

The United Nations



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Reasons for UN

- After World War I, the League of Nations was created to prevent another world war.
- During World War II, the League of Nations was eliminated because it failed to prevent another war.
- In 1945, with the end of WWII nearing, the United Nations was created to replace the failed League of Nations.

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History of United Nations

- In 1945, San Francisco hosted the United Nations Conference on International Organizations.
- There were 50 countries represented at the United Nations Conference including: United States, France, United Kingdom, Soviet Union (now Russia), and China.
- These five countries are known as the “Permanent Five” members.

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Objectives of United Nations

- The UN was created to maintain international peace and security.
- It also works to maintain friendly relationships between countries.
- Lastly, it works to promote economic development of member nations.

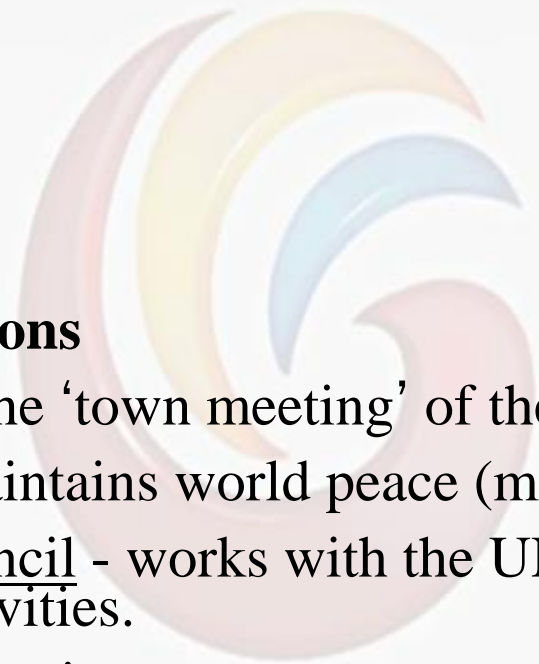
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Locational Details

- Almost all countries in the world are members of the UN.
- There are currently 191 countries in the UN.
- The headquarters is in New York City.
- The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is located in The Hague in the Netherlands.



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Main bodies of United Nations

1. The General Assembly – the ‘town meeting’ of the world.
2. UN Security Council – maintains world peace (most powerful branch)
3. Economic and Social Council - works with the UN’s economic, cultural, health and educational activities.
4. Trusteeship Council - territories
5. ICJ – International Court of Justice
6. The Secretariat – administrative duties and can bring any topic before the SC.

UN General Assembly

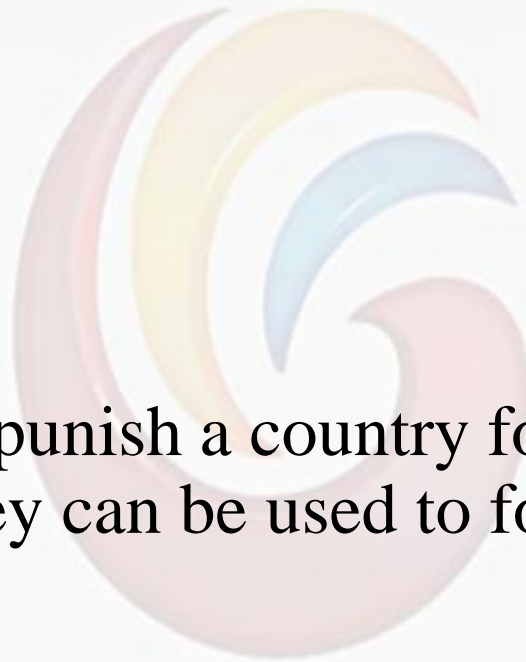
- Every member nation has a seat at the General Assembly.
- Brings up international issues that they want the Security Council to deal with
- Holds elections for Security Council members and other leaders

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UN Security Council

- Made up of 15 countries:
 - The “Permanent Five” countries
 - 10 non-permanent countries (elected every two years)
- The strong-arm of the UN
- Maintains international peace
- How does it do this:
 - Recommends peaceful negotiations (peace talks)
 - Can use Economic Sanctions
 - Can use Military Sanctions

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Sanctions

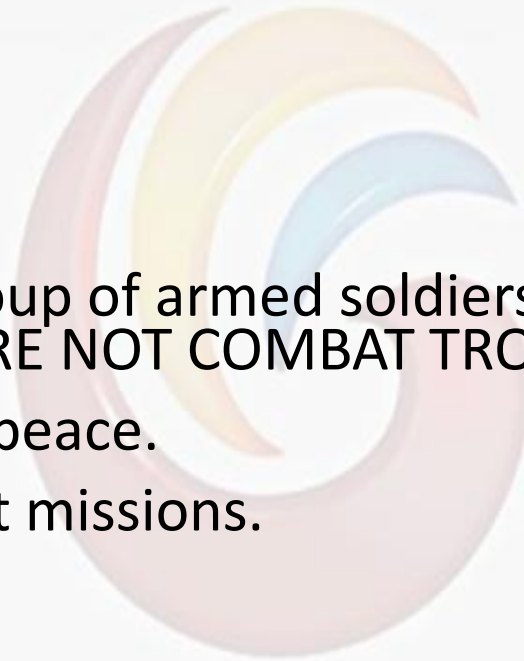
- Sanctions are used to punish a country for violating international law. They can be used to force a country to follow a law.
- In order for sanctions to be used by the UN Security Council, **ALL FIVE** permanent members must have a unanimous vote.



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Types of Sanctions

- **Diplomatic Sanctions** – removal of all political ties (like embassies)
- **Economic Sanctions** – ban on all trade with a country (except food)
- **Military Sanctions** – using a military to force compliance.



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- UN Peacekeepers – a group of armed soldiers sent to a hostile area to promote peace. They ARE NOT COMBAT TROOPS.
- These soldiers maintain peace.
- They don't go on combat missions.
- They are not an 'army'

- UN Military Force – an army made up of soldiers from more than one UN country that can serve as combat troops.
 - They are not very effective and are not used very often.



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- **Strengths of UN**
- Provides a forum for almost all of the world's nations to discuss international issues
- Humanitarian efforts
 - AIDS
 - Landmine removal
 - Food and supply organization
- Peacekeeping forces
- Will get involved with messes that no one else will

- **Weaknesses of UN**
- Sanctions are only effective if ALL countries follow them (Iraq example)
- Military force is rarely used and is usually ineffective
- ALL permanent members of the security council have to vote unanimously (one country can stop a sanction)
- Inadequate funding by member nations
 - 14 Countries Pay 85% of the subscriptions (membership fee)
- Big gap between developing and industrialized nations



References

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