

Central Elements of 'the Core'

1. Democratic Culture

- *I take open-mindedness to be a willingness to construe knowledge and values from multiple perspectives without loss of commitment to one's own values. Open-mindedness is the keystone of what we call a democratic culture.*

--Jerome Bruner

2. Personal Perseverance

- *Life shrinks or expands in proportion to one's courage.*

--Anais Nin

3. Mutual Support

- *Concord, solidarity, and mutual help are the most important means of enabling animal species to survive.*

--Christian Lous Lange

The Problem of Order

- How to get self-interested people (states) to cooperate toward common goals?

The *problem of order* is most pronounced in International Relations

- The Principle of State Sovereignty
- Diversity
- Nationalism

Options for Overcoming the Problem of Order in International Politics?

- **World Government (make the international community like a state)**
- **Values Transformation**
- **Functional Ties = Enlightened Self-Interest**
- **The most powerful states impose order through force**

How does the UN System try to Overcome the Problem of Order?

The United Nations

PREAMBLE....

Functions

- Forum for Debate
- Safety Valve
- Climb Down Venue
- Collective
Legitimization

Three Founding Principles (Each of which has eroded over time)

- Sovereign Equality of States
- Only to Deal with International Issues ([article 2.7](#))
- Primarily Concerned with Peace and Security Matters

Structure

Security Council

- 15 Members, 5 Permanent w/ veto power
- Assesses threats to int'l peace and security & responds
- Can pass resolutions for action
Verbal condemnation, economic sanctions, military action
- Often ineffective

General Assembly

- 193 Members
- 1 Vote Per State
- A forum for multilateral discussion of the full spectrum of international issues covered by the Charter.
- Resolutions in 4 Broad areas:
Disarmament, economic, social and humanitarian, culture and political issues
- Non-binding

Secretariat

- Headed by Secretary General
- “Information Gathering” re. issues of importance
- Administrative functions
- Mediation of international disputes

Economic and Social Council

- 54 members, elected by GA for 3-year terms
- Central forum for discussing and coordinating work of 14 UN specialized agencies and non-government organizations 'in consultative status' around international economic and social issues (as called on by the GA)
- Issues resolutions, decisions & reports

International Court of Justice

- Settles legal disputes submitted to it by states and provides advisory opinions on legal questions submitted to it by authorized international branches, agencies, and the UN General Assembly
- 15 Judges, Hague Netherlands
- Main weakness: Noncompulsory jurisdiction

Trusteeship Council

- 5 Colonial Powers

- Facilitate

decolonization via

guardianship during

transition to

independence

What does all of this have with MUN?

<http://mun.mphtechonology.net/committees/>