Is It Time To Either Abolish Or Reform The United Nations?

A Master Thesis

Submitted to the Faculty

of

American Public University

by

Charles Titus, MPA & MAT

In Partial Fulfillment of the

Requirements for the Degree

 of

Master of Arts

February 2017

American Public University

Charles Town, WV

The author hereby grants the American Public University System the right to display these contents for educational purposes.

The author assumes total responsibility for meeting the requirements set by United States copyright law for the inclusion of any materials that are not the author’s creation or in the public domain.

© Copyright 2017 by Charles Titus

All rights reserved.

DEDICATION

I dedicate this thesis to my loving daughters Raelynn and Harper. I love you both and am sorry that I spent so much time working on my many degrees. I leave you with one piece of advice for your future:

“All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them” (Walt Disney).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I wish to thank Dr. Angela Parham, my thesis professor. Her direction, guidance, and support during this process has been most appreciated. I also appreciate the advice on not being nervous in regards to presenting my thesis.

I wish to thank my family for their support in my journey of attending APUS. Thank you for pushing me to finish up this degree. Without your support I would have given up and none of this would have been possible.

ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

IS IT TIME TO EITHER REFORM OR ABOLISH THE UNITED NATIONS?

By: Charles Titus

American Public University System, 2016

Charles Town, West Virginia

Professor: Dr. Angela Parham, Thesis Advisor

The United Nations has been referred to as an organization that is keen on keeping security within the world. The goal of this research was to identify issues and flaws within the United Nations, and if the organization should be abolished or reformed. The research included examining every major branch of the United Nations to uncover flaws within the branch. The findings indicated four areas that the United Nations has major flaws in: the Security Council in how it operates, the Trusteeship Council sitting Idle, the amount of corruption that is in place, and the United Nations is not truly an independent organization free from large countries. This paper recommends reforming the United Nations within four of its branches to operate better which are reworking Trusteeship Council, changing the way that the International Court of Justice operates and making the court cases binding, increase the amount of countries on the Security Council, and implementing an open door policy within the entire organization.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

[LIST OF FIGURES 7](#_Toc472514512)

[INTRODUCTION 8](#_Toc472514513)

[**About this Research** 8](#_Toc472514514)

[Problem Description 8](#_Toc472514515)

[Purpose of the Research 9](#_Toc472514516)

[Hypothesis and Research Questions 10](#_Toc472514517)

[Intended Audience 11](#_Toc472514518)

[**Limitations to the Research** 12](#_Toc472514519)

[BACKGROUND 13](#_Toc472514520)

[**United Nations Operations Process** 13](#_Toc472514521)

[**History of the United Nations** 16](#_Toc472514522)

[**Different Branches of the United Nations** 16](#_Toc472514523)

[The United Nations Security Council 17](#_Toc472514524)

[The United Nations Secretariat 20](#_Toc472514525)

[The United Nations General Assembly 22](#_Toc472514526)

[The Economic and Social Council of the United Nations 24](#_Toc472514527)

[The Trusteeship Council of the United Nations 25](#_Toc472514528)

[The United Nations International Court of Justice 26](#_Toc472514529)

[LITERATURE REVIEW 29](#_Toc472514530)

[**League of Nations** 29](#_Toc472514531)

[**Concerns/Failures of the United Nations** 30](#_Toc472514532)

[**Success and Advantages of the United Nations** 32](#_Toc472514533)

[Methodology 38](#_Toc472514534)

[**Reasons for changing the United Nations** 38](#_Toc472514535)

[**Reasons to not make any changes to the United Nations** 39](#_Toc472514536)

[**Reasons to abolish United Nations** 39](#_Toc472514537)

[Corruption 39](#_Toc472514538)

[Bypassing the United Nations 40](#_Toc472514539)

[Not addressing security issues around world 40](#_Toc472514540)

[United Nations is not independent 41](#_Toc472514541)

[A portion of United Nations is doing nothing 41](#_Toc472514542)

[**Reasons to reform the United Nations** 42](#_Toc472514543)

[**Suggestions on how to reform the United Nations** 43](#_Toc472514544)

[Reform Security Council 43](#_Toc472514545)

[Reform Secretariat 45](#_Toc472514546)

[Reform Economic and Social Council 46](#_Toc472514547)

[Reform General Assembly 47](#_Toc472514548)

[Reform International Court of Justice 47](#_Toc472514549)

[Reform Trusteeship Council 49](#_Toc472514550)

[ANALYSIS 50](#_Toc472514551)

[Security Council has some major concerns 50](#_Toc472514552)

[Trusteeship Council is sitting idle 50](#_Toc472514553)

[Amount of Corruption 51](#_Toc472514554)

[United Nations is not truly Independent 51](#_Toc472514555)

[RECOMMENDATIONS 53](#_Toc472514556)

[Reworking the Trusteeship Council 53](#_Toc472514557)

[Changing the way the International Court of Justice operates 54](#_Toc472514558)

[The Security Council Reforms 55](#_Toc472514559)

[The Open Door Policy 56](#_Toc472514560)

[CONCLUSION 58](#_Toc472514561)

[Summary 58](#_Toc472514562)

[Future Research 59](#_Toc472514563)

[**References** 62](#_Toc472514564)

# LIST OF FIGURES

1. United Nations Principal Organs Diagram 17

2. United Nations Security Council Diagram 19

3. UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Field Support Chart................................................................................................................... 21

4. United Nations General Assembly Diagram 23

5. United Nations Economic and Social Council Diagram 25

6. United Nations International Court of Justice Diagram 27

# INTRODUCTION

The United Nations is a very large organization that has grown into what it is today since 1942. If the United Nations was reformed to make the International Court of Justice more powerful and the Security Council was changed, it could make it a better organization that can indeed help keep peace within the world. When considering the amount of areas the United Nations is involved in, it has been discussed that the organization is involved in to many things. The United Nations has grown from its creation to being involved in things such as maintaining peace, creating better living standards, dealing with human rights issues, and more. There have even been conflicts or wars that have been waged without the support or approval of the United Nations. Sometimes, this large organization has been subjected to the idea of reforming, abolishing, or limiting the organization in some form.

## **About this Research**

 This paper discusses improving or abolishing the United Nations. Within the past fifteen years, the United Nations has had countries go around it in order to carry out conflicts around the world. By diagnosing the problems with the United Nations size and make up, it is possible to prescribe options for making the organization more effective, thereby ensuring the future of international conflicts will be better dealt with by the organization as a whole.

### Problem Description

The United Nations has been around since the year 1945. Over those years it has been involved in many different things and its role as an organization has grown to include being involved in keeping world peace, humanitarian efforts, and other things. Over the past fifteen years there have been some things that have taken place which has called into question if the United Nations is still needed in today’s time. One issue involves the United States. In 2003, the United States did not include or involve the United Nations when it decided to invade Iraq and wage war. The reason why this is such a large issue is because one of the purposes of the United Nations is to try to keep world peace and ensure peace is being carried out within the world. If a country such as the United States can easily bypass the United Nations, then what is the purpose of having the United Nations in place?

This paper proposes that the problem in the United Nations is not with the conflicts or areas of work it is involved in, but rather with the size and rules that the United Nations has to follow and abide by. Rather than abolishing the United Nations and taking away this great organization, it would be more productive to reform the United Nations and design it in such a way that would better serve the international political scene as a whole.

### Purpose of the Research

This research takes place during a time when there is a good amount of conflicts taking place around the world. In the year 2003, the United States started to persuade the United Nations on the issue of war with Iraq. However, in this year Russia and other countries did not support the reasons why the United States wanted to go to war with Iraq. As a result, the United States did not include the United Nations in its plan when it decided to invade the country Iraq and wage war. There were many countries that were a part of the United Nations, such as Russia, that did not support the United States going to war with Iraq. Another example is when Russia annexed Crimea; it got other countries talking about the purpose of the United Nations.

As a result of some countries going around the United Nations to do things within international politics, some people around the world have begun to discuss ways to abolish or reform the United Nations to make it a better organization. The concern of the people in regards to the United Nations necessitates further examination of either abolishing or reforming the United Nations. The need to identify and correct flaws within the makeup of the United Nations is the purpose of this research. The goal is to discover what parts of the United Nations are not working and develop ways to make them work better. The goal is by making the suggested changes to the organization, the United Nations would be a better organization as a whole.

### Hypothesis and Research Questions

There is one research question that will be used as a point of departure in this research paper. The research question that will be used is what has been the relationship between the power of the United Nations and the frequency of conflict around the world? There is one hypothesis that will be tested in this research. The hypothesis that will be used is if the United Nations is reformed in regards to increasing the size of the organization, then the amount of armed conflicts would decrease.

### Intended Audience

Two groups will be able to gain benefit from this research. The first group are the people involved in international politics around the world. As the chosen politicians of their states and countries, they have the power to sponsor actions that could improve the United Nations. As the United Nations improves, there could be fewer conflicts, thereby creating two benefits for politicians and countries. First, politicians and countries can focus their efforts on issues taking place within their own borders rather than that of the entire world. Second, the less conflicts taking place around the world would reduce the budgets of countries that have to pay as a result of being involved in the one of the conflicts.

The second group to benefit from this research will be the civilians being effected by the actions that the United Nations takes. These are the people who live within the countries where the United Nations operates. This paper will explain to the civilians how the United Nations works now, and how it is broken. In the event that politicians and countries step up to reform the United Nations, the civilians would more likely accept the new makeup.

Ultimately, the goal in addressing the politicians, countries and the civilians is to help them work better together. By having these two groups work better together then it would improve the United Nations as a whole for the entire world. If the United Nations is improved upon then it could mean less conflict or security issues for countries around the world.

## **Limitations to the Research**

One of the greatest limitations of this research is how the United Nations will operate with a new President of the United States. Although the United Nations operates separately from the United States, it is still important to understand that the United States plays a very large role within the United Nations. Under a new President of the United States, it could change the way that the United States approaches the United Nations.

Another limitation to the research is that the United Nations is such a large organization and has many different operations around the world. The United Nations deals with peacekeeping, state formation, global health, climate change, sustainable development, human rights, and food production. In this research project, there was not much information looked at that involved climate change, sustainable development, human rights, and food production. The reason why this information was not looked at was due to the fact that there was not enough time to properly research, analyze, and make recommendations towards them.

Another limitation to the research is lack of information. Not every report was looked at in regards to every conflict the United Nations has been involved in. Not every report that was looked at provided much relevant information to the research at hand. Along with limited information being available there was one organ that did not have much on its operations. That organ was the Trusteeship Council. Since the Trusteeship Council operations ceased its operations in the year 1994 information was lacking on this topic. There was some information available on the current President of this organ of the United Nations. However, there was not much more information on this organ.

Another limitation to the research was the actions and operations that are were carried out within the United Nations Security Council in the month of December in the year 2016. There was recently a lot of information that came out about the United Nations Security Council in December of 2016 in regards to Israel and the veto power that the United States has as being a permanent member of the Security Council. The reason why this information was not analyzed was due to the fact that there was not enough time to properly analyze, research, and make recommendations based on the information that came out.

The last limitation to the research was there were two experts who were going to be used to get guidance and request information from about the United Nations. Both of these experts were not able to be used in the research. Both of the experts could not get approval from their employer to give opinions based upon the United Nations.

# BACKGROUND

In order to discover the aspects of the United Nations operations that are not functioning well and need to be fixed, one needs to study the organization itself. First, one needs to understand the history of the organization. After the history is looked at then there will be an outlining of each part of the United Nations operations and organization and what has to be done in order for the United Nations to function. This paper will present concerns and flaws facing the United Nations as case studies.

## **United Nations Operations Process**

The first step in understanding the United Nations and its operations is to understand what it is involved in. In order to have a clear understanding, it is important to know where the United Nations gets its power to operate. First, the United Nations gets its power to operate from its charter which was created and signed in 1945 when 50 of the 51 original member countries met in the United States in San Francisco. (United Nation, 2016, para. 3). The charter that the United Nations operates under states in Chapter 1: Purposes and Principles, Article 1 and Article 2 that it is:

Article 1:

The Purposes of the United Nations are:

1. To maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace;
2. To develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace;
3. To achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion; and
4. To be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends.

Article 2:

The Organization and its Members, in pursuit of the Purposes stated in Article 1, shall act in accordance with the following Principles.

1. The Organization is based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all its Members.
2. All Members, in order to ensure to all of them the rights and benefits resulting from membership, shall fulfill in good faith the obligations assumed by them in accordance with the present Charter.
3. All Members shall settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered.
4. All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations.
5. All Members shall give the United Nations every assistance in any action it takes in accordance with the present Charter, and shall refrain from giving assistance to any state against which the United Nations is taking preventive or enforcement action.
6. The Organization shall ensure that states which are not Members of the United Nations act in accordance with these Principles so far as may be necessary for the maintenance of international peace and security.
7. Nothing contained in the present Charter shall authorize the United Nations to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any state or shall require the Members to submit such matters to settlement under the present Charter; but this principle shall not prejudice the application of enforcement measures under Chapter Vll. (International Court of Justice, 2016, para. 4).

The charter of the United Nations is what gives the power to the organization to operate around the world. Without the charter being in place, the organization would not have the power to operate. As a result of the charter of the organization, it allows it to be able to take action on many different types of issues “such as peace and security, climate change, sustainable development, human rights, disarmament, terrorism, humanitarian and health emergencies, gender equality, governance, food production, and more” (United Nations, 2015, para. 2). In other words, the United Nations is involved in many different tasks around the world.

## **History of the United Nations**

The United Nations is an international organization that is in operation today. The United Nations has been in existence for over 70 years. The organization was created in the year 1945. The reason why the United Nations was created was as a result of the Second World War. The reason is because during this war that is “when representatives of 26 nations pledged their Governments to continue fighting together against the Axis Powers” (United Nations, 2014, para. 1). There was another organization in place that was similar to the United Nations. The organization was the League of Nations. However, it was not successful and did not have a lot of support from various countries.

## **Different Branches of the United Nations**

 This paper will examine some of the most important branches in the opinion of the author of this paper of the United Nations. Those branches that have been determined the most important are the Security Council, Secretariat, Trusteeship Council, General Assembly, Economic and Social Council, and the International Court of Justice. These branches are considered the main organs of the United Nations in how it operates. Each one of these branches has an important mission within the United Nations, and each one has ran into issues of how it works around the world within the past fifteen years. The entire makeup and design of the United Nations organization as a whole is listed within figure 1.

**United Nations Makeup:**



 Source: Muller, 2015.

Figure 1: This shows the makeup and 6 different organs of the United Nations.

### The United Nations Security Council

The Security Council within the United Nations is in charge of keeping and maintaining peace and security around the world. The Security Council is composed of fifteen Members, and each Member of the Council has one vote (United Nations Security Council, 2016, para. 1). Each country that is a member of the United Nations is obligated to follow the decisions that the Security Council makes. The functions and powers the Security Council has is given to it from the Charter of the United Nations which states that it is:

* to maintain international peace and security in accordance with the principles and purposes of the United Nations;
* to investigate any dispute or situation which might lead to international friction;
* to recommend methods of adjusting such disputes or the terms of settlement;
* to formulate plans for the establishment of a system to regulate armaments;
* to determine the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression and to recommend what action should be taken;
* to call on Members to apply economic sanctions and other measures not involving the use of force to prevent or stop aggression;
* to take military action against an aggressor;
* to recommend the admission of new Members;
* to exercise the trusteeship functions of the United Nations in "strategic areas";
* to recommend to the General Assembly the appointment of the Secretary-General and, together with the Assembly, to elect the Judges of the International Court of Justice (United Nations Security Council, 2016, para. 1).

The Security Council within the United Nations is the portion of the organization that is tasked with figuring out if there are threats to peace around the world or even acts that can be determined to be aggression. The Security Council will try to come to a peaceful resolution between the sides that are involved in the dispute. The Security Council has a few powers that it has at its disposal to try to help keep peace and security around the world. One of the powers that the Security Council can use is putting sanctions into place against a country that is seen as an aggressor. Another power the Security Council has is that it can authorize and allow force to be used to keep peace within the international scene. Figure 2 shows the Security Council and how it operates within the United Nations.

**United Nations Security Council Diagram:**

 

Source: Muller, 2015.

Figure 2: The makeup and responsibilities of the Security Council of the United Nations.

 The Security Council also has two other important jobs it has to maintain. The Security Council is also responsible for allowing new member countries to join the United Nations. This is a task that when a new country develops, the United Nations can either allow it to join or not allow it to join the organization. The Security Council also works with the General Assembly of the United Nations in order to elect “judges of the International Court of Justice” (United Nations Security Council, 2015, para. 3).

### The United Nations Secretariat

The Secretariat of the United Nations is made up of the “Secretary-General and tens of thousands of international UN staff members who carry out the day-to-day work of the UN as mandated by the General Assembly” (United Nations, n.d. para. 7). It is important to understand that the Secretary-General is the person that is the “chief administrative officer of the Organization” (United Nations, n.d., para. 7). The person that serves in the Secretary-General position is elected by the General Assembly with the advice of the Security Council. The person that is elected to the position serves for a five year term and can be renewed (United Nations, n.d., para. 7). The Secretariat portion of the United Nations has 17 different departments. Under each of these departments are different divisions within each of the departments.

Two of the divisions that will be looked at in this paper is the Department of Field Support and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. These two departments work closely together and fall under the Peacekeeping mission of the United Nations. These departments back in 2007, were actually part of the same department within the Secretariat. However, the United Nations Secretariat was reformed to make it better and be able to respond as an organization quicker. Figure 3 shows how the Department of Field Support and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations work together and are integrated with one another.

**United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Field Support Chart:**



Source: United Nations Peacekeeping, 2015

Figure 3: This shows how the Department of Field Support and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations work together within the Secretariat.

### The United Nations General Assembly

The General Assembly of the United Nations is made up of all 193 countries that are a members. The task of the General Assembly is to ace “as the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations” (General Assembly of the United Nations, 2016, para. 1). The General Assembly within the United Nations allows for discussion to take place between the 193 countries that make up the United Nations. Thus meaning that this is the only body within the United Nations that each country which is a member has a say in what is taking place with the United Nations. The General Assembly of the United Nations gets its power from the charter of the United Nations which state that it may:

* Consider and approve the United Nations budget and establish the financial assessments of Member States
* Elect the non-permanent members of the Security Council and the members of other United Nations councils and organs and, on the recommendation of the Security Council, appoint the Secretary-General
* Consider and make recommendations on the general principles of cooperation for maintaining international peace and security, including disarmament
* Discuss any question relating to international peace and security and, except where a dispute or situation is currently being discussed by the Security Council, make recommendations on it
* Discuss, with the same exception, and make recommendations on any questions within the scope of the Charter or affecting the powers and functions of any organ of the United Nations
* Initiate studies and make recommendations to promote international political cooperation; the development and codification of international law; the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms; and international collaboration in the economic, social, humanitarian, cultural, educational and health fields
* Make recommendations for the peaceful settlement of any situation that might impair friendly relations among countries
* Consider reports from the Security Council and other United Nations organs. (General Assembly of the United Nations, 2016, para. 5).

The General Assembly looks at issues which deal with peace, security, new members joining, and budgeting issues. Figure 4 shows what the basic characteristics of the General Assembly are.

**United Nations General Assembly Diagram:**



Source: Muller, 2015.

Figure 4: This shows how the General Assembly operates and the different committees that can be found within the General Assembly of the United Nations.

The General Assembly is also important do to the issues that it votes on and deals with. In order for something to be voted on in regards to issues such as peace, security, new members joining or budgeting issues and approved, it requires a two-thirds majority within the General Assembly. However, issues involving other things only has to be approved by a simple majority. The General Assembly also elects a President of this part of the organization who serves a one year term. One of the more important aspects of the General Assembly is that it can look at issues that threaten peace or aggression if the Security Council does not deal with an issue due to a bad vote by one of the permanent members of the Security Council. The 193 countries that make up the General Assembly when it comes time to vote on issues, has exactly one vote.

### The Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

The Economic and Social Council of the United Nations is involved in issues such as economic, social, educational, environmental issues, health, and other areas that are related (United Nations, 2015, para. 2). Figure 5 shows what the basic characteristics of the Economic and Social Council are. .

**United Nations Economic and Social Council Diagram:**



Source: Muller, 2015.

Figure 5: This shows how the Economic and Social Council is set up within the United Nations.

The work of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations is important. This organization according to article 55 is to deal with questions that have to do with a country that is poor (Muller, 2015). However, the power of this organization is restricted because it is subject to the view of the General Assembly.

### The Trusteeship Council of the United Nations

 The Trusteeship Council of the United Nations was put into place when the original charter of the United Nations was put into place in 1945. The purpose of this portion of the United Nations was “to promote the advancement of the inhabitants of Trust Territories and their progressive development towards self-government or independence” (Trusteeship Council, 2015, para. 2). This council was actually composed of the five permanent members of the Security Council which are France, China, Russia, Great Britain, and the United States. This portion of the United Nations actually “suspended its operations on 1 November 1994, a month after the independence of Palau, the last remaining United Nations territory” (Trusteeship Council, 2015, para. 1). Even though this part of the United Nations suspended its operations in 1994, the chapters that state this part of the United Nations exist which are chapters 12 and 13 have not been deleted. Thus meaning that this is still a portion of the United Nations and could be used in the future if needed.

### The United Nations International Court of Justice

Another portion of the United Nations is that of the International Court of Justice. The International Court of Justice is the judicial branch of the United Nations. It was created in 1945 when the Charter for the United Nations was put into place. However, it did not get fully implemented until April of 1946 (International Court of Justice, 2015, para. 1). The powers that are given to this court system are based upon chapter fourteen of the United Nations Charter. The International Court of Justice is located “at the Peace Palace in the Hague” which is located in the Netherlands (International Court of Justice, 2015, para. 2). Thus meaning this branch of the United Nations is the only one that is actually located outside of the United States, because the other branches are located in New York. Figure 6 shows the basic characteristics of the United Nations International court of Justice.

**United Nations International Court of Justice Diagram:**



Source: Muller, 2015.

Figure 6: This shows the International Court of Justice and how it operates within the United Nations.

There are two main roles of the United Nations Court system. The first role of the Court is to come in an agreement and settle disputes that are taking place between member countries. The second role is to give opinions on legal questions that are submitted to it by other divisions of the United Nations or agencies that work with the United Nations. The Court is made up of fifteen judges who are elected to the position for nine years. The elections of the judges are set up in a manner to stagger them. The way the Court is set up is that five judges are elected every three years in order to make sure that all of the judges are not replaced at once. The judges are chosen from different countries and no two judges are allowed to be of the same nationality. The reason why this is important to note is because the Court wants different legal systems to be represented. Thus meaning that the people who are appointed to the Court system are not from the same type of society or lifestyle. The bodies that elect the members to the court are the United Nations General Assembly and the United Nations Security Council. It is also important to note the official languages of this organization are both French and English (Muller, 2015).

The United Nations International Court of Justice operates differently than that of a court system within the United States or other countries. The reason is because only countries that are members of the United Nations can go before the International Court of Justice. In other words, civilians can’t go before the court to have a court case heard in this court of law. Another major difference between this court system and that of a country such as the United States is that each country has “to subjugate themselves to jurisdiction of” the court (Muller, 2015, para. 6). This means that if there is a dispute between two member countries of the United Nations, both countries have to agree to go before the court. If either side does not agree, then the court will not get involved.

# LITERATURE REVIEW

The United Nations was established in 1945 and has operated since that time looking at issues that range from security within the world to world heath. It is up to the citizens of each country to understand how the United Nations operates and its purpose. Examining the United Nations to see if it should be abolished, reformed, or kept the same requires one to look at a few areas. These areas include the organization that was in place before the United Nations, concerns and failures of the United Nations, and the success and advantages of the United Nations.

## **League of Nations**

A major factor in how the United Nations was created was based upon an organization in place with a similar mission. The organization that was in place before the creation of the United Nations was the League of Nations. Henig (2010) pointed out that the League of Nations was an intergovernmental organization that was created in 1920 due to the Peace Conference that brought an end to World War I. The main purpose behind the League of Nations was to maintain and ensure there was peace within the entire world. Henig (2010) noted the League of Nations was created in order to keep wars from taking place by having collective security and also settling any disputes between countries through negotiating and arbitration (p. 3). Although the League of Nations was created in 1920, it was not that successful in keeping peace. During the existence of the League of Nations the Second World War started. The League of Nations last meeting was in 1946 and the intergovernmental organization was officially dissolved in the year of 1947 (Henig, 2010, p. 218-219).

## **Concerns/Failures of the United Nations**

 When looking at the United Nations there are some people that have come out to say there are some concerns with the organization. These concerns are ones that could be considered failures of the United Nations. Greenfield (2011) noted that one of the failures of the United Nations is that it obstructs countries such as the United States from defending themselves within the free world (location 67). Thus meaning the United Nations hinders countries from acting freely.

Another major concern of the United Nation is that it really is not an independent organization. Allen & Yuen (2014) pointed out that the United Nations should be abolished because the organization is not able to achieve independence or freedom from very powerful countries such as the United States and Russia (p. 630). The United Nations is an organization that can be easily persuaded by a permanent member of the Security Council such as the United States or Russia. If one of the members of the Security Council does not agree with something that comes before the Security Council then one of the five permanent members can easily veto the issue and it would not pass.

Another concern that has been brought forth has to deal with women’s rights. The concern is in regards to abolishing the United Nations because it “distorts women’s rights to promote violence against women” (Greenfield, 2011, location 245). Throughout history of the United Nations there have been things that have been done that the United Nations has not stepped in to address in regards to women’s rights.

One reason why some people have concerns about the United Nations deals with the fact that the United Nations has not done a good job in regards to security. The United Nations has not been successful in regards to keeping peace from war and Genocide. Greenfield (2011) noted that a little over “thirty years ago, the Khmer Rouge Communist Party carried out one of the bloodiest reigns of terror…causing the deaths of millions” (location 180). Greenfield (2011) went on to point out that during the “Cambodian Genocide, the UN Security Council did not issue a single resolution on it” (Location 181-182). The United Nations sat back and did not get involved in time to keep innocent people from dying during the attack.

Another argument that has been waged that some claim is a concern of the United Nations is that another organization, League of Nations, which was set up to keep world peace, was a failure (Henig, 2010, p. 208). The League of Nations was created as a result of World War 1. The League of Nations’ purpose was to try and keep peace within the world. However, it was not successful in keeping peace, because World War II took place while the League of Nations was in existence (Henig, 2010, p. 207). In other words, the thought process is that since there was already one failure of an organization similar to the United Nation, then it means the United Nations is set up for doom as well.

One concern that has been brought forth about the United Nations is that it is actually a corrupt organization. Greenfield (2011) pointed out that the United Nations has been involved in some issues that were not appropriate. In a peacekeeping mission that the United Nations was involved in within Congo, there were 150 allegations made against UN Peacekeepers of “sexual abuse by UN personnel” (Greenfield, 2011, location 419). There were other reports of sexual abuse by UN Peacekeepers in Haiti, Liberia, Sudan, and Burundi (Greenfield, 2011, location 423). Other examples of corruption within the United Nations have included financial issues, such as kickback schemes that have been carried out. There are even some people who used to work for the United Nations that are wanted for financial corruption crimes committed with money that belonged to the United Nations (Greenfield, 2011, location 431). Blanchfield (2015) pointed out that the United Nations also does not have a system in place for workers of the organization or other stakeholders to make known about any sort of corrupt behavior that might be taking place.

When looking at concerns of the United Nations one that has been pointed out is that countries can easily bypass the United Nations to get things done in regards to international relations. Thompson (2012) pointed out that the United States did not have the permission of the United Nations when it invaded the country of Iraq in the year 2003. Thus meaning that countries can indeed bypass the United Nations on issues around the world that involve war and peace.

## **Success and Advantages of the United Nations**

When looking at the United Nations there are people who have pointed out the success and the advantages of the United Nations. In order for the United Nations to be successful, it is “dependent upon a steady commitment to supplying resources and the ability to properly assess and appropriately respond to specific realities within the context of a peacekeeping operation” (Pushkina & Maier, 2012, p. 324).

When looking at success of the United Nations one area that is important to look at is some of its peacekeeping efforts around the world. A good example of a successful peacekeeping operation was East Timor. Harmer & Frith (2009) pointed out that the United Nations was able to keep peace when the people in East Timor voted to form their own nation (241). Another successful peacekeeping operation involving the United Nations was in Cyprus. Dorn (2014) noted that the peacekeeping force based in Cyprus is actually the oldest force that is still in operation for the United Nations (p. 184). Keeping the peace in Cyprus, shows a success for the United Nations. Dorn (2014) went on to point out that when the United Nations is involved in peacekeeping then it has been successful within the world (185).

Another success the United Nations had was in regards to State Formation. The United Nations has helped many places become countries over the years. Harmer & Frith (2009) pointed out that State Formation is when a portion of a country or area in the world wants to create their own country (p. 240). Some of the countries the United Nations has helped form have been both South Sudan and East Timor. Harmer & Frith (2009) went on to note that in East Timor, the people within this newly formed country actually voted for their independence and the United Nations helped them get their independence from Indonesia (p. 242). The United Nations in the year 2011, helped South Sudan become a new nation (Harengel & Gbadamosi, 2014, p. 35).

A major advantage of the United Nations is that it helps keep peace in many countries around the world. After the United Nations helped South Sudan become a free nation in 2011, the organization has kept troops from the UN in the country to help keep the peace (Harengel & Gbadamosi, 2014, p. 36). The United Nations is still involved with many peacekeeping operations today. The Peace and Security Department (2016) pointed out that the United Nations is currently involved in sixteen peacekeeping operations today (p. 1). Throughout the history of the United Nations, it has been involved in seventy-one operations to maintain peace throughout the world (Peace and Security Department, 2016, p. 1).

The United Nations has been successful in running fair elections around the world (Daws, 1999, p. 12). Green (2006) pointed out that the United Nations has helped countries such as Haiti hold fair elections and make sure there was not anything being done to intimidate people in voting a certain way during an election. Other examples of the United Nations helping hold fair elections include the countries of Iraq, Afghanistan, Cambodia, and many more (Greene, 2006). The role that the United Nations plays in helping run fair elections is considered a success for the organization, because it keeps the election process peaceful and fair (Greene, 2006).

Another success of the United Nations is in regards to Global Health Issues. Echebiri (2015) noted that through the United Nations World Health Organization and UNAIDS it has been able to bring awareness and raise funds for different health issues (p. 76). Through the help of the United Nations there has been a decrease of the amount of deaths that have been caused by Aids (Echebiri, 2015, p. 76). The efforts the United Nations carry out can range from funding ways to research public health issues, educating the general public, and helping governments fund ways to eliminate the health issue that is being addressed (Echebiri, 2015, p. 78). This is considered a success because of the amount of awareness it has brought to many different issues over the years.

 The United Nations has been successful in bringing issues to light over the years. The United Nations has been successful in bringing up topics such children who are used as soldiers (The United Nations Children’s Fund, 2003, p. 36). Humphreys (2009) pointed out that children in some parts of the world “are recruited to act as fighters, porters, cooks, messengers, spies and sex slaves (p. 330). With the United Nations help, this information has gotten out and now today 126 countries have signed a treaty stating they would not use children in conflict around the world (Humphreys, 2009, p. 330). Another issue the United Nations was able to bring up and to try to start addressing was landmines and the people who have been affected by the mines (Kjellman, Harpviken, Millard, & Strand, 2003, p. 856). In other words, the United Nations has been successful in bringing awareness to issues that might have been overlooked or went unnoticed had an organization such as the United Nations not got involved.

 The United Nations has been successful in regards to food supply and giving food aid within the world. The United Nations feeds over a hundred million people each year in over eighty countries (Sheeran, 2010, p. 3). The people who are fed by the United Nations are those within war zones, a health emergency, a natural disaster, and even poor countries (Sheeran, 2010, p. 2). The United Nation’s World Food Program stepped up after the earthquake hit Haiti and affected the country by destroying many buildings. The United Nations supplied food and other items to the people within Haiti in order to make sure they were fed and taken care of (Sheeran, 2010, p. 3). The United Nations has also stepped up to help out after other natural disasters or wars to make sure people were taken care of and fed in their countries. Thus meaning that the organization is making sure people are not going hungry and starving.

 A major success of the United Nations is the portion of the organization that is called the Trusteeship Council. The responsibilities of the Trusteeship was to allow territories to work towards being able to become a country that could be independent and self-govern (Mohamed, 2005, p. 810). The Trusteeship portion of the United Nations completed its mission that all of the territories it had been helping to become a country and could govern itself did indeed achieve that goal. This part of the United Nations suspended their operations in the year 1994, due to the fact that all of the territories it had overseen had become independent (Mohamed, 2005, p. 811). This is considered a success because the United Nations set up this portion with a goal in mind. It was able to achieve the mission it set out with, and since it achieved this it is indeed a success of the United Nations.

 Another success of the United Nations has to deal with two departments within the United Nations. These two departments are located within the Secretariat. Within the Secretariat portion of the United Nations is the Peacekeeping Department. The mission of the Peacekeeping Department is to try and keep peace within the world. The Peacekeeping operation within the United Nations realized it could better operate if it was able to split this portion into two departments (Browne, 2011, p. 26). Browne (2011) pointed out that the United Nations requested to reform the Peacekeeping department into two departments with them being the “Department of Peace Operations and the Department of Field Support” (Browne, 2011, p. 27). By pointing out that the organization could operate better if it was split up shows that the United Nations knows what it has to do in order to properly meet the needs of the stakeholders and the countries that they serve (Browne, 2011, p. 29). Browne (2011) noted that this reform was proposed in order to better suit the needs of the United Nations mission as a whole. The United Nations did indeed follow through with reforming this portion of the United Nations (United Nations, n.d. para. 7).

# Methodology

The research method that will be used will be based upon the foundation that is created by the literature review. The literature review will be used as the groundwork of the data to be collected for the paper. This paper will identify and address issues with the current makeup of the United Nations and will then explore alternative approaches that can be used to operate the United Nations. After the gathering of these findings, this research paper will then recommend if the United Nations needs to be abolished or if a new makeup of the United Nations is warranted.

The methods used in the collection of the information gathered will be qualitative approaches to research. The historical research will be used in order to look at the current makeup of the United Nations, and find out issues that are caused with the current makeup. The last method that will be used is that the United Nations makeup will be compared and contrasted to that of other international organizations.

## **Reasons for changing the United Nations**

Each of the concerns and successes studied had a unique prospective on the United Nations. The common denominator of the concerns and failures mentioned, pointed to the thought that the United Nations needed to be abolished because the organization was not doing the best possible. The successes that were viewed showed that the United Nations was doing things around the world which benefited the world. Thus bringing up the prospect of changing the United Nations in some way.

## **Reasons to not make any changes to the United Nations**

When looking at possibly changing the United Nations or abolishing the United Nations, one needs to look at if changes should be made at all. The United Nations has been in operation since the year 1945 and has been able to address and bring attention to many issues around the world such as landmines and Aids. Thus meaning that the organization must be doing something right and that no changes should be made to the United Nations.

## **Reasons to abolish United Nations**

The main theme of the concerns of the United Nations is that there is a need for a dramatic change within the United Nations. The change is to completely abolish the United Nations due to the concerns the United Nations has been faced with throughout its history. When looking at the research in the literature review, there were many failures of the United Nations.

### Corruption

One of the major issues of the United Nations was the amount of corruption that has taken place over the years. Greenfield (2011) noted that the United Nations was involved in a few different corruption issues, such as the 150 claims of sexual abuse by UN personnel or the financial kickback schemes that have been carried out within the organization. The argument that has been made is that these actions have hurt the trust by the public of the United Nations and as a result the organization needs to be abolished (Greenfield, 2011).

### Bypassing the United Nations

Another argument that is pointed at as a reason to abolish the United Nations is that countries can easily skip the United Nations in order to do things in reference to international relations. A country such as the United States can easily bypass the United Nations if they want to go to war. This took place when the United States went to war in Iraq without the consent of the United Nations in 2003 (Thompson, 2012). Thus meaning that countries can indeed side step the United Nations on issues that involve international relations and deal with both war and peace. If a country can bypass a large organization such as the United Nations then some argue that the United Nations is not needed.

### Not addressing security issues around world

Throughout the history of the United Nations there have been times where the organization has done a poor job in keeping peace within the world. As a result of the United Nations not being successful in regards to keeping peace from war and genocide, it has made some call for the organization to be abolished. Greenfield (2011) pointed out that the United Nations has on occasion, failed to act when there were issues taking place throughout the world (location 181). The United Nations failed to act when the Khmer Rouge Communist Party carried out the deaths of millions of people (Greenfield, 2011, location 182). Greenfield (2011) argued that since the United Nations just sat back and did nothing in this case, then there is no purpose for having the United Nations. The reason is because the United Nations did not get involved in a case where people were being killed by a government for no reason.

### United Nations is not independent

One of the reasons that people have called for the United Nations to be abolished is that some feel the organization is not an independent organization. The thought process is that the United Nations acts in a manner which is in the best interest of large and influential countries such as the United States and Russia (Allen & Yuen, 2014, p. 630). Allen & Yuen (2014) pointed out a way to prove that the United Nations is not an independent organization is by looking at the Security Council and the veto power the permanent members have. A permanent member can use the veto power to keep the United Nations from taking a certain action or putting some sort of sanction in place.

### A portion of United Nations is doing nothing

One of the reasons to abolish the United Nations or a portion of the United Nations is due to the fact that a division of the organization is sitting idle and not doing anything (Greenfield, 2011). This division is the Trusteeship Council. The Trusteeship Council has not been in full operation since the end of 1994 (Parker, 2003). It suspended its operations after all of the territories it had control of, gained their independence. The United Nations still elects a President and Vice President to this division of the organization. These are paid positions, and there is not a purpose for the people to serve over this portion of the United Nations (Greenfield, 2011). Thus meaning that this part of the United Nations has no purpose. One can argue that the United Nations is wasting resources and money by keeping this portion of the United Nations still around and not using these resources on something else. Greenfield (2011) pointed out that an organization should not have a portion of its organization just sitting around doing nothing, and it should be abolished as a result.

## **Reasons to reform the United Nations**

When looking at the makeup of the United Nations it is important to look at the reasons why the United Nations needs to be reformed. First, reforming the United Nations would mean that an organization which has 193 member countries would not go away. It would also mean that reforming the organization would allow the organization to become stronger and be able to better respond to issues around the world. By reforming the United Nations then it could mean that the United Nations is able to resolve any of the many issues that it is currently trying to address.

One of the main reasons to consider reforming the United Nations is due to the fact that throughout the history of the United Nations, the organization itself has even called for it to be reformed. Within the past ten years, the United Nations pointed out that it would be better at peacekeeping if it would be allowed to reform within their peacekeeping department (Browne, 2011, p. 27). The proposal the United Nations called for in regards to reforming was that it would be able to be better at Peacekeeping if the United nations was able to split into two departments within one being the “Department of Peace Operations and the Department of Field Support” (Browne, 2011, p. 27). This reform the United Nations called for was indeed allowed and it has made the organization better in regards to its operation.

## **Suggestions on how to reform the United Nations**

There are many ways to possibly reform the United Nations. Some of the ways to reform the United Nations include the Security Council, Trusteeship Council, and International Court of Justice.

### Reform Security Council

One of the most suggested ways to reform the United Nations involves the Security Council. Taylor & Curtis (2008) suggested that the Security Council needs to be reformed due to the fact that it does not reflect the true military and economic power that can be seen around the world (p. 317). There are a few possible ways to reform the Security Council.

One of the ways to reform the Security Council involves the veto power. Currently one of the five permanent members of the Security Council can veto anything they do not agree with that comes before this portion of the organization. There are two suggestions that have been made in regards to the veto power of the permanent members. The first suggestion is that there should not be a veto power allowed for any member of the United Nations Security Council (Hiatt, 2014, para. 1). The second suggestion that has been made about the veto power was made in a speech by French President Francois Hollande to the United Nations General Assembly in which he “called on the five [permanent] powers to agree on a set of scenarios in which the veto should not be used, notably when resolutions address mass atrocities” (Hiatt, 2014, para. 9). This suggestion is one in which the five permanent powers would get together and agree upon a set of rules of when they could not use the veto power they have on the Security Council.

Another suggestion for a way to reform the Security Council is by increasing the number of seats that sit on the Security Council. There are three plans that have been called on that have been pushed within the United Nations from time to time. The first plan on adding members to the Security Council is known as the G4 plan. The G4 plan calls for the Security Council to increase from 15 total members to 25 total members (Nadin, 2014, para. 2). The G4 plan calls for “six new permanent members” which would be “Brazil, Japan, Germany, India and two African countries” and the other seats to be elected seats of the Security Council (Nadin, 2014, para. 2). Another plan that has been called for is known as the United for Consensus plan (Nadin, 2014, para. 2). This plan calls for a “25-member Council, which would be achieved by adding no permanent members to the Council, but would rather create new permanent seats in each region, leaving it to the members of each regional group to decide which Member States should sit in those eats, and for how long” (Nadin, 2014, para. 2). The third plan is known as the Ezulwini Consensus (Nadin, 2014, para. 2). This plan is one that is being pushed by the African countries. The reason is because this plan “proposes two permanent seats and two additional elected seats for Africa” (Nadin, 2014, para. 2). This proposal also calls for the new permanent members of the Security Council to be given all of the same “prerogatives and privileges of permanent membership including the right to veto” (Nadin, 2014, para. 2). The reason why many countries have come out in support of an expanded Security Council is due to the fact that they feel like the current make does not accurately reflect the new power realities that are seen in the 21st Century (Nadin, 2014, para. 5).

Another way that has been suggested as a reform for the Security Council is in regards to the understanding of international security. Butler (2012) pointed out that right now the Security Council has been looking at issues such as “climate change, global health problems, mass movements of people, arms trade, and criminalities” (p. 35). However, this at times means that the Security Council has been looking at issues that “are not simply derivative of or able to be cured by the application of great military power” (Butler, 2012, p. 35). In other words, this view is one that feels that the Security Council needs to be reformed in a manner so that this portion of the United Nations is much narrower and can look at more issues which deal with conflict and war around the world.

### Reform Secretariat

 Some other suggestions on how to reform the United Nations involve the Secretariat. There have been two main reforms that have been suggested to the Secretariat. The first involves a reform to a division within the Secretariat and the Second involves how the Secretary-General is elected.

One of the reforms that has been suggested involves the amount of corruption taken place within the United Nations. The reform that has been suggested involves the Office of Internal Oversight Services. This is the portion of the United Nations that acts as the Human Resources Department. Blanchfield (2015) pointed out that the Office of Internal Oversight Services is in charge of “internal auditing, investigation, inspection, program monitoring, evaluation and consulting services to all U.N. activities under the Secretary-General’s authority (p. 12). Parish (2016) pointed out that the United Nations needs to reform in order to “have a system in which all stakeholders may raise concerns: not just UN staff, the Chief Executive Board, and the Senior Management Group, but also civil society” (para. 7). By having this in place it would allow people that work within the United Nations and all stakeholders to be able to raise concerns without fear that they will be retaliated against (Parish, 2016, para. 7). Blanchfield (2015) noted that the way it can be improving accountability and allowing people to raise concerns is within the Office of Internal Oversight Services (p. 8). In other words, this reform would mean that the Office of Internal Oversight Services would be the one in charge of allowing people to voice concern and then this department would investigate and resolve the issue at hand.

The other reform that has been proposed is in regards to the Secretariat is in regards to the Secretary-General position. The reform that has been put forth is that there should be a one term limit on the office of Secretary-General within the Secretariat (Parish, 2016). The reason why this is being proposed is there is the fear that the Secretary-General is more concerned about being reelected to the position in the last few years of office that they are not carrying out their duties correctly within the Secretariat (Parish, 2016). By putting in place a one term limit on the Secretary-General it would ensure that the person in this position is concerned with acting the best possible and making sure that the Secretariat is doing what it is supposed to be doing within the United Nations (Parish, 2016).

### Reform Economic and Social Council

A reform that has been called upon within the United Nations is on the Economic and Social Council. There has only been one major reform that has been called for this portion of the United Nations. The reform that has been called on within this division is for the organization to become more of a steering ground for global economic issues (Martens, 2006, para. 1). By doing this it would allow this division to have more power and make recommendations to the full general assembly on issues involving the global economic issues.

### Reform General Assembly

When looking at reforms of the United Nations it is important to look at the general assembly as well. The General Assembly is the portion of the United Nations that every country who is a member of the organization is a part of this division of the United Nations. There has not been much of a call to reform this portion of the United Nations. The only one that has been suggested is the General Assembly not be over the Economic and Social Council (Martens, 2006, para. 3). If this reform was put into place then it would allow the Economic and Social Council to act as more than just a division that makes recommendations to the General Assembly (Martens, 2006, para. 3). If these two divisions of the United Nations were split then it would allow both to concentrate more on their individual goals that are set forth by the United Nations (Martens, 2006, para. 3).

### Reform International Court of Justice

The International Court of Justice is another portion of the United Nations that has had calls for it to be reformed. There have been four proposed reforms for this division of the United Nations.

The first reform that has been proposed is the way the court system gets to hear a case. Currently the way that the International Court of Justice hears a case is when two member countries of the United Nations agree have their case heard before the court (Mueller, 2015, para. 6). If there is a conflict between two countries and either country does not want to participate, then they do not have to agree to be subjugated to the jurisdiction of the court (Muller, 2015, para. 6). The reform that has been called for is that this current make up needs to be changed and that the countries do not have to agree to go before the court (Khemka, 2016, para. 6). Under this reform it would mean that any member country of the United Nations would be subject to the jurisdiction of the court.

A second reform that has been proposed is the way judges are elected to the Court. The way judges are elected or re-elected to the court is more political than it is based upon the qualifications that the people have (Hirsch, 2010, para. 2). Hirsch (2010) found that there have been unqualified judges appointed to the court and “in some cases with no expertise on international law and in one case no legal qualification” (para. 2). The reform that has been proposed is that the judges would have to have qualifications to be able to serve on the court system (Khemka, 2016, para. 6).

A third reform brought forth for the court system is that the decisions the court comes up with would be binding and not subject to any other divisions of the United Nations (Khemka, 2016, para. 6). Currently the Court can make a decision and then it goes before the Security Council. As a result of this, a country can use their veto power on the Security Council to not have to follow the direction of the court. This has taken place when the Court ruled in favor of Nicaragua vs United States (Khemka, 2016, para. 6). The Court ruled in favor of “Nicaragua and ordered [the] US to pay reparations to Nicaragua which the US repudiated and prevented any recourse through the Security Council using its veto power” (Khemka, 2016, para. 6).

The fourth reform that has been suggested is for the United Nations to extend the jurisdiction it has within the international realm of the world. The proposal is that the court’s jurisdiction would grow to include non-governmental organizations and international organizations (Khemka, 2016, para. 6). This reform would mean that an organization that operates in more than one country could possibly fall under the jurisdiction of this court.

### Reform Trusteeship Council

The last division of the United Nations that needs to be looked at is the Trusteeship Council. Even though the Trusteeship Council suspended its operations at the end of 1994 it is still in existence and has never been abolished from the United Nations. As a result, there have been two ideas that have been floated for this portion of the United Nations. First, the Trusteeship Council should be abolished completely from the United Nations (Parker, 2003). Second, a reform that has been proposed is that the Trusteeship Council should get a new mission, and the mission that has been proposed is that it should administer failed countries within the world (Parker, 2003). While overseeing the failed states it would help prepare the country to eventually self-govern itself in the future (Parker, 2003).

# ANALYSIS

The research revealed that there are many issues both positive and negative that affect the United Nations. There are four issues that are going to be looked at that really are affecting the operation of the United Nations. First, the Security Council has some major concerns that are affecting it. Second, the Trusteeship Council is sitting idle and not doing anything in today’s time. Third, the amount of corruption that is in place needs to be addressed within the United Nations. Fourth, the United Nations is not truly independent of larger countries.

### Security Council has some major concerns

As the Security Council operates each year it affects a few things within the organization smoothly. This has led to questions about whether or not the Security Council should be reformed.

The literature review raised the idea of how the Security Council has led to some concerns for the United Nations. The first concern was that the Security Council actually causes some countries to bypass the United Nations in how they act within the world. The concerns affect the way that the Security Council operates each year. The prospect that the Security Council should be abolished or reformed has become the question at hand. The United Nations organization could benefit if here were changes made to the Security Council in some way.

### Trusteeship Council is sitting idle

The United Nations is a very large organization and includes a division called the Trusteeship Council. The literature review indicated that the Trusteeship Council suspended its operations at the end of 1994 and has not had a true purpose since that time. The literature review pointed out that this organization still has a President and Vice President that are getting paid. Thus meaning that having a portion of the United Nations just sitting around idle and not doing anything is a waste of resources. By having an idle organization, it can take away money from the overall budget.

### Amount of Corruption

Although the United Nations claims to support having a fair and honest organization in place for the world is a great claim. The ideal United Nations would be one that does not have any corruption taking place within the organization. In the literature review it pointed out the amount of corruption that was taking place within the United Nations.

If there was corruption taking place then the workers or any of the stakeholders involved would be able to make a claim of the corruption without fear of retaliation. However, the evidence points to the fact that there is a good bit of corruption within the United Nations. When there is a lot of corruption within an organization it becomes a detriment to the overall mission of the organization.

### United Nations is not truly Independent

The United Nations is an intergovernmental organization that is supposed to help keep peace for all member countries. The literature review pointed out that the United Nations is not truly an independent organization, and that it acts at the discretion of a large or powerful state. The veto power that the permanent members have on the Security Council allows these members to ensure that nothing within the United Nations will be done that could hurt the country. A permanent member of the Security Council can easily keep a sanction being imposed on them by vetoing it within the Security Council.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the analysis of the research carried out, it is possible to make recommendations on the issue of either to abolish the United Nations or reform it. The recommendation is to reform the United Nations, and make it a stronger organization for the world. Four reforms are recommended for the United Nations: reworking the Trusteeship Council, changing the way the International Court of Justice operates, reform the Security Council, and implementing an open door policy for the United Nations.

### Reworking the Trusteeship Council

One of the concerns brought forth about the United Nations is the portion of the United Nations that is sitting idle and not doing anything. The recommendation was made that this division within the United Nations should be reformed. That division within the United Nations is the Trusteeship Council. This division was actually suspended in 1994. However, it still is a part of the United Nations. As a result it is a waste of resources for the United Nations.

The recommendation of how to reform this portion of the United Nations is to change the mission of the Trusteeship Council. The way that it should be changed is for the United Nations to become the administrator of failed countries. Once the Trusteeship Council were to take over, they could work towards trying to build the failed country towards being able to self-govern.

This reform would increase the amount of collaboration taking place with the member countries of the United Nations, but would also decrease the likelihood that the country being overseen by the United Nations would fail again.

### Changing the way the International Court of Justice operates

One of the concerns brought forth about the United Nations was that the United Nations was not free or independent of large countries such as the United States or Russia. The recommendation that was made to help with the United Nations being free from being persuaded by large countries was to reform the International Court of Justice.

The first recommendation of how to reform the International Court of Justice is how the court gets to hear a case. The way that it should be changed is that each country who is a member of the United Nations should automatically be subjected to the jurisdiction for this court. This would allow the Court to be able to settle any sort of disputes that are taking place within the world.

The second recommendation of how to reform the Court of the United Nations is how the judges are elected to serve. The way it should work is there should be qualifications in place for the person(s) to be elected. The qualifications could include that the person should be one that practices law within their country, and one should have experience in international relations law.

The last recommendation of how to reform the Court is to make the court cases that are heard within the Court binding. This would mean that a court case that is heard by the Court would be one that could not be ignored or subjected to going before the Security Council for a country to possibly use their veto.

The reforming of the International Court of Justice would allow the United Nations more freedom from large countries that have the veto power. It would also mean that the amount of collaboration that would be taking place with member countries would increase. The reforming would also decrease the likelihood a country would try to take advantage of their veto power and do whatever they like within the world.

### The Security Council Reforms

One of the concerns that was brought forth was that there are countries that can easily bypass the United Nations and do whatever they like within international politics. The recommendation made to help curve this was to reform the Security Council of the United Nations.

The first recommendation to reform the Security Council is in regards to the veto power. The way veto power is still useful for the permanent members of the Security Council. However, by having an unlimited veto power is uncalled for and gives the permanent countries an advantage within the United Nations. The recommendation is that the veto power be reformed in which there is a set of scenarios in which the veto would not be allowed to used. For example, one of the scenarios that needs to be put in place is if there is mass atrocities.

The second recommendation to reform the Security Council is to increase the number of seats that sit on the Security Council. The Security Council should increase to a total of twenty-one members. The plan that would be best would be one that would not add any new rotating seats to the council. However, it would add 6 new permanent rotating seats for the different regions of the world. It would be up to each region of the world to decide who would be elected to the rotating permanent seats. The reason for six seats and not five is to keep the Security Council at an odd number. The six new permanent rotating seats would get the same privileges as the five current permanent members of the Security Council. The other ten seats would be still be elected seats to the Security Council.

The reforming of the Security Council would allow the United Nations a better way to respond to issues of security and mass atrocities. It would also bring about more collaboration for member countries because when they are working together to figure out who would be in one of the permanent rotating seats. The reforming would also decrease the likelihood that mass atrocities would take place because the United Nations would be better at responding to them.

### The Open Door Policy

One of the concerns that was brought forth was that there has been a good bit of corruption that has taken place within the United Nations. The recommendation has been made that the Secretariat needs to be reformed to better address the corruption.

The recommendation that is being made is for the department of the Office of Internal Oversight Services within the Secretariat needs to be reformed. The way it needs to be reformed is to implement an open door policy for associates of the United Nations and any stakeholder to make concerns known to this division. The concern would then be investigated and addressed if there is a true issue of corruption or wrongdoing taking place. The Office of Internal Oversight Services would need to implement policies that would ensure that retaliation would not take place against anyone that voices a complaint or concern.

The reforming of the Secretariat would allow the United Nations a better way to respond to issues of corruption. It would allow more collaboration to take place between member countries because they would more likely be watching the United Nations and make sure that they are operating correctly. It would also decrease the possibility of corruption taking place within the United Nations.

# CONCLUSION

The United Nations has experienced a lot since its creation in 1945. Even though the United Nations was designed as a way to ensure safety and security for the member countries there are some flaws with the organization. This paper has explored the United Nations and the concerns that were facing it and recommendations as to ways to correct the flaws and concerns. By looking at all of the information presented, one can clearly identify that the United Nations is a good organization for the world and does not need to be abolished.

### Summary

The purpose of this research was to find out if the United Nations should be reformed or abolished. Examining the United Nations different divisions identified that the organization needs to be reformed. The research showed the issues and concerns that were facing the United Nations. Each division within the United Nations was looked at in order to find out how the organization could be reformed as a whole to make it better for the entire world.

Analysis of the data showed that there were some major flaws within the United Nations and can be fixed by: reworking the Trusteeship Council, changing the way the International Court of Justice operates, reform the Security Council, and implementing an open door policy for the United Nations. To address the issues that were identified, this paper recommends four reforms. First, rework the Trusteeship Council to have this division lead failed states and prepare them for self-government. Second, changing the way the International Court of Justice operates and making the court cases binding. Third, increase the amount of countries on the Security Council, and putting restrictions on when the veto power can be used by the five permanent members. Fourth the United Nations putting an open door policy in place to address any concerns of corruption for all stakeholders involved with the United Nations.

### Future Research

The purpose of this research was to determine if the United Nations needed to be reformed or abolished. In the research it pointed out some major flaws within the operation of the United Nations and subsequently suggest ways to improve the organization. Putting these recommendations into place would make the United Nations a better organization and build the amount of collaboration that takes place between the different countries throughout the world. Although recommendations for improving the United Nations main divisions were presented, there still exist aspects of the overall United Nations operations that warrant future research.

A topic that was covered briefly in the research was the many different departments that operate within each division of the United Nations. The paper discussed the main divisions of the United Nations and how to make them better. However, it did not cover each individual department within each division of the United Nations in depth. Looking at each individual department of each division to look for further reform, and looking at the League of Nations, could inspire further research.

A topic that would have helped bolster the need of reforming or abolishing the United Nations was by looking at other intergovernmental organizations and then comparing those organizations to the United Nations. Inspecting other intergovernmental organizations and seeing how they operate and comparing them to the United Nations could allow one to see if these organizations operate better. Inspecting other organizations in regards to the way they operate, are formed, or manage the day to day activities could allow one to see if these methods could be used within the United Nations. Inspecting other intergovernmental organizations could indeed inspire further research that could be carried out.

A topic that was briefly discussed in the research paper was the power the Security Council can impose on countries. The power that it has is to impose sanctions. Inspecting the effect or effects the sanctions have had on countries and if they were enforced, overlooked, ignored, or led to any sort of conflict, could help bolster the argument of reforming the United Nations. This could help point out if the sanctions power that is used by the United Nations is useful or if it does not have an effect on countries. Inspecting the sanctions could inspire further research that could be carried out.

Another topic briefly discussed in the limitations section of this research paper was actions that were carried out within the United Nations Security Council in December of 2016. These actions by the Security Council were not analyzed or dissected for this research. Inspecting these actions and looking at the actions could help bolster the argument for reforming the United Nations. This could allow for further research to be carried out of the United Nations.

Another topic that was not dissected for this research paper was the way the United Nations is funded. The way the United Nations is funded could possibly effect the way that it operates within the world. Inspecting the budget of the United Nations and the way that the organization gets its funding could bolster the argument for reforming the United Nations. Analyzing the budget of the United Nations could allow for further research to be carried out of the United Nations.

# **References**

Allen, S. H., & Yuen, A. T. (2014). The Politics of Peacekeeping: UN Security Council Oversight Across Peacekeeping Missions. *International Studies Quarterly, 58*(3), 621-632. doi:10.1111/isqu.12086

Berdal, M. (2005). The United Nations, Peacebuilding, and the Genocide in Rwanda. *Global Governance, 11*(1), 115-130. Retrieved from http://search.proquest.com/docview/213733852?accountid=8289

Blanchfield, Luisa. (2015). United Nations Reform: Background and Issues for Congress. *Congressional Research Service*. Retrieved November 22, 2016 from https://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/RL33848.pdf

Browne, Marjorie. (2010). United Nations Peacekeeping: Issues for Congress. In E.R. Isely (Ed), *Global political studies: United nations peacekeeping in the 21st century* Nova Science Publishers, Inc.

Butler, Richard (2012). Reform of the United Nations Security Council. In 1 Penn. St. J.L. & Int'l Aff. 23. Retrieved November 19, 2016 from http://elibrary.law.psu.edu/jlia/vol1/iss1/2

Charron, A. E. (2009). *United Nations Sanctions in Four Conflict Types* (Order No. NR52309). Available from ProQuest Central. (305137569). Retrieved from http://search.proquest.com/docview/305137569?accountid=8289

Christoff, Joseph. (2010). United Nations Peacekeeping: Challenges Obtaining Needed Resources Could Limit Further Large Deployments and Should be Addressed in U.S. Reports to Congress. In E.R. Isely (Ed), *Global political studies: United nations peacekeeping in the 21st century* Nova Science Publishers, Inc.

Daws, S. (1999). The origins and development of UN electoral groups. In R. Thakur (Ed.), What is equitable geographic representation in the 21st century? (pp. 11–29). Tokyo: United Nations University.

Dorn, A. W. (2014). Electronic Eyes on the Green Line: Surveillance by the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus. *Intelligence and National Security, 29*(2), 184-207. doi:10.1080/02684527.2013.834216

Echebiri, V. C. (2015). The factors affecting nigeria's success toward implementation of global public health priorities. *Global Health Promotion, 22*(2), 75-80,90,110. Retrieved from <http://search.proquest.com.ezproxy1.apus.edu/docview/1688467593?accountid=8289>

Green, Eric (2006). *United nations hails elections for haiti's parliament.* (). Lanham: Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. Retrieved from <http://search.proquest.com.ezproxy2.apus.edu/docview/190007213?accountid=8289>

Greenfield, Daniel. (2011). 10 Reasons to Abolish the UN. [Kindle Edition]. Sherman Oaks, CA: The David Horowitz Freedom Center.

General Assembly of the United Nations. (2016). Functions and Powers of the General Assembly. United Nations. Retrieved November, 13, 2016 from http://www.un.org/en/ga/about/background.shtml

Harengel, P., & Gbadamosi, A. (2014). 'Launching' a New Nation: The Unfolding Brand of South Sudan. *Place Branding and Public Diplomacy, 10*(1), 35. doi:10.1057/pb.2013.12

Harmer, A., & Frith, R. (2009). "Walking Together" Toward Independence? A Civil Society Perspective on the United Nations Administration in East Timor, 1999–2002. *Global Governance, 15*(2), 239-258.

Henig, R. (2010). *The league of nations : The makers of the modern world*. New York: Haus Publishing.

Hiatt, Anna. (2014). World leaders call for end of United Nations veto power. The Jerusalem Post. Retrieved November 20, 2016 from http://www.jpost.com/International/World-leaders-call-for-end-of-United-Nations-veto-power-376443

Hirsch, Afua. (2010). System for appointing judges undermining international courts. *The Guardian*. Retrieved November 22, 2016 from https://www.theguardian.com/law/2010/sep/08/law-international-court-justice-legal

Humphreys, G. (2009). Healing child soldiers. *World Health Organization. Bulletin of the World Health Organization, 87*(5), 330-1. Retrieved from http://search.proquest.com.ezproxy1.apus.edu/docview/229565551?accountid=8289

International Court of Justice. (2015). The Court. United Nations. Retrieved November 15, 2016 from http://www.icj-cij.org/court/index.php?p1=1

International Court of Justice. (2016). Charter of the United Nations. Retrieved November 12, 2016 from http://www.icj-cij.org/documents/index.php?p1=4&p2=1&#Chapter1

Khemka, Pious. (2016). Letter from the Committee Secretary. *Shishukunj Mun*. Retrieved November 24, 2016 from http://www.shishukunjmun.com/committees/sc/

Kjellman, K. E., Harpviken, K. B., Millard, A. S., & Strand, A. (2003). Acting as one? co-ordinating responses to the landmine problem. *Third World Quarterly*, *24*(5), 855-871. doi:10.1080/0143659032000132894

Martens, Jens. (2006). The Reform of the UN Economic and Social Council: A Never Ending Story. *Global Policy Forum*. Retrieved November 24, 2016 from https://www.globalpolicy.org/component/content/article/222/47509.html

Mohamed, S. (2005). FROM KEEPING PEACE TO BUILDING PEACE: A PROPOSAL FOR A REVITALIZED UNITED NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL. *Columbia Law Review*, *105*(3), 809-840.

Muller, Ragnar. (2015). United Nations. Dadalos. Retrieved November 13, 2016 from http://www.dadalos.org/uno\_int

Nadin, Peter. (2014). United Nations Security Council Reform. *United Nations University*. Retrieved November 20, 2016 from http://ourworld.unu.edu/en/united-nations-security-council-reform

Parish, Matthew. (2016). How to Reform the United Nations. *Eurasia Review*. Retrieved December 16, 2016 from http://www.eurasiareview.com/17122016-how-to-reform-the-united-nations-oped/

Parker, Tom. (2003). The Ultimate Intervention: Revitalizing the UN Trusteeship Council for the 21st Century. *Centre for European and Asian Studies at Norwegian School of Management.* Retrieved November 26, 2016 from http://www.bi.edu/cccFiles/CEAS-Files/03-03The\_Ultimate\_Intervention.pdf

Peace and Security Department. (2016). United Nations Peacekeeping Operations. United Nations Department of Public Information. Retrieved November 16, 2016 from http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/documents/bnote0716.pdf

Pushkina, D., & Maier, P. (2012). United Nations Peacekeeping in Timor-Leste. *Civil Wars, 14*(3), 324. doi:10.1080/13698249.2012.706949

Renwick, Danielle, & Johnson, Toni. (2014). The World Health Organization. *Council on Foreign Relations*. Retrieved November 12, 2016 from http://www.cfr.org/public-health-threats-and-pandemics/world-health-organization-/p20003

SAVIR, U. (2012). A New United Nations is Needed. *Jerusalem Post*

Schaefer, Brett. (2012). U.S. Needs Financial Leverage to Hold Line on U.N. Budget. The *Hertigage Foundation*. Retrieved November 10, 2016 from http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2012/12/united-nations-budget-constraint-and-the-us-financial-leverage

Sheeran, Josette. (2010). United Nations World Food Programme. *United Nations World Food Programme*. Retrieved November 18, 2016 from http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/josette\_sheeran\_8mar2010.pdf

Seaman, K. (2014). *UN-tied Nations: The United Nations, Peacekeeping and Global Governance* (Newition ed.). GB: Ashgate Publishing Ltd.

Taylor, P & Curtis, D. (2008). The United Nations. In Baylis & Smith (Ed). The Globalization of World Politics 4th Ed. (pp. 312-329). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Tharoor, Shashi. (2003). Why America Still Needs the United Nations. Foreign Affairs, 82(5) retrieved October 16, 2016

The United Nations Children’s Fund. (2003). Guide to the optional protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict. Coalition To Stop The Use of Child Soldiers. Retrieved November 17, 2016 from https://www.unicef.org/sowc06/pdfs/option\_protocol\_conflict.pdf

Thompson, Alexander. (2011). Why Did Bush Bypass the UN in 2003? Unilateralism, Multilateralism and Presidential Leadership. White House Studies, 11(3). ISSN: 1535-4738. Retrieved November 10, 2016 from http://politicalscience.osu.edu/faculty/athompson/Thompson\_WhiteHouseStudies\_Proofs.pdf

Trusteeship Council. (2015). The Trusteeship Council. United Nations. Retrieved November 13, 2016 from http://www.un.org/en/sections/about-un/trusteeship-council/index.html

United Nations. (2014). History of The United Nations. Retrieved November 8, 2016 from http://www.un.org/en/sections/history/history-united-nations/index.html

United Nations. (2015). Overview. Retrieved October 15, 2016 from http://www.un.org/en/sections/about-un/overview/index.html

United Nations Department of Public Information. (2007). The United Nations System. United Nations. Retrieved from http://www.dadalos.org/uno\_int/grundkurs\_3.htm

United Nations Peacekeeping Operations. (2015). Fact Sheet. Retrieved November 10, 2016 from http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/documents/bnote0915.pdf

United Nations Peacekeeping. (2016). Department of Peacekeeping Operations. United Nations. Retrieved November 15, 2016 from http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/about/dpko/

United Nations Security Council. (2015). The Security Council. Retrieved November 14, 2016 from <http://www.un.org/en/sc/>

United Nations Security Council. (2016). Functions and Powers. Retrieved November 14, 2016 from http://www.un.org/en/sc/about/functions.shtml