **VETO** power of the permanent members is a weakness of the UN.
- They argue that countries will use the veto to block any UN action that is not in their self interest.
- During the Cold War the Security Council was often deadlocked as the U.S. and Soviets often used the veto against each other.

*** It must be pointed out that the veto power ensured the continuing commitment of all major powers and that there has been no large scale wars since its creation.**

Our instrument and our last hope is the United Nations, and I see little merit in the impatience of those who would abandon this imperfect instrument because they dislike our imperfect world.

- John F. Kennedy, 1962

At the UN everybody wins a few, loses a few, and settles for half a loaf. No one, not the U.S., not the USSR, not Japan, not China, not India can get away with playing the Big Bully or the Lone Ranger.

- India's Ambassador to the UN,

4.2.1 TERMS

Uniting for Peace Resolution: U.N. resolution that gave the General Assembly power to deal with issues of international aggression if the Security Council is deadlocked.

Veto: The right to reject a proposal or forbid an action.

4.2.3 Was the Korean War a better example of American containment or U.N. peacekeeping?

- To answer this question **read pages 169 to 173** in your textbook and consider the following questions in deciding whether it was American containment or U.N. peacekeeping.
- What were the (a) underlying causes and (b) immediate causes of the Korean War?
- How did the U.N. become involved in the Korean War?
- Was the Korean War more a U.N. or U.S. military action (Fig.6.5 page 172)?
- What was the outcome of the conflict?
- Was the Korean War American containment or U.N. peacekeeping?

6.1.1 TERMS

Human Rights: the freedom granted to all people protecting them from unlawful arrest, torture, or execution.

Ethnic cleansing: the displacement or murder of one ethnic group by another.

6.1.2 Peacekeeping Roles

- **THREE** peacekeeping roles that UN forces are sometimes called upon to perform in trouble areas of the world:
 - A. Mediation of disputes between conflicting parties.
 - B. Deployment of military forces to maintain peace in civil or international wars.
 - C. Deployment of military forces to ensure distribution of humanitarian aid.

6.1.3 Examples of UN Peacekeeping

1. UN in Somalia:

Background:

- The Republic of Somalia (Africa) was created in 1960; 9 years later there was a military coup.
- For the next 20 years under the rule of a dictator (**General Barre**) democracy was eliminated, industries were nationalized, and human rights were abused.
- In 1988 civil war broke out in the drought stricken country as Somali clans opposed Barre.
- By 1991 Barre had control of Northern Somalia but warlords competed for political power in the South.
- Part of Mogadishu, in the South, was divided between Abgall (5000 guerillas) and Aidid (10,000 guerillas).
- Famine spread throughout Somalia and 300,000 to 500,000 people died.

United Nations:

- Thousands fled to Mogadishu but the warlords controlled the **FOOD** (supplied by UN) only giving it to people who supported them.
- These warlords also opposed the idea of UN military forces entering the country.
- Despite the best efforts of groups like **UNICEF** and **Red Cross** food destined for famine victims continued to be looted and used by those engaged on the civil war.
- **By June 1992, 6 million faced starvation.**
- In 1992, with **Operation Restore Hope**, the UN authorized the use of military force to ensure food reached the people of Somalia.
- In December a U.S. led operation arrived in Somalia which put UN soldiers in direct confrontation with the warring factions.
- In 1993 18 U.S. soldiers were killed and dragged through the streets of Mogadishu.
- **As a result the UN mission in Somalia changed from humanitarian aid to demobilizing warring factions.**

- Thousands died in clashes including dozens of peacekeepers.
- The UN was unable to maintain a cease fire, and so the mission ended in failure.
- **UN troops were withdrawn in March 1995.***
- By 2000 the UN had set up a Transitional National Government to draw a constitution and hold elections.

2. UN in Bosnia-Herzegovina (Yugoslavia):

Background:

- Josef Broz **Tito** ruled Yugoslavia from 1945 to 1980.
- Under Tito the country was made up of **SIX** republics: Bosnia, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Slovenia and Serbia (*prosperous, peaceful and independent*).
- **By 1990 the country had broken apart into competing ethnic and political groups.**
- Yugoslavia's breakup became a reality in June 1991 when Croatia and Slovenia separated from Yugoslavia and declared themselves independent.
- The Serbian - dominated Yugoslav army attempted to prevent the separations but failed.
- Fighting raged throughout 1991 resulting in the deaths of thousands.
- By the end of 1991 it was clear that the Serbia had failed to prevent the disintegration of Yugoslavia.
- The Serbs were now determined to prevent the separation of Bosnia-Herzegovina.
- **The population of Bosnia was 44% Muslim, 31% Serbian and 17% Croatian, the remainder being other ethnic groups.**
- The Muslims and Croats voted in favour of independence in 1992.
- **Serbia, unwilling to see the largest group of Serbs outside Serbia become a minority, within a new country, launched a full scale assault on Bosnia in an attempt to eliminate all Muslims and Croats.**
- People were driven out of their homes, and houses were burned down to prevent the return Muslims or Croats.

- This policy of forcing ethnic groups out of a region became known as **ETHNIC CLEANSING**.
- The situation in the former Yugoslavia soon attracted world attention and intervention.

United Nations:

- The UN demanded an end to the violence but was ignored.
- The UN imposed harsh economic sanctions against Serbia and sent UN peacekeeping forces to Bosnia to protect the airport to protect relief shipments.
- However these forces did not have the ability to impose peace.
- Fighting continued throughout 1992 and by 1993 Serbia was expelled from the UN.
- UN peacekeeping forces were now threatened.
- Finally the U.S. was able to convince NATO to intervene militarily.
- In the end the region became a confusing mix of NATO peacemaking and UN peacekeeping—both failed to provide a lasting peace.
- ***The Serbs would be defeated in 1999 by NATO when they invaded Kosovo.**

6.1.4: Re-Emergence of Nationalism

A. **Rwanda:**

- In Rwanda, the predominant ethnic group is **HUTU**.
- They make up about 85% of the population, while **TUTIS** make up the remaining 15 %.
- Since the 1600's, hereditary Tutsi kings ruled Rwanda in 1959, seeking equality for all groups in Rwanda, the majority Hutu tribe overthrew the Tutsi monarchy.
- After 4 years of war, Rwanda was declared a republic, and in 1962 the nation gained its independence.
- The majority Hutus formed new government under President Gregoire Kayibanda, and held power under a coup in 1973.
- Supported by the Rwanda military, General Juvenal Habyarimana became president and instituted a new constitution, which limited the presidency to members of the Hutu tribe.
- Hutu's forced about 150,000 Tutsis into exile.
- The Tutsi exiles formed the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) and invaded Rwanda in 1990.

- The Rwandan Patriotic Front continued its campaign of hostilities until 1993, when the government of Rwanda and the RPF signed the Arusha Peace Agreement.
- This agreement gave the United Nations a broad role to play as a Neutral International Force (NIF).
- The force would supervise the implementation of the agreement during a transitional period, which was to last 22 months.
- Canadian General Romeo Dallaire advised the UN that tensions between the Hutus and Tutsis were increasing.
- He requested more troops and a mandate to use force in response to crimes against humanity, such as executions and attacks on displaced persons or refugees.
- He told the UN that weapons distribution among the Hutus was escalating, **terrorist** activities were increasing, and death squad target lists were being drawn up.
- The commander warned of catastrophic consequences, but his requests for additional UN forces and changes to the rules of engagement were denied.
- The April 1994 assassination of President Habyarimana of Rwanda and the Hutu president of neighbouring Burundi unleashed Hutu fury.
- Unable to achieve a cease fire, and denied the mandate to address the widespread massacres and chaos, the entire UNAMIR operation was nearly suspended.
- Most of the UN peacekeepers from various countries were evacuated.
- Over a 13 week period, the Hutu-dominated army killed more than 800,000 Tutsis.
- It became clear that extremist Hutus intended **GENOCIDE** of the entire Rwandan Tutsi population.
- The Tutsi Rwandan Patriotic Front, along with tens of thousands of Tutsis from Burundi, eventually won military control in Rwanda and implemented a ceasefire.

- **By March 1996 all UN forces had left Rwanda.**

- **In other words, this was a peacekeeping mission that turned into a peacemaking mission, and the UN was not able to adjust to the change.**

- Therefore the UN failed.
- The US-led UN failure in Somalia was the biggest background reason for the reluctance of any nation, particularly the US, to commit more troops to Rwanda.
- The problem for the UN is that it needs the US more than the US needs the UN.
- A rift between the US and UN could have serious implications for the future.
- Therefore we should conclude that the UN can only be effective if it is able to adapt to the fluctuating circumstances of the conflict it is involved with, and only if both parties are willing to work for peace.

B. India – Pakistan: (NEVER BEEN ON AN EXAM)

- Pakistan and India have always disagreed over India's control of Kashmir.
- In the 1980's Muslim militants in Kashmir have pushed for separation.
- India accused Pakistan of supporting the campaign while Pakistan claims the Muslim Kashmir's were simply demanding self-determination.
- By 1990 the situation deteriorated as hundreds of thousands of Muslims took part in demonstrations.
- Indian troops fled into the region with the result being rising civilian casualties.
- As well Indian and Pakistani troops skirmished along the border.
- The future of Kashmir remains a source of friction between India and Pakistan

Old Publics:

1. Which refers to the right of permanent members of the UN Security Council to reject proposals or actions of other members?
 - a. Containment
 - b. Reparation
 - c. Totalitarianism
 - d. Veto

2. Which 1941 agreement laid the foundation for the creation of the United Nations after World War II?
 - a. Atlantic Charter
 - b. Marshall Plan
 - c. Molotov Plan
 - d. New Deal

3. Which war led to the United Nations to adopt the Uniting for Peace Resolution?
 - a. Korean
 - b. Sino-Japanese
 - c. Spanish Civil
 - d. Vietnam

4. What best explains the civil conflict in the former Yugoslavia?
 - a. Disintegration of the Soviet Union
 - b. Economic restructuring as a consequence of European Union
 - c. Nationalism, ethnic diversity and religious differences
 - d. Re-emergence of communism and totalitarianism within the region

5. What power was given to the General Assembly under the 1950 "Uniting for Peace Resolution" in the event that the Security Council became deadlocked?
 - a. Address international aggression
 - b. Expel member states
 - c. Reject unjust judicial decisions
 - d. Support humanitarian initiatives

6. Which refers to the displacement or murder of one racial group by another?
 - a. Anti-Semitism
 - b. Collectivism
 - c. Ethnic cleansing
 - d. Noble destiny

7. Which refers to the elimination or removal of one group of people by another?
 - a. Collectivism
 - b. Ethnic Cleansing
 - c. Noble Destiny
 - d. Socialism

8. What gives the General Assembly responsibility for dealing with international aggression should the Security Council be deadlocked?
 - a. International Court of Justice
 - b. Trusteeship Council
 - c. United Nation's Emergency Force
 - d. Uniting for Peace Resolution

9. Based on the source below, what challenge does the Security Council pose for the United Nations in taking action against international aggression?

Security Council

- 5 permanent members plus 10 elected members (2 years only).
- Each member has one vote.
- Successful motions need at least 9 Yes votes.
- Successful motions cannot have any of the 5 permanent members vote No.

- a. All permanent members must vote "no" to block a resolution.
 - b. Any member can block resolutions.
 - c. Any permanent member can block a resolution.
 - d. Any member can abstain from a vote.
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10. Which refers to the displacement or elimination of one group by another?
 - a. Arms proliferation
 - b. Assassination
 - c. Ethnic cleansing
 - d. Guerilla warfare

DBQ'S:

1. Using the source provided and your knowledge of history, assess whether the Korean War provides a better example of either American containment or United Nations peacemaking.

"Here in Asia is where the Communist conspirators have selected to make their play for global conquest. If we lose the war to Communism in Asia the fall of Europe is inevitable. There is no substitute for victory." - **American General Douglas MacArthur (1950)**

- Using the source provided and your knowledge of history, assess the effectiveness of United Nations peacemaking efforts in Somalia.

"... American people tuned in through their media, and they saw these poor, starving kids, and they saw G.I.'s throwing bags of wheat off the backs of C130's (aircraft). The next time they tuned in to Somalia, they are seeing the dead bodies of our soldiers being dragged down the street, and they ask themselves, 'What happened here? What's wrong with this picture?'" - Col. **KENNETLLAH ARD (RET.)**, **National**

- Using the source provided and your knowledge of history, analyze the role played by the United Nations in Somalia.



- Based on the source below and your knowledge of history, explain the roles that United Nations peacekeeping forces have performed.

