

The UN for Averting War

1) Introduction:

Thesis Statement: The United Nations was established to save the future generations from the menace of war. However, it has failed miserably to do so. Although, there are successes of the United Nations, but its failures are far more serious than its successes.

2) The UN as a means for preventing war

3) The UN has failed to avert war (Thesis)

(a) Several catastrophic wars since the inception of the UN

(b) Failure to solve the Kashmir issue between two nuclear-armed countries: Pakistan and India

(c) Proliferation of nuclear weapons

(d) Hegemony of the Big Five of the Security Council

(e) The UN is completely futile against the aggression of the P5.

4) The positive impacts of the UN indicate its success (Antithesis)

(a) Prevention of the World War III

(b) The UN brokered peace between both countries

(c) Treaty on non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) by the UN

(d) The General Assembly keeps a check on the Big Five and the Security Council

e) The UNGA can take effective measures against the aggression of the P5.

5) The failures of the UN are graver than its successes. (Synthesis)

a) The prevention of the World War III is not an indicator of peace

b) India has turned deaf ears to the resolutions of the UN

c) The NPT would never lead to complete elimination of nuclear weapons

d) The General Assembly is nothing, but a talking shop

e) The measures taken by the UNGA have no practical impacts.

6) Conclusion

The United Nations for Averting War

Day Hammarskjöld, the former secretary-general of the United Nations (UN), said "The UN was not created to take mankind into a paradise, but rather, to save humanity from hell." But what kind of hell can there be on the earth? It is the hell of war, aggression, brutality and genocides. Man has a long history of war, and he can blame no one, but himself for this aggression. To put an end to this brutality, an organization for international peace and cooperation was established. The founders of the UN wanted to save the future generations from the menace of war; however, the UN has failed miserably to do so. Although, there are successes of the UN, but its failures are far more serious than its successes. Since the inception of the UN, several catastrophic wars have broken out. Furthermore, not only the UN has failed to solve the Kashmir issue, but it also failed to prevent proliferation of nuclear weapons. Above all, there is hegemony of the P5, and the UN can do nothing to take actions against the aggression of the P5. The proponents of the UN give several arguments to prove that the UN has successfully averted war, but none of these arguments

have a leg to stand on.

On 25th April 1945, the representatives of more than 50 countries of the world met in San Francisco to develop the charter of the UN. On 24th October 1945, the UN charter was implemented. According to Article 1 of the UN Charter, the UN is responsible for maintaining international peace and cooperation. It has been more than 75 years since the establishment of the UN, and it has enjoyed several successes and suffered from a multitude of failures in fulfilling Article 1 of the charter. In 1990s, after the end of the cold war, the UN brokered peace in many civil wars and assisted many countries like Namibia, Cambodia, Tajikistan, and Burundi.

In the late ~~80~~ nineties, the UN conducted peace-keeping missions in Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic and Kosovo. In 21st century, the peacekeeping missions of the UN are underway in Sudan, South Sudan, Haiti, and Mali. However, the failures of the UN outweigh its successes.

For example, the UN failed to prevent the Soviet ~~7~~ invasion of Afghanistan which led to the death of one million civilians, as well as, 90,000 mujahideen fighters, and 14,500 Afghan forces (A. Tylus, *The Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan*, 2018). Furthermore,

15,000 Palestinians were killed, and 750,000 out of a population of 1.9 million were displaced between 1947 and 1949. At least 68,000 people have been killed by India in occupied Kashmir (TRT World, Twelve Times the UN has failed the world, 2018). It shows how miserably the UN has failed in creating war.

The UN has failed to prevent war as several catastrophic wars broke out under the umbrella of the UN. It failed to broker peace and to resolve conflicts with peaceful solutions. The destructive wars like the Second Congo War, the Rwandan Civil War, the Cambodian Genocide, the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the War on Terror, and the Israel-Arab wars led to the deaths of millions of people, and forced many more to migrate. For example, during the Cambodian Genocide, 2 million people - 25% of the population - were killed and during Rwanda Civil War, Hutus killed about 800,000 Tutsis and raped nearly 250,000 women (TRT World, Twelve Times the United Nations has failed the world, 2018). Thus, a myriad of wars have broken out since the inception of the UN.

Furthermore, the UN has failed to solve the Kashmir issue between two nuclear-armed

countries: Pakistan and India. It has been 75 years, but the issue of Kashmir remains unsolved. Kashmir has become a bone of contention between both countries, and the old history of hatred and was triggered by Kashmir can possibly lead both countries into a nuclear war. And if that were to happen, the whole humanity would perish. It can be concluded that the UN has been unable to solve an issue which can lead to the destruction of the whole world.

Not only has the UN failed to prevent conflicts, it has also been futile in controlling the proliferation of the nuclear weapons. The nine countries — the USA, the UK, France, Russia, China, Pakistan, India, Israel, and North Korea — still possess nuclear weapons which are a threat to humanity. When the UN was established, there was only one country which possessed nuclear weapons: the USA. As the UN remained fruitless in its efforts, the number of nuclear-armed countries and global count of the nuclear warheads has been increasing. As of 2022, there are more than 12,705 nuclear warheads in the world (Statista, Number of nuclear warheads in the world, 2022). It follows that with the UN, there has been an increase in

nuclear weapons.

Along with the proliferation of nuclear weapons, the UN has also been besmirched by the ~~the~~ hegemony of the Big Five of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). According to Article 27(3) of the UN, five countries - the USA, the UK, France, Russia, and China - are the permanent members of the UNSC and can veto any resolution of the UNSC. Due to this one article of the charter, the UN is not an organization of international peace and cooperation, but merely a political instrument of the Big Five or the P5. The USA, for example, vetoed its first resolution in 1970, and since then it has vetoed a total of 82 resolutions, out of which 53 resolutions were against Israel - an ally of the USA. Thus, the UN is completely under the thumb of the P5.

Due to hegemony of the P5, the UN is unable to take any action against the aggression of the P5. The permanent members of the UNSC would simply veto any resolution that would stop them from waging war. Russia, for example, is still pursuing its war against Ukraine, and the UN can do nothing to stop it. When a resolution to stop Russia from attacking Ukraine was passed, Russia simply vetoed

it. Hence, the UN is a man without hands when it comes to the P5.

However, there are many who believe that the UN has successfully averted war. They believe that the UN is successful because it prevented the world war III. It has been two-thirds of a century, but the world is still safe from the menace of the world war III only because of the UN and its capabilities to resolve conflicts and international issues. After the world war I, the leaders of the world established League of Nations in 1920, but within a decade, the world was pushed into another dark era. On the other hand, the UN has successfully saved humanity from the world war III, which could have perished the whole of mankind. It follows that the prevention of the world war III is a strong evidence of the success of the UN.

Furthermore, the UN has successfully brokered peace between Pakistan and India. The UN provided a platform to both countries to resolve their conflicts and to find a peaceful solution of Kashmir. The UN has conducted several peacekeeping missions in the region, and passed several resolutions to resolve this

issue. In 1948, the UN brokered ceasefire between both countries, and recommended a plebiscite to resolve this conflict. Then in 1950, 1971, and in 2019, the UN acted as a mediator to solve the Kashmir issue. Thus, the UN always acted as a medium of negotiations to reach a peaceful agreement.

Those who believe that the UN failed to prevent proliferation of nuclear weapons are completely wrong because the UN successfully implemented Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). NPT has effectively reduced the threat of nuclear war. Not only the number of nuclear warheads are decreasing since the Cold War, but the countries are willingly giving up their nuclear programs. For example, South Africa, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan willingly became a signatory of the NPT and gave up their nuclear weapons. It can be concluded that under the umbrella of the UN, NPT has effectively conducted the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Furthermore, there is no hegemony of the Big Five because the UNGA keeps a check on them. The UNGA performs very important functions, like preparing financial budget, and is fully capable of passing resolutions to keep a check on

the veto power of the P5. In April 2022, the UNGA passed a resolution against the unrestricted veto power of the P5. According to this resolution, if a country vetoes a resolution then a session of the UNGA will automatically commence within 10 days, and the country which has exercised the veto power must justify the use of its veto. Hence, the UNGA is capable of taking actions against the P5.

The idea that the UN is futile against the aggression of the P5 is completely untrue because the UNGA can take effective measures against the P5. Even if the P5 holds veto power in the UNSC, all the countries have equal representation in the UNGA. If one of the P5 countries violates the principles of the UN, the General Assembly can put international pressure on the country by passing resolutions and condemning the acts of aggression. For example, when Russia attacked Ukraine, the UNGA passed a resolution to globally condemn Russia showing that the world is against this aggression. It follows that the UNGA is capable of taking powerful measures against the P5.

The supporters of the UN can give a myriad of arguments in favor of the UN, but none of them hold any water. They argue that the UN has prevented the World War III, but the World War III is not an indicator of peace in the world. Although there is no World War, but there is also no peace in the world because several nations have waged wars against each other. People are dying, women are being raped, and children are being starved to death; it does not matter to them whether there is any World War or not because for them there is no peace. For example, 7000 Palestinians died in the conflicts from 2000 to 2014 (TRT World, Twelve Times the UN has failed the world, 2018). If there were peace then those 7000 people would not have died. Hence, the absence of the World War III does not necessarily mean that there is peace.

Furthermore, the peace brokered by the UN between Pakistan and India is of no importance because India has turned deaf ears to the resolutions of the UN. With complete disregard of the resolutions of the UN, India is pursuing its own agenda in Kashmir. Along with that, India is violating the resolutions

to change the demographics of Kashmir. On 5 August 2019, India abrogated Article 370 and Article 35A of Indian Constitution. With a stroke of pen, Kashmir, which used to be an autonomous state, was transformed into a union territory governed by New Delhi. Thus, the resolutions passed by the UN have no practical impacts, and the conflict remains unsolved.

The arguments in favour of NPT are completely illogical because NPT is biased and would never lead to complete elimination of nuclear weapons. There is an enormous fault that lies in the basic principles of the NPT, due to which the nuclear threat cannot be completely abolished. The treaty ~~recognizes~~ recognizes five nuclear-armed states - the USA, the UK, France, China, and Russia - which have the right to possess the nuclear weapons, while the rest of the world cannot possess them. Due to this imbalance of powers, the countries threatened by the Big Five would never cease to pursue nuclear weapons. Hence, the NPT is nothing, but a sham.

The apostles of the UN believe that the UNGA keeps a check on the P5, but the UNGA is nothing, but a talking shop. One can

engage himself in endless debates in the UNGA, but taking impactful actions is a complete impossibility. The UNSC, or in other words, the P5, can one way or other way control the UNGA. For example, the recent resolution passed by the UNGA to account the use of veto powers cannot stop the P5 from using veto unfairly. Although, the UNGA prepares budget; but the UNSC is fully capable of indirectly controlling and influencing the budget.

Furthermore, the measures taken by the UNGA against the P5 have no practical impacts. Those measures are not at all fruitful. For example, the UNGA could do nothing to prevent Russia from waging war against Ukraine. The UNGA did pass a resolution to condemn Russia; however, the resolution did not lead to any practical impacts. Thus, the UNGA is handicapped in taking any action against the P5.

It can be concluded that the UN was established to maintain international peace and cooperation and to prevent war; however, the failures of the UN indicate how fruitless the UN has been in achieving its objectives. Several wars erupted under the supervision of

the UN. The decades-long conflicts remain unsolved, and there is no end to the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Amid all this, there is hegemony of the P5, and the UN can do nothing against them. The UN was established not to take mankind into paradise, but to save humanity from hell; however, the humanity is still suffering from the hell of war.