



# **International Organizations**

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# A Brief History of Global Orgs

- Modern Globalization is a fairly new trend, starting in the 1900s
  - After WW1 the League of Nations (1920-1946) emerged of major economies upon the signing of the Treaty of Versailles
  - After WW2 the United Nations (1945-present) aimed to resolve procedural shortcomings and inclusionary issues present in the League of Nations, consisting of delegates from most nations and representatives of protectorates/unorganized states/unrecognized countries.
- Types of Governmental Organizations
  - International Governmental Orgs - include delegates, or representatives, from nations, typically an equal amount, to discuss economic or political concerns
  - International Legal Orgs - deliberate on or investigate/collect data for international law. While namely this includes the ICJ, the IAEA and UN Security Council also have strong legal influence. This also includes treaty-based conferences (like the WWII Potsdam Conference)
  - Regional Governmental Orgs - represent region-specific economic and political interests, typically working toward regional peace and free trade
  - Non-Governmental Organizations - these are regional or international nonprofit humanitarian and press groups which work with governmental organizations to support on the ground efforts, provide funding, presence, and volunteers, such as Doctors Without Borders.

# All About the United Nations

## G.A. Resolutions

- Resolutions are drafted with amendments and voting phases by all countries, including both symbolic and actionable measures - vote in interest groups, or blocs

## SDGs

- The 17 Sustainable Development Goals - SDGs, are targets set by the United Nations to frame their purpose/activities

## Security Council

- The UN Security Council addresses current crises with 5 permanent seats and 10 rotating 2-year seats



# Major “Blocs” and Alliances

## Americas and Europe

### NATO

- **An alliance of nations from the Americas and Europe**
- **It is a western political and military organization**
- **Originally came as a response to rising Soviet influence in Europe**
- **Currently: Ukraine NATO pending membership, Article 5 mutual defense**

### EU

- **A currency and transportation bound union of 27 European nations**
- **Economic alliance**
- **Currently: rising Euroscepticism as major political movements debate exiting the EU**

# Major “Blocs” and Alliances

## African Continent

### AU

- **The AU is focused in security and human rights within its member states, responsible for responding to major crises, negotiating aid, and establishing humanitarian corridors**
- **Has its own Security Council**
- **Currently: afCTA developments**

### ECOWAS

- **ECOWAS is an economic alliance which is regionally limited to resource-rich West African nations**
- **Consists of an administrative commission and parliament**
- **Currently: major withdrawals from Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger amid military unrest**

# Major “Blocs” and Alliances

## Asia and Pacific Rim

### ASEAN

- **ASEAN is an economically focused organization of Southeast Asian Nations**
- **ASEAN Plus refers to extended trade partners of the organization such as the U.S.**
- **Currently: ASEAN-BRI open trade deals**

### The Quad

- **Military alliance to counter Chinese naval presence in the South China Sea including the U.S., Japan, India, and Australia**
- **Currently: AUKUS partnerships, South China Sea conflict developments**

# Major “Blocs” and Alliances

## Global

### G20

- **The G20 is a global forum for economic powers to focus on future goals for the international community, meeting at an annual summit**
- **Currently: Russian Participation and South African Exclusion at the upcoming G20 Miami Summit**

### BRICS

- **Intergovernmental political alliance of nations from the global South**
- **Include a large percentage of the world’s population and purchasing power**
- **Currently: BRICS New Development Bank**

# Challenges of Globalization

- New Imperialism vs Globalism
  - Global organizations facilitated by large economic powers is also characterized by critics as “new imperialism, ” reflecting unequal power distribution between lower-income nations in need of aid/trade relationships and wealthier donor nations in need of resources/new markets
  - The post-WWII Bretton Woods Conference (1944) resulted in two such groups which reflect faulty policies, debt-trapping (short-term, high interest loans which result in increased loaner power upon default), and skewed power: the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, which favor Western (US and EU) interests.
  - The Chinese Belt and Road Initiative (2013) is similarly critiqued as self-interested at the expense of lesser-developed nations
- Lack of enforcement
  - As resolutions by the aforementioned regional bodies cannot actually enforce their resolutions without violating each others’ sovereignty and risking military action
  - Thus, organizations, notably the United Nations, NATO, and ECOWAS, are tested and threatened with the current inaction, prompting skepticism around their purpose.