

# UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE UN



# WHAT IS THE UN?

The United Nations (UN) is an international organization designed to make the enforcement of international law, security, human rights, economic and social progress easier for countries around the world.

# HISTORY

- League of Nations
  - Founded in 1919
  - Organization before UN
  - Ensuring peace/cooperation
  - Made to prevent wars
- United Nations Founded
  - October 24, 1945
  - Winston Churchill/Franklin D. Roosevelt chose the name
  - First conference held in San Francisco, California, USA
  - Attended by 50 nations
  - Many Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs)

# PURPOSE OF UN

- Maintaining international peace and security
- Developing friendly international relations
- Solving international problems of any nature
  - Economic
  - Cultural
  - Social
  - Humanitarian
- Preventing global conflicts and wars
- Reaffirming human rights and equal rights

# PRINCIPAL ORGANS

- General Assembly
- Secretariat
- Security Council
- International Court of Justice
- Economic and Social Council
- Trusteeship Council

# THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- Every member nation has a seat
  - One of the largest bodies in the United Nations
- Discusses international issues that they want the Security Council to deal with
- Holds elections for Security Council members and other leaders

# UN SECURITY COUNCIL

- Made up of 15 countries:
  - The “Permanent Five” countries (China, France, the United States, the United Kingdom, and Russia)
  - 10 non-permanent countries (elected every two years)
- The strong-arm of the UN
- Maintains international peace
  - Recommends peaceful negotiations
  - Can implement economic and military sanctions

# INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

- Principal judicial organ of the UN
- Based in the Hague, Netherlands
- 15 judges elected by General Assembly & Security Council
- Applies international law
- Not bound by precedents
- No appeals can be made by parties to its judgment



# TYPES OF SANCTIONS

- **Diplomatic Sanctions** – removal of all political ties (like embassies)
- **Economic Sanctions** – ban on all trade with a country (except food)
- **Military Sanctions** – using a military to force compliance.

# STRENGTHS OF UN

- Provides a forum for almost all the world's nations to discuss international issues
- Humanitarian efforts
- Peacekeeping forces
- Committing to resolving many important global issues