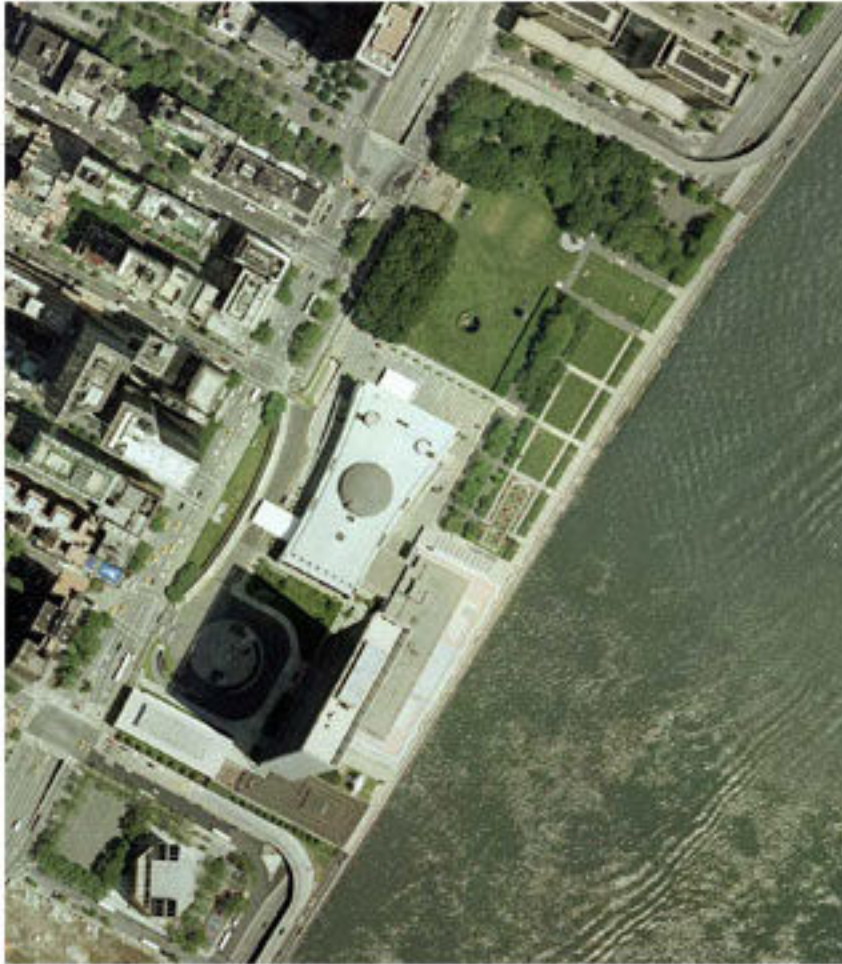


# United Nations

*Past*

*Present*

*Future*



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United Nations  
New York, New York

# Origins

- Result of a long history of efforts to promote international cooperation.
- Late 18th century German philosopher **Immanuel Kant**: A federation of world nations could punish any nation that committed an act of aggression.
- **Collective security**. Federation would protect the rights of small nations that often become pawns in power struggles between larger countries.



# League of Nations [1920-46]

- Goal: to prevent another war after WWI
- Needed consensus of all members to censure aggression
- US Congress refused to join.
- Could not stop Japan Germany and Italy from aggressive acts that led to WWII



# Beginning of UN

- **1942:** Allies sign Atlantic Charter, outlining idea for United Nations. [named by FDR]
- **1945:** Yalta Conference. Allies work out details for UN.



# Purpose/Goals

- Maintain int'l peace and security
- Develop friendly relations among states
- Cooperation in solving int'l economic, social, cultural and humanitarian problems.
- Promote equality of all people
- Expansion of basic freedoms



# UN Structure



- General Assembly
- Security Council
- Secretariat
- Economic & Social Council
- International Court of Justice [World Court]
- Trusteeship Council

# Major achievements:

## Maintaining peace & security

- **54 peacekeeping operations** [Angola, Bosnia, Congo, Haiti, Kosovo, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, and others]
- Provided police forces in regions where the local gov't could not [Kosovo, Bosnia, East Timor]



# Major achievements:

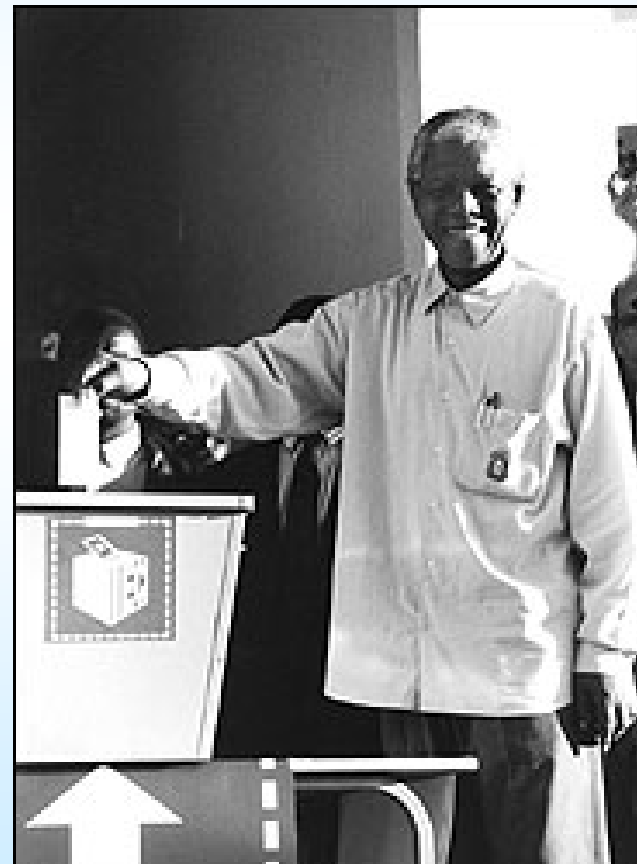
## Making peace

- Ending the Iran-Iraq war
- Negotiating withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan
- Negotiating end of civil war in El Salvador
- Enforcing 1991 Gulf War cease-fire resolutions



# Major achievements: Promoting democracy & independence

- Monitoring elections  
[Cambodia, South  
Africa, Kosovo]



# Major achievements:

## Human rights & humanitarian aid

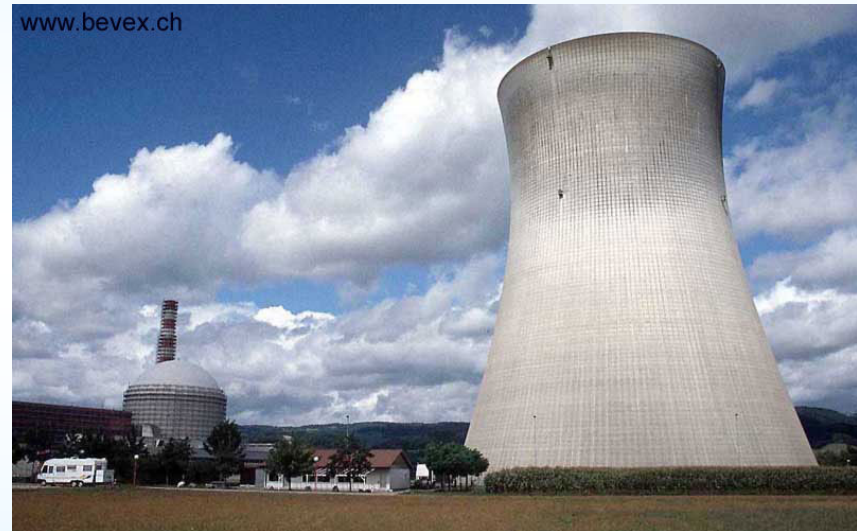
- Focusing world attention on torture, disappearance, child labor, etc.]
- Providing food to victims of emergencies and natural disasters
- Alleviating chronic hunger and diseases



# Major achievements:

## Protecting the world environment

- Earth Summit, 1992
- IAEA inspections of nuclear reactors in 90 countries to prevent diversion to military purposes
- Strengthening int'l law



# Major achievements

- Clearing land mines



# Major failings

- Failure to support peacekeeping mission in **Rwanda, 1994**
- **Bureaucracy**
- **Corruption** [Oil-for-food scandal]
- **Gridlock** and Ineffectiveness

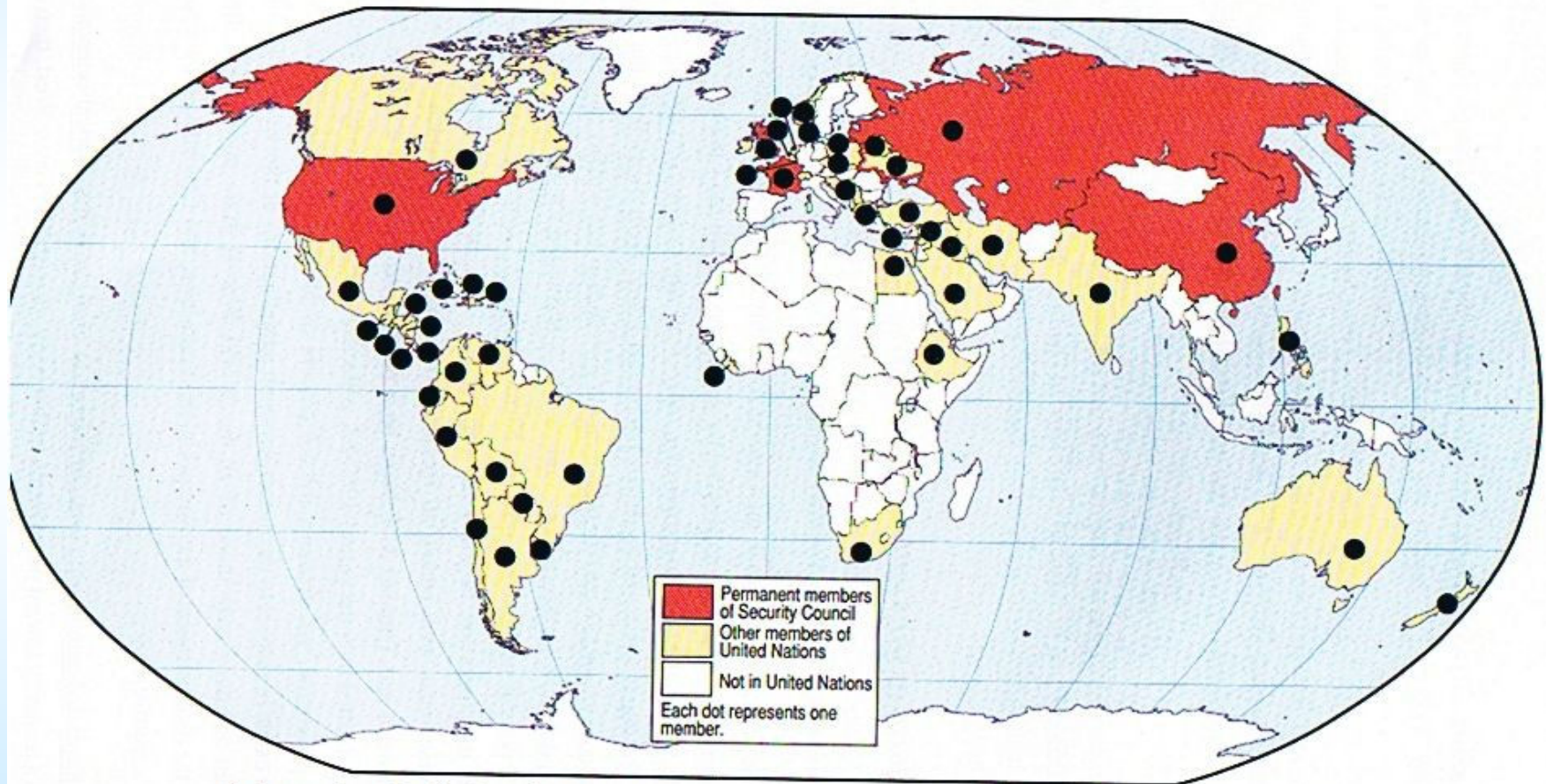


# Problems & Challenges:

## Good intentions vs. political reality

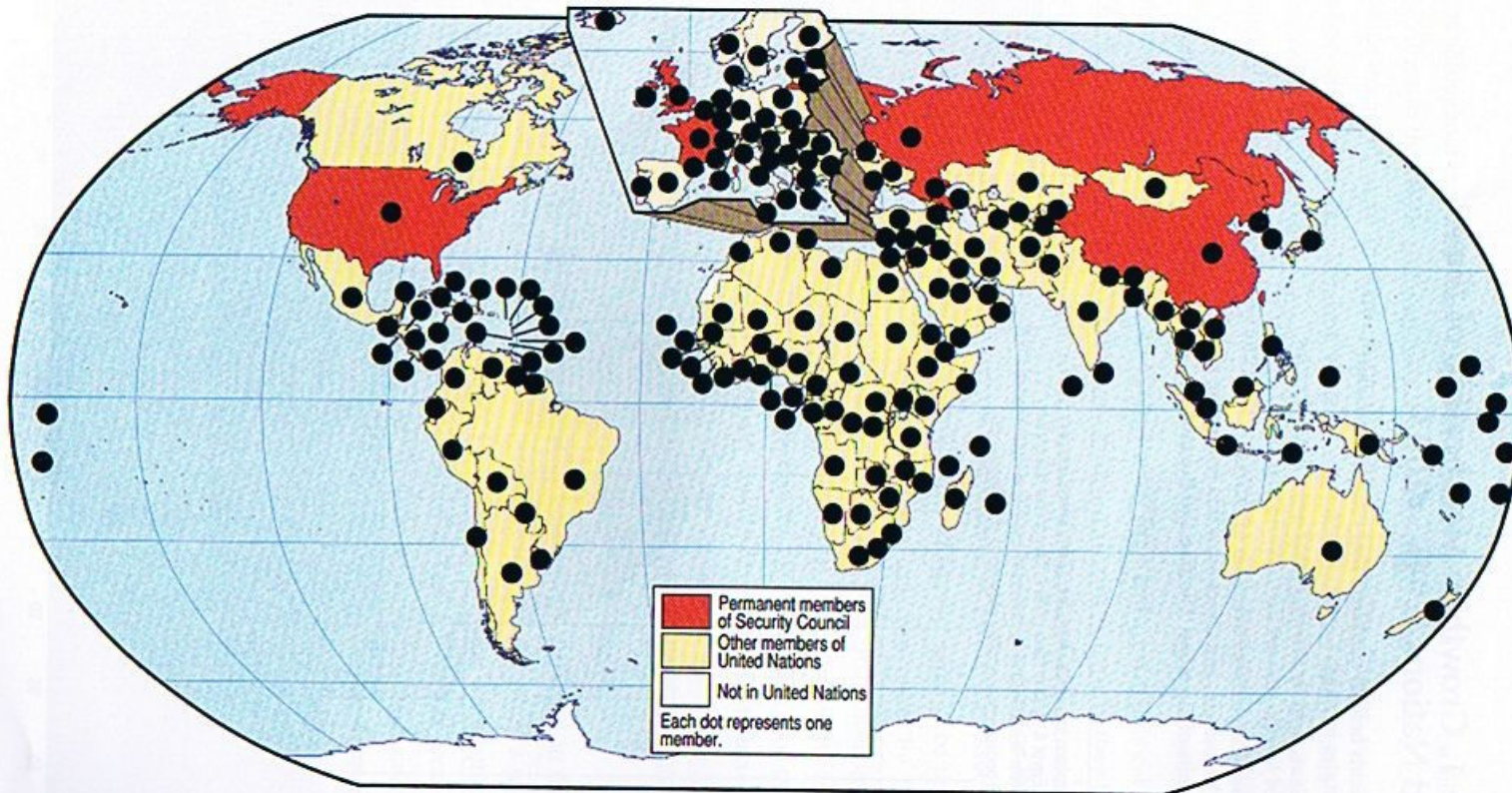
- Founders envisioned unanimity in Security Council
- Founders envisioned a permanent peacekeeping force
- Cooperation in conflict resolution was a major goal
- Veto power crippled the Security Council.
- Security Council members wouldn't agree to it.
- Cold War politics prevented cooperation.

# Problems and Challenges: Expanding membership



**Map 1. Original Members of the United Nations, 1945**

# U.N. Membership Today



Map 2. Members of the United Nations, 2003

# Changing UN Membership

1945-2003

Independent States






Former colonies

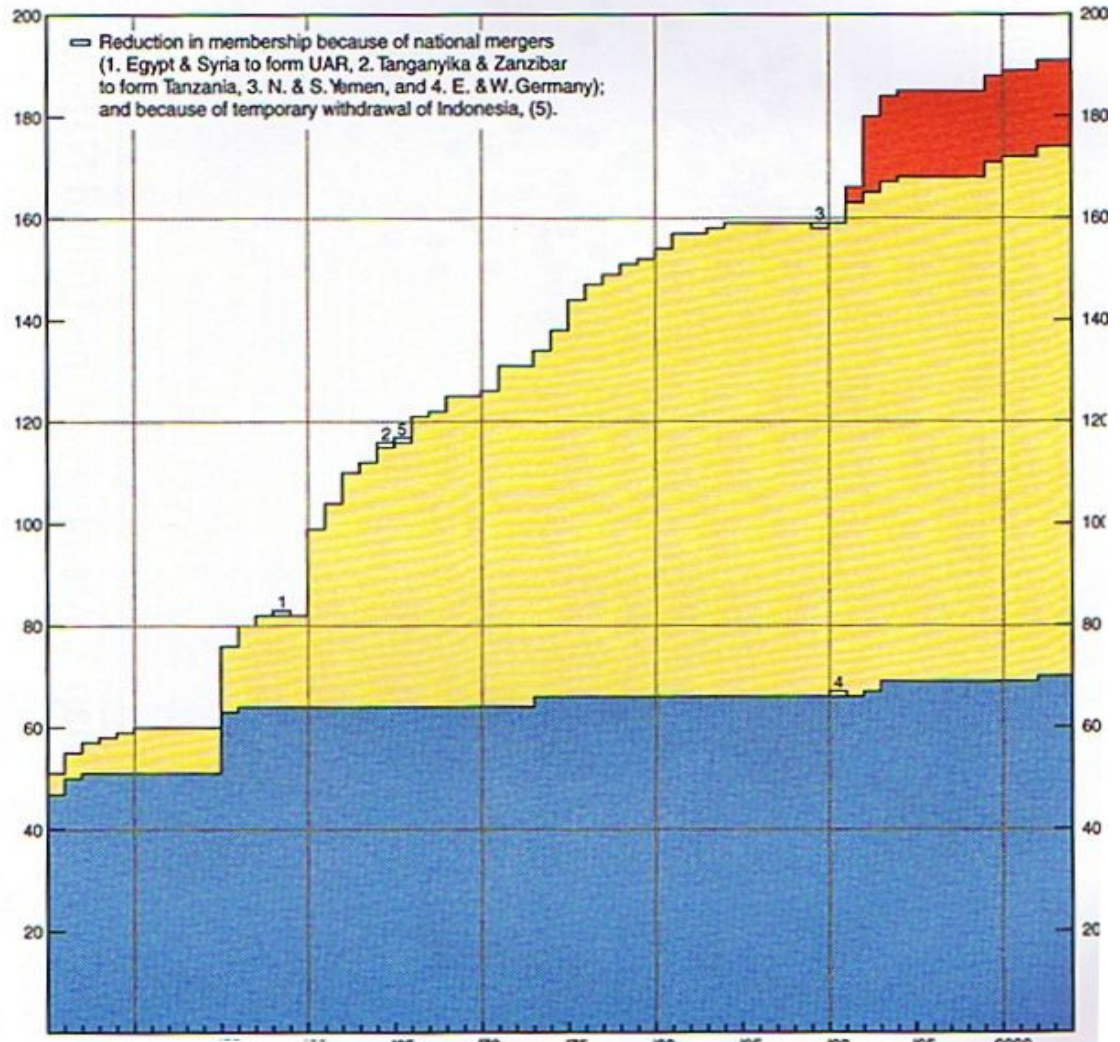


Former SSR's, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia



**Figure 1. Growth in Membership of the United Nations, 1945 – 2003**

-  Seats held by members that were independent states in 1945.
-  Seats held by members that were dependencies of foreign powers up to World War II
-  Seats created by break-up of U.S.S.R., Yugoslavia, and Czechoslovakia (excluding core units of same and Ukraine and Belarus).



# Effects of growing membership:

## Voting realignment

- US and its allies lost their clear majority as “third world” [Afro-Asian] nations gained more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  of GA seats.
- New blocs challenge the belief that the old order of western nations should dominate the UN simply by using financial clout and historic connections.

# UN Voting Bloc

- **Developing Nations - 125**
- **Non-Aligned Movement - 99**  
*(mostly Asian and African who avoid joining military alliances)*
- **Islamic Conference - 41**
- **African group - 50**
- **Latin American group - 33**
- **Western European group - 22**
- **Arab group - 21**

# Challenges:

## Diminished UN Influence

- Major powers often deal with each other outside the framework of the UN
- UN played a secondary role in many world crises
  - Arab-Israeli wars; India Pakistan war; Vietnam war; Afghanistan war with USSR
  - Inability to take a position on military action in Iraq in 2003

# Problems & Challenges: Funding

- Escalating cost of peacekeeping operations
- Unwillingness of some nations to pay dues.
- Inequalities in dues structure

# Top 10 UN Dues - 2002

Country	Percent of total	\$ millions
US	22.000	283.1
Japan	19.669	218.4
Germany	9.845	109.3
France	6.516	72.4
UK	5.579	62.0
Italy	5.104	56.7
Canada	2.579	28.6
Spain	2.539	28.2
Brazil	2.093	23.2
S. Korea	1.866	20.7

# Top 10 per capita contributors

Country	\$ per capita
Luxembourg	2.15
Liechtenstein	2.13
Japan	1.74
Norway	1.65
Denmark	1.60
Monaco	1.38
Iceland	1.35
Germany	1.34
Austria	1.31
Sweden	1.30

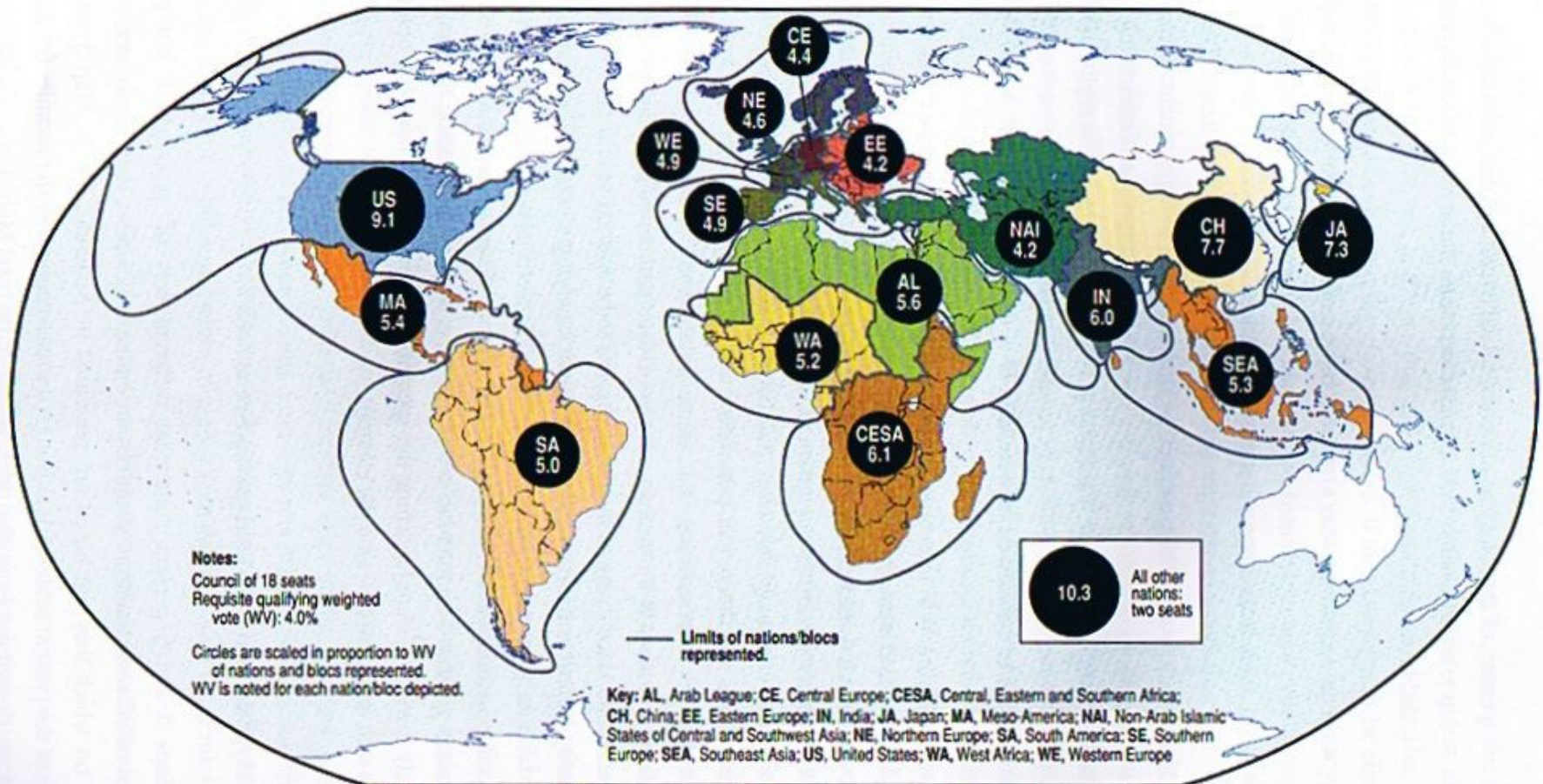
# Reform/restructuring



- One nation one vote in Security Council [eliminate veto].
- Expand Security Council membership.
- Strengthen power of GA. [Eliminate Security Council?]

# Security Council Reform

40



**Map 5. Hypothetical Allocation of Seats in a Reformed Security Council**  
Method A: Present scale of assessments used for economic term in weighting formula.

# Reform ideas: Weighted Voting

**$W V = P + C + M$  divided by 3**

- A country's weighted vote = the average of
- its **[P]** *percentage* share of the total population of all UN members,
- its **[C]** *financial contribution* as a % share of the total UN budget
- its **[M]** *share* of the total *UN membership* [i.e., 1/191 or 0.524%]

# Reform ideas:

## New funding strategies

- Replace dues with “taxing power” to raise revenues directly and give UN more independence.
- Put a surcharge on international airline tickets or charge a fee for foreign exchange transactions
  - Yield: \$1 trillion to \$1.5 trillion per day



# Reform ideas:

## Reduce UN activities



- Leave some activities to NGOs
  - Private, volunteer organizations have proliferated since the UN began in 1945.
  - Some say they are more efficient than UN organizations.
  - US Peace Corps, British Volunteer Service, etc.

Or, start all over...  
How would we do that?

