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THE EMERGENCE OF UNITED NATION ORGANISATION: ORIGIN OF UN

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INTRODUCTION :

The United Nations Organization (UNO), often simply referred to as the United Nations (UN), stands as the most influential and comprehensive international organization in contemporary global affairs. Established in the aftermath of World War II, its primary purpose is to promote peace, security, development, and human rights across the world. Since its inception in 1945, the UNO has grown in both size and scope, playing an indispensable role in addressing global challenges ranging from conflicts and humanitarian crises to climate change and sustainable development. This essay provides a comprehensive overview of the UNO, tracing its historical origins, structure, objectives, achievements, challenges, and the critical role it plays in the modern world.

1.1 Historical Background

The idea of a global organization dedicated to peace was not new in 1945. Its roots can be traced to the League of Nations, established after World War I in 1920. The League was the first international body formed to prevent wars and resolve disputes diplomatically. However, due to its lack of enforcement power and the absence of major powers like the United States, the League failed to prevent the outbreak of World War II.

After witnessing the devastating impact of two global conflicts within three decades, world leaders recognized the need for a more robust and inclusive international organization. During the final years of World War II, leaders from the Allied powers began planning for such an institution. The United States of America signed the Atlantic Charter in 1941, which propelled the concept forward. President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, which outlined the vision for a peaceful post-war world.

Subsequent meetings, such as the Dumbarton Oaks Conference (1944) and the Yalta Conference (1945), laid the groundwork for the new organization. On April 25, 1945, representatives from 50 countries gathered in San Francisco for the United Nations Conference on International Organization. The result was the adoption of the UN Charter on June 26, 1945. After the Charter was ratified by the five permanent members of the Security Council and the majority of other signatories, the UNO was officially established on October 24, 1945. This date is now celebrated annually as United Nations Day. The United Nations is still a key part of the international system because it works for peace, justice, development, and human dignity. The United Nations Organization (UNO) has made significant progress that has shaped the modern world, despite its limitations. From decolonization and human rights to humanitarian relief and environmental protection, its impact is undeniable.

To remain effective, the UN must continue to evolve, respond to criticism, and embrace reform. There is no substitute for an organization that unites nearly every nation on the planet in the pursuit of common objectives in a world marked by challenges that are complex and interconnected. Despite its flaws, the United Nations represents humanity's best hope for a more peaceful and just future.

1.2 Origins of the United Nations:

The United Nations (UN) is the most comprehensive and influential international organization in the modern world, dedicated to maintaining peace and promoting international cooperation. Understanding the origins of the United Nations is essential to grasp why and how it came into existence, what it was intended to achieve, and how its foundations were shaped by historical events—particularly the two World Wars. The United Nations was not established on its own; rather, it was the result of decades of efforts to promote diplomacy and prevent global conflict.

Predecessor: The League of Nations

After World War I, the League of Nations was established in 1920, formally realizing the concept of an international body to prevent war and promote international dialogue. It was the brainchild of U.S. Founded by President Woodrow Wilson in accordance with the Versailles Treaty. The League's primary goals were to resolve disputes peacefully, discourage aggression, and promote disarmament and cooperation.

However, the League of Nations ultimately failed to prevent another global conflict. It lacked enforcement power and legitimacy, especially since the United States never joined. Moreover, it could not stop the aggressive actions of fascist regimes in the 1930s—such as Japan’s invasion of Manchuria, Italy’s invasion of Ethiopia, and Nazi Germany’s expansion under Hitler. By the late 1930s, the League was largely ineffective, and its failure paved the way for World War II.

The Second World War and the Need for a New Organization

World War II was the deadliest and most destructive conflict in human history, involving more than 100 million people from over 30 countries. The devastation wrought by this war created a collective realization that another failure like that of the League of Nations could not be afforded. The global community, led by the Allied Powers, understood the need for a stronger, more inclusive, and more effective international organization.

The concept of a new organization began to take shape even before the war ended. World leaders were brainstorming concepts for a new framework that could succeed the League and guarantee long-term peace as early as 1941.

The Charter of the Atlantic (August 1941)

The first major step toward forming the United Nations occurred with the signing of the Atlantic Charter on August 14, 1941. This was a joint declaration between U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill. It outlined shared goals for the post-war world, including:

1. No territorial expansion
2. People's self-determination Free trade
3. Peace and security cooperation on a global scale Disarmament of aggressor nations

The Atlantic Charter established the philosophical foundation for a new international order, despite its informal nature. The Declaration by United Nations (January 1, 1942)

The term "United Nations" was officially coined by President Roosevelt and was first used in the Declaration by United Nations, signed on January 1, 1942. In this declaration, 26 nations fighting the Axis Powers pledged to uphold the Atlantic Charter's principles and work together to fight tyranny. It represented international cooperation and marked the official use of the name "United Nations" for the first time. The Moscow and Tehran Conferences (1943)

The foreign ministers of the Allied Powers—China, the Soviet Union, the United States, and the United Kingdom—convened in 1943 at the Moscow Conference that an international organization was needed to keep the peace after the war. This idea was further developed during the Tehran Conference later that year, where the leaders of the "Big Three"—Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin—reaffirmed their support for the formation of such an organization.

Planning the UN: Dumbarton Oaks and Yalta Conferences:

The Dumbarton Oaks Conference (August–October 1944)

The real drafting of the United Nations began at the Dumbarton Oaks Conference, held in Washington, D.C., from August to October 1944. Representatives from China, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, and the United States met to draft a blueprint for the new organization. Several important points were agreed upon: The name “United Nations”

The creation of main bodies: the General Assembly, the Security Council, the International Court of Justice, and others
sovereignty, non-aggression, and collective security principles The controversial issue of veto power for the five permanent members of the Security Council

The conference laid the foundation for the UN Charter, both structurally and operationally. The Yalta Conference (February 1945)

The Yalta Conference was crucial in resolving any remaining disagreements, particularly regarding the Security Council's voting procedures. The Big Three—Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin—agreed on holding a founding conference of the United Nations in San Francisco in April 1945. In addition, it was agreed that the five major Allied powers would have veto power and permanent seats on the Security Council—a point that is still up for debate today. The San Francisco Conference and the Birth of the UN

The United Nations Conference on International Organization was held in San Francisco from April 25 to June 26, 1945. Delegates from 50 countries (later joined by Poland, making it 51 founding members) gathered to finalize and sign the UN Charter. Over two months, they reviewed the proposals from Dumbarton Oaks and incorporated additional clauses on human rights, economic development, and social progress.

The United Nations Charter was signed on June 26, 1945. It came into force on October 24, 1945, after being ratified by the five permanent members of the Security Council and a majority of the other signatories. United Nations Day is now observed annually on October 24. Conclusion

The origins of the United Nations are deeply rooted in the painful experiences of two world wars and the failure of earlier attempts at global governance. The need to prevent future conflicts and promote lasting peace, security, and cooperation among nations prompted the formation of the organization. Carefully planned over years and shaped by some of the most influential leaders of the 20th century, the United Nations emerged as a symbol of hope for a better, more cooperative world.

While it has not been without its flaws or controversies, the UN has endured as the world’s leading multilateral organization. Its foundations in the principles of international cooperation, respect for human rights, and the peaceful resolution of disputes remain as relevant today as they were in 1945. Understanding its origins helps us appreciate not only the vision of its founders but also the continuing importance of global unity in a complex and interdependent world.

1.3 Principles and Purposes:

The purposes and principles of the UNO are enshrined in its Charter. The primary goals are as follows:

1. Preventing Wars and Resolving Conflicts Through Peaceful Means Like Negotiation, Mediation, and Diplomacy is the primary goal of the United Nations Organization (UNO).
2. The United Nations strives to safeguard and promote the dignity, rights, and fundamental freedoms of all people without discrimination.
3. The United Nations works to improve health, raise living standards, eradicate poverty, and ensure that everyone has access to education and employment opportunities.
4. Encouraging Friendly Relationships Between Nations: The organization encourages nations, regardless of their political or economic systems, to respect one another, comprehend one another, and work together.
5. Providing Humanitarian Assistance: The UNO provides aid during natural disasters, armed conflicts, and humanitarian crises, often coordinating international relief efforts.

The organization's fundamental tenets include the commitment to work together against threats to peace, sovereign equality of its members, peaceful dispute resolution, and non-interference in domestic affairs.

The United Nations was established in 1945 following World War II with the goals of promoting social progress, protecting human rights, and promoting international peace and security. The guiding framework for all of its activities is its founding Charter, which outlines both its goals and operating principles. Understanding these principles and purposes is essential to appreciating the role the UN plays in global governance and international diplomacy.

The upkeep of international peace and security is one of the main goals of the United Nations. The primary goal of the organization, which emerged from the rubble of two devastating world wars, was to keep such conflicts from occurring again. Negotiation, mediation, arbitration, and, when necessary, peacekeeping operations are all aimed at peacefully resolving disputes. The UN provides a platform where countries can come together to discuss differences, reduce tensions, and cooperate in preventing the outbreak of war. This commitment to peace includes not only the end of armed conflicts but also the development of long-term peace and harmony among nations. Another major purpose of the United Nations is to develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples. The UN encourages dialogue, understanding, and cooperation among diverse nations, regardless of their political systems, culture, or size. It supports the right of all peoples to determine their political status and to pursue their economic, social, and cultural development. This principle continues to support the aspirations of people all over the world who are looking for freedom and independence. It has been an important part of the decolonization process. Promoting social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom is another key purpose of the UN. Through various programs and specialized agencies, the UN works to eliminate poverty, provide access to education and healthcare, support gender equality, and promote sustainable development. The organization acknowledges that prosperity and peace are intertwined, and that progress in one without progress in the other is impossible. By addressing root causes of conflict such as inequality, hunger, and injustice, the UN aims to create conditions for long-term global stability.

The United Nations is also committed to ensuring that all people are treated with dignity and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, regardless of race, sex, language, or religion. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, for example, serves as a reflection of this goal. The organization continues to play a vital role in monitoring human rights violations, providing humanitarian assistance, and supporting the creation of laws and institutions that uphold human dignity and justice.

Several fundamental tenets serve as the foundation for each of these goals. These include the sovereign equality of all member states, the peaceful settlement of international disputes, non-intervention in the domestic affairs of states, and the obligation of members to fulfill their Charter commitments. These principles aim to ensure that international cooperation is carried out in an equitable and respectful manner while simultaneously safeguarding the rights of all nations.

1.4 Principal Organs : Composition and Functions

To promote the goals of peace and cooperation, the United Nations has six principal organs. They are;

- 1 The General Assembly
- 2 The Security Council
- 3 The Economic and Social Council
- 4 Trusteeship Council
- 5 International Court of Justice
- 6 Secretariat

Although these primary organs are connected in numerous ways, each one is unique in terms of its compositions and powers. Let's look at each one separately.

1. General Assembly

The General Assembly of the United Nations is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations and serves as the main deliberative, policymaking, and representative body of the organization. It is the only organ in which all 193 member states of the United Nations have equal representation, making it the most inclusive and democratic forum in the international system. Each member state has one vote, regardless of its size, population, or economic power. This unique structure ensures that every nation has a voice in the global conversation and plays a part in shaping international decisions. The General Assembly convenes annually in regular sessions beginning each September at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. Special sessions and emergency sessions can also be called when necessary. The Assembly provides a platform for member states to express their views on a wide range of global issues, including peace and security, development, human rights, international law, and more. While the decisions of the General Assembly are not legally binding like those of the Security Council, they carry significant moral and political weight and often reflect the consensus or opinion of the international community.

One of the key functions of the General Assembly is to discuss and make recommendations on matters within the scope of the United Nations Charter. It also oversees the budget of the United Nations, approves financial contributions from member states, and allocates funding to various UN agencies and programs. Furthermore, it plays a vital role in electing the non-permanent members of the Security Council, the members of the Economic and Social Council, and the judges of the International Court of Justice. It also appoints the Secretary-General of the United Nations based on the recommendation of the Security Council.

The work of the General Assembly is carried out through a series of committees, each of which focuses on specific areas of concern. These include disarmament, economic and financial matters, social and humanitarian issues, special political concerns, administrative and budgetary matters, and legal questions. Through these committees, member states collaborate to draft and refine resolutions that are then debated and voted on by the full Assembly. Additionally, the General Assembly serves as a crucial platform for international diplomacy. During the General Debate held at the beginning of each session, heads of state and government from around the world gather to address the Assembly and present their views on pressing global issues. This annual event is a high-profile moment in international affairs and often sets the tone for the year's diplomatic agenda.

2. The Security Council

One of the United Nations' most influential and powerful bodies is the Security Council. It is in charge of ensuring peace and security throughout the world, and all of its members are obligated to follow its decisions. Unlike the General Assembly, where every member has equal voting power, the Security Council has a unique structure that reflects both global representation and strategic influence. There are 15 members, five of whom are permanent and ten of whom are not. The five permanent members, known as the P5, are China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. These nations hold veto power, which allows any one of them to block the adoption of a resolution, even if it has majority support.

The General Assembly selects the ten non-permanent members for two-year terms. To ensure global balance, seats are distributed geographically. Despite not possessing veto authority, these members are crucial to the Council's agenda and decision-making. Threats to peace, such as wars, conflicts, terrorist acts, and situations involving weapons of mass destruction, are discussed at the Security Council meetings on a regular basis. It can impose sanctions, authorize the use of force, or deploy peacekeeping missions to troubled regions.

The decisions made by the Security Council have far-reaching consequences, as they are binding under international law. However, its structure and the use of the veto have been subjects of criticism, especially when political interests block collective action. Despite these challenges, the Security Council remains a central authority in global security efforts.

By responding to crises and preserving peace, the Security Council is an essential component of the international system. Its power and influence make it both a cornerstone and a subject of debate within the United Nations framework.

3. The Economic and Social Council

The Economic and Social Council, commonly known as ECOSOC, is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations. It is primarily responsible for promoting international economic and social cooperation and development. Established under the UN Charter in 1945, ECOSOC serves as a central forum for discussing global economic, social, and environmental issues. It works with experts, governments, and non-governmental organizations to find solutions to major global issues like poverty, inequality, education, public health, and climate change. ECOSOC consists of 54 member states elected by the General Assembly for three-year terms, with seats distributed among various regions of the world to ensure balanced representation. Decisions within the council are usually made by a majority vote.

Even though it does not have the authority to enforce laws, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is crucial in shaping international policies and establishing global development goals. Coordination of the activities of various UN specialized organizations, such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Labor Organization (ILO), and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), is one of its primary responsibilities. The council also oversees follow-up efforts related to major international conferences and summits.

It plays an important role in monitoring progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which aim to eliminate poverty and promote global well-being by 2030. ECOSOC provides a platform for dialogue between governments, civil society, and private sector organizations, helping to build partnerships and mobilize resources for development.

The United Nations' mission cannot be accomplished without the Economic and Social Council. ECOSOC contributes to the development of a world that is more equitable, sustainable, and peaceful by cooperating with other organizations and coordinating policies to address social and economic issues.

4. Trusteeship Council

One of the United Nations' six main organs, the Trusteeship Council was established in 1945 by the UN Charter. Its primary function was to check on how Trust Territories were run and make sure the people there were ready for self-government and independence. These were former colonies or territories that had been given to other nations for administration, typically as a result of agreements made after World Wars I and II. The Trusteeship Council played a crucial role in the decolonization process during the mid-20th century and contributed significantly to the emergence of new independent nations.

There were eleven Trust Territories administered by the United Nations at the time of its establishment. Countries known as "Trustees" were in charge of running these territories and were in charge of helping the people there advance politically, economically, socially, and educationally. The Trusteeship Council was tasked with monitoring the activities of the administering countries to ensure that the rights and development of the people in these regions were respected. By assessing their progress and making recommendations for subsequent actions, it assisted in guiding these territories toward independence or self-governance. Both permanent members of the Security Council who did not manage any territories and member states that administered Trust Territories made up the Trusteeship Council. Regular meetings, inspections, and reports to the General Assembly were carried out by the Council. With a focus on the well-being of the local populations, its work ensured that the decolonization process was carried out under international

supervision. All of the Trust Territories eventually became self-governing or independent, demonstrating the Trusteeship Council's success. Palau, which became a sovereign state in 1994, was the last Trust Territory to achieve independence. With this achievement, the main goal of the Trusteeship Council had been fulfilled. Since that time, the Council has stopped working and now meets only when it is absolutely necessary, which hasn't happened since 1994. It still exists officially as a part of the United Nations system, despite the fact that it no longer plays an active role. The historical importance of the Trusteeship Council lies in its contribution to ending colonial rule and promoting the principles of self-determination and sovereignty. It served as an example of how countries in transition can benefit from international oversight. Even though its functions are no longer required in the modern era, the Trusteeship Council remains a symbol of the UN's commitment to justice, freedom, and the fair treatment of all peoples.

The Trusteeship Council played a key role in shaping the post-colonial world by guiding Trust Territories toward independence. Its accomplishment of its mission demonstrates the efficacy of international cooperation in resolving historical injustices. Though now inactive, the Council's legacy continues as a reminder of the United Nations' efforts to promote peace, equality, and self-governance across the globe.

5. International Court of Justice:

The United Nations' primary judicial body is the International Court of Justice, also known as the ICJ. It was established in 1945 by the UN Charter and began its operations in 1946. By resolving legal disputes between states and providing advisory opinions on legal issues referred to it by the United Nations and its specialized agencies, the International Court of Justice (ICJ), which is based in The Hague, Netherlands, contributes significantly to the advancement of international peace and justice. As the only international court that deals with disputes between sovereign nations, the ICJ holds a unique and respected position in the global legal system.

The fifteen judges on the court are elected by the Security Council and General Assembly of the United Nations for nine-year terms. To ensure that the decisions made by the court are balanced and fair, these judges are chosen based on their qualifications, experience, and geographic representation. No two judges can be from the same country, and they are expected to act independently of their governments. The impartiality and credibility of the court are bolstered by this structure. The ICJ's main function is to settle legal disputes submitted to it by states. It is not authorized to prosecute individuals or private organizations. Instead, its role is limited to interpreting international law and resolving conflicts between countries, such as border disputes, maritime issues, or treaty interpretations. Its rulings are binding on the parties involved, though the court relies on the cooperation of states for enforcement, as it does not possess direct enforcement powers. In addition to settling disputes, the court also provides advisory opinions to UN bodies on complex legal matters, contributing to the development and clarification of international law.

In conclusion, the International Court of Justice serves as a symbol of justice and legality in international affairs. It aids in the establishment of legal standards that guide relations between nations and encourages the peaceful resolution of conflicts. While it faces limitations, particularly regarding enforcement, its influence in maintaining the rule of law at the global level is significant. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) continues to be an essential part of the United Nations' mission to promote peace, justice, and international cooperation.

6. Secretariat

The Secretariat is one of the six main organs of the United Nations and serves as the administrative and executive branch of the organization. It is responsible for carrying out the day-to-day work of the UN as directed by the other principal organs, especially the General Assembly and the Security Council. The Secretariat plays a crucial role in implementing decisions, preparing reports, conducting research, and providing support for peacekeeping missions, international conferences, and global programs. It ensures the smooth functioning of the entire UN system across a wide range of activities that promote international peace, security, and development.

At the head of the Secretariat is the Secretary-General, who is appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council for a renewable term of five years. The Secretary-General is often regarded as the public face and chief spokesperson of the United Nations. He or she plays a significant role as a diplomat and mediator, often using their position to help resolve conflicts, address global issues, and represent the UN in high-level discussions. The Secretary-General also has the authority to bring matters that threaten international peace and security to the attention of the Security Council.

The Secretariat is composed of thousands of international civil servants who work at the UN headquarters in New York as well as in offices around the world. These officials are chosen from various countries to reflect the global character of the United Nations. Their duties range from organizing peacekeeping operations and monitoring elections to providing humanitarian aid and conducting research on social and economic issues. These professionals must act independently and are expected to serve the interests of the entire international community, rather than those of their own countries. The United Nations' Secretariat is an essential component because it serves as the organization's foundation and operational arm. It plays a crucial but secretive role in ensuring that the organization's decisions and goals are effectively implemented. Through the leadership of the Secretary-General and the work of dedicated staff members, the Secretariat continues to support the UN's mission to promote peace, development, and human rights around the world.

Conclusion

The United Nations must continue to evolve as a dynamic, responsive, and legitimate actor in international peace and security. The challenges it faces are formidable, but so too are the opportunities for renewal. With visionary leadership, global solidarity, and a renewed commitment to its founding principles, the UN can continue to serve as a beacon of hope and stability in a turbulent world.

Is a global intergovernmental organization founded in the aftermath of World War II, officially coming into existence on October 24, 1945. Established to promote peace, security, and cooperation among nations, the UNO has since become the principal platform for addressing international issues, coordinating humanitarian assistance, and promoting sustainable development. With its headquarters in New York City, the UNO operates through six

main organs, including the General Assembly, Security Council, Economic and Social Council, Trusteeship Council, International Court of Justice, and the UN Secretariat. The primary objective of the UNO is to maintain international peace and security. The Security Council, composed of five permanent members with veto power and ten rotating members, plays a crucial role in addressing global conflicts, imposing sanctions, authorizing peacekeeping missions, and legitimizing military interventions. Although the effectiveness of the Security Council has been both praised and criticized, it remains a central authority for conflict resolution and international diplomacy.

Moreover, the UN has struggled to keep pace with non-traditional threats such as transnational terrorism, cyberattacks, and environmental degradation. These challenges require cross-sectoral collaboration and innovative approaches that the existing UN architecture is not fully equipped to handle. Institutional inertia, dependence on member state funding, and political interference remain persistent hurdles that must be addressed to revitalize the UN's peace and security agenda.

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