

Outlines

1 Introduction

Thesis Statement: The United Nations is unable to tackle the challenges of the 21st century due to its structural inefficiencies, inability to adapt to contemporary geopolitical realities, failures in conflict resolution, and the overshadowing influence of powerful member states. Therefore, it is becoming irrelevant now-a-days.

2 Structural inefficiencies

2.1 Slow decision-making processes within the Security Council

2.2 lack of coordination within the UN system

3 Inability to adapt to contemporary geopolitical realities

3.1 lack of representation of regional organizations

3.2 Dominance of the permanent members

3.3 lack of enforcement mechanisms

4 Failures in conflict resolution

4.1 Kashmir dispute

4.2 Genocide taking place at Gaza

4.3 leading towards World War III

5 Influence of powerful member states

5.1 Holding veto power

5.2 Blocking of resolutions

5.3 Rise of unilateralism and Nationalism

6 Conclusion

The Essay

The United Nations (UN) was established in 1945 with the noble goal of maintaining international peace and security, averting conflicts, providing humanitarian aids, and promoting cooperation among the countries. Over the years, the UN has played a critical role in averting conflicts, maintaining peace, and promoting cooperation to tackle the challenges such as climate change, poverty, etc. However, in recent years, there has been growing criticism on performance of the UN. This is mainly due to its inability to solve humanitarian crises on going in the world. There are various reasons that the UN is unable to tackle the challenges of the 21st centuries and it is becoming irrelevant. The main reasons are; structural inefficiencies, inability to adapt to contemporary geopolitical realities, failures in conflict resolution, and the overshadowing influence of powerful member states. To restore its relevance, the UN must embrace reforms and reclaim its role as a truly representative and effective organization, capable of addressing the complex and interconnected challenges.

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First comes the structural inefficiencies. It is one of the most significant factors contributing to the perceived irrelevance of the UN. The UN's decision-making processes, particularly within the Security Council are often slow, and heavily influenced by the interests of the five permanent members (P5) - the United States, Russia, China, France, and the United Kingdom. The veto power held by these countries has frequently been used to block resolutions, even in cases where there is a clear international consensus on the need for action. Moreover, the UN has many agencies, programs, and committees that often lead to duplication of efforts, inefficiency, and waste. The Independent Advisory Committee on Administration and Budgetary Questions has repeatedly highlighted concerns about the lack of coordination and accountability within the UN system. These structural inefficiencies are affecting the organization's credibility and its ability to respond swiftly to global challenges.

Second comes the inability to adapt to contemporary geopolitical realities. The UN was founded after World War II. Its structure reflects the geopolitical realities of that era. However, the world has changed dramatically since then, and the UN has struggled to adapt to these changes. The

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increasing importance of regional organizations like the European Union and the African Union, and the shift in global power dynamics towards Asia are not adequately reflected in the UN's structure. The permanent members of the Security Council have dominance in the UN. Africa with 54 member states and a population of over 1.3 billion, remains underrepresented in the Security Council, with no permanent seat. According to the Global Policy Journal, the failure to reform the Security Council to reflect contemporary geopolitical realities risks further marginalizing the UN in global governance. Additionally, the UN has remained ineffective in addressing the global challenges such as climate change, while the organization has launched initiatives like the Paris Agreement, but due to lack of enforcement mechanisms and political will to ensure compliance, the progress is slow in addressing these issues.

Third comes the failures in conflict resolution and peacekeeping. From Kashmir dispute to Israeli occupation of Palestine, the UN has failed to resolve the issues. Furthermore, the massacre of Bosnian Muslims at Srebrenica highlighted the inadequacy of the UN's peacekeeping forces. The

UN also failed to protect the lives of innocent Iraqi civilians. There is a long list of human rights violations and genocides where the UN has failed to keep international peace. The On going genocide taking place at Gaza has showed the world how the UN is becoming irrelevant now-a-days. It is ~~unable~~ unable to stop the greatest human rights violation crises. This can lead to World War III ~~as~~ as other countries have chosen their sides. The United States has showed continue support to Israel, while many Middle East countries are supporting Palestine. These failures have led to a growing perception that the UN is unable to fulfill its core mandate of international peace and security.

Fourth comes the influence of powerful member states and erosion of multilateralism. The UN was conceived as a platform for multilateral diplomacy. However, the reality is that the UN is often dominant by the interests of its most powerful members, particularly the P5. The influence of powerful states is particularly evident in the Security Council, where the P5 members frequently use their veto power to block resolutions that do not align with their national

interests. For example, the United States has consistently used its veto to shield Israel from resolutions condemning its actions in the Palestinian territories. This selective use of veto power undermines the legitimacy of the Security Council and the UN as a whole. Furthermore, the rise of unilateralism and nationalism is sending difficulties. The United States' withdrawal from key international agreements such as the Paris Agreement and its reduced financial contributions to the UN, have weakened the UN's ability to work properly. ^{Additionally} The rise of multinational corporations, international non-governmental organizations, and private foundations, such as the Gates Foundation, has shifted the locus of global decision-making away from intergovernmental organizations like the UN.

In conclusion, the UN is becoming increasingly irrelevant now-a-days due to its structural inefficiencies, inability to adapt to contemporary geopolitical realities, failures in conflict resolution, and influence of powerful five permanent member states. While the UN has made significant contributions

to global peace, security, and development over the years, its current structure and modus operandi are ill-suited to the challenges of the 21st century. To reclaim its relevancy, the UN needs to embrace reforms particularly in the Security Council.