

Introduction

Although the state is and has been the primary actor in the international system, it is not the only the option for governance.

International organization (I.O) is one alter-native to what some analysts are convinced is the outmoded and even destructive traditional approach of basing global relations on self- interested states operating in an anarchical international system.

These critics believe that international organization can and should increasingly regulate the behavior of states in order to better address world problems.

From this perspective, there is wise council given by "William Shakespeare" in Henry VI, part 111: "Now join your hands, and with your hands your hearts".

Such advice may be right. It is just possible that ongoing organizations will serve as prototypes or building blocks for a future, higher form for political loyalty and activity.

Because this study address "international organizations" (IO), it will concentration international intergovernmental organizations (IGOs).

The member ship of this type of IO consists of national governments. As such, IGOs are distinct from the Transnational (international) nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), whose members consist of private individuals or groups and which function more like interest groups than governing bodies.

There are many classifications of international organizations, including global, regional, and specialized IGOs.

Chapter One

The Origins of IGOs

IGOs are primarily a modern phenomenon. Nearly all of them were created in the last 60 years or so. Yet the origins of IGOs extend far back in history to three main sources.

Historical Background

IGOs are rooted in part in a universalistic concept of humankind dating back perhaps to 300 B.C. and the Stoics. As early as 478 B.C. 1- the Greek city- states established the Delian League to create a unified response to the threat from Persia. Although mostly an alliance, it had two IGO characteristics.

First, it was permanent, and supposed to last until "ingots of iron, thrown in to the Sea, rose again".

Second, the league had an assembly of representatives appointed by the city- states to decide policy. Although Athens dominated the assembly was a precursor of such current structures as the UN General Assembly. Such ideas began to resurface in the late Middle Ages. For example, a French official, Pierre Dubois, proposed in the Recovery of the Holy' Land (1306) that disputes among Christian kingdoms be arbitrated by an international council, in Dubois's words, "It seems fitting to establish a league of universal peace" and there is "a unanimous decision by the council," then all should "so solemnly swear to uphold with all their power this league of peace and its penalties, and in every possible way see that it is observed".

More than a millennium later several European philosophers began to elaborate schemes for world Unity. The Roman catholic church and its head "the pope" provided the focus point for many of these, we could include in our example arrangements among states to maintain power and order such as:

1. the treaty of Westphalia (1684) which emphasizes religious toleration and provided some safeguards for religious minorities under an international guarantee.
2. the concert of Europe, an informal coalition of the major European powers, and the following balance of big power diplomacy managed generally to keep the peace world war 1 in 1914.

3. the formation of public international unions (such as international telegraphic union, the universal postal union) developed techniques to deal with practical problems of expanding international relation.
4. the Hague system, named for the 1899 and 1907 peace conferences held at that city in the Nether Lands. The 1907 conference was more comprehensive, with 44 European, North American, and Latin American States participating. Organizationally, it included a rudimentary general assembly and a judicial system. The conferences also adopted a series of standards to limit the conduct of war.
5. The next step on the path was the creation of the League of Nations after world war I. The league had a more developed organizational structure than that of Hague system. However, when we refer to modern, formal IOs such as the League of Nations, we are discussing relatively recent phenomenon.

The Characteristics OF IOs:

All IOs share a number of characteristics:-

- A- They are created by treaties between states and, therefore have a legal standing under international law.
- B- They hold regular meetings attended by delegates from member states.
- C- They have permanent headquarter and an executive secretariate that runs the activities of the organization.

IOs roles and functions in global politics:

1. They serve as instruments of actions states through IOs can achieve joint objectives.
2. They function as Forums for communication and conflict management, they provide Facilities that enable state delegation to meet and exchange ideas.
3. They offer conflict management services in the form of mediators, observers, and peacekeeping personnel.
4. They do regulatory functions in the international system IOs can set up international standards to regulate medicine, postal service, civilian nuclear power.
5. They can perform distributive functions such as the distribution of finances goods, and services.