

The United Nations: Challenges & Change

Reading & Study Guide

- (Fill-in)  
 A nation is a group of people who are united by a common lang., religion, history, or homeland.  
 A State is a system of govt. that presides over a defined area.
- Explain the difference between a nation and a state. Identify an example of a nation that is not represented by a state.  
nation = grp. of ppl. State = formal govt w/ sovereignty  
nations may or may not have  
ex. Chechnya, Cherokee Nation, Scotland
- To what organization does the term "conscience of the world" refer? Who introduced this term and what does it mean?  
Woodrow Wilson in 1913-1921  
Wilson hopes that the League would promote peace + cooperation thru collective security
- Identify three leading reasons as to why the League of Nations failed.  
 1) US failed to join treaty (debated in US Senate)  
 2) Needed unanimous vote to act  
 3) Several nations delayed joining → USSR + Germany  
 4) Some nations dropped out → Germany + Japan  
 5) If you fail to prevent aggression, worse may follow  
 6) Cooperation among nations has value  
 7) International organizations should not be dominated by powerful nations
- Describe the lessons the international community learned from the failure of the League.  
 1) US was a leader for us, vulnerable (Pearl Harbor)  
 2) US wants to promote free trade to 4 sabs  
 3) US led by President (Roosevelt + Truman) committed to 4 human rights  
San Francisco, USA 1945
- When and where was the UN Charter signed?  
San Francisco, USA 1945
- (Fill-in)  
 The first underlying principle of the United Nations Charter is the \_\_\_\_\_ of all Member States. Governments support the UN on the condition that their \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ themselves will be respected.  
govern  
sovereignty right

9. Fill in the Chart Below.

<u>Security Council</u>	<u>UN's Executive</u> <u>Decides peace + military action</u> <u>5 permanent (VETO power)</u>
<u>General Assembly</u>	<u>UN's Legislature</u> <u>all nations represented by delegations</u> <u>Discuss + debate</u>
<u>Secretariat</u>	<u>UN's day-to-day executive</u> <u>headed by Sec. General</u> <u>represents the UN globally</u>
<u>Economic + Social Council</u> <u>ECOSOC</u>	<u>Coordinates work of UN's specialist agencies like UNDP</u> <a href="http://www.un.org/dec/ecosoc/magazines.html">http://www.un.org/dec/ecosoc/magazines.html</a>
<u>International Court of Justice</u> <u>ICJ</u>	<u>much global work done here</u> <u>UN's judicial branch</u> <u>settles law among nations</u> <u>settles court cases</u>
<u>Trusteeship Council</u> <u>(ended 1994)</u>	<u>helped nations develop self government</u>

10. Which five states hold permanent membership on the Security Council?

US UK France Russia China

11. Which aspects of the Security Council do some people find problematic?

1) Veto power creates non-action  
 2) too much power in the hands of too few nations  
 3) power structure of Sec. Council no longer reflects power structure of the world

12. What kind of vote tally is needed for a resolution to be passed on the Security Council?

9/15

13. By 1990, how had the UN changed since its founding?

1) 4x as many members now (192)  
 2) Also acts on human rights poverty women's rights development education equality environment

14. What new opportunities and challenges for the UN came with the ending of the Cold War?

greater room for cooperation greater responsibility  
 public expectations ↑

1. Fill in the table below, referring to the reading as needed.

	League of Nations	United Nations
What was the historical context for the organization's beginning?	after WWI belief that global wars must be stopped	after WW II desire to promote peace + cooperation
How did the organization propose to achieve international peace?	Collective Security Legislative body to debate/discuss	Collective Security Legislative - discuss/mediate Exec - to enforce Judicial - to interpret law respect sovereignty commit to human rights
Which countries were the leading players in the writing of the founding document?	US UK France Italy	US UK France Russia (USSR) China
Identify two leading criticisms of each organization.	Euro-centric little power to enforce not all regions represented did not prevent aggression ex: Japan + Italy	Veto power in Sec. Council US-centric Structure of Sec. Council does not reflect today Too Slow

2. Define in one sentence each of the following terms and indicate whether the term is identified with the League, the UN, both, or neither.

- a. Territorial integrity: right to safe, protected, respected borders
- b. State sovereignty: right to have a stable state gov't.
- c. Isolationism: policy of non interacting much w/ other nations
- d. Self-determination: right to self government
- e. Human rights: list of basic freedoms that must be respected in all cases
- f. Collective security: international cooperation + defense agreement so that if 1 member is threatened, all respond to that threat

3. You are among a small group of individuals forging a new international organization. Your organization's objective, like that of the UN and the League before it, is to achieve international peace. What ideas will you prioritize in the founding of your organization? List three terms in question 2, in order of priority. In one sentence explain why you prioritized each as you have.

Answers will vary