

THE UNITED NATIONS

A Short Introduction

The Original Concept

- ▣ Resort to Military Force to be prohibited
- ▣ Unilateral Action and Competing Power Blocs to be replaced by a Universal Organization
- ▣ Dominant Position to be taken by the Axis Powers – the P-5
- ▣ Economic and Social Co-operation Encouraged
- ▣ Colonial Empires to be Dismantled

The UN Charter – Preamble

- ▣ “We the peoples of the UN determined:
 - To save succeeding generations from the scourge of war...
 - To reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights...
 - To establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising under int. law...
 - To promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom...
- ▣ Have resolved to combine our efforts to accomplish these aims...and do hereby establish an organization to be known as the United Nations

The UN's Objectives (Article 1)

- ▣ To maintain peace and security
- ▣ To settle international disputes
- ▣ To develop friendly relations among nations based on equal rights and self determination...
- ▣ To promote the gradual demise of colonialism
- ▣ To foster economic and social co-operation
- ▣ To promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms

Basic Structure of the Organization

- ▣ General Assembly
- ▣ The Security Council
- ▣ The Economic and Social Council
- ▣ The International Court of Justice
- ▣ The Human Rights Council

Collective Security System

- ▣ The Charter Provisions
 - Parties must first seek a solution by negotiation, mediation...(Article 33)
 - The SC may investigate any dispute (Article 34)
 - If SC determines there is a threat to international peace and security, may decide whether to take action (Articles 37, 39)
 - May decide on measures short of armed force (Article 42)
 - May take military action necessary to restore international order
 - Nothing in the Charter impairs the inherent right of individual or collective self defence in response to an armed attack until the SC has taken measures to restore peace and security.

The Human Rights System

- ▣ 4 Tier Treaty System:
 - The UN Charter
 - The Universal Declaration of Human Rights
 - The Twin Covenants
 - Conventions on Race, Women, Children, Torture, Disability
- ▣ The UN Treaty Body System
 - Six Treaty Monitoring Bodies
 - Comprised of Elected Expert Members
 - Review Human Rights Record of the Parties to the Conventions
- ▣ The UN Human Rights Council
 - 47 Members
 - Deal with Human Rights Situations and Engage in Periodic Review