

Key Terms

Country

- A territory with a population that has a relatively stable government
- International recognition: other countries recognize the legitimacy and independence of the government and recognize the country's right to exist.

State

- All the public [governmental] institutions of a country

Sovereignty

- A country's or state's independent authority and right to govern itself free from interference of other states.
- IE: Independence or control over a country's own affairs by its government.

International Organizations

- Organizations of independent or sovereign states [countries]
- Countries voluntarily join international organizations to gain mutual benefits.

Political International Organizations

The League of Nations 1919

- Headquarters in Geneva Switzerland
- Began as the idea of US president Woodrow Wilson as a result of WWI 1914 -1918
- Goal was to prevent another world war and to solve future conflicts through negotiation and diplomacy
- The US senate refused to ratify [approve] its membership therefore the US never joined
- It became weakened in 1930's after several large countries left
- It was not able to prevent or address the rise of fascism in Nazi Germany and Italy leading into WWII 1939 -45

The United Nations 1954

- Headquarters in New York, NY
- Began as a result of WWII: Both sides and all of Europe experienced huge losses of life, both civilian and military and massive damages.
- The goal was to provide a structure to resolve conflicts and disputes diplomatically: through negotiation and discussion
- Began in 1954 in San Francisco with 51 States. It's objectives are:
 1. Maintain international peace and security
 2. To protect the integrity of borders
 3. To promote cooperation among countries
 4. To promote human rights
- Peacekeeping: the UN has its own peacekeeping force named the Blue Berets. Member countries voluntarily contribute military personnel to mediate in conflicts

Military Alliances

NATO [North Atlantic Treaty Organization] 1949

- Created following WWII and the beginning of the Cold War
- Was created as a response to the threat of the USSR and the spread of Communism
- 12 founding countries [western Europe & Canada + USA]
- Presently there are 29 member states
- The main goal is collective defence. Article 5 of the Washington Treaty:
Collective defense means that an attack against one ally is considered an attack against all allies

Warsaw Pact 1955

- Began as a reaction by the USSR to what it saw as a threat in NATO
- Members: USSR & 7 Eastern European countries[Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, East Germany, Romania, Czechoslovakia]
- Same goal as NATO: collective defence
- Several countries later tried to withdraw but were forced to remain by the USSR by force
- 1991 with collapse of the USSR the pact dissolved