

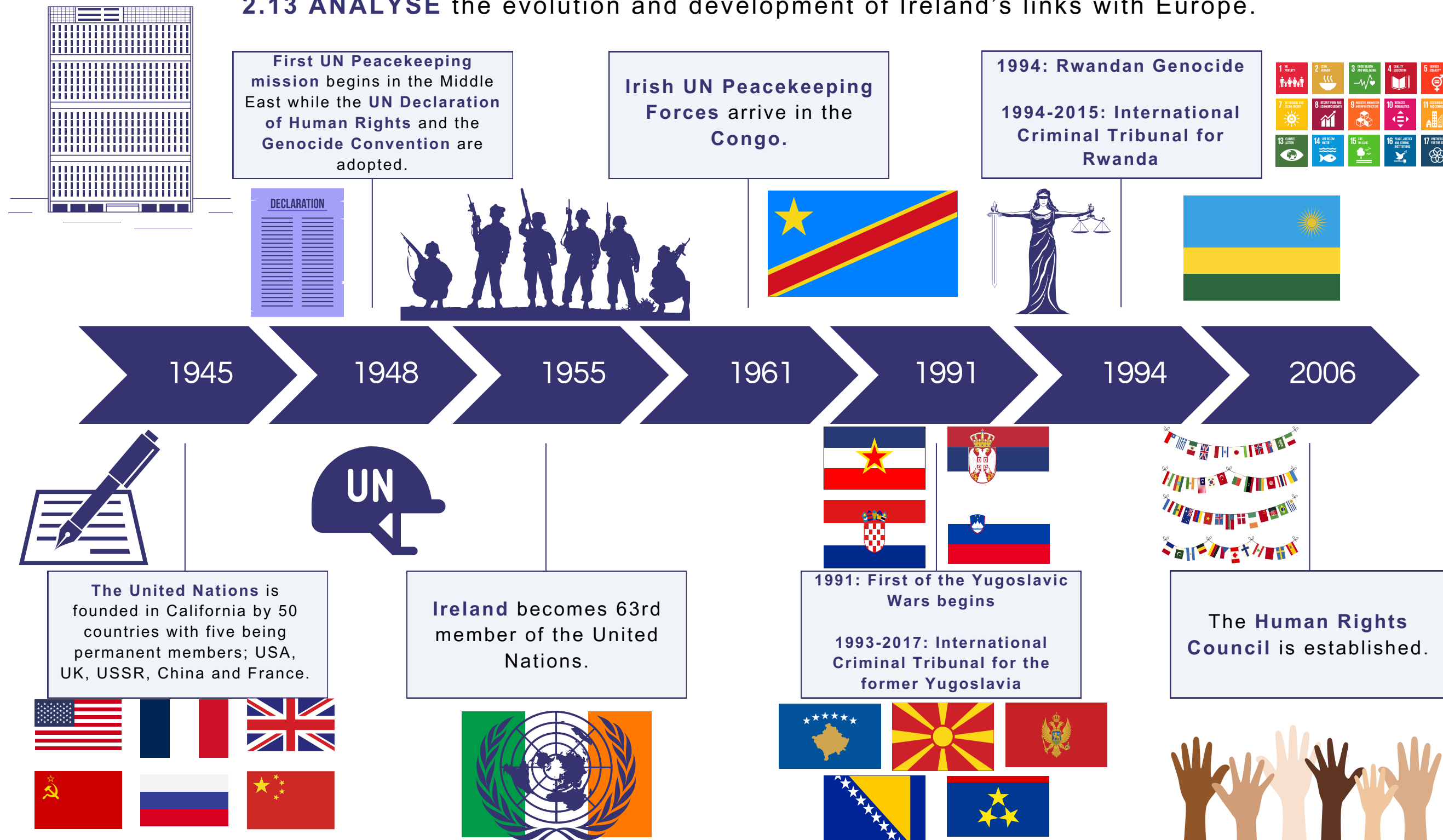
The background features a large, faint watermark of the United Nations logo, which consists of a world map surrounded by olive branches, all in a light blue color. The text 'THE UNITED NATIONS' is overlaid on this background. 'THE' is in a white, cursive font, 'UNITED' is in a blue, bold, sans-serif font, and 'NATIONS' is in a white, cursive font.

THE UNITED NATIONS

THE UNITED NATIONS



3.12 EVALUATE the role of a movement or organisation, such as the European Union or United Nations, in promoting international cooperation, justice and human rights
2.13 ANALYSE the evolution and development of Ireland's links with Europe.



Learning Outcomes

3.12 EVALUATE the role of a movement or organisation, such as the European Union or United Nations, in promoting international cooperation, justice and human rights

2.13 ANALYSE the evolution and development of Ireland's links with Europe.



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Introduction

In the wake of World War II, a world torn apart by conflict yearned for a new paradigm of peace and cooperation. The war had resulted in millions of lives lost and widespread devastation. Amidst this chaos, and with the shadow of the Cold War looming, the United Nations (UN) was established in 1945. Created as a platform for fostering international peace, human rights, and development, the UN aimed to ensure that the world would never again experience such catastrophic conflicts as it had in the span of 30 years when the world was flung into the First and Second World Wars. In its present form, the UN represents a global effort to make war obsolete and to build a future grounded in mutual respect and collaboration.



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35.1: *the* ORIGINS OF *the* UNITED NATIONS

The path to international co-operation

The **United Nations (UN)** is an organisation that was created to promote **international co-operation** between different countries to prevent war. The UN also works to maintain justice and protect human rights.

In April 1945, delegates from 50 countries met in San Francisco, California, to organise the **United Nations**. In June, they completed the **United Nations Charter** or founding documents. On 24th October 1945, the United Nations officially began work.

The day-to-day administration of the UN is carried out by the **Secretariat**. This is led by the **Secretary-General**. Norwegian politician **Trygve Lie** was the first **Secretary-General** of the UN.

The United Nations has grown from 51 Member States in 1945 (Poland signed the Charter in October 1945), to 193 Member States in 2021.





Questions pg. 27B3 (Making History, 2nd Edition)

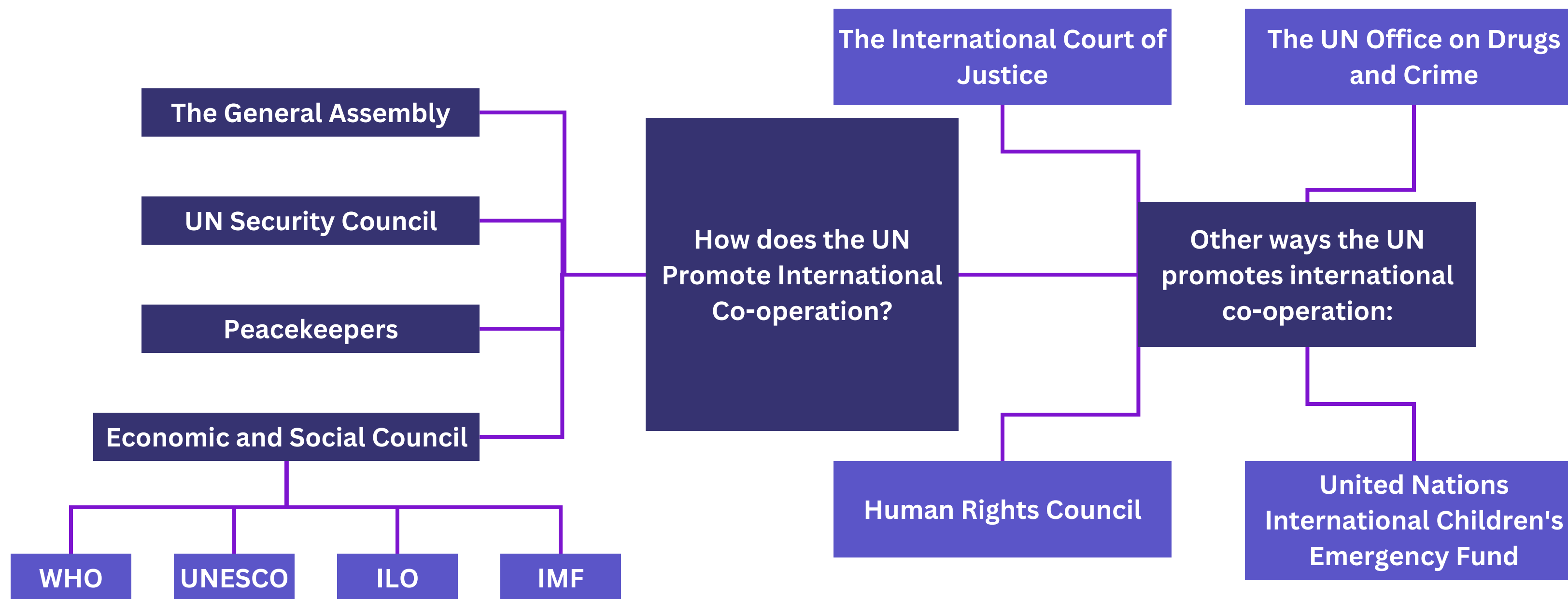
1. Correct each of the following statements in your copy book.
 - a. The UN officially began work on 24 November 1945.
 - b. The day-to-day administration of the UN is carried out by the President of the General Assembly.
 - c. António Guterres was the first Secretary-General of the UN.
 - d. The UN had 198 Member States in 2021.
 - e. Ireland was the 70th country to join the UN.
2. What is international co-operation?



35.2: UN and International Co-operation

How the UN Promotes international co-operation

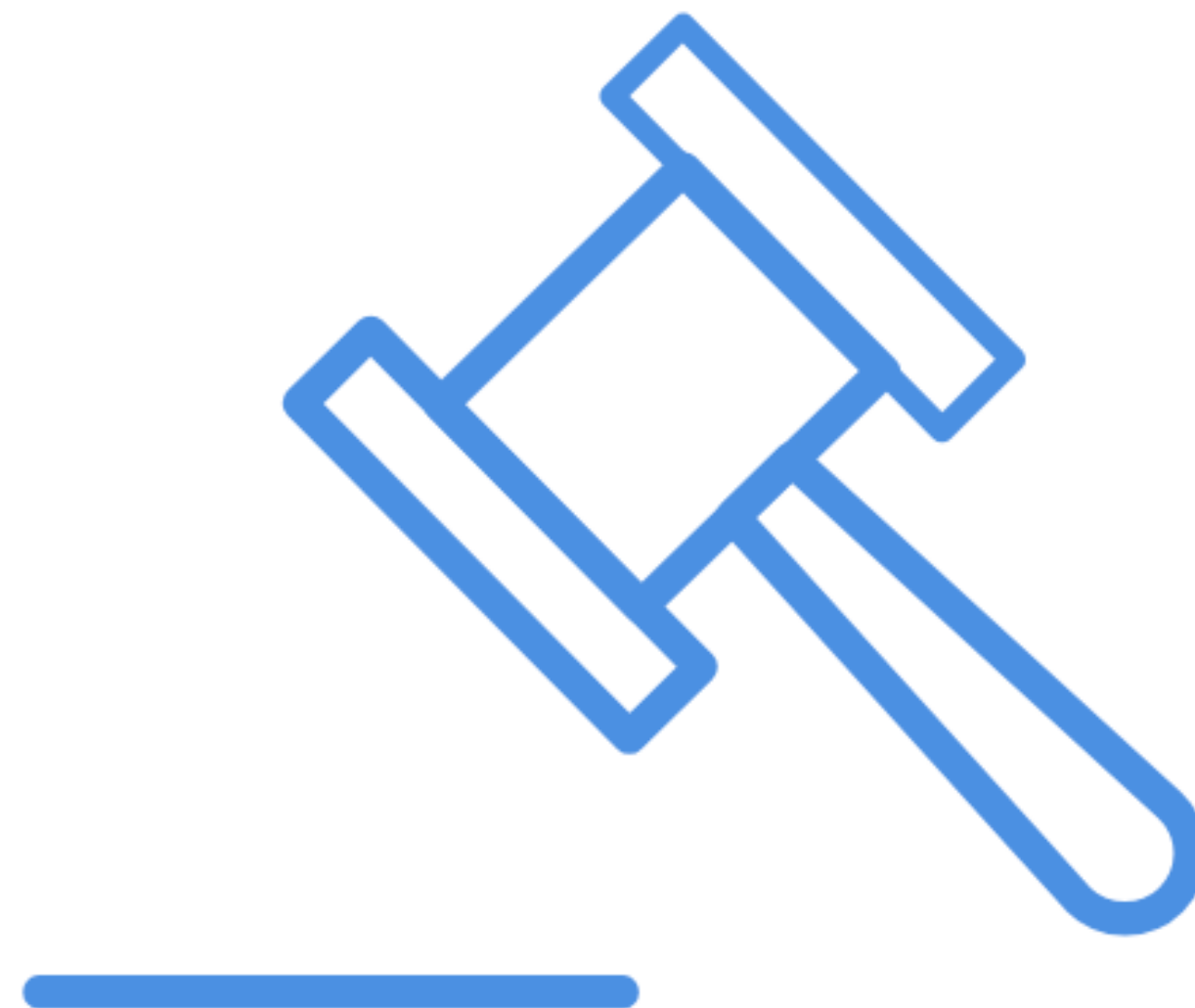
The **United Nations (UN)** promotes international co-operation in various ways:



The General Assembly

The General Assembly is the main body of the United Nations. It is made up of all 193 Member States. They discuss, debate and make recommendations on international issues such as peace, security, human rights and international law.

- Each Member State has one vote in the Assembly.
- Decisions on important issues require two-thirds majority.



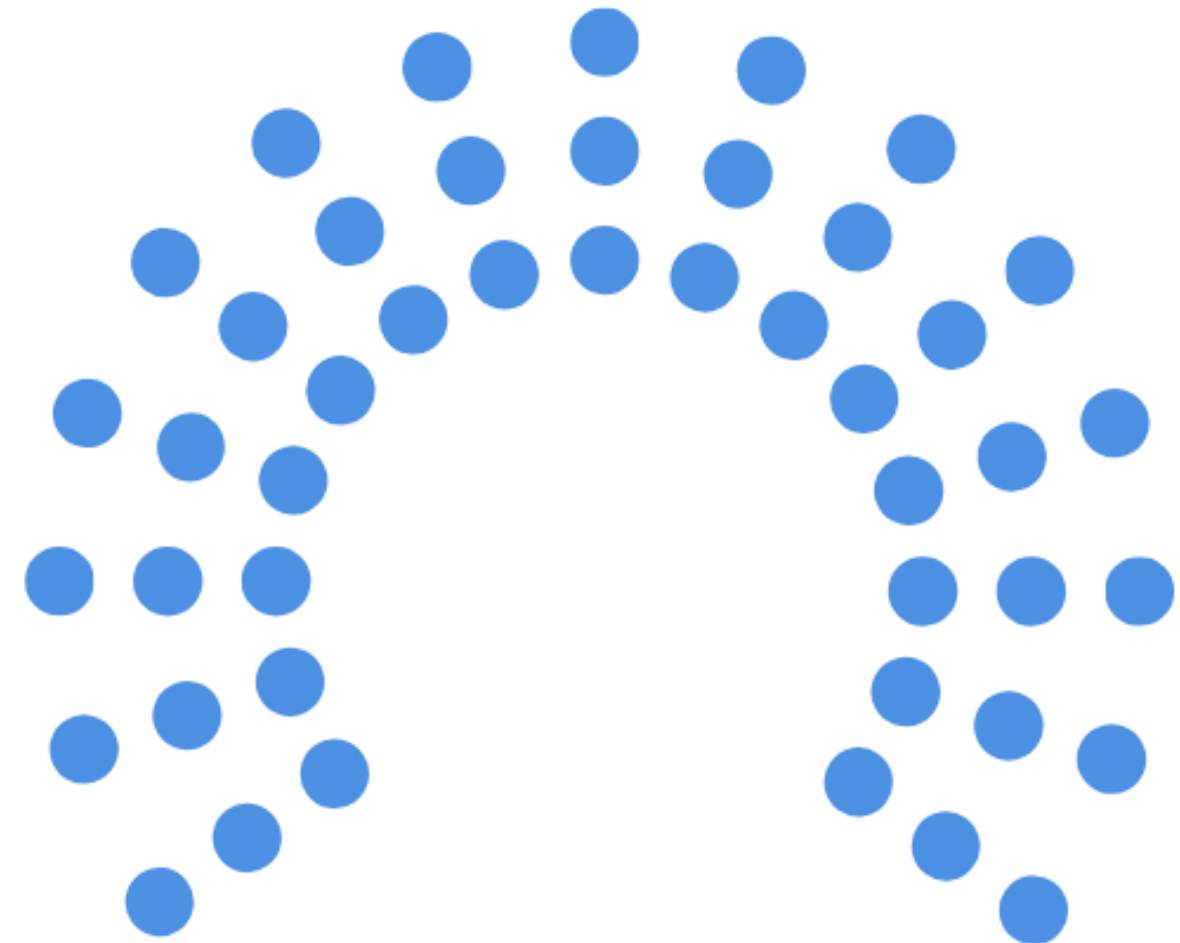
UN Security Council

The **Security Council** is the part of the UN responsible for **peace making** and **peacekeeping**.

- It can also impose international **sanctions** or punishments, e.g. since 2006, the UN has passed many sanctions against North Korea for developing nuclear weapons and related activities.
- Another role is to promote and support justice.
- At times, it also deals with grave human rights violations.

There are **five** permanent members of the Council (USA, China, Russia, France, UK). There are ten non-permanent members. Non-permanent members serve for two years on rotation. In 2021, Ireland became one of these.

- Decisions made by the Council need a **majority vote** and all permanent members must agree. This effectively gives permanent members **the power to veto** (stop) a decision. This power of veto has often made it difficult for the **Security Council** to make decisions, especially during the **Cold War**.



UN Peacekeepers

Peacekeepers, also known as '**Blue Helmets**', are not a regular army. They are **representatives** from various Member States who help to maintain peace in areas of conflict or unrest. As well as being an example of international co-operation, they can also be viewed as a group responsible for the promotion of justice and human rights. The **Security Council** usually authorises peacekeeping operations.

All UN Member States share the costs of peacekeeping.

Peacekeepers can be military, police and civilian personnel. They work together to maintain or restore world peace and security. Activities include:

- Monitoring ceasefires
- Protecting civilians
- Protecting human rights
- Promoting the rule of law

More than one million men and women have served under the UN Flag since 1948.



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First Peacekeeping Mission

After WWI, Britain took control of **Palestine**, an area of the eastern Mediterranean. This was known as the British Mandate for Palestine. Between the 1920s and 1940s, the number of Jewish people arriving in the Palestine grew, leading to increased clashes between Jews and Arabs. In 1947, the UN proposed that Palestine would be divided between Jews and Arabs; this plan was rejected by the Palestinians.

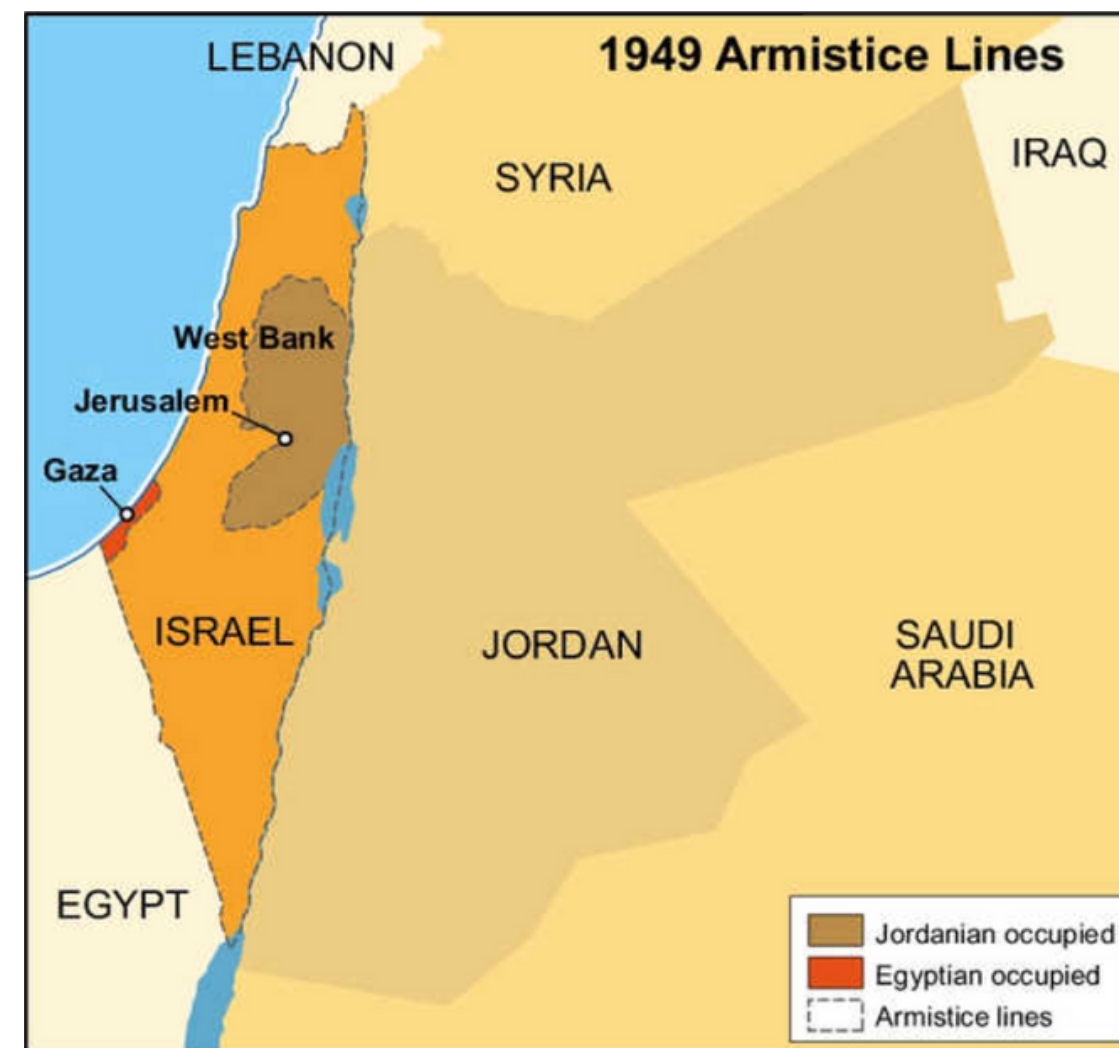
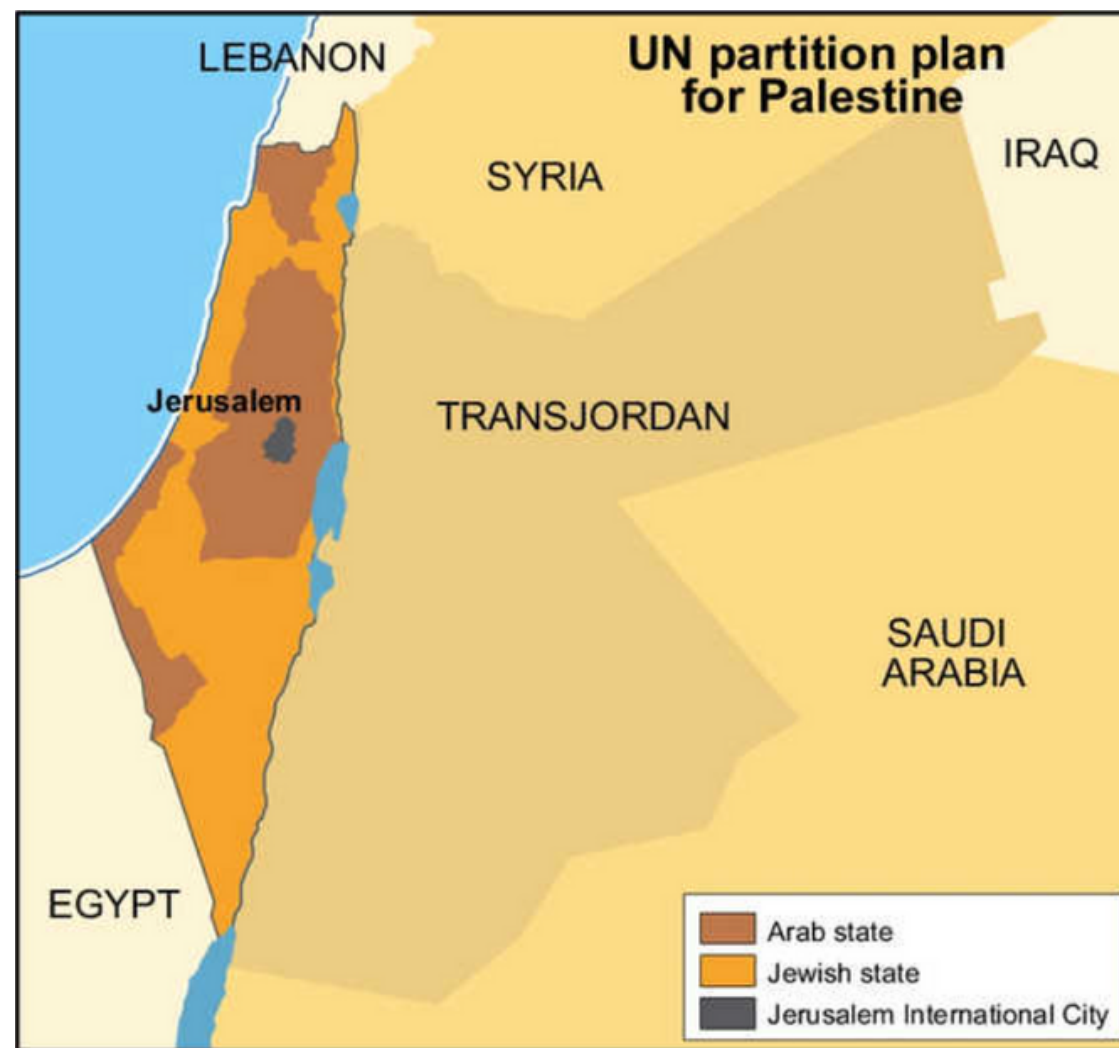
When British rulers left Palestine in 1948, Jewish leaders declared the creation of the state of Israel. Many Palestinians objected and the Arab-Israeli War followed. Troops from neighbouring Arab countries (Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Syria and Lebanon) invaded. The first UN Peacekeeping mission began in 1948 when the **UN Security Council** sent **Peacekeepers** to the Middle East.

Eventually a truce was agreed between Israel and four neighbouring states: Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon. Around 800,000 Palestinians were now living as refugees and Israel was in control of most of the territory.

This truce did not bring lasting peace to the region and it became a site of Cold War tension, e.g. Egypt was often supported by the Soviet Union while Israel was backed by the United States. There were further wars in the area, including in 1956, 1967, 1973 and 1982. Conflict still exists between Israel and Palestine, with Israeli military and Palestinian group Hamas regularly attacking each other.



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Yugoslavian Wars

In the aftermath of **WWII**, the nation of **Yugoslavia** was formed under the leadership of **Josip Broz Tito**. Yugoslavia was a federation of six republics: **Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Macedonia, and Serbia**, which included the autonomous provinces of **Kosovo** and **Vojvodina**. For decades, the country maintained a delicate balance among the various ethnic and religious groups residing within its borders. However, after Tito's death in 1980 and under the weight of **economic and political pressures**, the federation began to disintegrate in the 1990s. **Nationalistic sentiments** flared, particularly in Serbia under **Slobodan Milošević**, and violent conflicts erupted, leading to what is now known as the **Yugoslavian Wars**.

The **UN** became involved in 1992 when the Security Council established the **United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR)** to create safe areas in Croatia and later expanded to Bosnia and Herzegovina. This was the first mission of its kind for the UN and marked a shift in the UN peacekeeping operations.

Despite UN efforts, the **Bosnian War** witnessed one of the worst atrocities in Europe since WWII, with the **Srebrenica massacre** in 1995 where more than 8,000 Bosniak men and boys were killed by Bosnian Serb forces, despite the area being declared a "safe haven" by the UN.



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Yugoslavian Wars

Eventually, the **Dayton Accords** were signed in 1995, effectively ending the Bosnian War. However, the tensions in the region persisted, especially in Kosovo. The UN established the **United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK)** following the 1999 NATO bombing campaign against Yugoslavia to end the violence and persecution of ethnic Albanians by Serbian forces.

In the aftermath of these wars, more than **140,000 people were killed and millions were displaced**. The region was severely destabilized, and the UN peacekeeping missions faced significant criticism for their inability to prevent mass atrocities. The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia took place to punish the **war crimes** that took place throughout the Yugoslavian wars, which we will look at later.



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Other Peacekeeping missions

United Nations Operation in the Congo (ONUC) (1960-1964)	United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) (2005-2011)
United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) II (1973-1979)	United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) (2011-present)
United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) (1978-present)	United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) (2011-present)
United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM) I, II, and III (1989-1997)	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) (2013-present)
United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) (1991-1995)	United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) (2014-2015)
United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) I and II (1992-1995)	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) (2014-present)
United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) (1993-1996)	United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia (UNVMC) (2017-present)
United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP) in Macedonia (1995-1999)	United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS) (2020-present)
United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) (1999-2006)	United Nations Mission to Support the Hudaydah Agreement (UNMHA) (2019-present)
United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) (2003-2018)	United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) (1948-present)



Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

The **Economic and Social Council** was created in 1945. ECOSOC's 54 members promote international co-operation by discussing international social and economic issues. They review the implementation of the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.

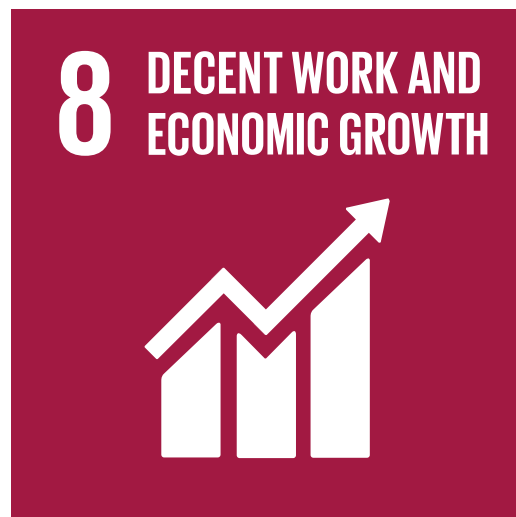
- The SDGs are 17 global goals designed to create a better future for all.
- SDGs include no poverty, zero hunger and climate action.
- They are an example of how the UN promotes human rights.

ECOSOC are in control of many **specialist agencies** including:

- World Health Organisation (**WHO**)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (**UNESCO**)
- International Labour Organisation (**ILO**)
- International Monetary Fund (**IMF**)



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World Health Organisation (WHO)

The **World Health Organisation** works with Member States to improve health and well-being across the world by providing information, running awareness campaigns and supplying medical materials to countries in need. It is partly funded by Member States.



**COVID-19
RESPONSE**



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Other ways the UN Promotes International Co-Operation

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)	Aims to promote peace between different countries through education, science and culture.
International Labour Organisation (ILO)	Deals with labour issues. Aims include setting labour standards.
International Monetary Fund (IMF)	An international organisation that helps Member States by providing loans to countries in economic crisis.
The International Court of Justice	Court made up of 15 judges from different nations.
The UN Office on Drugs and Crime	Has 20 field offices that cover over 150 countries.
United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund	Works in over 190 countries to save children's lives, defend their rights and achieve their potential.
Human Rights Council	Made up of 47 Member States. Promotes and protects human rights around the world.

Did you know?

The **IMF** and the **European Union** provided Ireland with a loan of **€67.5 billion** in **November 2010**. Ireland repaid the **IMP** in **2017**.



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Questions pg. 27B6 (Making History, 2nd Edition)

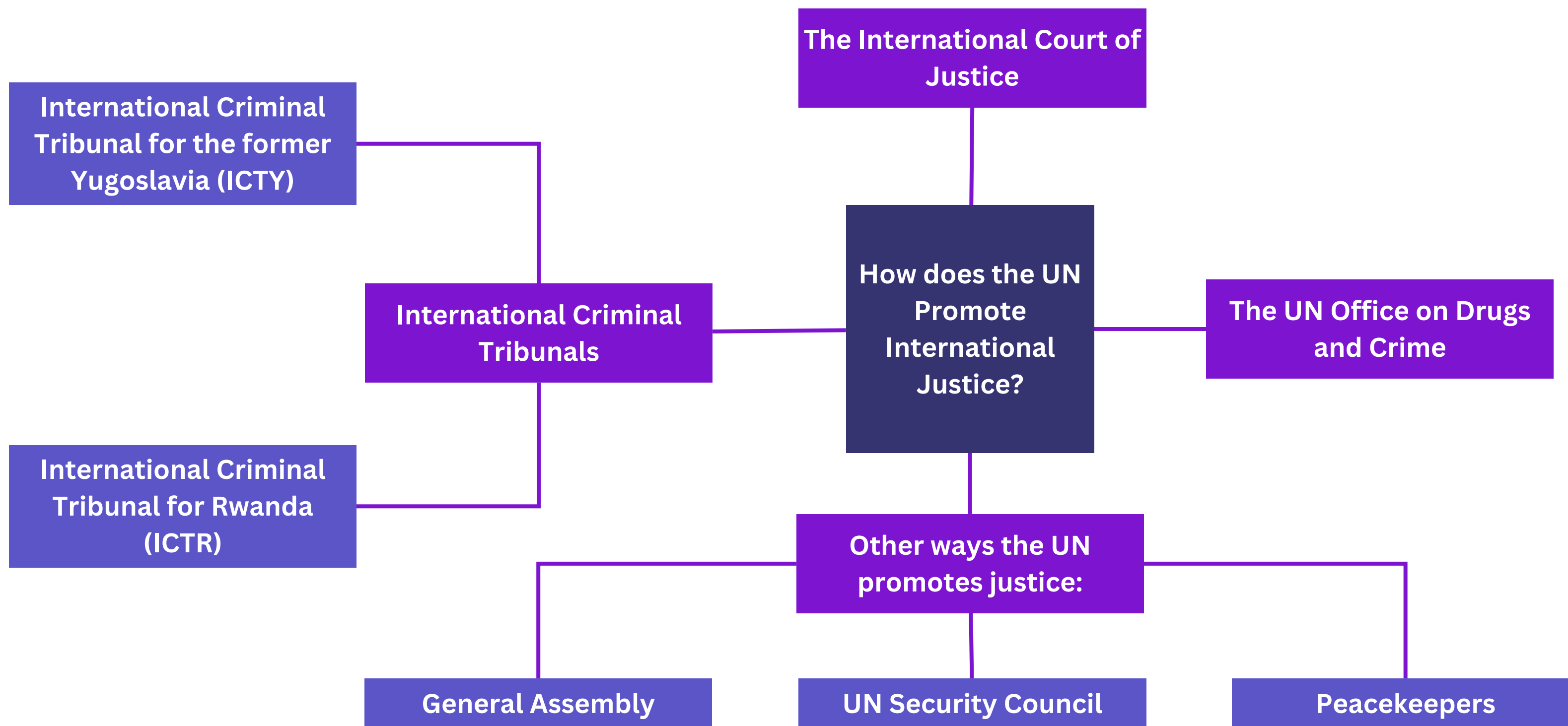
1. Who are the permanent members of the UN Security Council?
2. How has the power of veto made it difficult for the UN Security Council to make decisions?
3. Where were Irish troops first deployed as Peacekeepers?
4. What are the Sustainable Development Goals?
5. What does 'WHO' stand for?



35.3: *un* **AND** *and* **JUSTICE**



How the UN Promotes Justice



The International Court of Justice

The **International Court of Justice** was established in **1945** by the Charter of the United Nations. It is based in **the Hague in the Netherlands**. The court is made up of **15 judges**. Each judge must be from a different nation. The General Assembly works with the Security Council to elect these judges.

The court settles **disputes** submitted by UN Member States. The court can also give its opinion on **legal questions** submitted by the United Nations.



The International Criminal Tribunal: ICTY

The **International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY)** was established by the **United Nations** in 1993. Its creation stemmed from the urgent need to address the grave atrocities committed during the conflicts that erupted following the disintegration of the former Yugoslavia in the early 1990s. Among these conflicts, the **Bosnian War** (1992-1995) remains one of the most notorious, particularly due to the **Bosnian genocide**.

During this period, **Bosnian Serb forces**, which were supported by the **Yugoslav army**, predominantly targeted **Bosniak** (Bosnian Muslim) and Croatian civilians. It's estimated that around 100,000 individuals lost their lives from 1992 to 1995, with Bosniaks making up a staggering 80% of that total.

The primary function of the ICTY was to investigate and prosecute individuals for a range of serious crimes. These included **genocide** and complicity in genocide, **crimes against humanity**, grave breaches of the **Geneva Conventions**, and violations of the laws or customs of war. Additionally, the tribunal aimed to promote reconciliation among the former Yugoslav states and bolster **international jurisprudence** on genocide and other violations of international humanitarian law.

In its tenure, the Tribunal indicted 161 individuals. Out of those, ninety were sentenced. One of the most prominent figures brought before the ICTY was **Ratko Mladić**, the former Commander of the **Bosnian Serb Army**. Mladić faced a guilty verdict on 10 charges, which included his involvement in the **genocide in Srebrenica**, where over 7,000 Bosniak men and boys were mercilessly executed. He was subsequently sentenced to life imprisonment.



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The International Criminal Tribunal: ICTY

As of today, while significant progress has been made in the region, tensions and issues persist. **Serbia**, for example, still does not recognize **Kosovo's independence**, declared in 2008. The legacy of the Yugoslavian Wars and the ICTY's operations continue to have had a lasting impact on **international law** and geopolitics of the region. It marked the first occasion since the **Nuremberg** and **Tokyo Tribunals** where international leaders were held accountable and prosecuted for **war crimes** and other egregious violations. This groundbreaking tribunal set the stage for other international judiciaries, such as the **International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR)** and the **International Criminal Court (ICC)**. While the ICTY formally concluded its activities in 2017, its residual functions, including those concerning trials, appeals, witness protection, and sentence supervision, transitioned to the **Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals (MICT)**.



Macedonia



Montenegro



Croatia



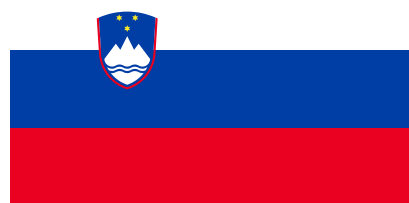
Serbia



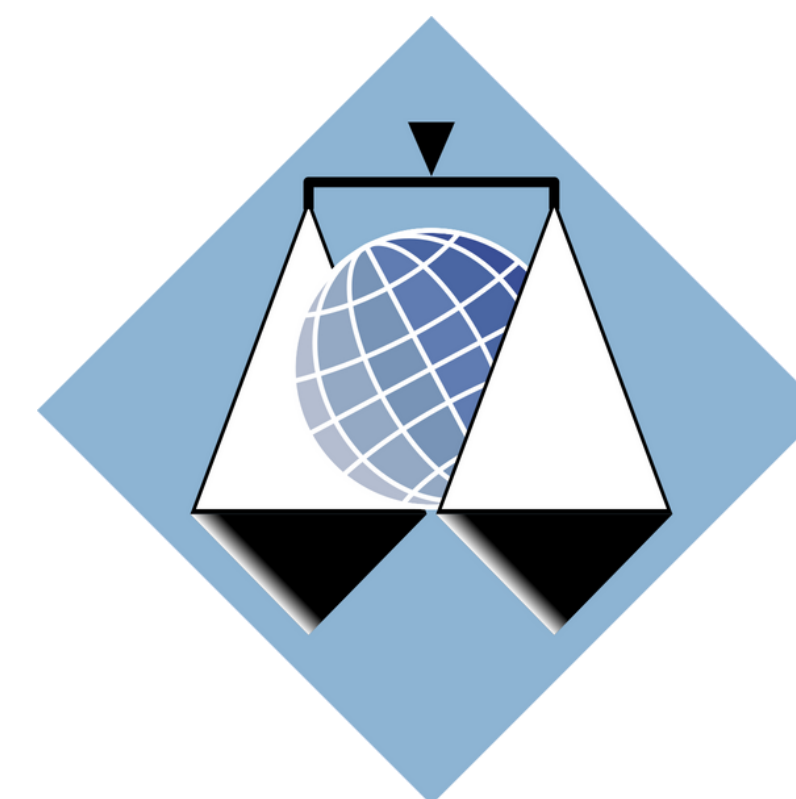
Yugoslavia

Bosnia and
Herzegovina

Kosovo

Flag of
Vojvodina

Slovenia



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Timeline of the Yugoslavian Wars

Year	Conflict	Dates	Duration	Event
1991	Slovenian War of Independence	27 June – 7 July 1991	1 week and 3 days	Slovenia and Croatia declare independence from Yugoslavia. Ten-Day War in Slovenia.
	Croatian War of Independence	31 March 1991 – 12 November 1995	4 years, 7 months, 1 week and 5 days	Croatian War of Independence begins.
	Macedonian Independence	1991	Largely peaceful	The Republic of Macedonia (today North Macedonia) declares independence.
1992	Bosnian War	6 April 1992 – 14 December 1995	3 years, 8 months, 1 week and 6 days	Bosnia and Herzegovina declare independence. Bosnian War begins. UNPROFOR dispatched to the region.
1993	-	-	-	Bosnian War intensifies, especially the Siege of Sarajevo.
1994	-	-	-	NATO becomes more involved, particularly through airstrikes against Bosnian Serb positions.
1995	Insurgency in Kosovo	27 May 1995 – 27 February 1998	2 years and 9 months	Srebrenica massacre occurs. Operation Storm is launched. Dayton Agreement is signed.
1996	-	-	-	Peace largely holds in Bosnia.
1998	Kosovo War	28 February 1998 – 11 June 1999	1 year, 3 months and 2 weeks	Kosovo War begins as conflict between the KLA and Yugoslav forces.
1999	Insurgency in the Preševo Valley	12 June 1999 – 1 June 2001	1 year, 11 months, 2 weeks and 6 days	NATO launches an aerial campaign against Yugoslavia. Kumanovo Agreement is signed. UNMIK is established.
2000	-	-	-	Political changes in Yugoslavia, Milošević is ousted from power.
2001	Insurgency in Macedonia	22 January – 12 November 2001	9 months and 3 weeks	Insurgency in Macedonia; clashes between ethnic Albanians and Macedonian forces.



Timeline of the Yugoslavian Wars

Conflict/Aspect	Total Estimated Deaths	Breakdown
General Estimates	Between 130,000-140,000	
By Region/Conflict		
Slovenian War	70	-
Croatian War	22,000	15,000 Croats 7,000 Serbs
Bosnian War	97,207 - 102,622	64,036 Bosniaks (65%) 24,905 Serbs (25%) 7,788 Croats (8%)
Siege of Sarajevo	14,000	-
Kosovo Conflict	13,535	10,812 Albanians (80%) 2,197 Serbs (16%)
Specific Groups & Incidents		
Bosniaks Total Deaths (Bosnian War)	64,036	Represents over 3% of the entire Bosniak ethnic group
Srebrenica Massacre (July 1995)	7,000-8,000	Bosniak male mortality rate reached 33%
Bosniak Civilian Fatalities (Bosnian War)	Not specified	Share among all civilian fatalities: ~83%, rising to almost 95% in Eastern Bosnia
Croatian Civilian Fatalities (Croatian War)	Not specified	43.4% of the total Croatian casualties were civilians
NATO's Operation Allied Force (1999)	Debated numbers Yugoslav official figures: 3,500 Human Rights Watch: 1,600 approx.	<p style="text-align: center;">Yugoslav Figures</p> 1,000 soldiers 1,200-2,500 civilians <p style="text-align: center;">Human Rights Watch Figures</p> Less than 1,000 soldiers 500-600 civilians



The International Criminal Tribunal: ICTR

The **International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR)** was a groundbreaking judicial body instituted by the **United Nations** in 1994. Its establishment was in response to the heinous crimes committed during the Rwandan genocide, which saw the systematic extermination of the Tutsi population by the ethnic Hutu majority.

The **Rwandan genocide** began in April 1994 and lasted roughly 100 days. Triggered by the assassination of the Rwandan President Juvénal Habyarimana, a Hutu, the violence escalated rapidly, leading to widespread slaughter. In this period, it's estimated that between 500,000 and 1,000,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were brutally killed, largely at the hands of organized gangs and local militias known as the "Interahamwe."

The primary objective of the ICTR was to prosecute individuals responsible for heinous acts, such as **genocide, crimes against humanity**, and violations of international humanitarian law. The Tribunal was not restricted only to the genocide but also looked into crimes committed by the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), the Tutsi-led rebel group.

Over its operation, the ICTR indicted 93 individuals, of which notable figures include Jean Kambanda, Rwanda's Prime Minister during the genocide, who became the first head of government to be convicted of genocide. Another significant figure is Colonel Théoneste Bagosora, deemed to be the mastermind behind much of the killing.



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The International Criminal Tribunal: ICTR

The ICTR has had a profound impact on **international criminal justice**. As with its counterpart for the former Yugoslavia, the ICTR set important precedents. Notably, it was the first international tribunal to define rape in international criminal law and recognize rape as a means of perpetrating genocide.

The Tribunal officially concluded its work in 2015, and its functions were taken over by the **Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals (MICT)**, the same body that now oversees the residual functions of the ICTY.



Other ways the UN Promotes Justice

General Assembly	In the 1960s, the assembly suspended the South African delegation for violating Security Council resolutions and international laws.
UN Security Council	Many Security Council missions include strengthening the rule of law. The Security Council can decide when and where Peacekeepers should be deployed. Many peacekeeping missions promote justice.
Peacekeepers	Most peacekeeping operations work to support the national police and promote justice.



Questions pg. 27B9 (Making History, 2nd Edition)

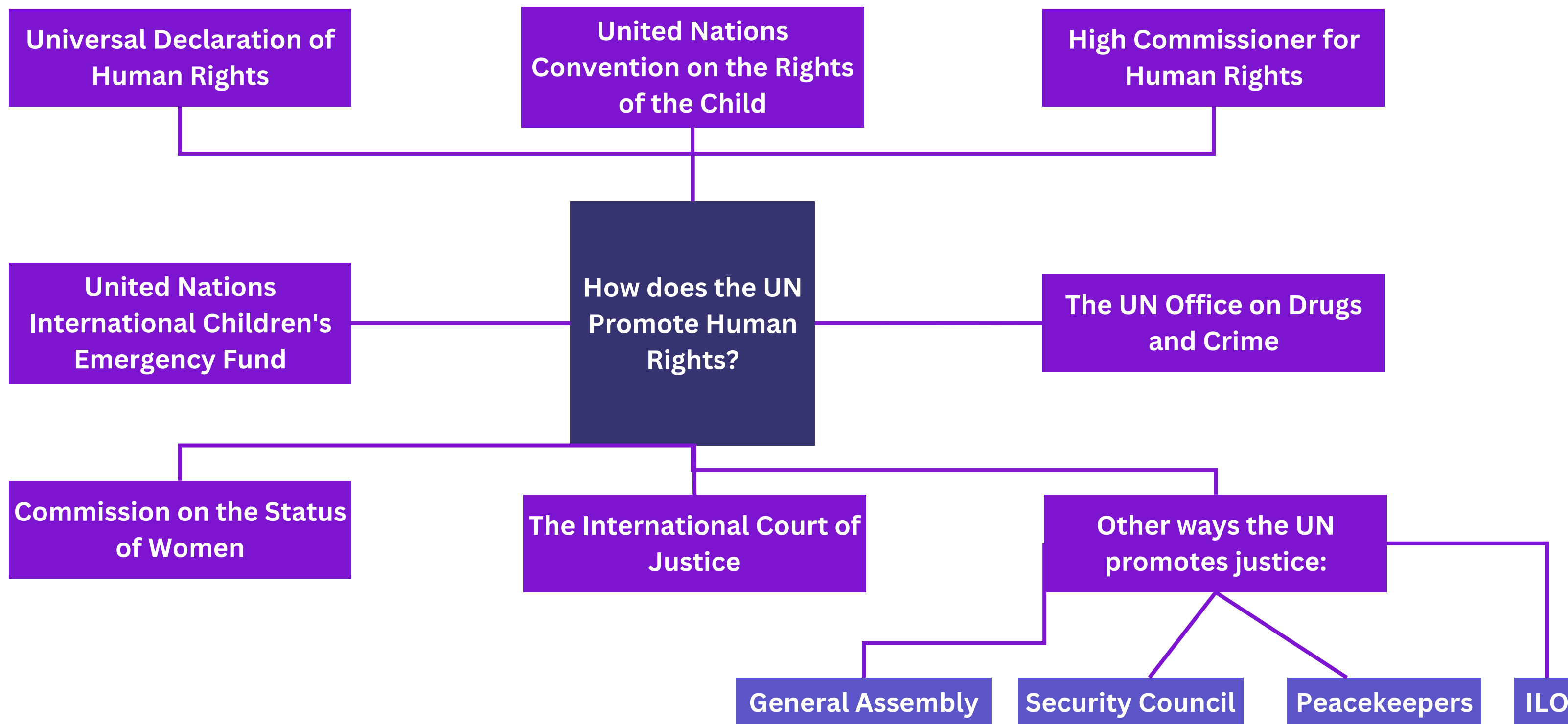
1. When was the International Court of Justice established?
2. Identify two things the International Court of Justice does.
3. Why was the ICTY set up?
4. Name one person sentenced by the ICTY.
5. Why was the ICTR established?



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35.4: *The UN* AND *Human Rights*

How the UN Promotes Justice



Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)

The events of World War II made many people realise that human rights are not always respected. In 1948, the UN General Assembly adopted the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)**. This document, greatly inspired by the Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen that had been created during the 1789 French Revolution, outlines the rights that every person should have. The **UDHR** has 30 articles.



Eleanor Roosevelt and Hansa Mehta



Former First Lady of the United States, **Eleanor Roosevelt** (right), served as the first Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights. She was heavily involved in drafting the UDHR. In 1968, she was posthumously awarded the United Nations Human Rights Prize.

Hansa Mehta of India (left) was the only other female delegate to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in 1947-1948. She was a staunch fighter for women's rights in India and abroad. She is widely credited with changing the phrase 'All men are born free and equal' to 'All human beings are born free and equal' in Article 1.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)

The **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)** stands as a monumental document in the annals of human history, setting forth fundamental human rights that should be protected for all people. However, it's crucial to understand its legal nature. Unlike some international documents, such as the **Geneva Conventions**, the UDHR is not legally binding. This distinction means that states and entities are not under a legal obligation, enforced by international law, to implement its provisions.

While the UDHR doesn't carry the force of international law in the same way treaties do, its significance and influence cannot be understated. Over the decades since its adoption in 1948, the UDHR has played a pivotal role in shaping the global human rights discourse. Many of its principles have been incorporated into subsequent international treaties, regional human rights documents, and national constitutions and legal frameworks. This has resulted in the UDHR acting as a moral compass and foundational text for the development of **international human rights law**.

Furthermore, the spirit and principles of the UDHR have often been invoked by activists, governments, and international bodies to highlight and condemn human rights abuses. Even without the binding force of law, the UDHR's impact has been profound, with its principles serving as a touchstone for global efforts to promote and safeguard human dignity, freedom, and equality.



Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)

Article 1: All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.	Article 11: Everyone charged with a crime has the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty.	Article 21: Everyone has the right to take part in government and access public services.
Article 2: Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration without distinction of any kind.	Article 12: No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with privacy, family, home, or correspondence.	Article 22: Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security.
Article 3: Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security of person.	Article 13: Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state.	Article 23: Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work.
Article 4: No one shall be held in slavery or servitude.	Article 14: Everyone has the right to seek asylum from persecution in other countries.	Article 24: Everyone has the right to rest and leisure.
Article 5: No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment.	Article 15: Everyone has the right to a nationality.	Article 25: Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for health and well-being.
Article 6: Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.	Article 16: Men and women have the right to marry and found a family.	Article 26: Everyone has the right to education.
Article 7: All are equal before the law and are entitled to equal protection of the law.	Article 17: Everyone has the right to own property.	Article 27: Everyone has the right to participate in the cultural life of the community and benefit from scientific advancements.
Article 8: Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating fundamental rights.	Article 18: Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion.	Article 28: Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which these rights can be realized.
Article 9: No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention, or exile.	Article 19: Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression.	Article 29: Everyone has duties to the community and is subject to limitations for the purpose of securing due recognition for the rights and freedoms of others.
Article 10: Everyone is entitled to a fair and public hearing by an independent tribunal.	Article 20: Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.	Article 30: Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group, or person any right to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein.



United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)

To help children affected by WWI, the UN General Assembly established the **International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)** in 1946. **UNICEF** works in over 190 countries to save children's lives, defend their rights and help them to achieve their potential. **UNICEF** works to achieve this in many different ways including:

Promoting gender equality	e.g. Girls in Tech is an organisation focused on the engagement, education and empowerment of women in technology
Reducing child mortality	e.g. supplies vaccines to reach 45% of the world's children under five
Working to end the use of child soldiers	e.g. helping reunify child soldiers with their families



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United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

In 1989, the **Convention on the Rights of the Child** was adopted by the **UN General Assembly**. The UNCRC guarantees and sets minimum standards for protecting the rights of children. It is the most widely ratified human rights treaty in history, with 41 articles.

The UN has also adopted a series of other conventions such as the **elimination of discrimination against women** (1979) and **the rights of persons with disabilities** (2006).



Other ways the UN Promotes Justice

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)	Promotes gender equality and the advancement of women
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Helps people forced to flee their homes and has staff in over 130 countries
High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)	Leads UN activity on human rights issues. Former Irish President Mary Robinson was UN High Commissioner for Human Rights from 1997-2002.
The Human Rights Council	Promotes and protects human rights Every four years, it reviews the human rights records of the 193 UN Member States.
General Assembly	Condemns human rights abuses
Security Council	The Security Council has created several resolutions (official opinions) on human rights issues
Peacekeepers	Many peacekeeping missions have a human rights team.
ILO	Works to improve the rights of workers.



Questions pg. 27B11 (Making History, 2nd Edition)

1. What are human rights?
2. What role did (i) Eleanor Roosevelt and (ii) Hansa Mehta have in the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights?
3. How does UNICEF work to reduce child mortality?
4. Why was the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees set up?
5. What is the most widely ratified human rights treaty in history?
6. Name one former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.



35.55 : SUMMARY

In this chapter, we have learned that...

- Founded in 1945, the United Nations (UN) was established with the primary goal of fostering international co-operation, preventing wars, ensuring justice, and safeguarding human rights. Originally beginning with 51 Member States, the organization grew to encompass 193 members by 2021. Trygve Lie took on the esteemed role of its first Secretary-General, overseeing the Secretariat responsible for day-to-day operations.
- Central to the UN's operations is the General Assembly. Here, all 193 Member States gather to discuss and deliberate on pressing global issues. Each state holds a single vote, and major decisions necessitate a two-thirds majority. Additionally, the Security Council, another pivotal component, focuses on upholding international peace. It comprises five permanent members, each wielding the influential power of a veto.
- The UN's peacekeeping forces, colloquially termed the 'Blue Helmets', play a vital role in ensuring tranquility in conflict zones. These troops, contributed by member states, are dispatched to areas of unrest. The financial cost of these missions is shared among the member nations.
- Historically, the UN has been significantly involved in numerous global conflicts. Since 1948, the Israel-Palestine Conflict has consistently occupied the organization's attention, serving as a persistent point of international contention. Another major engagement was in Yugoslavia during the 1990s. The UN's role during the Yugoslav Wars faced scrutiny, primarily due to its perceived ineffectiveness in curbing severe atrocities.

In this chapter, we have learned that...

- The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) propels the UN's efforts in promoting international cooperation on socio-economic fronts. ECOSOC's undertakings are epitomized by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – a set of 17 objectives aiming at a prosperous future for all. Operating under ECOSOC are specialized agencies, including the WHO, UNESCO, ILO, and IMF.
- The UN is also vested in global judiciary matters, with the International Court of Justice at its helm. Established in 1945, this court arbitrates disputes between nations. In response to specific global conflicts, the UN also founded the International Criminal Tribunals for both Yugoslavia (1993) and Rwanda (1994) to address heinous war crimes.
- Championing human rights is core to the UN's mission. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), adopted in 1948, is a testament to this commitment. Drawing from the 1789 French Declaration, the UDHR lists 30 articles of universal rights. Although not legally binding, its influence on worldwide human rights discourse is undeniable.
- Adopted in 1989, the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is a pivotal UN treaty championing children's rights across civil, political, economic, and social domains. This convention emphasizes safeguarding the best interests of children in all actions. Facilitating these efforts is the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), established in 1946. Originally a post-World War II relief agency, UNICEF now works in over 190 countries, promoting children's welfare, education, and protection from harm.

Reflecting on... the United Nations

The establishment of the United Nations marked a watershed moment in global history, concluding a period of rampant imperialism and world wars that devastated continents. It symbolized humanity's collective commitment to peace, cooperation, and the shared values of human rights. The UN demonstrated that nations, regardless of differences, were willing to come together, negotiate, and work collaboratively for the greater good of the global community. However, this commendable venture wasn't without its challenges. In the pursuit of global peace and security, the UN often had to mediate in complex geopolitical terrains, sometimes even leading to military interventions and unintended casualties. These dual facets of the United Nations – an enduring hope for a united and peaceful world and the intricate challenges of international diplomacy – would characterize global relations for the many decades following its inception.



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Examination Questions



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Project

Guidelines:

1. **Length:** The depth of your project should reflect about 2-3 weeks of work.
2. **Sources:** Use at least three different sources for your research. These can be books, scholarly articles, or reputable online resources.
3. **Citations:** All information and images that are not your own should be properly cited.
4. **Mediums:** You may choose to present your project in one of the following ways:
 - **Poster:** Your poster should be informative and visually engaging.
 - **Minecraft or Lego Model:** If choosing this option, please also include a brief report explaining your model.
 - **Painting/Drawing:** Your artwork should be accompanied by a description.
 - **Recycled Materials:** Create your model using recycled materials and provide an explanation of your creative process.

Assessment:

Your projects will be assessed based on:

1. Research and Content
2. Creativity and Presentation
3. Understanding of Context
4. Adherence to Guidelines



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Project

Historical Sites

United Nations Headquarters, New York, USA
Palace of Nations, Geneva, Switzerland
United Nations Office at Nairobi, Kenya
Peace Palace, The Hague, Netherlands
United Nations Buffer Zone, Nicosia, Cyprus

Historical Figures

Trygve Lie
Lakshmi Menon
Bodil Begtrup
Mary Robinson
Eleanor Roosevelt
Minerva Bernardino
Maire-Hélène Lefaucheu
Kofi
Annan
Hansa Mehta
Begum Shaista Ikramullah
Evdokia Uralova
Col Pat Quinlan



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