Introduction

As the world continues to exit the last stages of a global pandemic, now familiar military conflicts continue to rage, new ones threaten to boil over and destabilize already tumultuous regions, and worldwide economies find themselves stumbling while trends of automation emerge with little oversight. All the while climate change continues to relentlessly push the world to inhospitable levels, and the constant detrimental spread of disinformation and malicious use of artificial intelligence disrupt the global physical and information landscape respectively. The governments of today find themselves in precarious positions

Since February of 2022 Ukraine and Russia have remained at war with nearly half a million dead.[1] Ukraine's counter-offensives have begun to push the invading Russian army back with slow progress as their drone strikes remain a constant terror in the Black Sea near Crimea.[2] This and other devastating outbreaks of warfare should stand not only as important issues on their own, but also as worrying signs of potential escalations of conflict elsewhere across the globe. Border tensions and constant displays of might and violence threaten to erupt with devastating consequences. As Ukraine and Russia remain in conflict, western countries like the United States and those of Europe must decide their best path forward to aid their allies in the immediate conflict and to prevent it from spreading elsewhere on the continent. Whereas regional powers like the People's Republic of China may eye the conflict as an opportunity to both seek leverage over nearby partners embroiled in the conflict to attempt to cement themselves as the sole regional powerhouse, or even view it as a welcome distraction to pursue other goals as much of the fixation of the world is drawn elsewhere. No conflict happens in a vacuum. The lessons learned from Russia's direct aggression may be applicable in unforeseen circumstances, especially ones arising far sooner than any might think as tensions continue to escalate in the Taiwan Strait as well as across the globe.

Information-based warfare continues to spread and dominate much of modern technological discourse through social media and other information sharing platforms. On platforms like X (formerly known as Twitter), WeChat, and others, artificial intelligence continues to explode in popularity as new unregulated programs develop with risks of minor misrepresentations of facts at best, and dangerous violence-inciting misinformation at worst.[3] Current problems have only grown as platforms like X have become unmoderated landscapes of falsified information with competing propaganda narratives and an unchecked spread of near outright lies. To compound this issue, the true volatility of A.I. remains yet to be seen, as does its potential impact on the

[1] https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/ukraine-war-estimated-casualties-1.6940723
[2] https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-60506682
[3] https://www.nytimes.com/2023/02/08/technology/ai-chatbots-disinformation.html

Source: Stanford University, 2022

economies of the world through automation & obsoletion, beyond the continued engagement and creation of disinformation. Programs like ChatGPT, DALL·E 2, and other artificial intelligence applications continue to develop and run rampant throughout the internet with little oversight.

Beyond the known concerns of warfare, both conventional and digital, climate change and its effects remains a looming specter over the entire globe. Natural disasters are undeniably increasing in intensity and frequency with record breaking heat waves, floods, and droughts.[4] The average temperature of the planet has risen an entire degree Celsius since the late 19th century,[5] the Greenland & Antarctica ice sheets have lost an average of 280 and 150 billion tons of ice respectively,[6] and "Global sea level rose about 20 centimeters in the last century. The rate in the last two decades, however, is nearly double that of the last century and accelerating slightly every year."[7] The world must find common ground and solutions that can work for all while there still remains a world to save.

The delegates of this body are expected to be among the brightest available and will be called to answer many challenges in a variety of unique and effective ways. The validity of the very information being presented must be questioned alongside the decisions of how to solve the issues, and no stone must be left unturned to obtain a future that will be to the benefit of all, hopefully in a world of peace and understanding.

*This guide will present the primary concerns facing each Cabinet, Committee, and Board of Directors at the start of the conference, **December 7th, 2023**. Each body will be*

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[4] https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-62712301
[5] https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/monitoring
[6] https://climate.nasa.gov/evidence/?trk=public_post_comment-text
[7] https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1717312115

approaching the same issues and expected to make their own decisions in the face of an uncertain future.

United Nations General Assembly Plenary Committee Brief

The United Nations General Assembly, often abbreviated as the UNGA or GA, comprises all 193 member states of the United Nations. The UNGA is also host to a number of observer members, who may participate in debate and other United Nations activities, but do not enjoy the same privileges as member states, such as voting. The UNGA is primarily responsible for key decisions that involve the input of all U.N. member states, such as appointing the Secretaries-General, electing members to the United Nations Security Council, and approving the U.N. budget.

Debate proceeds primarily through set agenda items, which the body addresses via written resolutions. The General Assembly is composed of six Main Committees: Disarmament & International Security; Economic & Financial; Social, Humanitarian & Cultural; Special Political and Decolonization; Administrative & Budgetary; and Legal. When meeting in plenary, agenda items may be set to any topic within the UNGA's purview. This forum provides the opportunity for countries to meet on the world stage to exchange ideas, articulate their positions, and collaborate on strategies to address challenges across the globe.

Topic 1 - The Promotion of Beneficial A.I.

Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) has the potential for powerful change, whether good or bad. A.I. technology can be used to alleviate the burden of work for some professionals, find trends that the human eye cannot see, propagate misinformation, and stifle the U.N. development goals. There are many layers to A.I., and the leaders of the world are tasked with ensuring that the technology is harnessed for the benefit of their respective societies.

The idea of artificial intelligence stems from the creation of the computer itself. The field of Computer Science has been able to produce great accomplishments on its own, in the sense that computing tasks can happen instantaneously and powerfully with modern machinery. Despite these successes, one of the goals of modern computing has been to recreate human intelligence, a feat that turned out orders of magnitude more difficult than it may have seemed.[8] Through many technological and programmatic breakthroughs, A.I. has come to widespread fruition.
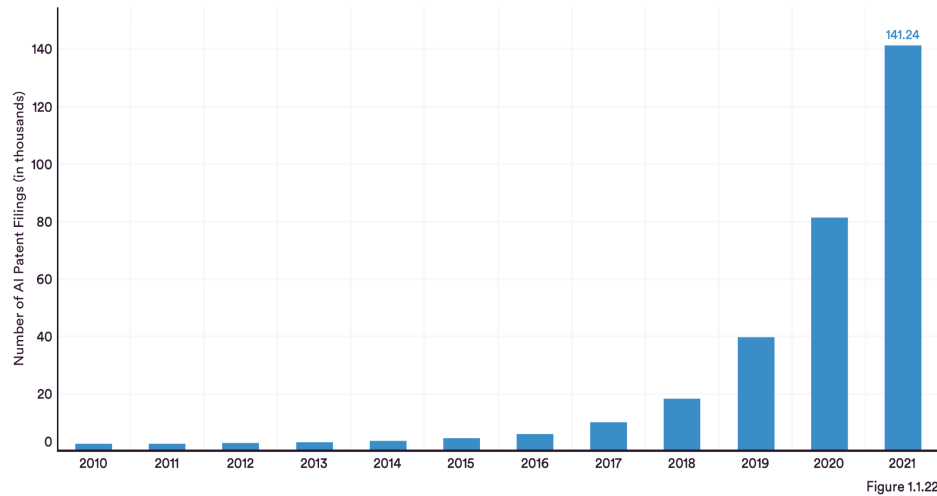
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[8] Davies, Donald W. 1999. "The bombe: A remarkable logic machine." *Cryptologia* 23 (2): 108–38.

Figure 1. Number of A.I. Patent Filings, U.S. Patent Office 2010-2021[9]

NUMBER of AI PATENT FILINGS, 2010–21
Source: Center for Security and Emerging Technology, 2021 | Chart: 2022 AI Index Report

Number of AI Patent Filings (in thousands)

141.24

Figure 1.1.22

Since the main facet of A.I. is the ability to mimic human intelligence, the implications of its use are endless. The professional job industry stands to be a large benefactor of A.I. use. Professions that do not require technical or specialized skills may benefit from an A.I. model being able to accelerate tasks or perform the task altogether. These tasks include, but are not limited to: writing automated emails, summarizing weather predictions, writing news articles quickly, and much more.[10] A.I. has the potential to revolutionize entire industries, and it is the responsibility of the U.N. to create guidelines for national and local governments to ensure positive changes in labor markets.[11]

The A.I. journey remains in its beginning stages, but one of the potential uses is pattern recognition. As Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has noted, the field of A.I. may not even be entirely aware of what it will be capable of accomplishing over the next few decades. One use for pattern recognition is being able to examine data relating to instances of violence. One of the hopes of such models is that A.I. will be able to detect types of violent occurrences and give researchers insights into conflicts that may be erupting or worsening before a human could.[12] As an added benefit, such a model would not require any 'security clearance,' and would allow researchers to analyze data without having as much classified information in front of them.

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[9] "The AI Index Report 2022" n.d. Aiindex.stanford.edu. https://aiindex.stanford.edu/ai-index-report-2022/.
[10] West, Darrell M. 2018. FUTURE of WORK : Robots, Ai, and Automation. S.L.: Brookings Inst.
[11] Guterres, Antonio. 2023. Presented at the U.N. First Debate on Artificial Intelligence, July 18. https://press.un.org/en/2023/sgsm21880.doc.htm.
[12] Terry, Fiona. 2023. "Harnessing the Power of Artificial Intelligence to Uncover Patterns of Violence." Humanitarian Law & Policy Blog. May 25, 2023.
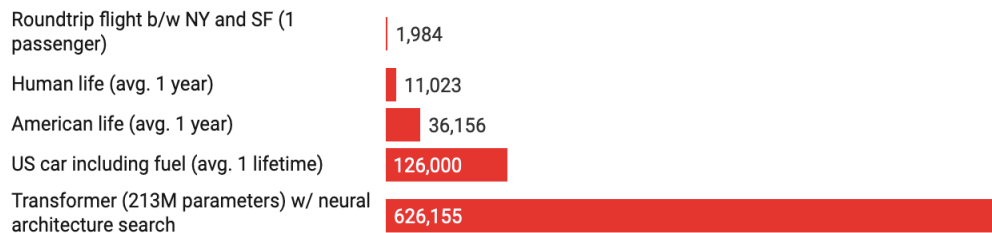
One of the challenges, as some predict, is that there exists the potential for A.I. to overtake certain jobs and force large sectors of some job markets to find other work.[13] A.I. has the power to change the workforce, but safeguards must be installed to ensure that economies do not falter. One or two national economic downturns in key states have the ability to trigger a global economic event.

Further, the field of A.I. aims to create models that mimic human intelligence and behavior, and in some situations, human decisions. There are many instances where A.I. models could replace human decision-makers, so it is imperative that any entity entrusting decisions to A.I. has some form of accountability in place. An important situation where this may arise is in large-scale social engineering with a specific goal in mind. During the 2016 U.S. presidential election, large social engineering farms in Russia were set up to spur misinformation and inauthentic popularity in the U.S. political realm. The 'farms' employed real humans to do this work for them, but with the A.I. models of the future, a similar operation could occur with far less human oversight and involvement.[14] The leaders of the world must strictly regulate these technologies before they are misused by potential bad actors. Legislation to curb harmful behavior has already emerged, with President Biden issuing an executive order following widespread use of deepfake technology.[15]

Common carbon footprint benchmarks

in lbs of CO2 equivalent

Roundtrip flight b/w NY and SF (1 passenger)	1,984
Human life (avg. 1 year)	11,023
American life (avg. 1 year)	36,156
US car including fuel (avg. 1 lifetime)	126,000
Transformer (213M parameters) w/ neural architecture search	626,155

Figure 2. A.I. Model Carbon Footprint Comparison[16]

As the global community shifts away from fossil fuels and other sources of energy detrimental to the environment, the field of A.I. must comply with the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).[9] Paramount to any technological endeavor is the responsibility that each nation has in collaborating for a liveable planet and flourishing global community. Several of the SDGs specifically call for environmentally sustainable policies, and the current

[13] West, Darrell M. 2018. FUTURE of WORK: Robots, AI, and Automation. S.L.: Brookings Inst.

[14] The New York Times. 2018. "To Stir Discord in 2016, Russians Turned Most Often to Facebook," February 17, 2018. https://www.nytimes.com/2018/02/17/technology/indictment-russian-tech-facebook.html.

[15] "Executive Order 14110 of October 30, 2023, Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence" Code of Federal Regulations, title 3 (2023): 75191-75226,

[16] Hao, Karen. 2019. Review of *Training a Single AI Model Can Emit as Much Carbon as Five Cars in Their Lifetimes*. MIT Technology Review, June 6, 2019. https://www.technologyreview.com/2019/06/06/239031/.

environmental impacts of A.I. are not in line with them.[17] Some machine learning models used in A.I. operate by mimicking human neural pathways, which are extremely complex and require a large amount of processing power and electricity. The leaders of the world must ensure that the energy used to power this technology is sustainable for the future.

Discussion Questions:
- What resources are necessary to support A.I. endeavors, and where are they currently distributed across the globe? Can those resources be bolstered, shared, or altered in their current distributions?
- How could A.I. be used harmfully, and what regulations and oversight would be necessary to prevent that?
- How can individual nations regulate their own corporations when it comes to the usage of A.I.?

Topic 2 - Combatting the Growing Climate Crisis

Climate change has been a long standing issue of the global community. As the world economies develop, climate change has only accelerated. The effects of climate change have become as visible as ever with an increase in tropical storms, droughts, forest fires, and the acceleration of rising sea levels. It is now believed that the only possible way to combat climate change is through a multifaceted approach of reduced emissions, carbon capture, carbon offset, and much more. Since the Industrial Revolution, humans have released over 1.5 trillion tonnes of carbon dioxide or CO_2 into earth's atmosphere. New innovation alongside global cooperation is the only believed solution by many analysts and companies fighting climate change.

First ongoing recordings of CO_2 accumulated in the atmosphere began in 1958 by Charles David Keeling on the islands of Mauna Loa in Hawaii. CO_2 and alongside other greenhouse gasses have been linked to climate change as far back as the 1930s with evidence only growing since. As far back as then, the climate crisis was stated as a potential problem with the issue only exacerbating with industrial revolutions. These CO_2 recordings became known as the Keeling Curve which displays the fall and rise of CO_2 on a daily basis. The Keeling curve exemplifies the rapid rise of CO_2 accumulated in the atmosphere in recent history. The rising rate of population, consumption, and development on a global scale is only accelerating making the issue more difficult to solve.

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[17] General Assembly resolution 67/97, Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, A/RES/70/1 (25 September 2015), available from undocs.org/en/A/RES/70/1

Figure 1. The Keeling Curve[18]
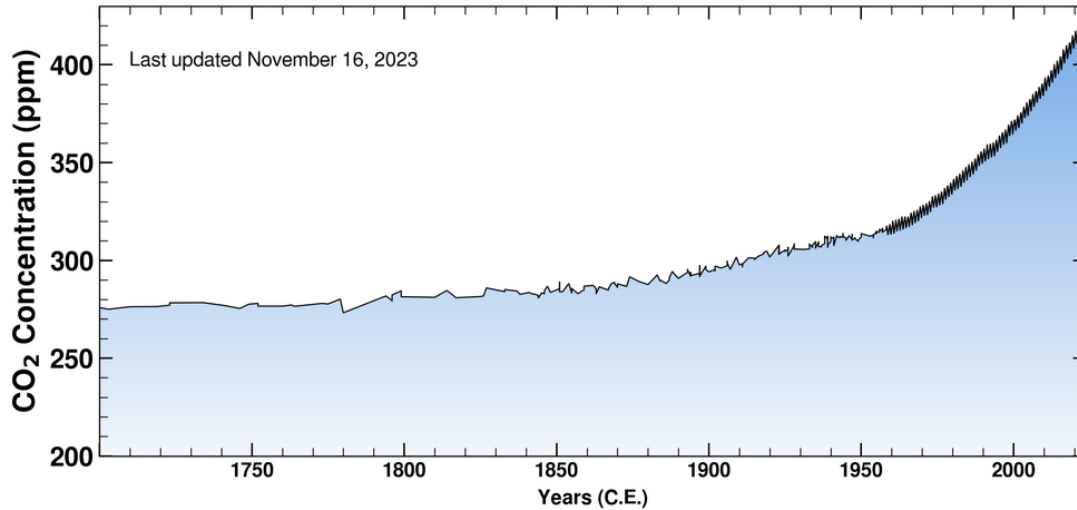
Source: Keeling Curve, 2023

The problem has exacerbated where simple solutions are no longer viable due to the severity of climate change and greenhouse gasses accumulated into the atmosphere. It is often suggested by a multitude of politicians and activists to simply plant more trees which many analysts believe is not enough anymore or even possible on a wide scale. The amount of trees needed to offset just a tenth of a celsius degree of climate change would be over a trillion trees which would require 900 hectares of land.[19] The available land to plant trees has been estimated to be only roughly that size. Many countries, organizations, and individuals have already committed billions of dollars to this cause. Jimmy Donaldson and Mark Rober, famous YouTubers, collaborated with the Arbor Day Foundation to accomplish one of these goals. Their lofty goal of raising 20 million dollars to plant 20 million trees was successfully reached by crowdfunding from 800,000 individual donors. This amount of trees would only cover 39 square miles.

The Paris Climate Accords were a conference held in 2015 to set the standards of the mean rise of climate change to under 2 degree Celsius, with goals to reduce emissions and set carbon emission limits. 195 nations of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) signed the agreement in 2016. This agreement became known as the Paris Climate Agreement. The only nations that did not ratify the agreement part of the UNFCCC were Iran, Libya, and Yemen. Notably, the United States withdrew from the agreement in 2020, but rejoined in 2021. By setting standards and having near unanimous ratification world wide, it created

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[18] https://keelingcurve.ucsd.edu/
[19] https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2023/08/02/trillion-trees-republicans-climate/

momentum in the environmental community to move forward while giving credence to the issue of climate. Individual countries would set in place its own plan to make strides and work within its own country to help meet the goals, giving countries flexibility to create their own solutions and goals due to the uniqueness of each country. The Paris Accords was praised by leaders, agreement and global acknowledgment of the issue on a truly universal scale had never been reached. The closest attempt previously in 1997, the Kyoto Protocol with 147 states ratifying, but with many notable emissions in the largest economies like the U.S. and Russia. However, analysts heavily criticized the Paris Agreement due to lax standards on both the degree of severity and strictness of the standards set. An analysis found only the singular country of Gambia has been able to create sufficient climate goals in line with the agreement in 2021, with no countries matching the goals as of 2023.[20] Many initial pledges from different countries have been seen as inadequate and/or unreached.

Figure 2. Listing of Paris Agreement Ratings[21]

The maps displayed are for reference only.   LAST UPDATE: *November 2023*

CRITICALLY INSUFFICIENT	HIGHLY INSUFFICIENT	INSUFFICIENT	ALMOST SUFFICIENT	1.5°C PARIS AGREEMENT COMPATIBLE
ARGENTINA	CANADA	AUSTRALIA	BHUTAN	
IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)	CHINA	BRAZIL	COSTA RICA	
MEXICO	EGYPT	CHILE	ETHIOPIA	
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	INDIA	COLOMBIA	KENYA	
SINGAPORE	INDONESIA	EU	MOROCCO	
THAILAND	NEW ZEALAND	GERMANY	NEPAL	
TÜRKIYE	SAUDI ARABIA	JAPAN	NIGERIA	
VIET NAM	SOUTH KOREA	KAZAKHSTAN	NORWAY	
		PERU	THE GAMBIA	
		PHILIPPINES		
		SOUTH AFRICA		
		SWITZERLAND		
		UAE		
		USA		
		UNITED KINGDOM		

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[20] https://earth.org/every-g20-country-is-failing-to-meet-paris-agreement-on-climate-change/
[21] https://climateactiontracker.org/countries/

Source: Climate Action Tracker, 2023

The problem becomes only more complicated when asking who shoulders the majority of the blame for climate change. Developed countries per capita produce the most carbon emissions and are accused of offsetting their emissions by sending their production into developing countries to carry the burden. Developed countries have profited greatly from unrestricted industrial growth which has allowed their economies and companies to flourish greatly. This comes with the unforeseen burden of decades of greenhouse gas building into the atmosphere regardless of its origin. Forcing developing and underdeveloped countries to now be restricted by similar conditions of limiting their carbon emission to those of already successfully developed states is argued as unfair as it will greatly limit their economic growth, especially as they were historically exploited by global enterprises by shipping construction overseas. For example, while the U.S. and E.U. are only responsible for 17 and 10 percent of current emissions on a yearly basis respectively, they are responsible for historic emissions of 25 and 22 percent respectively over the last few decades.[22]

As easy as it is to declare universal rules that all counties must follow, it is seen as unfair to restrict developing nations to the same restrictions as developed nations because the developed nations have reaped the rewards with none of the downside. To stifle their economic development would only further the inequality and power dynamic between the countries. As these developed nations can more easily transition into cleaner energies and consumption than developing nations, it can be seen as unfair to have them play by these rules. Many nations also skirt their own domestic environmental laws by shipping production for products to countries with laxer regulations, thus making the countries taking on this burden rapidly increase their own carbon emission even if they are receiving an economic benefit.[23]

Within recent years, many companies have declared neutral carbon plans. One in five companies amongst the top 2000 biggest publicly listed companies have committed to a net zero emission target. Net zero for these companies means they will produce no more emission than they can offset in some sort of way such as planting a tree or capturing the carbon. However very few companies have developed robust enough or even any plans to reach these targets. Many of them have begun claiming their carbon neutrality and carbon offsetting by purchasing large pieces of green land that is already developed and preserved, using this land as part of calculations to claim reduced emotions.[24] The lack of regulation and transparency allows companies to make these claims and continue their current rates of consumption and emission with some companies

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[22] https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2023/09/eu-greenhouse-gas-co2-emissions/
[23] https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/booksp_e/wtr22_e/wtr22_e.pdf
[24] https://ssir.org/articles/entry/the_false_promise_of_corporate_carbon_neutrality

overwhelmingly polluting more. At least 52% of approved carbon offsets were allocated for projects that would have already been offsetting carbon.[25] Without additionality, many of these companies are creating virtually no difference. An entire industry of carbon offsets has spawned from this but they are poorly overseen.

While everything seems bleak, there are glimmers of hope. New companies have created methods and technologies to capture carbon from the atmosphere to reduce the greenhouse effect. The ties of the correlation of carbon emission to economic development are slowly breaking with rapid developments and expansion in greener energy generation such as solar and wind as well as better and more efficient energy consumption. Investments for such reached 1.1 trillion dollars in 2022 an important milestone as it broke both the trillion dollar threshold as well as matching the money invested in non-clean energies.[26] Individually these methods are not enough as worldwide most energy still comes from coal, oil, and natural gas, the largest generators of greenhouse gasses. Large investments in a multitude of areas will be required that reduce consumption, create cleaner consumption, and reverse carbon emissions.

Key Terms
- Carbon Credit
- Carbon Offset
- Carbon Neutral
- Fossil fuel
- Paris Climate Agreement
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- Green Infrastructure

Discussion Questions
- What is the responsibility of the global community versus individual countries to tackle climate change?
- What is the role of the international community in stopping the lack of oversight of selling carbon offsets?
- How can the international community develop new technologies to combat climate change?

Topic 3 - Preventing Ideological Wars of Expansion

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[25] https://www.lse.ac.uk/granthaminstitute/publication/do-carbon-offsets-offset-carbon/

[26] https://time.com/6250469/clean-energy-investment-sets-1-1-trillion-record-matching-fossil-fuels-for-the-first-time/

Expansionism and imperialism have been recurring themes throughout history, particularly in the last few centuries as it relates to current international relations. These conflicts are often driven by political, ethnic, religious, or other ideological doctrines used to justify one nation's claim to contested territories.[27] Such conflicts often lead to the displacement of entire peoples, the destruction of natural and manmade resources, and the destabilization of regions. These have effects that the international community continues to feel to this very day.[28]

One especially salient example for this body to consider is the events and aftermath of World War II, which saw numerous conflicts underpinned by expansionist ideology, most notably in the European and Pacific theaters. The end of the war saw the inception of the United Nations as it exists today.[29] One of the key tenets of the founding of the United Nations was to protect national sovereignty, a point that has had to be reaffirmed decade after decade since the United Nations was founded.[30] World War II also gave way to the United Nations adopting many key ideals during its founding years, such as The Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Declaration, along with other documents adopted by the United Nations in the following years, served as both an answer to unresolved conflicts from the past as well as a path toward a more peaceful future.[31]

One outstanding issue regarding ideological wars of expansion is by what means the international community should respond to such conflicts and when it is appropriate to do so. A more recent doctrine adopted by the United Nations is the Responsibility to Protect, or R2P. This doctrine is built on three pillars: first, every state has the responsibility to protect its populations from genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and ethnic cleansing; second, the international community has the responsibility to assist individual states in meeting these responsibilities; and third, if a state fails to meet these responsibilities, the international community must take collective action to respond.[32] However, the success of such doctrines and of the United Nations is also a matter of debate.

The United Nations has often been criticized for its inaction or inability to respond to global conflicts. The structure of the Security Council could be part of the problem. Critics argue that the lack of unanimous approval or the veto of any of the permanent members of the Security Council has prevented the United Nations from responding to global conflicts.[33] One such

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[27] https://www.britannica.com/topic/imperialism
[28] https://academic.oup.com/book/28401/chapter-abstract/228797033?redirectedFrom=fulltext
[29] https://www.un.org/en/about-us/history-of-the-un
[30] https://press.un.org/en/2022/sgsm21188.doc.htm
[31] https://web.archive.org/web/20080626045117/http://www.amnestyusa.org/escr/files/escr_qa.pdf
[32] https://www.globalr2p.org/what-is-r2p/
[33] https://web.archive.org/web/20110726192910/http://unitednations.ispnw.org/archives/muller-ragnor-un-development-2-of-3--during-the-cold-war.pdf

example was when the United Nations failed to respond in a timely manner to prevent genocide in Rwanda and Bosnia. The aforementioned structure of the Security Council combined with the reactive nature of U.N. peacekeeping missions often lead to such shortcomings.[34]

However, U.N. Peacekeepers have also been successful in preventing mass atrocities in wars of expansion or similar conflicts. One more recent example is in South Sudan under the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan, where U.N. Peacekeepers worked to prevent ethnic violence during the South Sudanese Civil War.[35] This and other recent examples show both the impact the United Nations can have in quelling wars of expansion, as well as the outcomes of conflicts where such peacekeeping forces are not present. It is, therefore, the prerogative of this body to look for ways to combat ideological wars of expansion using tools such as promoting diplomacy, conflict mediation, utilizing sanctions and diplomatic pressure, promoting international cooperation, preventing conflicts, and strengthening international law, to name a few.

Discussion Questions:
- How can the U.N. promote and facilitate negotiations to avoid direct conflict without engaging itself within hostilities directly?
- When negotiations break down and conflict is inevitable, how can the U.N. minimize the conflict and prevent it from spreading to other areas?
- What factors lead a state to commit to attacking another, can those facts be addressed before the outbreak of hostilities, and can they be identified in advance of future conflict?
- How can the U.N. apply the lessons learned from previous instances of ideological conflict to prevent future outbreaks of armed conflict?

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[34] https://ace-usa.org/blog/research/research-foreignpolicy/failures-and-successes-of-the-un/
[35] https://unmiss.unmissions.org/