
UNITED NATIONS: A STEP TOWARDS PEACEFUL DEVELOPMENT

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ABSTRACT

The United Nations is the world's most evolving organization. Starting from scratch to massive development all around the horizon, it has paved a long way towards peaceful development. No doubt, the United Nations has worked hard to improve its efficiency from time to time.

But where does the United Nations come from? To answer that, we consistently tried to highlight each aspect that marks the formation of the UN. From wars to conferences, the UN has come a long way.

World nations needed an organization to prevent wars, especially their drastic long-term effects. We all know how much World War I & II was contagious enough to destroy the nation's economy, and several people were left abandoned in the scorching heat, looking for shelter, food, etc.

So, let's dive into the origin and formation of the UN, its effectiveness, and the challenges it faced.

SCOPE OF STUDY

The research paper deals with "**United Nations: A step towards peaceful development.**" It states the origin of the UN, challenges faced in framing an international organization, effectiveness, way of handling the conflict, failure, if any, and other details about the UN.

Continuing with the goals and objectives of the UN, the world has witnessed significant progress in development, systematic handling of conflicts, etc. Since the initiation of the United Nations, the situation has changed globally. Most of the nations signed the UN charter and are active members of it. We have tried to put forth recommendations or suggestions related to the shortcomings that we believe need improvement.

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

The establishment of the UN was a major step toward securing world peace and security. The formation of the UN was not an easy process. Through Various declarations and conferences, world nations agreed to the formation of the UN. Many of these declarations and conferences have limitations of their own.

Since its formation, the UN has worked towards achieving its objectives. But still, it has faced certain challenges and limitations. In recent years we have found that the UN has not been able to take necessary measures to prevent threats endangering world peace and security.

OBJECTIVES

The research paper explains:

1. To briefly analyse the origin of the United Nations.
2. To go through the conferences and other significant events that embark on establishing the UN.
3. To analyse and do a fact check on whether the UN is successful in positively and successfully handling the conflict.
4. To understand the scenario or the changes worldwide after the framing of the UN.
5. To analyse whether the UN has abided by its goals.
6. To analyse the success and failures, if any, that the UN faced while it was functioning.

HYPOTHESIS

1. After World War II and the failure of the League of Nations, global leaders wanted an international organization to maintain peace and order in the world.
2. Creating such an international body was not an easy task. Through various declarations and conferences, leaders agreed to the formation of the UN.
3. Though the UN has proved to be a successful entity in maintaining world peace and order, it has some limitations.

METHODOLOGY

The United Nations have been significantly working towards maintaining international peace and order worldwide. A detailed description of data sources has been used in this study. The article refers to the Origin of the United Nations and a way toward peaceful development.

This research paper has adopted the doctrinal research approach and secondary sources. Information is collected from various articles.

INTRODUCTION

After the tragic end of the Second World War, there was an urgent need to establish an international organization that would uphold decorum and peace in the international arena.

Through a series of conferences and discussions, the world nations concluded and started working towards making an efficient and strategic organization which came to be known as the United Nations. Since the UN charter's implementation, the UN began working on its operations. It works to protect human dignity and the planet for the advancement of shared needs and sustenance. It focuses on gender equality, health, human rights, Sustainable development goals, etc. It tries to gather diverse voices to make various changes worldwide. It also nurtures initiatives and world support to build a supportive community worldwide.

The United Nations membership grew unwaveringly all over where most nations signed the UN charter. They're in constant efforts to abide by the goals of the UN charter.

In the research paper, we will investigate the origin of the UN, its formation and effectiveness, and challenges, if any. So far, the United Nations has effectively managed to keep up with its objectives and has succeeded globally.

First World War and the Treaty of Versailles

World war I famously referred to as the great war, started in 1914 between the central powers (Germany, Bulgaria, Ottoman Empire, Austria, and Hungary) and the allied powers (France, Italy, Russia, Canada, United States, Japan, and Britain). Due to the new military technologies and warfare, World War I led to massive unidentified destruction resulting in the demise of millions of people. As a result of the war, the central powers failed drastically on the war front, which led to the end of World War I in 1918.

After the war casualties ended, there was an urgent need to establish an organization that would work on peace terms globally. The Paris peace conference was summoned in January 1919 at Versailles. The Big Four powers, namely, the United States, Italy, France, and the United Kingdom, played a versatile role in framing and formulating the Treaty of Versailles.

The Treaty led to the formation of the League of Nations, an international organization that would work for the nation's collective security worldwide. Woodrow Wilson, the U.S. President believed that the organization would prevent future wars. The Treaty blamed Germany entirely for World War I. It imposed punishments on the German government like, abolishing military technologies and warfare, losing territories, and compensation for the loss it led to. The economy of the German government was already in decline. Had the German government paid the total amount, the economical rate would have fallen drastically, leading to poverty and exploitation of resources.

It caused the League of Nations to successfully maintain international peace and order. It led to resentment and distress in Germany. Therefore, Germany did not sign the Treaty of Versailles. With the rise of nationalism, most countries sought nationality. Some of the countries withdrew from the organization. They again started to resort to power blocs, proving their hegemony, defensive military alliances, etc. But within two years, it led to the rise of the Nazi government, which resulted in World War II. The League of Nations failed to sustain its goals, and Woodrow Wilson's beliefs were shattered.

Second World War

There was a sudden rise in the German government with the coming of Adolf Hitler, the leader of the Nazis. Looking at the instability of Germany, Hitler sought to reform the nation and signed treaties with Italy and Japan, intending to dominate the world with its terror. In September 1939, Hitler invaded Poland. France and Britain announced war on Germany,

leading to the Second World war. The conflict between the nations led to the destruction of public properties and resources globally. World war II proved to be more disastrous and deadliest than the First world war. Hitler opted Holocaust, where millions of Jews were exterminated for death.

Later, the German government failed to win the war. Germany surrendered on May 8 when the Soviet Union had already annexed some of its territories. Adolf Hitler died on April 30.

Declaration of St. James' Palace

In June 1941, London faced approximately 22 months of wartime. Most of the Europeans had fallen to an axis and regularly carried supplies. The people of London were courageous enough to fight back. Their spirit remained unshaken.

On June 12, 1941, some countries like Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Greece, Netherlands, Belgium, Norway, and France discussed and signed a declaration ahead of post-war. It is believed that the only way to achieve true peace is by the cooperation of the people in a free world where all may get access to economic and social security, to work together, end the war and live in peace.

Atlantic Charter

In August 1941, Germany started its attack on Russia. The United States did not enter the war directly but gave moral support to its allies. President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill together issued a joint declaration which came to be known as the Atlantic Charter.

The charter included common principles on which the countries depended for their future progression. It declared that once the Nazi ruling was eradicated, they wished to maintain international peace and order, assured all the nations of living freely, maintaining peace and order and freedom from want and fear. It emphasized that the country must stop using force, military power, armaments, warfare, etc., to articulate peace worldwide. It will help to maintain the system of general security. The declaration was signed on September 24, 1941.

Declaration of United Nations

On January 1, 1942, President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill signed a short document that came to be referred to as the United Nations Declaration. Around 22 nations signed the declaration and accepted to abide by the Atlantic Charter. Most countries realized the

importance of a free world where peace and tranquillity are of utmost importance.

Moscow Declaration

China, Britain, the United States, and USSR issued a declaration to continue their differences with the Axis powers, that is, Germany, Japan, and Italy, until they surrendered their arms and ammunition and accepted their failure. No conditions would be accepted from their end. By 1943, all the allied nations were working together for everlasting peace worldwide, where all the people lived freely without any hindrances. In October, China, USSR, Britain, and the United States signed the Moscow Declaration, where all these nations pledged joint action whenever there was a threat. They realized the importance of an international organization, the United Nations, which is based on the principles of sovereignty and equality, and open to all the peace-loving states.

They made a declaration in Italy that the people of Italy should be provided with every possible opportunity to constitute government and institutions based on democratic principles.

And later, they decided that the army forces which were a part of the deadliest Nazi territory, will be sent back to the place where offence was committed. And for the unknown soldiers who did not belong to Germany, would be given the punishment as per the joint decision by the allied powers.

Drawback of Declaration

To counter the objectives of the Moscow Declaration, the imperialist tried every way to disturb the peace and unity of the international communists. The people were struggling for peace, international stability, liberation, and freedom.

Tehran Conference

Prime Minister Churchill, President Roosevelt, and Stalin met in Tehran, working together to make fundamental action strategies to win the war. They also discussed Germany and Eastern Europe. They wanted to combine Poland with the Soviet Union. And if Poland suffers any loss, then compensation will be given. The three leaders also discussed Germany's partition after the war period. They agreed to constitute the European Advisory Commission to discuss the issue and finalize the matter. They recognized the supreme responsibility of the United Nations to make peace and goodwill of all the people and to banish the terror of war and hatred for the generations to come.

International cooperation was required for peaceful negotiations. Britain, China, the Soviet Union, and the United States made a declaration to promote international peace and security all over the world. Also, it gave them the power to act immediately if there's an emergency or danger to the peace and security of international relations.

The US, Britain, and the Soviet Union made a declaration to protect Iran from Germany during the war period. They provided financial support to Iran and took an oath to protect Iran's dignity and sovereignty. Finally, Roosevelt won Stalin's confidence and proved that the United States was directly engaged in negotiating its differences with the Soviet Union.

Drawback of Conference

Most of the countries did not approve the proclamations laid down by the conference and some of them refused to provide fundings that was needed to keep up with the fulfilment of its objectives.

Dumbarton Oak Conference

This conference was held at Dumbarton Oaks, Washington D.C.

It was the first important step towards the Moscow Declaration of 1943, which talks about the need for an international organisation that will succeed the League of Nations.¹

In this conference, representatives of the Soviet Union, China, UK, and US formulated proposals for a world organisation to maintain international peace and security. This became the basis for the UN.

As per this conference, the world organisation should have following functions: -

1. Maintenance of international peace and security.
2. Adjustment or settlement of international disputes through peaceful means.
3. Friendly relations among nations.
4. Adoption of appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace.
5. Economic, social, and other humanitarian problems should be solved through international cooperation.

¹ BRITANNICA, <https://www.britannica.com/event/Dumbarton-Oaks-Conference> (Last Visited Sep 10,2022)

As a result of this conference, the UN was formed just over a year later.

Drawback of Conference

Though the conference was success, as per CE Bohlem, it failed to provide arrangement on two important matters: -

1. Voting system of Security Council.
2. Procedure for admission of 16 constituent republics of the Soviet Union.

To resolve these, the Yalta Conference was held in 1945.

Yalta Conference

The conference was regarding future progress in the post-war world.

In this conference 3 allies of World War II met. They were: - Franklin D Roosevelt, US President; Joseph Stalin, URSS Political Leader; Winston Churchill, British Prime Minister.

They met in Yalta in February 1945. They were called the Big Three.

The major discussion of conference revolved around following points: -

1. Fate of Germany and Europe Post war.
2. Soviet war with Japan
3. Formation and operation of a new international peacekeeping organisation i.e., the UN.²

In this Conference USSR agreed to participate in the UN. It was also decided that all permanent members of the Organization's Security Council will hold veto power.

Drawback of Conference

Initially the Yalta Agreement was viewed as proof of US- Soviet wartime cooperation. But after the death of Roosevelt, there were clashes between the US and Soviet. They both fought for influence over Eastern Europe and the United Nations.

² BRITANNICA, <https://www.britannica.com/event/Yalta-Conference>(last Visited Sep 10,2022)

Roosevelt was criticised for giving Eastern Europe and Northeast Asia to the Soviet at the Yalta Conference.

San Francisco Conference

The San Francisco Conference established the UN Charter. In the San Francisco Conference, delegates of 50 nations met. They were nations who accepted the UN Declaration and had declared war on Germany and Japan. Poland was also one of signatory of the Declaration but due to non-announcement of composition of its new government it was not able to send its representative. It signed the charter on 51 October 1945 and became 51 members.³

Among these delegates 4 played a very important role. They were called Big Four Powers. They were: -

Edward Reillet Slettinices, UN secretary of State; Vyacheslav Mikhailovich Moloyov, USSR; T.U. Soona, Chian; Jr. Anthony Eden, Great Britain.

The work of the conference was highly organised and was divided between 4 committees and 4 commissions.

Four committees of the conference

1. Steering committee- It dealt with matters related to policy and procedure.
2. Executive Committee- Its main work was to give recommendations to the steering committee.
3. Coordination Committee- It aids the Executive Committee. The Coordination committee was helped by the Advisory Committee of Jurists. Also, final drafting of the charter was supervised by this committee.
4. Credential Committee- It reported the credentials of representatives.

The work of formulation of UN charter was carried out by 4 Commissions. 4 Commissions were: -

³ UNITED NATIONS ,<https://www.un.org/en/about-us/history-of-the-un/san-francisco-conference#:~:text=Delegates%20of%20fifty%20nations%20met,Nations%20Conference%20on%20International%20Organization> (last visited Sep.10,2022)

1. Commission I- It focused on general provisions. It includes preamble, purpose, principle, amendment, membership, secretariat.
2. Commission II- It focuses on the General Assembly. It includes structure, procedure, political and security function, economic and social cooperation.
3. Commission III- It focuses on the Security Council. It includes structure, procedure, peaceful settlement, enforcement arrangement, regional arrangement.
4. Commission IV- It focuses on judicial organisation. It included International Court of Justice, legal problems.

Drawback of Conference

The major drawback of the conference was that it was dominated by Big Four Powers. The smaller or less powerful nations were generally not very successful in their Aims and these Big Four Powers retained their supremacy in the UN.

The conference ended with 50 states signing the UN charter on 26 June 1945. And hence the United Nation came into existence.

Formation of the United Nations

President Roosevelt worked hard to avoid Woodrow Wilson's mistakes while establishing the League of Nations. The representatives of 50 nations met at the San Francisco conference in 1945, discussing formulating the UN Charter. Roosevelt convinced everyone that establishing the United Nations was the best way to prevent future wars.

The United Nations was ratified and came into existence on October 24, 1945.

Objectives of UN

Article 1 of the UN Charter mentions the purposes or objectives of the UN.

UN has following objectives: -

1. To establish and maintain international peace and security.
2. To take collective measures to prevent any threat to world peace. It must be achieved through-
 - Conformity with natural principles of international law and justice.
 - Peaceful settlement of international dispute.

3. To develop good and friendly relations among nations. The relationship should be based upon principles of equal rights and self-determination.
4. International cooperation for solving economic, social, cultural, and humanitarian issues. It includes providing financial assistance to poor countries.
5. To promote and encourage respect for human rights and freedoms for all. There should be no discrimination between stronger and weaker nations. Also, there should be no discrimination on basis of sex, religion, race, language.
6. To harmonise actions of nations so that these common ends can be achieved.

Limitations of UN

Though the UN opened a platform for global cooperation of all nations, it has not been able to prevent states from following their narrow self-interest.

Some of incidents where UN failed to take necessary measures are: -

1. Cold war

The United Nations was adopted in 1945. As a peace-making body it must settle the dispute between countries. But in 1945 only the first phase of the Cold War started. Due to continuous disagreement between the Soviet and US, the security council became an insufficient institute.

2. Invasion of Iraq or Iraq war in 2003

The UN failed to prevent the invasion of Iraq by the US. The US has defended itself by saying that the invasion was an act of self-defence. It was to stop Iraq president Saddam Hussein from proceeding with his plans to make weapons of mass destruction.

But UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said that the war on Iraq was illegal. He further said that neither invasion was sanctioned by the security council, nor was it in accordance with the UN founding charter.

3. Russia-Ukraine War

The Security Council of the UN has failed to take necessary measures to end the Russian Ukraine war. It has failed in its objective to settle disputes through peaceful means and to maintain international peace and security. Though the UN has provided humanitarian and protection to millions of victims of war, still it has not been able to end this war.

SUGGESTIONS

- The UN must maintain its sanctity, goals & objectives.
- The UN must start focusing more on the eradication of poverty and availability of resources worldwide.
- The UN needs to employ human resources, budgets, and management that are reflective of 21 century institutions.
- The UN should adopt high management and maintenance of human resources and transparency in its functioning.
- The Peacekeeping reforms must look at the current situation globally. It will help to maintain peace and tranquillity between the states. Although it's already there, we need more.

CONCLUSION

After World War II, world peace and order were in chaos. League of nations was proved to be incompetent. The world leaders wanted an organization that will prevent devastating wars in the future and will maintain peace and security. The UN emerged to be such an organization. The UN also provides a platform where Nations of the world come together to fight against any threat.

It has not only helped in maintaining peace and security but also brought cooperation among Nations to solve social, cultural, and economic issues. It aims for welfare and development and has asked developed nations to aid developing countries.

But at the same time, the UN has faced certain challenges also. It has to an extent, prevented danger and threat to world peace and security but still, it has been criticized over its failure in peacekeeping missions such as the Russia-Ukraine war. It has not been able to take effective measures to prevent war and save civilians from the misery of this war.

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