NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

COURSE CODE: INR393
2 CREDIT UNITS

COURSE TITLE: THE INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL SYSTEM

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INTRODUCTION

INR 393, International Political System is a one semester course in the third year of B.Sc. (Hons) degree in International and Diplomatic Studies. It is a two unit credit course designed to increase your knowledge on vital issues on international political system. The course begins with a brief introductory module which will help you to have a good understanding of what international political system entails. With this, you will have better understanding of the evolution of international politics and how the global system changes. Not only that, this course will open your mind towards comprehending the significance of international political system and the key actors involved in world politics. In lieu of this, the study units are structured into modules. Each module is structured into 4 units. A unit guide comprises of instructional material. It gives you a brief of the course content, course guidelines and suggestions and steps to take while studying. You can also find self-assessment exercises for your study.

COURSE AIMS

The primary aim of this course is to provide students of international relations with comprehensive knowledge on the international political system. However, the course has specific objectives.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this course are to enable you:

- have understanding of the concept and evolution of international political system ;
- familiarize with the various significant events that shape international political system;
- understand the emergence of super powers within the international politics;
- gain more insights into the contemporary issues and dynamics of international political system.

The specific objectives of each study unit can be found at the beginning and you can make references to it while studying. It is necessary and helpful for you to check at the end of the unit, if your progress is consistent with the stated objectives and if you can conveniently answer the self-assessment exercises. The overall objectives of the course will be achieved, if you diligently study and complete all the units in this course.

WORKING THROUGH THE COURSE

To complete the course, you are required to read the study units and other related materials. You will also need to undertake practical exercises for which you need a pen, a note-book, and other materials that will be listed in this guide. The exercises are to aid you in understanding the concepts being presented. At the end of each unit, you will be required to submit written assignment for assessment purposes.
At the end of the course, you will be expected to write a final examination.

THE COURSE MATERIAL

In this course, as in all other courses, the major components you will find are as follows:

1. Course Guide
2. Study Units
3. Textbooks
4. Assignments

STUDY UNITS

There are 19 study units in this course. They are:

Module 1 Introduction to International Political System

Unit 1 The concept and evolution of International Political System
Unit 2 Capabilities of actors in the International Political System
Unit 3 The Importance and Nature of International Political System
Unit 4 The Actors and Characteristics of the International Political System

Module 2 Significant Events in the Development of International Political System

Unit 1 Peace of the Westphalia (1648)
Unit 2 Shifting Balance of Power (1600-1800)
Unit 3 Balance of Power
Unit 4 The Emergence of nationalism

Module 3 The Emergence of the new world Order (1945-Present)

Unit 1 The Bipolar System
Unit 2 Capitalism, Communism and the Present International Political System
Unit 3 The Unipolar System
Unit 4 International Trade and its Effects on the International Political System

Module 4 International Organisations and the International Political System

Unit 1 The League of Nations
Unit 2 The United Nations Organisation
Unit 3 The International Regional Organisations
Unit 4 The International Non-Governmental Organisations

Module 5 the Emerging Issues in the International political System

Unit 1 Terrorism
Unit 2 Politics of weapons of Mass Destruction

Unit 3 International Pressure Groups

As you can observe, the course begins with the basics and expands into a more elaborate, complex and detailed form. All you need to do is to follow the instructions as provided in each unit. In addition, some self-assessment exercises have been provided with which you can test your progress with the text and determine if your study is fulfilling the stated objectives. Tutor-marked assignments have also been provided to aid your study. All these will assist you to be able to fully grasp the spirit and letters of Europe's role and place in international politics.

TEXTBOOKS AND REFERENCES

At the end of each unit, you will find a list of relevant reference materials which you may yourself wish to consult as the need arises, even though this study has made efforts to provide you with the most important information you need to pass this course. However, it is advisable, as a third year student to cultivate the habit of consulting as many relevant materials as you are able to within the time available to you. In particular, be sure to consult whatever material you are advised to consult before attempting any exercise.

ASSESSMENT

Two types of assessment are involved in the course: the Self-Assessment Exercises (SAEs), and the Tutor-Marked Assessment (TMA) questions. Your answers to the SAEs are not meant to be submitted, but they are also important since they give you an opportunity to assess your own understanding of the course content. Tutor-Marked Assignments (TMAs) on the other hand are to be carefully answered and kept in your assignment file for submission and marking. This will count for 30% of your total score in the course.

TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT

At the end of each unit, you will find tutor-marked assignments. There is an average of two tutor-marked assignments per unit. This will allow you to engage the course as robustly as possible. You need to submit at least four assignments of which the three with the highest marks will be recorded as part of your total course grade. This will account for 10 percent each, making a total of 30 percent. When you complete your assignments, send them including your form to your tutor for formal assessment on or before the deadline.

Self-assessment exercises are also provided in each unit. The exercises should help you to evaluate your understanding of the material so far.

These are not to be submitted. You will find all answers to these within the units they are intended for.

FINAL EXAMINATION AND GRADING

There will be a final examination at the end of the course. The examination carries a total of 70 percent of the total course grade. The examination will reflect the contents of what you have learnt and the self-assessments and tutor-marked assignments. You therefore need to revise your course materials beforehand.

COURSE MARKING SCHEME

The following table sets out how the actual course marking is broken down.

ASSESSMENT	MARKS
Four assignments (the best four of all the assignments submitted for marking)	Four assignments, each marked out of 10%, but highest scoring three selected, thus totalling 30%
Final Examination	70% of overall course score
Total	**100% of course score**

COURSE OVERVIEW PRESENTATION SCHEME

Units	Title of Work	Week Activity	Assignment (End-of-Unit)
Course Guide			
Module 1	**Introduction to International Political System**		
Unit 1	The concept and evolution of International Political System	Week 1	Assignment 1
Unit 2	Capabilities of actors in the International Political System	Week 1	Assignment 1
Unit 3	The Importance and Nature of International Political System	Week 2	Assignment 1
Unit 4	The Actors and Characteristics of International Political System	Week 3	Assignment 1
Module 2	**Significant Events in the Development of International Political System**		
Unit 1	Peace of Westphalia (1648)	Week 4	Assignment 1
Unit 2	Shifting Balance of Power (1600-1800)	Week 5	Assignment 1
Unit 3	Balance of Power	Week 6	Assignment 1
Unit 4	The Emergence of Nationalism	Week 7	Assignment 1
Module 3	**The Emergence of the New World Order (1945-Present)**		
Unit 1	The Bipolar System	Week 8	Assignment 1
Unit 2	Capitalism, Communism and the Present International Political System	Week 9	Assignment 1

Unit 3	Unipolar System	Week 10	Assignment 1
Unit 4	International Trade and its Effects on the International Political System	Week 11	Assignment 1
Module 4	**International Organisations and the International Political System**		
Unit 1	The League of Nations	Week 12	Assignment 1
Unit 2	The United Nations Organisations	Week 13	Assignment 1
Unit 3	The International Regional Organisations	Week 14	Assignment 1
Unit 4	The International Non-Governmental Organisations	Week 15	Assignment 1
Module 5	**The Emerging Issues in the International Political System**		
Unit 1	Terrorism	Week 16	Assignment 1
Unit 2	Politics of Weapon of Mass Destruction	17 Week	Assignment 1
Unit 3	International Pressure Groups	18 Week	Assignment 1
	Revision		
	Examination		
	Total		

WHAT YOU WILL NEED FOR THE COURSE

This course builds on what you have learnt in the previous Levels. It will be helpful if you try to review what you studied earlier. Second, you may need to purchase one or two texts recommended as important for your mastery of the course content. You need quality time in a study friendly environment every week. If you are computer-literate (which ideally you should be), you should be prepared to visit recommended websites. You should also cultivate the habit of visiting reputable physical libraries accessible to you.

TUTORS AND TUTORIALS

There are 15 hours of tutorials provided in support of the course. You will be notified of the dates and location of these tutorials, together with the name and phone number of your tutor as soon as you are allocated a tutorial group. Your tutor will mark and comment on your assignments, and keep a close watch on your progress. Be sure to send in your tutor marked assignments promptly, and feel free to contact your tutor in case of any difficulty with your self-assessment exercise, tutor-marked assignment or the grading of an assignment. In any case, you are advised to attend the tutorials regularly and punctually. Always take a list of such prepared questions to the tutorials and participate actively in the discussions.

ASSESSMENT EXERCISES

There are two aspects to the assessment of this course. First is the Tutor-Marked Assignments; second is a written examination. In handling these assignments, you are expected to apply the information, knowledge and experience acquired during the course. The tutor-marked assignments are now being done online. Ensure that you register all your courses so that you can have easy access to the online assignments. Your score in the online assignments will account for 30 per cent of your total coursework. At the end of the course, you will need to sit for a final examination. This examination will account for the other 70 per cent of your total course mark.

TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENTS (TMAs)

Usually, there are four online tutor-marked assignments in this course. Each assignment will be marked over ten per cent. The best three (that is the highest three of the 10 marks) will be counted. This implies that the total mark for the best three assignments will constitute 30% of your total course work. You will be able to complete your online assignments successfully from the information and materials contained in your references, reading and study units.

FINAL EXAMINATION AND GRADING

The final examination for INR 393: International Political System will be of two hours duration and have a value of 70% of the total course grade. The examination will consist of multiple choice and fill-in-the-gaps questions which will reflect the practice exercises and tutor-marked assignments you have previously encountered. All areas of the course will be assessed. It is important that you use adequate time to revise the entire course. You may find it useful to review your tutor-marked assignments before the examination. The final examination covers information from all aspects of the course.

HOW TO GET THE MOST FROM THIS COURSE

1.   There are 19 units in this course. You are to spend one week in each unit. In distance learning, the study units replace the university lecture. This is one of the great advantages of distance learning; you can read and work through specially designed study materials at your own pace, and at a time and place that suites you best. Think of it as reading the lecture instead of listening to the lecturer. In the same way a lecturer might give you some reading to do. The study units tell you when to read and which are your text materials or recommended books. You are provided exercises to do at appropriate points, just as a lecturer might give you in a class exercise.

2.   Each of the study units follows a common format. The first item is an introduction to the subject matter of the unit, and how a particular unit is integrated with other units and the course as a whole. Next to this is a set of learning objectives. These objectives let you know what you should be able to do, by the time you have completed the unit. These learning objectives are meant to guide your study. The moment a unit is finished, you must go back and check whether you have achieved the objectives. If this is made a habit, then you will significantly improve your chance of passing the course.

3. The main body of the unit guides you through the required reading from other sources. This will usually be either from your reference or from a reading section.

4. The following is a practical strategy for working through the course. If you run into any trouble, telephone your tutor or visit the study centre nearest to you. Remember that your tutor's job is to help you. When you need assistance, do not hesitate to call and ask your tutor to provide it.

5. Read this course guide thoroughly. It is your first assignment.

6. Organise a study schedule – Design a 'Course Overview' to guide you through the course. Note the time you are expected to spend on each unit and how the assignments relate to the units.

7. Important information; e.g. details of your tutorials and the date of the first day of the semester is available at the study centre.

8. You need to gather all the information into one place, such as your diary or a wall calendar. Whatever method you choose to use, you should decide on and write in your own dates and schedule of work for each unit.

9. Once you have created your own study schedule, do everything to stay faithful to it.

10. The major reason that students fail is that they get behind in their coursework. If you get into difficulties with your schedule, please let your tutor or course coordinator know before it is too late for help.

11. Turn to Unit 1, and read the introduction and the objectives for the unit.

12. Assemble the study materials. You will need your references for the unit you are studying at any point in time.

13. As you work through the unit, you will know what sources to consult for further information.

14. Visit your study centre whenever you need up-to-date information.

15. Well before the relevant online TMA due dates, visit your study centre for relevant information and updates. Keep in mind that you will learn a lot by doing the assignment carefully. They have been designed to help you meet the objectives of the course and, therefore, will help you pass the examination.

16. Review the objectives for each study unit to confirm that you have achieved them. If you feel unsure about any of the objectives, review the study materials or consult your tutor. When you are confident that you have achieved a unit's objectives, you can start on the next unit. Proceed unit by unit through the course and try to space your study so that you can keep yourself on schedule.

17.   After completing the last unit, review the course and prepare yourself for the final examination. Check that you have achieved the unit objectives (listed at the beginning of each unit) and the course objectives (listed in the course guide).

CONCLUSION

This is a theory course but you will get the best out of it if you cultivate the habit of relating it to political issues in domestic and international arenas.

SUMMARY

'International Political System ', introduces you to general understanding of international politics and how power play among different actors. All the basic course materials that you need to successfully complete the course are provided. At the end, you will be able to:
*   review the concept and evolution of international political system;
*   identify and discuss the actors (state and non- state) of international politics;
*   explain the significant events within the international political system;
*   analyse the emerging issues within the international political system ranging from politics of mass destruction, terrorism, polarity among others .

List of Acronyms

*   ADB   Asian Development Bank
*   ADB   African Development Bank Group
*   APO   Asian Productivity Organisation
*   ASEAN   Association of South Eastern Asian Nations
*   AU   African Union
*   **CW**   Chemical Weapon
*   ECOWAS   Economic Community of West African State
*   EU   European Union
*   FAO   Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
*   IDRC   International Development Research Center
*   IFAD   International Fund for Agricultural Development
*   IFC   International Finance Corporation
*   ILO   International Labour Organisation
*   IMF   International Monetary Fund
*   **INGO**   International Non –Governmental Organization
*   ITTO   International Tropical Timber Organization
*   OAS   Organization of American States
*   OECD   Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
*   SADC   South African Development Corporation
*   **UK**   United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland
*   **UN**   United Nations

- UNCRD   United Nations Centre for Regional Development
- UNCTAD   United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- UNDP   United Nations Development Program
- UNEPA   United Nations Population Fund
- UNICEF   United Nations Children's Fund
- UNSIAP   United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
- UNWFP   United Nations World Food Program
- **USA**   United States of America
- **USSR**   Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
- WHO   World Health Organization
- **WMD**   Weapon of Mass Destruction
- WMO   World Meteorological Organization
- **WTO**   World Trade Organization

Module 1 Introduction to International Political System

Unit 1 The concept and evolution of International Political System
Unit 2 Capabilities of actors in the International Political System
Unit 3 The Importance and Nature of International Political System
Unit 4 The Actors and Characteristics of the International Political System

Module 2 Significant Events in the Development of International Political System

Unit 1 Peace of the Westphalia (1648)
Unit 2 Shifting Balance of Power (1600-1800)
Unit 3 Balance of Power
Unit 4 The Emergence of nationalism

Module 3 The Emergence of the new world Order (1945-Present)

Unit 1 The Bipolar System
Unit 2 Capitalism, Communism and the Present International Political System
Unit 3 The Unipolar System
Unit 4 International Trade and its Effects on the International Political System

Module 4 International Organisations and the International Political System

Unit 1 The League of Nations
Unit 2 The United Nations Organisation
Unit 3 The International Regional Organisations
Unit 4 The International Non-Governmental Organisations

Module 5 the Emerging Issues in the International political System

Unit 1 Terrorism
Unit 2 Politics of weapons of Mass Destruction
Unit 3 International Pressure Groups

MODULE 1: INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL SYSTEM

INTRODUCTION

This module gives background information on the concept of international political system. It also discusses the evolution of international political system which is categorised into five stages. This module guides you on required background information on the subject matter. Issues such as the capabilities of actors within the international politics and the nature of world political system are well addressed in this module.

The module comprises of four units that dwell on the focus of this module for better understanding of the subject. The units as contain in this module are:

Unit 1   The Concept and Evolution of International Political System

Unit 2   Capabilities of actors in the International Political System

Unit 3   The Importance and Nature of International Political System

Unit 4   The Actors and Characteristics of International Political System

UNIT 1 THE CONCEPT AND EVOLUTION OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL SYSTEM

1.0 Introduction
2.0 Objectives
3.0 Main Content
      3.1 The Concept of International System
      3.2 The evolution of International Political System
          3.2.1 Classical Period
          3.2.2 Post Classical Period
          3.2.3 Transitional Period
          3.2.4 The Cold War Period
          3.2.5 The Contemporary Period

4.0 Conclusion

5.0 Summary

6.0 Tutor Marked Assignment

7.0 References/Further Reading

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The focus of this unit is to introduce students to the concept of international political system. It captures the evolution of international political system from one stage to another by examining major developments from the classical period to the contemporary era.

2.0 OBJECTIVES

At the end of this section/unit, you should be able to

- Define the concept of international system

- Explain the evolution of international political system

- Identify some stages in the evolution of international political system

3.0 MAIN CONTENT

3.1 The Concept of International System

The International System is a widely used term among scholars and students of International Relations. It is on this basis that various definitions have been ascribed to the concept. Scholars ranging from Karl Deutsch, David Singer, Anatole Rapport, David Easton have contributed to the conceptualization of international system. However, Joseph Frankel caption of international system is believed to be all encompassing. According to him, international system is a collection of independent political units, which interact with some regularity in the global arena.

On the other hand, Kaplan who was well-known in the theory of International System insists on the principle of balance of power in order to maintain orderliness within the system. Based on this assumption, Kaplan defines a System as a "set points related in some way so that changing or removing any one thing in the set will make a difference to other things in the system". In this scenario, states do not allow one state to become 'overtly-dominant' or accept the rejection of a state by others. In a nutshell, John Mearsheimer, a strong structural realist, highlights the following as key assumptions of the International System:

- International System is anarchic and does not have higher or superintending authority
- Every state participates to ensure her survival
- No certainty about the intention of other states
- Any state with high level of military capability has the power to harm its neighbour
- States are rational actors

SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE

How would you define the International System?

What are the basic assumptions of the International System?

3.2 The Evolution of International Political System

3.2.1 The Classical Period (1648-1815)

This era has been recognised as the first phase of the international system. It began with the Peace of Westphalia (1648) and ended with the congress of Vienna (1815). This phase was characterised by the religious crisis in Europe tagged 'Thirty Years' war differentiated the Church from the state. It was a war between the Catholic and Protestant states which brought about modern states and resulted ultimately into the emergence of the international political system.

Consequently, the Pope's authority as a religious leader was brought to an end on account of religious wars in Europe. The aftermath of this was the emergence of sovereign state which transformed into modern states. Subsequently, states realised that they need to relate with one another on the basis of equality as sovereign states in the international system. These interactions among nation-states necessitated the maintenance of balance of power in order to avoid aggression of one state over another.

The classical period was remarkable for socio- political as well as industrial revolution that was experienced during this era. In fact, the industrial revolution changed the international system towards new technologies that enhanced transportation and the ease of trade.

The advent of industrial revolution invariably changed the economic structure from mercantilism, which resulted into the rise of capitalism in the global arena. During the classical period, countries such as France, Russia, Britain, Austria, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and the Netherlands became the most powerful states under a multi-polar power system during which the international system was largely Euro-centric.

3.2.2 Post Classical Period (1815-1914)

The beginning of this era coincided with congress of Vienna in 1815 and ended with the beginning of the World War 1 in 1914.Thispost classical era still maintained a Eurocentric structure in the balance of power. Similarly, multi-polarity was also maintained. But the emergence of U.S.A tried to bring about a break in Eurocentricism. As the former was an emerging world power. Nevertheless, the major break in Eurocentricism during the post-classical period also led to the rise of *Nationalism* in Europe. This spread of Nationalism was a strong force that allowed states to become more and more powerful.

Not only that, the penetration of imperialistic tendencies among European powers heightened the conflict of interest in Europe. European powers scrambled to acquire overseas territories by behaving in a manner that protected their interest in overseas expansion. This was sometimes refers to as the period of colonialism (1870 to 1914).The ideas of nationalism and imperialism increased the drive for territorial expansion-resulting into the struggle for and survival of the fittest. The stronger nations started their dominance of the weaker ones. By implication, the hunger for territorial annexation created division among the powerful European states and resulted into the outbreak of World War 1 in 1914.

3.2.3 Transitional Period (1914-1945)

The transitional period was a complex one. It was characterised with a series of events beginning from the World War I to the end of World War II. The mass destruction of the First World War encouraged scholars and experts to focus on how the international system could be conflict free. This propelled both scholars and statesmen to deliberate on solving

such crisis and to avoid its occurrence in the future. However, many of the scholars were highly influenced by the idealists such as Kant, Rousseau and Hugo Grotius. The United States of America President Woodrow Wilson pioneered the establishment of the League of Nations. But the League of Nations collapsed like a pack of cards as it failed to achieve the objectives.

Also, it is important to note that the crisis period enhanced the arms competition among great powers leading to the formation of power blocs, secret treaties and various aggressive campaigns. It ultimately led to the Second World War in which nuclear weapons were deployed.

The structure of international system experienced some changes despite the retention of multi-polar power structure. This multi-polar character in effect meant that no one country or bloc of nation had the power to control others. The major change however was the emergence of the United State of America (USA) and Soviet Union as the Super Powers. This ultimately changed the existing balance of power as some newly created states were also added to the international system. The idea of bipolarity became known as a result of the two dominants blocs championed by the US and Russia.

One of the significant features of the transitional period was the transformation of old Russia to new Soviet Union. The creation of modern Japan and stock piling of military arsenals among nations lead to building of nuclear weapons and bombs. The political and ideological differences between democracy, fascism and communism were cardinal to change during the transitional period.

3.2.4 The Cold War Period (1945-1989)

The Cold War period was an aftermath of World War II. This period came with a real transformation in the international political system. It was an era that lasted till the collapse of Soviet Union, as it resulted to the breakup of western alliance. The defeat suffered by Germany, Italy and Japan during the Second World War contributed to alignment of the world into two blocs (Capitalist and Socialist camps). The Western Democracies aligned with capitalist camps was championed by the United States America while socialist's camp was headed by the old Soviet Union. The ideological differences created strained relationship between the two camps resulting into the 'Cold War'. According to Joseph Frankel, it was "a

war fought without firing a single shot". It was an ideological conflict between the two super powers though with growing intensity in the arms race. The formation of two powers blocs actually configured the international system on a Bi-polar basis and was led by the two Super-Powers.

However, during the cold war era, African states under the platform of Organization of African Union (OAU) now African Union (AU) took a stance on the principle of non-alignment. The non- alignment policy was a movement that did not take a side with either of the blocs (capitalism and socialism). This indicated that African states maintained a neutral ground during the cold war era.

3.2.5 The Contemporary Period beginning from the collapse of the Cold War in 1989

The collapse of the Soviet Union changed the international power system which led to the unipolar world. This made the United States to enjoy monopoly of super power within the international system. The transformation was engineered by the weakness of the economy of Soviet Union and the Globalization of world economic forces. This made the global economic relations more liberalised and more competitive. However, since the beginning of the 1990s, the US has initiated and speeded her supremacy and hegemony in global politics. The hegemony of the US has been most evident in military and economic terms and no great power has challenged this supremacy since the collapse of Soviet Union, no great power has challenged the hegemony of the US.

However, the contemporary international system has witnessed tremendous development and there are a number of new states that are beginning to challenge the existing status quo in the international system by creating a situation of multi polarity in the International System. The attempt by North Korea and Iran to build the nuclear power plants as signifies the potentials of challenging the U.S hegemony in global politics.

CONCLUSION

The evolution of international political system has been traced to the Westphalia treaty and it was realised that states relations have passed through several phases. Some of the phases indicate the changing political environment within the international system.

4.0 SUMMARY

In this unit, we have examined the concept and evolution of International Political System.

SELF –ASSESSMENT EXERCISE

Describe the evolution of International Political System?

6.0   TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENT

Define International Political System?

Examine the Evolution of International Political System?

7.0   REFERENCES/FURTHER READINGS

Guruge, M.(2015). Evolution of International System

Jewis, R. (2002). Theories of War in an Era of Leading Power American Political Science Review 96(1) pp1-4

Kennedy, P.(1987). The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers New York: Random House

UNIT 2   ACTORS IN THE INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL SYSTEM

1.0   INTRODUCTION

This unit introduces students to the concept of power in international political system. It views power as one essential capability of states in international relations. Others includes: military, economic and political capabilities determining the actions of states on the international scene. This unit examines these capabilities as a way of understanding the behaviour of state in the international political system.

2.0   OBJECTIVES

- To explain the concept of power in international political system
- Highlight the capabilities of actors in international political system

3.0   MAIN CONTENT

3.1   Power in International Political System

Power remains an important discourse in international relations. There are some scholars who argue that the field of international relations is hinged on the ideas of power. Power, according to Payne, has to do with "the ability to get other individuals, groups, or nations to behave in ways they ordinarily would not." In a similar vein, Viotti and Kauppi (2013) present power as a "the means by which a state or other actors wields or can assert in terms of actual or potential influence or coercion relative to other states and non-state actors because of the political, geographic, economic and financial, technological, military, social, cultural, or other capabilities it possesses."

The concept of power in international relations is contested, as there are various definitions given by different scholars. This prompted Barnett and Duvail (2005) to state that no single concept can capture the form of power in international system. To them, power has typology and it is on this basis that it attracts diverse perspectives amongst scholars. There is compulsory power which is believed to be 'direct control over another', structural power which entails 'direct and mutual constitution of the capacities of actors' and productive power that emphasises 'production of subjects through diffuse social relations'. In essence, the contestation of the concept of power enhances the broader nature of the discipline of international relations.

This unit however, sees the concept of power in relation to the capabilities exercised by state and non-state actors within the international political system. The capabilities of actors actually determine their relevance and activism in international politics.

SELF-ASSESSMENT EXERCISE

Define the concept of power in International Political System?

3.2   Power Capabilities

This indicates the power required by state and non-state actors to ensure relevance within the international political system. There are direct or indirect powers exercised by actors indicating their capacities to influence decisions in the international system. The question is, what capacities of actors translate to power? Although there are many ways to measure power within the context of international relations but the centrality of power cannot be over emphasised for actors in the international system

3.2.2   Military Capabilities

The relevance of military might is key particularly for the survival of state actors. The capability of a state to acquire weapons, tanks, warplanes and large standing armies *has been a major factor* in international political relations for centuries. The US for example is considered the hegemon on account of its strong military capability. At the state level however, any political arrangement, be it democratic, authoritarian, or monarchical is perceived as been militarily capable if it is able to survive the anarchy prevalent in the international system. In fact, states spend billions of dollars to acquire and build military capabilities by buying weapons and ammunition. In the contemporary international system,

most state actors are moved with the idea of boosting military capacities through nuclear weapons.

3.2.3 Economic Capabilities

Beside military capabilities, actors in the international political system require economic capabilities. Regardless of state and non-state actors, the economic power determines the viability of actors in international politics. For the state actor, scholars and analysts give example of gross national product (GNP) as one of the reliable measures to determine countries' economic capabilities. By considering the total market value of goods and services produced with the resources supplied by residents and businesses of a state, regardless of the location, economic viability could be determined. Other indices of determining economic capabilities of a state are the measurement of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) which indicates the total market of goods and services produced within a country (Payne, 2013). The stronger the economy of the state, the more the capable is such a state in the international system. States with viable economic capabilities compete favourably at the international market.

3.2.4 Political Capabilities

Political capability is a necessary complement to strong economic and military capabilities of a state. As rightly observed by Viotti and Kauppi (2013), it is difficult to understand the political power of a state without paying cognisance attention to the political capabilities. This applies to both state and non-state actors. It is stated that with political capacities, states can have viable and large human resources. These are people with high skills that can translate to political influence in the international system. Political capacities can also enhance a state's communication technology. This can be guaranteed through intelligence gathering in order to undermine potential threats against the state. Also, political capacities help to build reputations for the citizens of the state at large. According to Kauppi (2013), a state that has reputation of meeting its commitment with its allies, will successfully equipped itself against being engage in unwarranted threats from its adversaries.

Many scholars have described this kind of reputation arising from political capabilities as 'soft power'. This includes other non-material capabilities such as reputation and cultural values that a state enjoys among nations in the international system. The type of government operated by a state can also shape the political capabilities of the country. For instance, a democratic state might enjoy citizenship commitment and might not be unduly concerned

about pressures arising from the court of public opinion. On the other hand, authoritarian regimes do not have to answer the citizens and might take decisions without considering their opinions.

SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE

Describe the different types of actors in international political elations?

4.0   CONCLUSION

The capacities of actors have been traced to the power enjoyed by state and non-state actors in the international political system. The centrality of power to international relations has been examined and it is viewed as the basis of international politics. The capacities of actors are generally the determinants for their relevance within the international system

5.0   SUMMARY

In this unit, we have examined the capabilities of actors in the international political system

6.0   TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENT

Discuss Power in International System?

Identify and explain what the capabilities of actors are in international politics?

REFERENCES/FURTHER READINGS

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UNIT 3   THE NATURE OF THEINTERNATIONAL POLITICAL SYSTEM

1.0   INTRODUCTION

This unit looks at the nature of state interactions within the international system. Such interaction is necessary since no state can exist in isolation of other states in the comity of nations.

2.0   OBJECTIVES

The objectives are:

*   To explain the relevance of International Political System

*   To examine the Nature of International Political System

3.0   Relevance of the International Political System

The International political system is relevant to the understanding global politics. It was Aristole, the Greek Philosopher, who asserted that, man is by nature a social animal. This necessitates human interaction as man cannot be in isolation. This provides the basis for human interaction as man can hardly live in isolation with one another. No man is self-sufficient even in his daily needs. He depends on others. Similarly, no state can be in isolation. It has to cultivate relations with other states.

According to Parmer and Perkins, international system is essentially concerned with the state system. This indicates the aspect of interactions and relations of sovereign states which might involve some element of cooperation, opposition and resistance. This makes conflict to abound in international system. Conflict is inevitable as states disagree on the basis of their diverse national interest.

It is important to note that every nation tries to protect its interest by means of diplomacy and power. It is on this basis that international relations is believed to revolve around power. In essence, international political system is all about interaction of state policies within the changing patterns of power relations (Padelford & Lincoln, 1976). This actually justifies

Morgenthau's proposition that international relations is the struggle for and use of power among nations.

Put differently, diplomacy is one of the key vibrant instruments in settling disputes within the international system. It is on this note that George (1999) anchors conflict resolution strategy on preventive diplomacy. To him, preventive diplomacy is one of the tactics required for state interactions in order to avoid conflicts and disputes among different parties. Preventive diplomacy connotes actions taken to avoid conflict escalation among parties within the international system

The nature of international political system reveals the interaction and relationship among different nations. As obtainable in politics, international political system also encompasses state relations on the basis of diverse interests that are not identical. The interest of the state is called "National Interest". In order that a sovereign state to achieve its national interest, it engages into conflict with another state as a means of enhancing its end. Thus, international system is a type of state relationship that involves some measure of conflict of interest. In essence, every nation tries hard to protect her interest through the use of power. Power is therefore of some relevance to the understanding of the international relations.

But the international political system has a wider coverage ranging from the movement of people, goods and ideologies across borders. Consequently the international political system takes into consideration factors such as economic, social-cultural and religious considerations that are essential to the understanding of the nature of the international system. In a nutshell, international political system encompasses all aspects of state's relationship within the global arena.

SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE

How do you explain the nature of international political system?

4.0   CONCLUSION

The relevance of power to the understanding of the nature of international political system has been established above, it is also central to the survival of a state and its national interest. The point has also been made to the effect that in the projection of its interest, states usually come into conflict due to the incompatibility of each other's national interest.

5.0   SUMMARY

In this unit, we have explained the relevance of international political system. We emphasise that international system is all encompassing and that relations among states are beyond political interactions.

6.0   TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENT

What do you understand by International Political System?

Examine the relevance of states in international system?

Evaluate the nature of international politics?

7.0   REFERENCES/FURTHER READINGS

George, A. L(1999) *Strategies for Preventive Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution: Scholarship for Policy Making*Sage Publication

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Palmer, H.C. and Perkins, N.D. (2001).*International Relations Third Edition.* CBS Publishers

Padelford, N. and Lincoln, G. (1976).*The Dynamics of International Politics* Macmillian Publication

UNIT 4: CHARACTERISTICS OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL SYSTEM

1.0   INTRODUCTION

This unit focuses on one of the key issues in international relations by explaining the actors in international political system. It also looks at the characteristics of international political system

2.0   OBJECTIVES

- To define the actors in international political system

- To explain their roles and characteristics of international system

3.0   MAIN CONTENT

3.1   Defining Actors in International System

An actor is an individual or political entity which has enough authority and power and has will to exercise power to influence political processes. International actor is an entity with the capacity of having an impact within the international system. Unlike the domestic actors that are limited to exercise powers within a state, International Actors are those who act across state boarders. Their decision goes beyond the domestic entity.

However, international actors are multiple (individuals, social groups and movements, companies, organizations, states and group of states). The different actors take decisions that shape the happening within the international system. Nevertheless, the main and highest actor that dominates the international relations remains the sovereign state. Since the Westphalia treaty (1648) till date, the state maintains the major key actor in international political system. This justifies the classification of actors of international relations to state and non-state actors.

SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE

How can you define Actors in International Relations?

3.2 Characteristics of International Political System

The international political system is determined by actors who take decisions as a result of their interactions which directly or indirectly influence the foreign policy. The actors are active and not passive. They are saddled with the role of maintaining balance within the international political system. The actors either big or small are interwoven in the operations and survival of the international system. In essence, they are all involved in contest and cooperation in the bid to maintain balance of power. Though in the process of actors interactions coupled with their interest, there is bound to be conflict which makes the international system more complex and unique. Given this, the following can be viewed as the characteristics of international political system

- The state is the basic unit of analysis in international political system
- The international system is dominated with the threat and use of force
- The state makes foreign policy that can guarantee her national interest
- The international system revolves around power and power accumulation
- Hierarchical and uneven distribution of wealth and resources
- Respect for human rights, democratization and good governance

SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE

How can you describe actors of international political system?

4.0 CONCLUSION

The international political system is surrounded with different actors which can be simply categorised into state and non- state actors. However, the state actors dominate the international scene as the key player in the international system

5.0 SUMMARY

We have examined who the actors of international are in this unit. It is stated that state actor that dominates the international scene is always conscious of taking foreign policy in order to guarantee her national interest

6.0 TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENT

Examine state actor in the international system?

Highlight the characteristics of international political system?

7.0 REFRENCES/FURTHER READINGS

Hideki, K. (2006) 'Actors in World Politics' *Government and Politics* Vol II University Japan

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MODULE 2: SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL SYSTEM

INTRODUCTION

This module deals with some significant issues relating to the development of international political system. In this module, you will be exposed to development that shaped international politics ranging from Westphalia treaty of 1648, shifting of balance of power and the emergence of Nationalism. With these, you will find out the role of those significant developments towards shaping the dynamics of international politics.

For better comprehension, this module is anchored on four important units to justify the significance of those events in the development of international politics. The units are:

Unit I: Peace of the Westphalia (1648)

Unit 2: Shifting Balance of Power (1600 – 1800)

Unit 3: Balance of Power

Unit 4: The Emergence of Nationalism

UNIT 1: PEACE OF WESTPHALIA (1648)

CONTENTS

1.0   INTRODUCTION

The year 1648 marked a monumental milestone in the historical development of international political relations. The period ushered in a new phase in the international system which saw the demise of the feudal agricultural and religio-political world order that had long dominated the political landscape of Europe. It gave birth to new concepts like sovereignty and balance of power. It was in this context that Westphalia international relations systems emerge, it was a self-regulated system in which international relations between states has become central unit of international analysis to states as the main actors.

2.0   OBJECTIVES

At the end of this Unit, the students should be able to:

- Explain the background to the Peace of Westphalia 1648

- Understand the significance of the Peace of Westphalia

- Analyse the impacts and effects of the Peace of Westphalia.

3.0   MAIN CONTENT

3.1   Background to the Peace of Westphalia 1648

The Peace Treaty of Westphalia held in Munster, Germany in 1648 brought an end the eighty years war between the Spanish and the Dutch and the German phase of the thirty years war. The war started with an anti-Habsburg revolt in Bohemia in 1618, but became an

entanglement of different conflicts concerning the constitution of the Holy Roman Empire, religion and the state system of Europe. The war was a civil "German War" but foreign powers played crucial role, hence it became one of the longest armed conflicts of the early modern period. The thirty years war (1618 – 1648) began when the Holy Roman Emperor Ferdinand II of Bohemia attempted to curtail the religious activities of his subjects, sparking rebellion among Protestants. The war later involved the major powers of Europe, with Sweden, France, Spain and Austria all waging campaigns primarily on German soil.

The conflict which redrew the religious and political map of Europe began in the Holy Roman Empire. A number of some semi-autonomous political units were brought under the loose suzerainty of the Austrian Hapsburgs. Hitherto, a balance of power had emerged among the leading states, but during the 16th Century, the Reformation and Counter-Reformation had divided Germany into hostile Protestants and Catholic Camps each prepared to seek foreign support to guarantee its integrity if the need arose. However, the factors that led to the thirty years war varied. Many had maintained that the conflict was triggered by religious tensions between the Bohemian state and its citizens. In 1618, Ferdinand II started to restrict religious freedoms in Bohemia; as a result citizens in Bohemia turned to other Protestant entities in the region such as England, Denmark and the Dutch Republic. Following their uprising against Ferdinand II, he responded to this by approaching various Catholic allies in Europe. He attempted to shore up his alliance with the Papacy along with other Catholic rulers. This led to the beginning of a conflict within Bohemia; which further fuelled other hostilities throughout Europe.

By 1648, the conflict had reached its peak. There was large scale bloodshed and monumental atrocities were committed. The eventual result following the French victory over Spain at Rocroi in addition to Sweden's defeat of the imperialists in Jankau in 1645, forced the Hapsburgs to make concessions that led to the Peace Treaty of Westphalia in 1648.

3.2   The Treaty of Westphalia 1648

The Peace of Westphalia ushers in the signing of two treaties between the empire and the new great powers, Sweden and France, and settled the conflicts inside the empire with some guarantees. This compromise in 1648 meant a change of the empire's fundamental Golden Bill of 1356 and was a symbol that all conflicts occurring since 1618 were resolved

and that those who made peace did not avoid radical cuts invented fresh ideas in order to make peace.

Catholics and Protestants (including Calvinists as well as Lutherans) accepted each other. Several regulations guaranteed their balance; 1624 was declared the "normal year" of any territory's denomination, minorities were tolerated or had a right to emigrate, and no one could be forced to convert any longer. The settlement also strengthened the imperial Estates: they could go into foreign alliances and important matters, such as peace and war, along with the emperor. Habsburg's suspected ambition for a "universal monarchy" was thereby controlled, in particular because the Franco-Spanish negotiations in Munster did not bring peace between France and Spain and left open conflict areas, such as Alsace Lorraine. Moreover, France and Sweden got territorial "satisfaction", especially in Alsace and Pomerania. The Peace of Westphalia also confirmed the legal independence of the Swiss confederation and by a separate peace with Spain, in Munster, United Provinces of the Netherlands officially became a sovereign state after eighty years of war.

The Peace of Westphalia was crucial in German and international history. Its precise role in the European state system and international law is, however, subject to controversy, such as the debate over the "Westphalia System" in the late 20th and early 21st centuries controversies about the Peace of Westphalia are not new. The history of its reception and interpretation is as long as the history of its emergence.

3.3   Significance of the Peace of Westphalia

The Peace of Westphalia of 1648 is significant for its long lasting impact on inter-states relations. The Peace conference had commenced in Munster and Osnabruck in December1644. It was presided over by 194 states, from the largest to the smallest; represented by 179 diplomats in addition to thousands of auxiliary diplomats and support staff. The conference was headed by the Papal Nuncio, Fabio Chigi (the future Pope Alexander VII), and the Venetian ambassador. The political setting of Europe was drastically in disarray following the thirty years war and the Peace of Westphalia was instrumental to ending the bloodshed when the contending powers finally met in the German province of Westphalia.

The peace treaty paved the way for the principle of national self-determination. It further sets the precedence of peace formulated by diplomatic congress, as it provided the foundation of

modern state system. More importantly, the Peace Treaty articulated the concept of territorial sovereignty: the norm was set to stop non-interference in the internal affairs of other states and inter-state aggression was to be held in check by the principle of balance of power.

In all, the concept of Westphalia sovereignty is tied to territorial sovereignty within a given territory; there is only one absolute temporal power, the government of that territorial state.

3.4   The Impact of the Peace of Westphalia 1648

The Peace of Westphalia marked the end of the Holy Roman Empire. The authority of the Roman emperor has reduced drastically but not totally banished as the German protestant rulers preferred a weak Roman empire rather than Swedish or French rule. The Roman Empire now presided only over the weak German states.

France was the biggest victor according to this treaty; it could not succeed in its goal of wiping out the Roman Empire entirely, but gained its territory to Hapsburg possessions in Alsace and achieved acknowledgement of its sovereignty over the bishoprics of Metzi Verdun and Toul, Pinerolo in Savoy, and Breisach in Philippsburg.

Sweden attained dominance over Western Pomerania, Wismar, the archbishoprics of Bremen and Verden, and the Islands of Riigen and Usedom, but was forced to part with Pomerania to the Elector of Brandenburg, who received the eastern part of the duchy. Finally the treaty gave the Swiss independence of Austria and the Netherlands independence of Spain. The German principalities secured their autonomy. Sweden gained territory and a payment in cash, Brandenburg and Bavaria made gains too, and France acquired most of Alsace-Lorraine. The prospect of a Roman Catholic re-conquest of Europe vanished forever. Protestantism was in the world to stay.

3.4.1   Effects of Westphalia Peace on International Politics

This peace treaty was the first modern diplomatic congress to use international law to influence relations between independent states and for the creation of another concept of non-intervention in interior affairs of another nation, territorial unity and legal equality between independent nations. It heralded a foundation for the modern European state system known as the balance of power system. The new system was based on its fundamental principle of states sovereignty.

It is generally agreed that the treaty was (is) one of the most important documents in the history of Europe with details of returning the occupied territories, information on wrong-

doing events during the war, trade regulation after the war, the manner in which the armies would be disbanded and prisoners of war set free.

The 1648 Westphalia Peace Treaty established three focal principles in regards to international relations; A sovereignty of the states according to the standard of *Roe est Imperator in regno Sao*, meaning 'the ruler is fully autonomous within his own domain but not a subject to the political will of anyone. The settlement recognized the absolute power of the leader and indeed the personal dynastic power to a specific territory. It also recognized the collective security (CS) with the fundamental task to maintain the peace among the key actors in international relations. Though the concept of fluctuating from a more practical but an unregulated world government under the international law and accepted standard of actor. In principle, it refers to the situation in which no one state predominates over the other. In earnest, this means that the policy of power equilibrium in international relations under the assumption that unbalanced power is dangerous for regional or global security. All the three focal principles remained as the foundations of global politics and International Relation up to 1945 and became revived after the Cold War in an updated form.

The Treaty marked a peak in the state of the Modern System of international relations between the states by legitimizing the governmental authority to be both the final and only sovereign administration over the inhabitants within the geographic-political borders of their own political entity. Such arrangement meant that the government became a sole arbiter on the international affairs of the state; and that other states did not have any right to interfere in the internal affairs and policy of another.

Up to date, global security and international relations by formally shaped with some cosmetic modifications after 1945. Accordingly, the idea of the original Treaty of Westphalia 1648hinging on the principle of sovereignty of independent states and collective security which was protective had been reshaped by global politics regardless of the problem that both sovereignty and Collective Security (CS) could cause. In fact, they are contradictory in principles.

SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE

How do you assess the importance of the Treaty to International Relations (Politics)?

4.0   CONCLUSION

The Treaty of Westphalia was signed on October 24th, 1648, marking the end of the thirty years war. It was an agreement between nations that established that individual rights and laws to which one was bound were determined by the state (country) of occupation, not origin. Long before this date at least in Roman times, it was where you came from that matters, rather than where you were from.

The war or series of connected wars began in 1618, when the Austrian-Hapsburgs tried to impose Roman Catholicism on their protestant subjects in Bohemia. It actually triggered a protest involving the Catholic Church and the Holy Roman Empire against France. Also, there was a conflict between the German Princes against the Emperor which as well escalated to France, Hamburg and Spain. In the long run, the war dragged in nationals ranging from the Swedes, the Danes, the Poles, the Russians, the Dutch and the Swiss. Nevertheless, it was observed that apart from religious sentiment, commercial interests and power politics played a part in the crisis.

5.0   SUMMARY

In this Unit we have been able to understand the background to the Peace of Westphalia of 1648 and the contents of the Treaty terms, noting the significance of the Peace Treaty, its impact and the effects of Westphalia peace on International Politics.

6.0   TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT
1. Highlight the historical background to the Peace of Westphalia
2. What were the effects of Westphalia Peace on International Politics?

7.0   REFERENCES/FURTHER READINGS

Derek, C., (1999) "The Peace of Westphalia of 1648 and the Origins of Sovereignty" *International History Review.* London.

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UNIT 2: SHIFTING BALANCE OF POWER

CONTENT

1.0   **Introduction**

Like humans, states do have the need to interact with one another. This is due to the fact that no state can continue to exist as an island with all its needs met. The Greek city-states were deliberately organized to be compact due to a plethora of differences, of religion, of lineage and so on. Such differences however dispose them to threats of war situations.

Consequently, the state system has always been characterized by instability, and by constant quest for, and exercise of power by states in their interaction with one another. In their attempt to assert their influence, larger and stronger states tend to organize armies and launch attacks on weaker or smaller states in order to either capture and annex them and by so doing expand their territories and influence. Such, were the actions that created the instability prevalent especially during the era of the Greek city-states and beyond. Johari, (2012), posited that "the story of international relations and politics hinging on the fundamental issues of peace and war, and involving therein the actual behaviour of the 'states' was influenced by the element of 'power', and is very old." Generally power is known to be one of the most vital determinants of international political behaviour. It is the understanding couples with the sheer necessity to preserve their sovereignty that compel states to acquire armaments in an attempt to deter other aggressive state actors from attacking one another at any prompting issue, that gave birth to the concept of balance of power. After the Greek states, a new world order emerged and was by this time influence by the statesmen of nations like Britain, France, Germany, Russia, Austria-Hungary Prussia and Spain who were known to apply the term in diplomatic relations. The idea of balance of power was born out of the desire to protect national interest in a collective manner such that no one state will be allowed

to amass so much power as to be able to exert control and determine what other states should do even against their will.

2.0   OBJECTIVES

This Unit has the following as objectives among others to;

     a.   trace the basis for state's interaction at the international system

     b.   identify leading states in pursuit of balance of power theory

     c.   expose events leading to shift in balance of power

     d.   identify the various structures of balance of power

3.0   MAIN CONTENT

3.1   Principal Assumptions of Balance of Power

The underlying assumptions of balance of power are:

a) Firstly, balance of power assumes that states are determined to protect their vital rights and interests by all means, including war.

b) Secondly, vital interests of the states are threatened.

c) Thirdly, relative power position of states can be measured with a degree of accuracy.

d) Fourthly, it assumes that "balance " will either deter the threatening state from launching an attack or permit the victim to avoid defeat if an attack should occur.

e) Finally that, statesmen can and, they do make foreign decisions intelligently on basis of power considerations

3.2   Balance of Power and its Application amongst Nations

According to Palmer and Perkins, (2010), "the concept of the balance of power has been present wherever and whenever the multiple-state system has existed. It was known and applied in the ancient world, most conspicuously in the city-states of Greece, but also in Egypt, Babylonia, India, and China". However, the late fifteenth and sixteenth centuries marked the real beginning of the application of the concept. This era witnessed the foundation laid for the political and secular basis of the modern world. There arose rivalries among the Princes of northern Italy, thus, Medici, the Visconti, the Sforzas, and many others and among Spanish, French, and German rulers who attempted to intervene in Italian politics

that seems to be the conspicuous application of the system. Niccolo Machiavelli (1469-1527), elaborately analyzed the various strategies deployed by successive princes in the city-states of northern Italy where Venice, a once mighty city-state sought to be a balance between France and the Holy Roman Empire. Also, England became the balancer after the first world war by opposing France's design for total suppression of Germany and, after a couple of years offered a dose of strength to Germany to revive and regain her power in order to serve as a check against the increasing power of France(Palmer & Perkins 2010: 219)

3.3 Uni-Polar, Bi-Polar and Multipolar Systems

There are basically three forms of power distribution associated with the balance of power theory, and they are; the Unipolar, the Bipolar and the multipolar systems. The types of system is completely dependent on the influence of states within a region or internationally.

Unipolarity: of a world system simply refers to a situation that describes a distribution of power in which there is one state with most of the military, cultural and economic influence. A true unipolarity that has influence all over the known world was difficult to form prior to the Age of discovery due to lack of communication regarding other nations.

Bipolarity: in international politics describes a distribution of power whereby, two states have the majority of military, economic and cultural influence either at the regional or international level. Often, spheres of influence are developed. For example, in the Cold War, most Western and democratic states fell under the influence of the USA, while most Communist states fell under the influence of the USSR. Other examples are Great Britain and France during the colonial era. The bipolar system can be said to extend to much larger systems, such as alliances or organizations which would not be considered nation-states, but would still have power concentrated in two primary groups.

In both world wars, much of the world, and especially Europe, the United States and Japan had been divided into two respective spheres, one case being the Axis and Allied power of World War II (1939-1945), whereas, the formal division of power was between the Central powers and Allied powers during World War I (1914-1918).

Multipolarity: usually is a situation in which more than four nation-states have nearly equal amount of military, cultural and economic influence. This system has varying opinions as regards its stability. While classical realists hold that multipolar systems are more stable than

bipolar systems, as great powers can gain power through alliances and petty wars that do not directly challenge other powers, same cannot be said to be possible in a bipolar system. The concert of Europe, a period from after the Napoleonic wars to Crimean wars, was an example of peaceful multipolarity. At this time, great powers of Europe assembled regularly to discuss international and domestic issues (Akonye & Paul, 2011:66).

3.4 The Shift in Balance Of Power in Europe (1600-1800)

The period from 1618-1648 witnessed great instability in world politics characterized by the thirty years war, especially in Europe. This was a period that the Roman Catholics were fighting with the Protestants. This escalated and became an opportunity seized by European countries and rulers to exert power within their regions. This era saw series of alliances amongst principalities in Europe aimed at securing their territories and influence. The balance of power system at this period was Multi-Polar in nature since there was no one 'Laughing third party', to serve as the balancer. There was also the issue of balance of power in Western Europe with the new regional balance that had developed in the northern and north-eastern sections of the continent. This period had England as the balancer that ensured equilibrium after World War 1. That was why England was able to rebuke France's design to suppress Germany from been a continental force to be reckoned with but also went further to give Germany doses of strength in form of assistance to Germany, to revive and become a power to act as a check against the increasing power of France (Johari ., 2012: 309).

It was in an effort to find peace that the Westphalia Treaty of 1648 firmly established the nation-state system and stated in clear terms the general pattern of international relations. The Westphalia Treaty further strengthened the use of balance of power. So, when Louis XIV of France became too ambitious and threatened to destroy the balance, England led a coalition of allies with Netherlands against France in opposition to Louis XIV. This happened in spite of a previous alliance between England and France. It was at a period that France was a leading power in Europe. By this time, France was then Europe's most populous country, with about 18 million people. It was after king Louis captured Spain that European powers began conspiring against him. On February 7, the Netherlands, England and Sweden arrived at an alliance aimed against France's over bearing influence. By 1697 the Bi-polar system was in place during this period, as the Netherlands and France were the major European powers.

The eighteenth century saw the Treaty of Utrecht (1713), which was necessitated by the defeat of Louis XIV by the allied forces led by England to close the war of Spanish Succession. This has been tagged the golden age of balance of power in theory and in practice (Palmer and Perkins, 2010: 221). There was a lot of shifts in alignments and some manipulations that marked the foreign policies of the great powers of that century. According to Palmer and Perkins (2010), "a multiple balance of power existed, involving England, France, Prussia, Austria and Russia. That, much of the political history of the eighteenth century between the Treaty of Utrecht and the outbreak of the French revolution and the Napoleonic wars could be written around the varying relations among these five powers". The secret Triple Alliance between Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy in 1882 equally caused a momentary shift in balance of power until a rival alliance, the Triple Entente, which was first formed between France and Russia, then between France and England and finally, between England Russia destabilized the balance.

4.0   CONCLUSION

Conclusively therefore, it should be noted that shift in balance of power usually occurred during crisis situation and is concerned with power politics manifesting through military might. The idea of shift in power balance during the period from 1600 to 1800was basically rotated among European powers like France, Netherlands, Hungary-Austria and Britain. That is, the most desirable role was for a great power at any given time to be the balancer and not necessarily be a participant to the balance itself. In the 18th century, Great Britain permanently assumed the role of the balancer or the holder of the balance in Europe.

5.0   SUMMARY

This unit focuses on the instances at which there were shifts in power balance in Europe with specific emphasis on the period within 1600-1800. To effectively achieve this task, the work states the principal assumptions of balance of power, in order to have a clear picture of how it applies. The study further delves into the history of power relations amongst nations and goes on to explain the polarity of world systems, namely: unipolar, bipolar and multipolar systems. Some discussions on the shift in balance of power in Europe has been entertained.

6.0 TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENT

1. What is the main role of a holder of the balance?
2. At what point can balance of power be said to have shifted?
3. Give an account of how Britain became the balancer in Europe

7.0 REFERENCES/FURTHER READINGS

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UNIT 3: BALANCE OF POWER

CONTENT

1.0.   INTRODUCTION

Inter-state relationship between states or countries in the international arena is primarily tailored towards the achievement of their national interest. In this regards, nation-states acquire military and material resources to give them the capability to push for their interest. Nevertheless, based on the interests pursued by states in the inter-national community which sometimes leads to a clash of interests between and among states, there is always the need for balance of power between and among states in the international arena.

Thus, the concept of balance of power has been referred to as a universal and timeless principle that dates back to ancient times. During the period of the warring states in China (403 – 221 BC), the development of large, cohesive states accompanied the creation of irrigation systems, bureaucracies and large armies equipped with iron weapons. These Chinese states pursued power through a constantly shifting network of alliances. This idea is to meet up with opposing warring states.

In ancient Greece, during the Peloponnesian War (431 – 104 BC), the rising power of Athens triggered the formation of a coalition of city states that felt threatened by Athenian power. The Alliance, led by Sparter succeeded in defeating Athens and restoring a balance of power among Greek cities.

Moreover, in the 17th Century, the Habsburg dynasty which ruled Austria and Spain, threatened to dominate Europe. During the "Thirty Years" war (1618 – 1648), a coalition that included Sweden, England, France and the Netherlands defeated the rulers of the Habsburg

Empire. In the 19th Century, Napoleon Bonaparte of France repeatedly made efforts to conquer large areas of Europe. A broad coalition of European states including Britain, Russia, Austria and Prussia defeated France in a series of major battles that climaxed with Napoleon's defeat at the battle of Waterloo in 1815. The classical European balance of power system emerged, thereafter, in an alliance known as the concert of Europe. It was organized by Austrian statesman Klemens Von Metternich in 1815. This loose alliance between Britain, Russia, Austria, Prussia and France ensured that a handful of great powers would coexist, with none able to dominate the others. Under this system, and with Britain playing a balancing role, peace largely prevailed in Europe during the 19th century. During the Second World War, Germany's rising power, aggressive conquests and alliance with Italy and Japan triggered yet another coalition of opposing states notably the capitalist democracies of Britain and the United State son the one hand and the Communist Soviet Union on the other hand.

2.0. OBJECTIVES

At the end of this unit, the students should be able to:-

- Understand the meaning and concept of balance of power
- Identify the different theories of balance of power
- Understand the origin of balance of power.
- Understand the important of balance of power in the international relations.

3.0. MAIN CONTENT
3.1. The concept of Balance of Power

The concept of balance of power in international relations is centred on the adoption of policies, military and material resources by an alliance of a group of nation-states against the power of the other side. This is to ensure that the socio-political, economic and military strength of a given nation-state does not supersede the other.

As I. L. Claude Jr. observed that the trouble with the balance of power is not that it has no meaning but that it has too many meanings. G. Schwarzen Berger spoke of it as an "equilibrium" or "a certain amount of stability in international relations" and that under favourable conditions, it is produced by an alliances of states or by other devices. He went

further to assert that it is a universal application whenever a number of sovereign and powerful states co-exist.

In a similar vein, S. B. Fay opined that it refers to "such a just equilibrium" in power among the members of the family of nations as will prevent anyone of them from becoming sufficiently strong to enforce its will upon others. Described as a system in which each tends to throw its weight where it is most needed, so that its own importance may be changed. However, there is need to look at the application of the concept of balance of power in modern time just as we have perused the same concept in its application in ancient times.

3.2.   Theories of Balance of Power

The theory of balance of power suggests the distribution of military capability so that no one state is strong enough to dominate all others. If one state becomes stronger than others, the theory predicts that it will take advantage of its strength and attack weaker neighbours, thereby providing an incentive for those threatened to unite in defensive coalitions. This state coalition is mostly formed by states that feel threatened by that same power as well as have similar interest.

As a theory, balance of power predicts that rapid changes in international power and status especially attempts by one state to conquer a region will provoke counter-balancing actions. For this reason, the balancing process helps to maintain the stability of relations between states.

Realism and Balancing

The balance of power theory is a core tenet of both classical and neorealist formation. Due to the neorealist idea of anarchism as a result of the international system, states must ensure their survival through maintaining or increasing their power in a self-help world. With no authority above the state to come to its rescue in the event of an attack by a hegemon, states attempt to prevent a potential hegemon from arising by balancing against it. According to Kenneth Waltz, founder of neorealism, "balance-of-power politics prevail wherever two, and only two requirements are met: that the order be anarchic and that it be populated by units wishing to survive. They can do this either through "internal balancing", where a state uses internal efforts such as moving to increase economic capability, developing clever strategies and increasing military strength; or through "external balancing which occurs when states

take external measures to increase their security by forming allies. States happy with their place in the system are known as "status quo" states, while those seeking to alter the balance of power in their favour are generally referred to "revisionist states" and aspire for hegemony, thus repairing the balance.

Balancing Versus Band-wagoning

There are two major reasons why states choose to balance their power. First, they place their survival at risk if they fail to curb a potential hegemon before it becomes too strong; to ally with the dominant power means placing one's trust in its continued benevolence. Second, joining the weaker side increases the likelihood that the new member will be influential within the alliance. States choose to bandwagon because it may be a form of appeasement as the band wagoner may hope to avoid an attack by diverting it elsewhere – a defensive reason – or because it may align with the dominant in wartime to share the spoils of victory – an offensive reason.

The weaker the state the more likely it is to bandwagon than to balance as they do little to affect the outcome and thus must choose the winning side. Strong states may change a losing side into a winning side and thus are more likely to balance. States will be tempted to bandwagon when allies are unavailable; however excessive confidence in allied support encourages weak states to free ride relying on the efforts of others to provide security.

Chain ganging

Chain-ganging occurs when a state sees its own security tied to the security of its alliance partner. It chains itself by defending any attack on its ally the equivalent of an attack on itself. This is another aspect of the balance of power theory, whereby the smaller states could drag their chained states into wars that they have no desire to fight. A key example of this was the chain-ganging between states prior to World War I, dragging the entire European continent to war over a dispute between the relatively major power of Austria-Hungary and the minor power of Serbia. Thus states "may chain themselves unconditionally, to reckless allies whose survival is seen to be indispensable to the maintenance of the balance".

Buck Passing and Blood Letting

Balancing and buck passing are the main strategies for preserving the balance of power and preventing a potential hegemon's rise. It will pass the responsibility on the state. John Mearsheimer, a prominent offensive realist, claims that threatened states can take four measures to facilitate buck passing, including seeking good diplomatic relations with the aggressor in the hope that it will divert its attention to the "buck-catcher"; maintaining cool relations with the buck-catcher so as not to get dragged into the war with the buck-catcher and as a result possibly increase positive relations with the aggressor; increasing military strength to deter the aggressive state and keep its focus on the buck-catcher; and facilitating the growth in power of the intended buck-catcher. Likewise, buck-passers can enter wars late after both sides have been worn down, allowing the buck-passer to dominate the post-war world. For example, UK's light involvement in the early stages of World War I.

Offensive and Defensive Realism

Defensive realists emphasize that if any state becomes too powerful; balancing will occur as other powers would build up their militaries and form a balancing coalition. This is because the resulting security dilemma would leave the aspiring hegemon less secure. Defensive realists maintain that it is in a state's interest to maintain the status quo rather than maximize its power. Offensive realists accept that threatened states usually balance against dangerous foes, however, they maintain that balancing is often inefficient and that this inefficiency provides opportunities for a clever aggressor to take advantage of its adversaries.

Offensive realists believe also that internal balancing measures such as increasing defense spending, implementing conscriptions, are only effective to a certain extent as there are usually significant limits on how many additional resources a threatened state can muster against an aggressor. However, since offensive realists theorize that states are always seeking to maximize their power, states are "effectively engaged in internal balancing all the time".

Balance of Threat

The balance of threat theory is an offshoot of the balancing, coined in 1985 by Stephen M. Walt in an attempt to explain why balancing against rising hegemons has not always been consistent in history. According to Walt, "states balance against threat, rather than power alone". The theory acknowledges balancing of threats among powerful states.

Soft Balancing

According to Thomas Moiwle and David Sacko, "soft balancing" is seen as "balancing that does not balance at all". Soft balancing theory was developed in the twenty first century to cope with the current anomaly of the unipolar unbalanced world. These theoretical efforts are counter-productive, since Realism and unipolarity are compatible and structural realism should rather develop a set of hypotheses for a unipolar world. It should be noted that "scholars do not need to desperately search for signs of balancing, they do not need to soften balancing beyond recognition, and they do not need to stand to watch for the first glimmering of a new multi-polar dawn".

However, it is the net effect, or result produced by a state system in which the independent state as sovereign members are free to join or to refrain from joining alliances and alignments as each seeks to maximize its security and to advance its national interest.

3.3.   Balance of Power and the Congress of Vienna 1814 to 1815

The main idea about the congress of Vienna was to re-establish power and authority, order and peace in Europe after a successful defeat of Napoleon. The European leaders converged in Vienna to establish a new balance of power in Europe which will prevent imperialism within, and to maintain peace among the great powers. Secondly, to prevent political revolution such as the French revolution and lastly to maintain the status quo by restoring the traditional government (that monarchy) back to their thrones which they occupied before the Napoleonic conquest. The European government wanted to make sure that no one become as powerful as France had.

Although the leaders of Europe wanted to weaken France, they did not want to leave it powerless. If they severely punished France, they might encourage the French to take a revenge. If they broke up France, then another country might become so strong that it would threaten them all. Thus, the European powers did not exert a great price from the defeated nation. As a result, France remained a major but diminished European power. Also, no country in Europe could easily overpower another.

The outcome of the proceedings in Vienna Congress was a product of an exercise in scheming, alignment and realignment of forces with the picture of the future balance of power and protecting of self-interest. Though it resulted in a long lasting (peace) process

because they did not go to war with another for nearly forty (40) years and that was the Crimea War of 1853. A successful balance of power was achieved because the great powers had vested interest in restoring order and royal alliances. Each agreed to Collective Security and Defense. This new alliance system was a precursor to the League of Nations designed by Tedrow Wilson at the end of World War I.

In a critical appraisal, the reconstruction of the map of Europe based on the principles of legitimacy and compensation was set at naught by force of circumstances before the end of the nineteenth century. The territorial settlements made by the Congress of Vienna could not remain permanent. The Liberals in Europe could see through the vicious minds of the so-called statesmen who were determined to enslave the people of Europe with their new philosophy. Therefore, the territorial settlement did not last for more than half a century. Cracks began to appear in the fabric of Vienna settlement as early as 1821 with the Greek War of independence. Similarly, the subjects in Italy and Germany rose frequently in revolt to liberate their countries from the domination of Austria. However, the Concert of Europe was the first major attempt made by European statesmen to establish an international organization for maintaining peace and security. The big four (Russia, Prussia, Austria and Britain) established the Concert of Europe which offered protection to the rulers of Europe. It was their earnest desire to maintain peace and not the means they adopted which should sway the Liberals judgment of their actions.

3.4. Balance of Power and Cold War 1947 – 1989

It is glaring that the application of balance of power was seen in play during and before the World War II (1939 – 1945) as well this concept lingered up to the cold war era (1947 – 1989). The cold war era was a time frame that witnessed an ideological war between two blocs. All the weapons of psychological warfare were used – threats of war, accusations and subversion. The principal cause of the cold war was the attempt made by the Soviet Union to dominate the whole world through the spread of its ideology – Socialism [Eastern bloc] against Capitalism [Western bloc]. Due to the polarity of the cold war era, there was a great need for balance of power between the two blocs as they were bent on spreading their different ideologies.

There were three elements that developed during the cold war, which led to the balance of power application – Alliances, territorial spheres of influence and military capabilities.

Nevertheless, military alliance is characterized as an alliance of nations based on the belief that security is best maintained by a balance of power.

During the cold war, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) was established as a result of the Czecho-Slovakian coup and the Berlin blockade carried out by the Soviet Communist. The United States feared that without a strong military defensive system (tactics) Western Europe was threatened by Soviet expansion. NATO was a regional military alliance. Its main treaty was that "an armed attack against one member would be interpreted as an attack against all". In response, the Warsaw Pact was a defensive military regional alliance of Eastern European countries [Eastern Germany, Bulgaria, Romania, Albania and Czechoslovakia) headed by USSR. It was created to try to maintain a bipolar balance of power between communist and democratic countries.

During the Berlin blockade in 1958 both NATO and the WARSAW Pact took a stand. There were tensions between East and West Berlin. West Germany was thriving economically (capitalist economy) and a member of NATO while East Germany [Socialist economy] was economically and politically repressed. In 1958, two million Germans fled to the West. President Khruschev of Soviet Union demanded the Western Powers occupying Berlin to evacuate within six months. NATO refused to bulge and in March, 59, Khruschev had to back down (out)? The West Berlin remained free of communism. Furthermore, in 1962, tensions shifted from Europe to Cuba in Latin America, when Khruschev strived to install missiles in Cuba, this occupied a strong position in the American sphere of influence. It was clear that the Soviet Union was planning to use the missiles bases in Cuba to threaten the United States which was repelled.

4.0. CONCLUSION

On the whole, the concept of balance of power was achieved through military alliances, territorial influence and military compatibility. It has played a vital role in avoiding clash of interest among states in the international arena. It undermines the outbreak of a full-fledged war as instances of growing military and material capabilities of a state could be checkmate by other states who feel threatened by it. It ensures also that no one state is in a position to effectively violate the sovereignty, independence (territorial integrity) of other countries. This is usually carried out by an alliance of states with common interests and ideology against the stronger one. The principle has successfully prevented a major global

conflict. It effectively prevented the major powers of the US and USSR from initiating war. A nation-state will not initiate aggression if it is convinced that the costs of such an action could have destructive consequences that outweigh the benefits of achieving the desired national goal.

5.0.   SUMMARY

The balance of power is indeed a time honoured policy of nineteenth century European states, as Rome did not involve herself with the balance of power questions. Yet it was a preponderant power. There are many observers who now think the US and the British Empire, acting together can hold preponderant power in the post-cold war era. But that was not the case at the time of the peace conference. One may pause to ask whose power is to be balanced. Today, no nation or group of nation can challenge American power in the twenty first century. In fact, should the balance of power operate in its classical form, it would trigger counter moves by states seeking to pose a counter weight in America's expressed ambitions.

6.0.   Tutor-MARKED ASSISGNMENT
1. What is balance of power and how can a state achieve it?
2. What do you understand by the concept of balance of power?
3. Analyse the theories of balance of power.

7.0.   REFERENCES/FURTHER READINGS

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UNIT 4: THE EMERGENGE OF NATIONALISM

1.0.   INTRODUCTION

Nationalism at one level is a feeling of love and pride for the support of a group of people for the creation of a sovereign nation which does not currently exist. At another level, it is an intense filling of love, pride and support for the development one state and people. The conception of ideas may originate from an individual or a group, the means employed for its achievement may be violent or peaceful, and the Nationalist struggle itself may be slow, protracted or quick. The ultimate goal of a nationalist movement is however, the transformation of society and the achievement of attending the status of independent nation-state or sovereignty. Throughout its history, the world has witnessed various nationalist movements/agitations/struggles right from 18th Century in Europe and has spanned several centuries and has involved the radical changes in the mode of productions, religious worship, political rule and social contents. Virtually all African states from North (the Maghreb states), to South and East to West have been dominated from one period or the other especially by the colonial powers from the continent of Europe. During this period in question, the continent's treasure has been exploited, and misappropriated. Thus, the experience of colonial rule and domination constitutes the bed rock of any attempt to explain post-colonial politics among African states.

The colonial system was imposed and maintained by various instruments involving violent economic, political, religious and cultural dimensions, and all of which needed to be dismantled. The independent movements of African states were intended to dismantle this oppressive, bitter and brutal system in Algeria, Angola, Mozambique, Gambia, South Africa etc. Yet, for all their initiatives, these early African Nationalists wanted to liberate their father

land and manage their own lives for themselves. However, the struggle for decolonization did not become quite evident to the Europeans in Africa until at the end of the World War II, when they witnessed an upsurge in the Nationalist Movement. They used such instrument as Newspapers publications and other media propaganda in order to raise the consciousness of their people.

2.0.   OBJECTIVES

At the end of the study, the students should be able to:

- Define Nationalism
- Understand the factors that triggered nationalism in African continent
- Identify the front liners in the Nationalist movement in some African countries.

3.0.   MAIN CONTENT

3.1.   Definition of Nationalism

The definition of nationalism solely depends on the person defining it, the country he comes from and the context in which he is defining it. What it will mean to a person struggling for the liberation of his country from the shackles of colonization and imperialism will be entirely different from another person whose country is not under the obnoxious colonial rule. To a person from a country under colonial rule and domination, it may mean opposition to foreign rule and domination. According to a renowned historian K.B.C. Onwubuiko, "the patriotic sentiment or activity on the part of groups of Africans held together by the bonds of common language and common historic experience to assert their right to live under a government of their own making for the preservation of their political, economic and social interest".

In essence, Nationalism in political terms can also be defined as "the struggle against foreign domination of another nation which will eventually trigger a radical fundamental change in the government and constitution of a people". In this study, specifically, we are concerned with the nationalist struggles of the continent of Africa against colonial domination by European states.

3.2.   Prelude to Colonialism

It is important to note that the earliest contacts with Africa from the outside world took the form of trade relations. Even before the advent of the Europeans, states in Africa interacted with one another. The North African trade led to the establishment of Caravan routes across the Sahara desert. One of the most important features of the contact between North African states (the Maghreb states) and some other countries in Africa was the introduction of Islam. The introduction of Islam to Kanem in the eleventh century and Hausa land in the fourteenth century brought the attendant features of the religion including the performance of pilgrimage, the adoption of Muslim names, and other Islamic rites.

In the same vein, the initial contact between the Europeans and the people of West Africa was first made by the Portuguese. Other European countries such as Britain, Dutch later followed the Portuguese to establish trade with the coastal states of Nigeria and other African countries. The presence of the Portuguese in the coastal states of Africa triggered the trade in slaves. The Trans-Atlantic slave trade began from 1480. At the time cheap labour was needed for the Portuguese Sugar Plantations on the Island of Sao Tome and the New World (North America). The abolition of the slave trade brought in "legitimate trade" – trade in items such as palm kernel, palm oil, cotton, groundnut, ivories, benniseed etc. and no more human beings. The trade in palm oil, palm kernel, cotton and groundnuts were increasingly developed in some African states and as such affected the economic preoccupation of some African states as export trade in the new crops were encouraged by the Europeans. The abolition of the slave trade led to considerable changes in the coastal states. On the political plain, it led to the rise of consular authorities and intervention in the local politics of the coastal states by the Europeans especially British in the process of seeking to protect the European (British) trade in palm oil, it had become clear to the British that some control was needed to halt the opposition posed by the chiefs. This led to the undermining of traditional institutions by the British. It also offered fresh opportunities to a breed of men who were willing to offer leadership in the new "legitimate" trade. This brought conflict between the British and the traditional chiefs, which led to sack, capture and deportation of some chiefs. Hence, in order to have a steady supply of trading items from African states – the British entrenched hegemony in the area hence colonialism.

3.2.1. Stages of Nationalism in West Africa

1. Acts of Resistance: These were reactions mainly from the traditional rulers against white or European incursion on the soil of Africa.

2. Protest against Maltreatment: After the imposition of obnoxious colonial rule, there were protests organized mainly by African elites against maltreatment, economic exploitation, racial discrimination etc.

3. Desire for Participation in Government: This stage of nationalism took the form of African nationalists struggling to take active part in the governance of their countries.

4. Modern Nationalism: This nationalism took the form of complete eradication of colonial rule with the slogan "Africa must be ruled by Africans".

3.3. Factors that Aided Nationalism in West Africa

The factors that gave birth to nationalists movements in Africa are as follows.

Social Factor: The development of urban centres led to the rapid migrations of people from rural areas to semi-towns which later became towns; a consciousness of the people in the urban areas increased because people who lived in the cities which served as centres of colonial thrones felt the cruelties of colonialism to a greater intensity. For example, they saw how their towns were divided into African and European quarters. European quarters had electricity, good buildings particularly around the so called Government Reserved Areas (GRAs) while the African quarters were characterized by slums, poverty, exploitation and lack of electricity. Moreover, the rapid growth of urbanization and its resultant unemployment unified Africans and sparked off nationalist activities. Even the two world wars, had innumerable impact on Africans. Africans were forced to fight a war they did not know anything about. They fought the Germans in Togo, Cameroon and Tanganyika during the First World War, and fought in Burma and India during the World War II. During the wars, the African soldiers got better knowledge of the Whiteman since they fought together with them in battle. This unmasked the myth of Europeans as superior beings who were above disease, death and hunger. The African soldiers were poorly paid and some allowances were denied to them at the end of the war. The Ex-service men therefore, came back with burning ambition and frustrations to ensue racial equality through the destruction of colonialism. They joined and increased the number of people in urban centres who were agitating for independence.

There was racial discrimination in the colonial civil service – the educated western elite were paid higher than the African elites yet they were exposed to the same training. This injustice and inequality in the colonial civil service helped to trigger impatient emotions pent up in the educated elites to fight for independence of their country.

Economic Factor: There was a clear case of economic exploitation. The monopoly of trade in Africa by European firms or companies and its attendant economic exploitation gave rise to the growth of nationalism. The prices of agricultural products were ridiculously very low while that of European manufactures were fixed at high prices. The world depression of 1930s brought about untold hardships on the Africans, as they witnessed high prices of commodities which resulted in high cost of living and a fall in standard of living. Again heavy taxes imposed on Africans, and the emphasis that the taxes should be paid with colonial currency was seen as an instrument of forced labour on the Africans.

Educational Factor: The activities of West African Students Union (WASU) formed while studying overseas promoted nationalism. More still, the teaching of English/French in those missionary/colonial schools in Africa provided the Nationalists with a Lingua Franca in their various territories. Such a lingua franca was used to communicate with one another and to share ideas and knowledge in addition to monitoring development in these states. The power of communication so developed facilitated the emergence of nationalist newspapers. The newspapers, through their publications contributed to the sowing and nurturing of the seeds of nationalism and helped to awaken Africans from slumber to confront colonialism violently.

Political Factor: The emergence and growth of militant political parties led by vibrant and never-say-die politicians like Herbert Macaulay, Kwame Nkrumah, Nnamdi Azikiwe, Obafemi Awolowo etc. resuscitated the spirit of Nationalism in West Africa and beyond. The development of trade unions contributed greatly to the growth of nationalism.

The most significant among some factors that contributed to the growth of Nationalism in Africa was the emergence of USA & Soviet Union as World Powers at the end of World War II. America, having suffered from colonialism became unwilling to accept the domination of one country by another. The Soviet Union because of its socialist ideas of equality of human beings also became resistant to see the end of colonialism, hence the colonialists were forced to end colonial rule. Lastly, Pan-Africanism an expression of a sense of unity among all

people whose ancestors came from Africa or are in Africa helped the cause of nationalism. The first of these Pan-African Congresses was held in 1900. The Pan-African movement united budding African nationalists with their black brothers in the new world. The 1945 Pan African Congress in Manchester introduced militancy, violence and impatience against the continued domination of African territories.

3.4.   Nationalism in Nigeria

Colonial rule was forcibly/forcefully imposed on the people of Nigeria. By its very nature, British colonial rule in Nigeria was exploitative and this engendered protests from Nigerians. There is the need to stress the overriding objective of the British in Nigeria like other parts of Africa was the pursuit of economic goal. This includes the quest for cheap raw materials to cushion their industries and the creation of markets for the sale of their finished products. The British objectives in Nigeria were far from being altruistic, hence in their administration of the country they pursued policies which in all their ramifications were geared towards the economic, political and social benefits of the colonial powers.

The policies alienated Nigerians at different stages and to different degrees and denied them of the country, there were denied some basic amenities, while the Europeans benefited from the situation. These people who shared a common sense of discrimination in their country engage themselves in such activities as the struggle against colonialism aimed at the establishment of an independent Nigerian state. They are described as "Nationalists". The growth of nationalism in Nigeria got its impetus from the domestic and international fronts. Among the prominent factors that aided the process of decolonization in Nigeria are as follows:

(1)   The activities of the black Diasporans in the New World especially America such as Marcus J. Garvey, Wilmot Blyden, and W. Dubios, who were exponents of the dignity of the African person.

(2)   The presence of an articulate class of Nigerian elite who through their acquisition of western education were in the vanguard of those agitating for change in the status quo. Due to their dogged and tenacious struggle unjust system, they were derided by administrators who hated them and tried to keep them away from the main organs of British administration.

(3)   There was the emergence of newspapers and other magazines such as "The West African Pilot", and Garvey's "The Negro World" which extolled African dignity and virtues that were critical of British policies in Nigeria. Furthermore, these papers were used as media channel for the dissemination of nationalist information;

(4)   Developments associated with World War II also positively affected the development of nationalism, especially by way of sensitizing the people of Nigeria against the excesses of colonialism. The period of the war exacerbated this feeling and helped to convince Nigerians more than ever before that success could be theirs, if they pushed the colonial powers harder. The war (1939-1945) demanded untold sacrifices from and sufferings of Nigerians and Africans as a whole. Thousands of them from Anglophone West Africa saw action first in Ethiopia and Somalia against Fascist Italy and later in North Africa, the Middle East, India and in particular Burma. This military effort involved about one hundred and forty six thousand West Africans who were recruited into the Royal West African Frontier Force during the war. The massive involvements of West Africans in the Allied War effort called for massive political and economic compensation, which West Africans themselves were quick to demand;

(5)   The attitude of the colonial power, especially with the election of the Labour Party in Britain which was quite amenable to the aspirations of the nationalists and committed to a policy of decolonization.

(6)   The formation of political parties or organizations and the constitutional review which agitations for as far back as 1920s by the Nigerian rulers marked the coming into being of Nigeria as an independent state/nation. The first political party in Nigeria was formed by Herbert Macaulay in 1923(Nigerian National Democratic Party). The first "true nationalist organization" that emerged in Nigeria was the Nigerian Youth Movement (NYM) 1936, with Samuel Akinsaya, H. O. Davies, Ernest Okoli and Dr. J.C. Vaughan as its head. Some of the early members of the organization were Chief Obafemi Awolowo, and Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe, who joined the organization on his return from the USA in 1937. These personalities contributed immensely to Nigeria's pre and post-independence politics. *Remarks*: **where is Herbert Macaulay in all these?**

By 1941, the NYM had become moribund because of internal dissensions within it. However, with the breakup of the party, new associations emerged in Nigerian politics which unfortunately had ethnic inclinations, an element which has remained a cankerworm in Nigerian politics till date. This period witnessed the formation of political parties such as the National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons (NCNC) on 26th August 1944 with Herbert Macaulay as President and Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe as its Secretary. It was broad based in its constitutional conference in 1945. It declared its aims that it intended "to achieve internal self-government, for Nigeria whereby the people of Nigeria and Cameroon shall exercise executive legislative and judicial power. Its membership was later dominated by the Igbos. The Action Group (AG) was formed in 1948 which was led by Obafemi Awolowo and had its base in Yoruba land. To represent the interest of the Northerners, the Northern People's Congress (NPC) was established in 1949 by Ahmadu Bello

The circumstances and the reasons for the establishment of these political organizations turned out to be strong centrifugal forces against the Nigerian unity. As Olusanya rightly observed, "with the formation of the AG and the NPC, ethnic nationalism and regional divisions triumphed over the forces of unity in Nigerian politics. From 1951 onwards, "the history of the nationalist movement was not a particularly edifying one". Dudley supports this assertion by arguing that "the political leaders concentrated not only on fighting the British administration which was in any case, ready to go at the right time, but dissipated their energies on a war of succession". Again, Chick observed that "the cohesion of the Nationalist front was gradually undermined as Igbo and Yoruba leaders manoeuvred for dominant positions within the organization…Eventually rivalry between ethnic blocs in the South was partially submerged by the more profound clash of southern interest with those of the emergent North". The underlying ethnic struggles now inundated the path to Nigeria's independence, and these struggles were overly displayed in the constitutional conferences that were called by the British to chart the constitutional framework for Nigeria's independence.

Nigeria path to independence witnessed the introduction of several constitutional developments ranging from the Clifford Constitution of 1922, the Richards 1946, Macpherson 1951 and Lyttleton 1954 constitutions. The 1954 constitution formed the basis of all subsequent constitutional amendments that gave Nigeria the Independence Constitution

of 1960. It is generally held that the 1954 constitution marked the end of nationalist struggle for independence, until 1960.

4.0.   CONCLUSION

The struggle for Nigeria's independence was largely anchored by the Nationalists who diligently engaged the colonial masters on the need for self-indigenous government. It was on this basis that several constitutions were developed which later led to the provision of Nigeria's independence that was achieved on October 1, 1960.

5.0.   SUMMARY

The Pan-Africanists movement has been fed by hopes and aspirations. It has promised to usher in the freedom of African from the decadent and oppressive colonial system. It was the movement that enhanced the agitation for self-rule by the Nigerian Nationalists which invariably ushered in political independence for the country.

6.0.   UTORED-MARKED ASSIGNMENT
1. What were the factors that aided Nationalism in West Africa in the late 20th Century?
2. Analyse the factors that led to the European colonialism in the continent of Africa.

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MODULE3: THE EMERGENCE OF THE NEW WORLD ORDER (1945-PRESENT)

INTRODUCTION

In this module, you will get relevant knowledge on the emergence of the new world order beginning from 1945 till date. The module discusses the era of bipolarity where powers were exercised by two super powers. The development of capitalism and the concept of communism are well captured in this module. The collapse of bipolarity that resulted to the unipolar world is given adequate attention in this module. The module will also expose you to understanding of international trade and its effects on global politics.

For better caption, this module has four units with each of the units capturing relevant issues that will aid your understanding of the subject. The four units are:

Unit 1: The Bipolar System
Unit 2: Capitalism, Communism and the Present International Political System
Unit 3: The Unipolar System
Unit 4: International Trade and its Effects on the International Political System

UNIT 1: THE BIPOLAR SYSTEM

1.0   INTRODUCTION

This unit will explain the concept of bipolar system in the international political system.

2.0   OBJECTIVES

To examine the concept of Bipolarity System

3.0   MAIN CONTENT

3.1   The Bipolar System

Bipolarity system can be simply explained as a world order whereby the two super powers have dominated the global economic, military and cultural influence. It reflects an era when the international system was dominated by two powerful countries (USA and Russia). The classic case of bipolarity system was the cold war that was fought between the United States and the Soviet Union which became dominant by the middle of 20th century.

The concept of bipolarity has significant implications in the international system. It indicates a global order revolving around the rivalry of two super powers. This threatened the equilibrium of power among nation states. However, the rivalry resulted into one super power trying to surpass the other and which invariably attracted conflict in a bipolar world. Importantly, the rivalry between the two super powers led to the emergence of power blocs which necessitated the weaker countries to fall under any of the super powers. The global system however, was not stable during the era of bipolarity. It was a period that frequently experienced conflicts and warfare engineered by the rivalry between the two powerful states.

In this regard, some analysts have described the bipolar world as "dynamic equilibrium" whereby the two super powers are equal in terms of power relations. Though one may achieve a higher power for a while before the other matches that power, it would definitely re-establish the balance. According to Morgenthau (1985), bipolarity was "a mechanism that

contains in itself the potentialities for unheard-of good as well as for unprecedented evil". To him, it "made the hostile opposition of two gigantic power blocs possible". Scholars such as Waltz attributed the bipolarity system as a less war prone situation than multi-polarity and insisted that despite the breakup of Soviet Union, the world order remains bipolar.

SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE

How do you describe the Bipolar System?

4.0   CONCLUSION

The global order under bipolarity system was a dominated by powerful states which were centred on the two super powers namely: the USA and Soviet Union. However, the emergence of bipolarity led other states to form alliances with any of the powerful states.

5.0   SUMMARY

In this unit, we have been able to explain the concept of bipolarity and the nations involved in terms of power relations

6.0   TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENT

Explain the concept of Bipolarity?

Analyse its relevance in the international system?

7.0   REFERENCES

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Hans Morgenthau and Keneth Thompson   *Politics among Nations,* 6th edition, New York; McGraw Hill, 1985.

Waltz, Kenneth. *Man, the State and War*, New York: Columbia University Press, 1959

UNIT 2: CAPITALISM, COMMUNISM AND THE PRESENT INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL SYSTEM

1.0   INTRODUCTION

This unit will explain the concept of capitalism and communism by indicating its relevance to the contemporary international political system.

2.0   OBJECTIVES

To explain the concept of capitalism

To examine the concept of communism

To analyse their relevance to the present international political system

3.0   MAIN CONTENT

3.1   CAPITALISM

The concept of capitalism can be simply defined as the economic system that is determined by private ownership of the means of production and operations. The central characteristic of capitalism is the availability of free market whereby private individuals could own property and engage in competitive markets. The private entities are allowed to own the factors of production in a capitalist society. Capitalism entails two things. First, the private owners control the factors of production. Second, the income of the owners is derived from their ownership. This gives them the freedom and ability to operate their businesses effectively. It also provides them with the incentive of maximising profit.

In any corporation, the shareholders are the owners that control their shares. Though they determine the board of directors and hire chief executives of the company, the aim of maximising profit qualifies the shareholders as capitalists. Capitalism operates a free market economy and distribution of goods and services are done in accordance with the law. As stated in the law of demands, whenever demand increases for a particular good, the price rises as result of the fact that competitors realise they can make more profit. This results to an

increase in production. However, the greater the supply, the lesser the price to a level where the best competitors remain, the idea of free market as entrenched in capitalism is to create a competitive market economy that allows private individuals to own means of production and distribution of goods and services.

However, a capitalist state allows freedom of participation in the economy and this economic principle has been spread across the globe. The Western world is known for its advocacy of capitalist market. Thus, the cold war between the United States and the old Soviet Union, was basically an ideological battle. The former was propagating the capitalism as the basis for socio-economic and political development while the latter emphasised on socialist economy that gives the state upper hand to determine and control the means of production and distribution. With the fall of the Soviet Union, capitalism captured the international political economy to the extent that Russia has also embraced privatisation as an economic blue print.

The free operations of the capital markets distinguished capitalism from the socialist economy. Nevertheless, the state is empowered to regulate the affairs of the private sector in any capitalist economy. Despite the determination of the economic structure by the forces of free market, the state plays a regulatory role towards checking the excesses of the private ownership of companies and industries. The state enacts different laws and acts to regulate the business activities in the country. This is necessary to avoid abuses that might surface due to the interest of the owners which invariably might jettison customers' rights.

SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE

How would you define capitalism?

3.2   COMMUNISM

The idea of communism negates the principle of capitalism. Unlike the capitalist state that gives freedom for private ownership of economic sectors, communism is centred on state control of the economy. In Political Science and Social Sciences, communism as an ideology has the ultimate goal of establishing a communist society that believes in common ownership of means of production. With this, communist society tends to emphasize the communal control of property in order to avoid class struggle. Communism shares the Marxist ideology of socialism regarding economic activities. The thrust of communist school of thought is that any economic system built on capitalism would create two major social

classes and that conflict is bound to occur as a result of one trying to oppress the other. The two classes are working class which carries the majority and the capitalist class that is ina minority. Whereas, the working classes engage in work to survive, the capitalists derive profit from the employment of the working class. The ownership of means of production is being controlled by the minority capitalist class. The need to transform the society from the dictatorship of the few minority requires a communist society that believes in common ownership of property.

Politically, the communist state is governed by a single political party guided by Marxist-lennist philosophy. Though a communist state permits other non-political organizations to participate and function in the political processes, it does not believe in multi-party system. However, in the western world, the term communism is categorised as a form of socialism. The communist states in that regards are referred to as 'socialist or workers' states'. The central aim of communism is to replace the capitalist ideology of private ownership of property. It is centred on the need for public ownership that guarantees communal control of the major means of production such as mines, mills and factories (Terence, Richard &Daniel, 2017) and the society's natural resources. Though communism is a form of socialism, it is a much higher and advanced in its doctrine of nationalisation of private enterprises. Karl Marx in his critique of the Gotha Programme (1875), identified two phases of communism that would follow the overthrow of capitalism. The first phase would be the transitional stage whereby the working class would control the government and economy and yet still pay workers accordingly. The second phase would be full blown communist society without any form of class divisions in which production and distribution would be tailored towards the principle "from each according to his ability, to each according to his needs".

Considering the linkage and relevance of both capitalism and communism to the contemporary international political system, it is glaring that the basis for ideological war between the two super powers was on capitalism and socialism. The United States championed the course of capitalism and its allies followed suit. On the other hand, Soviet Union was projecting socialist ideas and its allies belonged to that principle. But with the fall of Soviet Union after cold war, the U.S enjoyed monopoly of world power and turned the international system to a unipolar system. The unipolar system led to the spread of capitalism across the globe. The modern global environment embraces capitalist ideology to the extent that most economies of the world are being controlled by the capitalist states. Even the present Russia and China that could have been seen as advocates of socialism and

communism have also embraced some privatization drive in their respective economies. This signals the widespread of capitalism within the international political economy.

SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE

How do you describe communism as an ideology?

4.0 CONCLUSION

The relevance of capitalism and communism to the understanding of the international system gives us an insight into the ideological principles that govern the new world order. The spread of capitalism across the globe indicates its wider acceptability as an ideology in the economic relations among states.

5.0   SUMMARY

In this unit, we have been able to explain the concept of capitalism and communism and its relevance to the international political system.

6.0   TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENT

Explain with examples the concept of communism?

What is the relevance of communism in the international system?

Distinguish between capitalism and communism in international politics?

How can you distinguish between capitalism and communism as dominant ideologies of the cold war era?

7.0   REFERENCES

Karl, Marx (1891).*Critique of the Gotha Program.*Wild Side Press

Terence Ball, Richard Dagger and Daniel, O'Neill (2017). *Political Ideologies and DemocraticIdeas* Routledge: New York.

UNIT 3 THE UNIPOLAR SYSTEM

1.0   INTRODUCTION

This unit will explain the unipolar system in international political system

2.0   OBJECTIVE

To examine the concept of Unipolarity in the international political system

3.0   MAIN CONTENT

3.1   UNIPOLAR SYSTEM

Unipolarity in international system indicates power relations in which one state exercises most of the economic and military influence. It emerged after the end of cold war between U.S and Soviet Union. With the collapse of Soviet Union which marked the end of Bipolarity, United States took over the domination of international system and emerged as the unipolar super power. Unipolarity describes the nature of international system where a country has power of hegemon to influence other states. This power arises as a result of cultural, military and economic vibrancy that a state enjoys over another.

It is widely believed by scholars and actors of international relations that post-cold war situation necessitated a unipolar arrangement. As rightly pinpointed by some international relations scholars, the United States defence budget was close to half of the global expenditures on military. This singular factor coupled with the emergence of the United States economy facilitated the establishment of its Unipolarity. However, Monteiro Nuno, an Assistant Professor of Political Science at YALE UNIVERSITY highlights three features endemic in a unipolar system.

- Unipolarity is not an empire but an interstate system. This claim was supported by Robert Jarvis with the argument that "unipolarity implies the existence of many juridically equal nation states which is not found in an empire".

- Unipolar system is attributed to anarchy and that great power cannot exert control everywhere in the world. Relative weaker states could pursue their independent policy that might not be the preference of the unipole.
- Unipolar system projects only one great state with no competition. If a competitor emerges, there is no more unipolar power.

Having considered the above attributes of unipolarity, Kenneth Waltz maintains that the only state that exercised 'Pole' is the United States as it possess the required powers that other nations could not match. However, Wohlforth (1999) argues that unipolarity is peaceful because it narrowed powers down to one great country and comparatively, there would be low level of competitions among super powers. To him, the unipolar system has solved the problem of hegemonic rivalry from world politics and it reduces the stakes of balance of power among major states. Therefore one pole is the best because it reduces tension that could have degenerated as a result of multiple powers within the international system. In essence, the competitions among great powers are minimal due to the emergence of unipolar system.

SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE

How would you define unipolar system?

4.0   CONCLUSION

The end of cold war resulted to the new era of unipolarity that centres powers on a great state that is believed to be more powerful than others in the area of cultural, economic and military strength. The United States of America according to scholars became a unipolar state that controls the world order within the international political system

5.0   SUMMARY

In this unit, we have analysed the concept of unipolarity and it's significance to the understanding of international political system

5.0   TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENT

Enumerate the impact of unipolar system in international system?

Examine the factors that led to unipolarity?

Explain the emergence of unipolar system?

6.0   REFEREENCES / FURTHER READINGS

Monteiro, Nuno(2011). 'Polarity and Power: U.S. Hegemony and China's Challenge' *International Security* 36(3): 9

Waltz, Kenneth (1979).*Theory of International Politics* New York: Mc Graw-Hill

Wohlforth, William (1999). 'The Stability of a Unipolar World'*International Security* 24(1) pp5-41

UNIT 4: INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND ITS EFFECTS ON THE INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL SYSTEM

1.0   INTRODUCTION

This unit will discuss international trade and its effect on the international political system.

2.0   OBJECTIVES

To explain the concept of international trade

To examine its effect on international political system

3.0   MAIN CONTENT

3.1   International Trade and its effects on International Political System

International trade basically connotes the exchange of capital goods and services across international territories. It involves trade between countries and it constitutes global transactions arising from exports and imports. According to Robert and David (1975), international trade can be categorised into four: (1) The international trade that focuses on multilateral trade on a non-discriminatory basis (2) International trade arrangements with the cardinal objective of income redistribution through the mechanism of international trade (3) regional trade arrangements that focus on the economic relations of a particular geographical area (4) international trade based on the international terms of a specific commodity or product.

Moreover, international trade gives consumers and countries opportunities to explore new markets, new goods and services. Basically, all kinds of products can be found within the international market. Products and commodities ranging from food, clothes, oil, jewellery, wine, currencies, waters and stocks and services such as banking, tourism and transportation are also traded within the global market. However, product sold out in the international market is referred to as export while products brought in are tagged export products. On the

other hand, global trade involves the import and export of commodities. For instance, if country a sells product to country B, the receiver (country B) can be categorised as importer while the sender (country A) happens to be the exporter and vice versa.

One of the major factors of international trade is the enhancement of globalization through global market. The exchange of goods and services among nations and multinationals has contributed largely to the globalization experienced within the international political system. Business transactions are done easily with the aid of technological advancement which enhances global markets to be organised anywhere in the world. It also brings the global markets closer to the buyers and sellers and invariably strengthens consumptions of goods and services.

Not only that, international trade has widened the level of interactions among sovereign states at the international system. Without international trade, countries could have been limited to locally produced goods and services. But with the advent of foreign trade, markets have been opened up and states can transact business on the basis of comparative advantage. With this, the international system becomes more vibrant as states relate with one another to boost their markets and for socio-economic and political development.

The contemporary international economic relation has showcased the underlying principle of capitalist economic theory which places emphasis on market liberalization. As argued by the proponents of capitalist economic theory, this would foster growth because countries tend to specialise based on comparative advantage. Though some analysts believe this idea might not necessarily bring about development it would create dominance of the international market by the powerful and rich countries. This might create unequal trade relations while the poor countries depend largely on the rich states (Dixit& Norman, 1980).

SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE

How do you describe international trade?

4.0   CONCLUSION

The effect of international trade on international political system has demonstrated the globalization of the market environment which by and large has been dominated by the capitalist economic system that pays great emphasis on market liberalization.

5.0   SUMMARY

In this unit, we have explained international trade and its effects on international political system

6.0 TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENT

Explain the concept of international trade?

Examine the effects of international trade in international political system?

7.0 REFERENCES/FURTHER READING

Dixit, A.and Norman, V. (1980). *Theory of International Trade: A Dual General Equilibrium Approach.* Cambridge University Press: Saylor URL

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MODULE 4: INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND THE INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL SYSTEM

INTRODUCTION

This module centres on the role of different international organisation within the international political system. The formation, organs, achievement and failure of League of Nations remain relevant to the understanding of international politics with specific reference to international organisation. The failure and collapse of League of Nations led to the formation of United Nation Organisation which was later renamed United Nations. Also regional international organizations also surface in this module. The last aspect looks at the international non-governmental organizations

The units as highlighted in this module are represented thus:

UNIT 1:   The League of Nations

UNIT 2:   The United Nations Organization (UNO)

UNIT 3:   The International Regional Organizations

UNIT 4:   The International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGO)

UNIT ONE

CONTENTS

1.0.   INTRODUCTION

Lasting peace devoid of war and insecurity in the world over has been the quest for world leaders dating back to antiquity. But the First World War brought a new dimension to international relations. The concept of internal organisations and world peace and security was first introduced at that time. It also brought to the limelight the concept of Balance of Power which had brought to the fore some devastating consequences which resulted in the Versailles Treaty and the League of Nations.

2.0.   OBJECTIVES

At the end of this unit, students should be able to understand:

- The prelude to the formation of League of Nations

- Name and explain the functions of the different organs of the League of Nations

- Evaluate the achievements of the League of Nations

- Have an idea of the causes of the failure of the League of Nations.

3.0.   MAIN CONTENT

3.1.   The Formation of the League of Nations

The outbreak of the Great War in 1914 and its lengthy course awakened the conscience of mankind to the necessity of founding an international organization for preventing future catastrophes. The birth of such an international machinery was incorporated

in the form of a covenant in all the major peace treaties signed in the Paris Peace Conference in 1919. The founder of this organization was President Woodrow Wilson of the United States and it was he who realized the necessity of such an organization to act as a panacea for all ills that afflict mankind. The last point, in his programme of 14 Points refers to "a general association of nations must be formed under specific covenants for the purpose of affording guarantees of political independence and territorial integrity". It is no exaggeration to say that he "insisted upon the acceptance by the Allies and by Germany as condition of armistice…". He worked hard during the Paris Peace negotiations to bring about its birth. The drafting and explanations of its clauses were the outcome of much deliberation which he had with the leading statesmen of the world. The League, ultimately satin Geneva (Switzerland being a neutral country),and which had embodied a compromise between two extreme opinions. It was to work as a world body with a firm commitment towards maintaining world peace even if it were to mean punishing an earring member.

The tasks set before the League of Nations were: (a) to prevent wars, (b) to maintain peace, (c) to carry out special duties entrusted to it by the peace treaties signed in Paris, and (d) to promote international cooperation.

The obligations of members for upholding the cause of peace are explicitly stated in the text of the covenant which contains 26 articles. For example, Article 10 urged that all members to respect and preserve as against external aggression the territorial integrity and existing political independence" of one another. Article 11 authorised the League to take suitable action to safeguard the peace of nations. Article 12 mentioned that members should submit their disputes either to arbitration or to enquiry by the Council. Article 13 required the members to accept the award and not to resort to war. Article 15 said that any dispute which could not be settled by arbitration should be submitted to the League's Council. Article 16 tried to prevent a member from going to war with another in disregard to the provisions contained in the covenant since it would be tantamount to a war with all members of the League. Article 17 referred to a non-member having a dispute with a member of the League of Nations.

The above articles were designed to ensure the prevention of future wars.

The League started functioning from January 1920, and in November shifted to its headquarters from Paris to Geneva. At the time of inception, the League was composed of 41

nations, 29 being allied and associated powers. All peace-loving states which expressed their faith in the covenant were found eligible to seek admission. They were admitted when two-third members of the League declared their approval. The central powers were not admitted for some time because they were guilty of causing the Great War. Russia also did not join the League of Nations for a long time. The Senate's refusal to ratify the Treaty of Versailles in spite of several appeals made by President Wilson caused a great void because the USA could not become a member. Thus the League, from its inception, was deprived of the tremendous support it could have received from that great nation for maintaining peace.

3.2.1. Organs of the League of Nations

The principal organs through which the League functioned were: (a) The Assembly, (b) a Council and (c) Secretariat. The assembly consisted of representatives of all member-nations, and each member nation could send three delegates evenalthough it hadonly one vote. The Assembly was called into session once a year, and at times special sessions were held. The chief functions of the Assembly consisted of approving admission of new members, to select non-permanent members to the council, to elect judges to sit in the Permanent Court, approving the budget and discuss any matter affecting the peace of the world.

The council was composed of four permanent members: Britain, France, Italy and Japan, and four non-permanent members. The strength of the non-permanent members increased from time to time. Finally, it consisted of 11 members. Subsequently, the strength of the permanent members also increased from four to five (after Germany secured her permanent seat).

The council members met more frequently than the Assembly. Their important duties were to devise means to protect member-states from external aggression, to inquire into the disputes submitted to it, plan for the general reductions of armaments and study annual reports submitted to it by the mandatories. Sometimes the Council was called upon to meet threats to world peace effectively. The Council enjoyed executive powers, and that could impose economic sanctions against aggressors.

The Secretariat consisted of a Secretary-General and his staff with its headquarters at Geneva. The Secretary-General selected his staff which consisted of many lesser officials drawn from various countries with the approval of the council. The first Secretary-General was Sir James Eric Drummond. The Secretariat was divided into seven sections dealing with such matters as

mandates, disarmament, health, minorities and so on. The Secretary-General registered and published various treaties signed by member-nations. The Secretariat kept records, maintained correspondence and assisted in the work of other organs. The Secretary-General convened the meetings of the Assembly and the Council.

3.2.2. Other Major Agencies of the League of Nations

The Permanent Court of International Justice (or World Court):- The draft for setting up of the court was passed by the Council and subsequently by the Assembly. The Court was composed of 11 judges and its headquarters was situated at the Hague (Netherland). The strength of the Judges was increased to 15 for a nine year term. The World Court started functioning from 1921 and it worked throughout the year. It was empowered to "hear and determine any dispute of an international character which the parties thereto submit to it."

The court also gave an advisory opinion whenever it was sought for by the Assembly or the Council. The Permanent Court also interpreted international laws and decided on the issues of violation of treaties. The court codified international laws.

The International Labour Organisation (ILO):- It was to be an autonomous body with its seat at Geneva. The ILO consisted of a General Assembly, a Governing Body, and an International Labour Office. The General Assembly was composed of all the member states each represented by four delegates (one chosen by Labour, one by employers and two from government). They mainly devoted their time to discuss various ills afflicting the labour and suggested methods for improvement. The Governing Body consisted of 32 members and it elected a Director for the International Labour Office collected data on Labour Conditions, published periodicals, and convened meetings. The ILO works for improving conditions of workers, especially women and children.

The League set up other minor agencies to fulfil its obligations. The Mandates Commission effectively supervised the administration of colonial territories (taken from the defeated powers) by mandatory powers. Another agency looked after the resettlement of refugees. Yet another checked epidemics. Similarly, another one combated with issues such as illegal narcotics trade and slavery.

3.3.   Achievements of the League of Nations

In its 20 years of operations/existence the League dealt with a large number of political disputes of which many were amicably settled. Disputes arising between smaller nations were settled without much difficulty. In 1920, the League settled a dispute between Finland and Sweden over the ownership of Aaland Islands in the Baltic. A special commission of the League investigated the case and settled the dispute in favour of Finland. In 1921, the League secured the withdrawal of Serbian troops from the soil of Albania after a threat. A dispute between Poland and Germany over the boundary line to be drawn in Upper Silesia was submitted to the League of Nations. The League's Council brought a compromise.

In 1923 Italy attacked and occupied the Greek Island of Corfu in retaliation for the murder of her four subjects on Greek soil. The Italian government demanded an apology and full reparation charge from the Greek government. The League's Council brought about a settlement. The League also successfully settled the Mosul boundary dispute between Britain and Turkey. A neutral commission investigated the claims of Britain and Turkey on the oil-rich Mosul and submitted its report to the Council. It settled the dispute in favour of Turkey. Similarly, the Council looked into the German protests over the handing over of some European States. It upheld Belgium's claim as just. In 1925, the Leagues Council heard a complaint of Bulgaria about the Greek violation of her border. The Council requested Britain and France to investigate and at the same time demanded Greece to withdraw her troops. Greek was further asked to pay compensation to Bulgaria.

The smooth operation of the Mandate may be described as one of the great achievements of the League. Under Article 22, League was entrusted with the governance of territories taken from Germany and Turkey. The League successfully looked after 30,000,000 members of national minorities living in Central and Eastern Europe. The League carried out many other tasks, such as checking the illegal narcotics trade and trafficking in women and children. It did a commendable job in suppressing slavery and bonded labour. The League, for the first the time, spread the idea of international cooperation among peoples of the world and tried to make the world a better place to live in.

3.4.   Causes of the Failure of the League of Nations

Although the League of Nations recorded great progress in the early years in achieving its avowed objectives, in the long run, it turned out to be a conspicuously weak

machinery to maintain world peace and security. The covenant which brought about the birth of the League was unfortunately attached to all the major peace treaties. Since the peace treaties were one-sided, that was favouring the victorious Allies; the defeated nations always looked upon the world organizations as a partisan body. Moreover, the defeated nations were not admitted into this body for a considerable time confirming their suspicion about the League being a partisan institution.

The absence of the USA from the body caused an irreparable loss of moral influence. The League was no doubt founded on the efforts made by great lover of Peace, President Wilson of the USA. His efforts to make his country an active member of the League failed because the American Senate rejected the Treaty of Versailles. The participation of the USA in the League's activities could have stemmed the tide of international lawlessness and could have prevented the outbreak of World War II. Germany and Russia joined the League much later.

The weakness of the League lay in the fact that many members were sovereign countries, and therefore they did not like any interference of the League. Italy, Germany and Japan left the League because they incurred its wrath on account of their aggressions.

The League was dominated by the big powers and small nations had no role to play. On many important issues, the big powers could not see eye to eye and thus made the League impotent. The powers (Britain, France, Italy and Japan) failed to maintain peace.

The League did not have an armed force of its own to deter the aggressor. It had to depend upon member countries to carry out its will to deter the aggressor. Many a time these members failed to give it adequate support. For example, when Italy was branded as aggressor for her invasion of Abyssinia and the League applied economic sanctions against her, Britain and France tried to whittle it down. Despite the sanction, Italy received oil from these countries. More still, the big powers used the League to serve their own ends. Britain looked upon the League as a means to perpetuate her pet theory, the maintenance of balance of power in Europe. Similarly, France wanted the League to ensure her security from a possible German aggression.

The League was composed of representatives of member states and not of their peoples. The ruling governments of those states could hardly appreciate the necessity of maintaining world peace and security vis-à-vis the cravings for the same by their peoples. The rise of the dictators in Europe impeded the chances of the League's success. Mussolini of Italy and

Adolf Hitler of Germany treated the League with contempt. After committing the aggression, they pulled their nations out of the League. Germany held the League responsible for all her miseries. She blamed the League for not bringing about disarmament; therefore, Germany was not obliged to abide by the terms of the Treaty of Versailles any longer. Japan also left the League after invading Manchuria. The dictators exploited the helplessness of the League and brazenly defied international laws. The law of the jungle prevailed which finally plunged the world into another catastrophe.

SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE ASSESS

What are the achievements of the League of Nations?

4.0.   CONCLUSION

The League of Nations successfully intervened between conflicting states particularly in the first few years of its establishment. Also, the nature of its intervention in Turkey was a landmark achievement as it introduced a humanitarian angle to the quest for world peace and security. Nevertheless, the absence of America, Russia and Germany in the League evidently meant the absence of balance of power in the operations of the League. This incapacitated its operations since it lacked the military might to act against aggression. Again, the implementation of collective security without the commitment of powerful member nations like Britain and France rendered the League weak. Given that it could not stop any powerful nation acting as it pleased, overtime the League became irrelevant in the brokering of world peace and security. In addition, the lack of a realistic consideration of the peculiar interests of individual states also meant the lack of cooperation from states. However, till date, the ultimate reason for the failure of the treaty remains in dispute. Some historians have generally questioned the justice and wisdom of the treaty of Versailles with Germany; a treaty perceived both as a diplomatic and moral failure.

5.0.   SUMMARY

In this unit we have been able to understand that the League of Nations was short lived and could be said to have failed in achieving its mandate of securing lasting world peace and security devoid of wars. Nevertheless, one fundamental impact of the covenant of the League was that, its established structures or institutional principles were adopted in some

respects by its successor the United Nations. Again, it also "served as a blueprint for the structure of the international organization in the post-war period".

6.0.TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT
1. Discuss the role of the League of Nations towards the quest for world peace and security *Recast the Question*
2. Assess the success and failures of the League of Nations.

7.0.   REFERENCES/FURTHER READINGS

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UNIT 2:   THE UNITED NATION ORGANIZATIONS (UNO)

1.0.   INTRODUCTION

The United Nations Organization is an intergovernmental organization born out of the necessity to forestall a repeat of the devastation caused of world wars one and two. It was created in 1945 at the end of the Second World War. It is a replacement for the failed League of Nations. Hence, in an effort to avoid a repeat of World War II with its horrendous destruction of life and property by conflicting nations in Europe, most of the victorious and neutral countries agreed to form a United Nation Charter that out-lined a number of steps aimed to maintain or restore peace in the world stage. One was a pledge by all member countries not to resort unilaterally to war or self-defence. And in a situation where a member state is aggrieved, she is expected to bring the grievance to the Security Council for its decision about how to respond.

2.0.   OBJECTIVES

At the end of this unit, the students should be able to

- Understand the origin of UNO

- Explain the administrative structure in UNO

- Identify the various organs and functions of UNO

- Analyse the achievements of UNO

- Identify the various failures of UNO.

3.0.   MAIN CONTENT

3.1.   The Formation of UNO

The adoption of the UN declaration of January 1, 1942, by representatives of 26 nations was based on the principle of Atlantic Charter. It was followed by another meeting at Moscow by the Foreign Secretaries of four big countries (USA, UK, USSR, and China) on the necessity of founding an international organization, the United Nations (UN). Subsequently, the Dumbarton Oaks Conference was held on October 7, 1944, where the USA drew up a plan and placed it before the other big powers. After sometimes the plan for founding the UN was presented to all governments for approval. The UN Charter was drafted at the Dumbarton Oaks Conference. A conference of 51 nations was held at San Francisco during the spring of 1945 and it completed the draft of the UN charter. This Charter was signed by all these nations, and on October 24, 1945, the UN was formally inaugurated. The UN headquarters is in New York. The official languages of UN are English, French, Spanish, Russian, Chinese and Arabic.

The UN became an association of sovereign nations wedded to the cause of maintaining peace and security, and settlement of disputes through negotiations or arbitration through the good offices of the UN. Today, the UN is having 191 member states on its roster (the last to be admitted was East Timor). All sovereign nations are eligible to apply for admission to the UN membership. They are admitted by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council. They have to sign the UN Charter. The UN Charter contains 111 articles and includes four clear objectives:

(1) To maintain international peace and security.
(2) To promote friendly relations among nations on the basis of equal rights and self-determination of people,
(3) To achieve international cooperation in solving various problems, and
(4) To promote respect for human rights, dignity and freedom.

The UN adopted a Charter of Economic Rights in December 1974, containing 34 articles. This Charter envisages a New International Economic Order (NIEO).

3.2.1. The Principal Organs of UNO

The UNO has six principal organs namely:- General Assembly, Security Council, The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), The Trusteeship Council, The Secretariat and The International Court of Justice (ICJ).

General Assembly:

The General Assembly, as the name implies is like a world parliament. It is called into session at the beginning of September every year and each member-nation has one vote. The Assembly is entitled to discuss any topic falling within the scope of the UN Charter. It elects its own President and Vice Presidents. It is called into special session if any urgent and pressing problem is to be discussed. It recommends solutions. The work of the General Assembly is divided amongst its seven committees, the seven committees are (1) Political and Security Committees, (2) Economic and Financial Committee, (3) Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee, (4) Trusteeship Council, (5) Administrative and Budgetary Committee, (6) Legal Committee, and (7) Special Political Committee. A 25-member man the activities of each committee listed above.

Security Council

The Security Council has primary responsibility, under the United Nation Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security. Its job description refers to the Security Council as the executive body of the UNO. It consists of five permanent members (UK, France, Russia, USA and China) and ten non-permanent members. The latter serve this body for a term of two years. Three non-permanent members are chosen each year by the General Assembly. The Security Council, unlike the General Assembly is in session constantly, and its fundamental task is to deal with "any threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression". It may appeal to the nations involved in the dispute to settle it through the International Court. It may also investigate the matter and impose its solutions. It is necessary that all the five permanent members concur with four others before a decision could be arrived at. This is so because any permanent member could prevent a decision being arrived at or a resolution being passed by exercising her veto. A veto is thus a negative vote

cast by a permanent member to stultify the future course of action which the Security Council is intending to take.

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

The Economic and Social Council is composed of 54 member-states elected by a two thirds majority of the General Assembly. The ECOSOC is the principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on economic, social and environmental issues, as well as implementation of internationally agreed development goals. Therefore it holds conferences to make special study of these problems, reports and makes recommendations to the General Assembly and member-nations on the course of action to be taken. In order to carryon its enormous task, the following commissions are appointed:-

(1) Transport and Communications Commission
(2) Statistical Commission
(3) Social Commission
(4) Population Commission
(5) Commission on Narcotic Drugs
(6) Commission on Human Rights
(7) Commission on the Status of Women
(8) International Trade Commodity Commission
(9) Economic Commission for Europe
(10)   Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (originally ESCAFE)
(11)   Economic Commission for Latin America
(12)   Economic Commission for Africa.

The Trusteeship Council

The Trusteeship Council is composed of big powers member-nations which administer Trust territories, and members elected by the General Assembly. The Council takes care of the people living in territories held under the League of Nations Mandate or the territories surrendered by the Axis powers coming under trust. It also receives reports on the progress in the Trust territories under the concerned powers. This council elects a president at the beginning of each session and meets twice a year.

The Secretariat

The Office of the Secretary-General is called The Secretariat. It is located in the premises of the UN building in New York. The routine work of this august office is divided amongst the nine departments, each headed by an Assistant Secretary, with thousands of international UN staff who carry out the day to day work of the UNO as mandated by the General Assembly. The Secretary-General is Chief administrator of the UN.

The International Court of Justice (ICJ)

It is the main judicial organ of the UNO with its headquarters at the Hague. All members of the UN automatically become the members of the ICJ after signing the charter. It is composed of 15 eminent Judges who are elected by the General Assembly and the Security Council after voting independently. The member (states) nations may refer their disputes to the court for settlement. The decision of the court is binding on the parties concerned with the dispute. The Security Council may also refer a legal dispute to the International Court for settlement. Its advisory opinion can be sought by the specialized agencies of the UNO.

3.2.2. The Specialised Agencies

Besides the working of the above main organs, there are 18 specialised agencies at work to promote the economic, social, educational and cultural well-being of the people of the world. They are as below.

(a) International Labour Organisation (ILO):-

The International Labour Organisation had been functioning since the inception of the League with its headquarters at Geneva (Switzerland). Its main objective is to improve the conditions of the Labour all over the world.

(b) Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO):-

This body was established in 1945, with its headquarters at Rome. Its main tasks are (i) to review food and agricultural situations   the world over, (ii) to introduce higher standards of nutrition, (iii) to conserve natural resources and (iv) provide agricultural credit.

(c) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)

The organisation began functioning from 1945 with Paris as its headquarters. Its main functions are many. It promotes friendly cooperation among member nations through collaboration in the fields of education, science and culture.

(d) World Health Organisation (WHO)

It was established in 1948 with its headquarters at Geneva, and its main objective is to achieve "highest possible level of health by all peoples of the world.

(e) International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) or World Bank

It started functioning from 1946. It was initially started to help countries whose economies were severely affected by the World War. In the course of time IBRD extended its financial assistance to developing countries for increasing their production, raising their standard of living, and for securing better balances in international trade. It gives loans to member states for the execution of specific projects like expansion of power projects, transportation, agriculture and communication.

(f) International Monetary Fund (IMF)

It was established in 1945 with its headquarters at Washington DC. The most important objective of the IMF is to help member countries to overcome the adverse balance of payment and development. It brings about international monetary cooperation among member-nations by maintaining exchange-stability, remove exchange restrictions and facilitate world trade.

(g) The International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)

It started in 1947 with its headquarters in Montreal (Canada). Its main task is to facilitate international aviation by drafting uniform regulations for operations of civil airlines and implementing rules for maintenance of aircraft by introducing improvements in technical methods and equipment and so on for the safety of passengers.

(h) The Universal Postal Union (UPU)

It was originally founded in 1874 under the name General Postal Union. It became a specialized agency of the UNO in 1948 with its headquarters in Berne (Switzerland). Its principal task is to, facilitate international postal services. It meets once in five years.

(i) International Telecommunications Union (ITU)

It was established in 1932 and at present has strength of 154 members. It allocates radio frequencies and registers its assignments. It makes recommendations and facilitates telecommunication among its member nations.

(j) World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)

It was started in 1951 with its headquarters in Geneva (Switzerland). Its main task "is to facilitate exchange of weather data, to establish a worldwide network of meteorological stations and to encourage research and training in meteorology".

(k) Inter-governmental Maritime Consultative Organisation (IMCO)

It was started in 1959 with its headquarters in London. It was established with the purpose of providing machinery for cooperation between governments in making regulations, and practices. It also seeks to remove discriminatory action by national maritime authorities and also unfair practices by shipping companies.

(l) The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)

Twenty-three member nations concluded an agreement to extend privileges and concessions in trade among themselves by lowering tariffs and removing certain restrictions. GATT has its headquarters in Geneva. In 1955, GATT was replaced by the World Trade Organisation (WTO). It is the world's principal trading body with more than 130 member-states subscribing to its policies and rules. The main criticism concerning this body is that it favours developed countries and multinational corporations with its agenda of globalization, and liberalization of world trade.

(m) International Development Association (IDA)

All members of the World Bank are eligible to become the members of the IDA which was founded in 1960. It is a lending agency of the World Bank. Developing countries of the world which are members of this organization can avail themselves of the loan facility.

(n) International Finance Corporation (IFC)

It is a private sector arm of the World Bank which finances private sector investments in developing countries. It procures capital from international financial markets and helps clients in all possible manners, including providing technical assistance, and renders advice to governments and businesses.

(o) International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

In the 1974 World Food Conference, it was decided to establish the IFAD. The IFAD came into existence in 1977 following a pledge by developed nations to a sum of 1,000 million dollars for agricultural development of backward countries.

(p) World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)

The Stockholm Convention of 1967 was signed by 51 nations about setting-up of WIPO which came into being in 1970. It is a body that deals with the ownership and rights of inventors and discoverers who have registered with it.

(q) International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

About 150 member states have become members of the IAEA which is leading body created to supervise peaceful uses of atomic energy. Its inspectors inspect atomic power plants and reactors and ensure that these conform to international safety standards.

(r) United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)

UNIDO came into being in 1985 with headquarters at Vienna (Austria). It renders advice and recommendations with regards to many aspects of industrial policies by the developing and under-developed countries. The organization consists of 98 members.

Besides running the 18 independent specialised agencies under its aegis, the UN is conducting 14 major programmes and funds. Some of which are as follows:-

(1) United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) – giving assistance to developing countries so as to improve the quality of life for poor children and mothers. It was set up in 1946.

(2) United Development Programme (UNDP):- this body provides funds, technical assistance and pre-investment cooperation to developing countries and less developed countries.

(3) UN Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA):- Its main purpose is to create awareness on the problem of population explosion, and the need to check it through family planning programme.

(4) UN Environment Programme (UNEP):- This Programme advocates sustainable development "through sound environmental practices".

Apart from the above, the UN created relief agencies for the refugees and victims of man-made and natural disasters. The General Assembly of the UN established of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in 1951 with its headquarters in Geneva. The UN also appointed a High-Commissioner for Human Rights whose main duty is to raise objections or lodge protests against countries which violate human rights. The UN had intervened effectively in countries where the governments have violated human rights (e.g. Congo, Rwanda etc.

3.3. Achievements of UNO

The UN had to tackle more than a hundred difficult situations in its career. Some of them were solved through her good offices. One of the serious situations which she had to face boldly was the dispute between Iran and Soviet Union in 1946. The UN reminded the Soviet Union of the need to restore normalcy by withdrawing her troops from Iran to which the Soviet Union responded. The soviet troops were withdrawn. In 1946, UN successfully intervened to stop a civil war in Greece inspired by a foreign power and thus saved its independence and sovereignty.

The UN achievements since inception are enormous. She had succeeded in promoting peace and security among rival countries in the world by being instrumental to numerous cases of ceasefire among warring/conflict countries. One such conflict was the Cyprus issue in 1960, Greeks and Turks fought for the control of the Island situated in the Mediterranean Sea – The UN brought about the ceasefire and sent the UN Peace Keeping Force there to maintain

peace. The Israeli and Palestine crisis has been controlled by the UNO. The UN sent its forces in 1960 to contain a civil war raging in Congo (Africa) after the abrupt departure of Belgians, and its Secretary-General, Dag Hammarsk-Joeld lost his life in an air crash while supervising the whole affair. Others are the Indian and Pakistan crisis over the Kashmir issue. In 1967, it was agreed not to test nuclear arms in space. Subsequently, the super powers agreed for a nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

In 1973, the UN Peace-Keeping Force assumed charge of the areas of conflict, namely – the Sanai and the Golan Heights, Kuwait, when President Saddam Hussein of Iraq invaded it.

In the non-political field, the UN has an impressive record to its credit. Many developing countries received ample measure of financial assistance from the World Bank, IDA and IMF. The other specialized agencies of the UN, such as the UNESCO and UNICEF rendered great assistance in improving the quality of life in the Third World countries. In trade matters, the UNCTAD adopted an "Integrated Programme" to deal with problems of world trade and IFAD with billion-dollar capital started financing food production in developing countries. In 1978, the UN General Assembly adopted a convention on the elimination of discrimination against women covering all their rights. In 1980, the WHO could take the credit for having totally eliminated one of the deadliest diseases, small pox and others from the world.

3.4. Failures of UNO

There has been debate about the UN being ineffective or sometimes redundant. Many critics point out that the UN has become a pawn in the hands of the sole super power, the United States. It may meet the same fate as the League of Nations. Some of the major failures of the UN are as follows:

(a) It has remained helpless when rights were trampled in countries like Myanmar, Afghanistan, China and some African countries, Israeli/Palestinian.
(b) It has remained helpless when Big-Powers were involved in wars such as Vietnam, Afghanistan and West Asia.
(c) That it has not succeeded in bringing about disarmament and total implementation of nuclear non-proliferation. It has allowed the big powers to keep nuclear stock-pile.
(d) It has allowed the sole super power, the US, to dictate terms and conditions in international organizations like the World Trade Organization (WTO), the International Criminal Court, and the Kyoto Protocol.

(e) Some say that UN's role is restricted to fire-fighting (i.e. separating the combatants) and not fire-prevention (i.e. preventing situations likely to cause wars).

On the whole, the future of the UN largely rests in the hands of the big-powers, since small powers are largely watching the situation with crossed fingers.

4.0. CONCLUSION

The United Nations Organisation UNO is not a global government but just an international organization trying to achieve collective peace and security. The UNO's principal organs and specialized agencies have been discussed. The achievements have been analysed also. Be that as it may the undemocratic nature of UN Security Council has been a source of worry to some members who argued that its five-member "Veto" should be removed. Despite its inadequacies UN still remains a valuable institution.

5.0.   SUMMARY

Any comprehensive consideration of world politics has to take into account the activities of member states within the UN system. Through the United Nations Organisation, member states interested in tensions and conflicts among states are able to resolve international disputes by peaceful means. The UN system has also provided the basis for supporting the right to self-determination and independence for all colonized people. It fosters peaceful and fraternal relations among the nations of the world and encourages economic cooperation between the Less Developed Countries (LDCs) and the Developed ones. Through the UN, Economically Developed Countries (OECD) provides the framework for the New International Economic Order (NIEO), which is significance for raising the standard of living of the poor peoples of the world.

6.0.   TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT

Assess the 21st Century challenges of the United Nations.

What would you regard as the achievements of the United Nations Organisation?

7.0.   REFERENCES/ FURTHER READINGS

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UNIT 3   THE INTERNATIONAL REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS

1.0.   Introduction
2.0.   Objectives
3.0.   Main Contents
3.1.1. The World Trade Organisation (WTO)
3.1.2. The European Union (EU)
4.0.   Conclusion
5.0.   Summary
6.0.   Tutor-Marked Assignment
7.0.   References/ Further Readings

1.0.   INTRODUCTION

The leadership of nations across the world is daily preoccupied with efforts at attaining the general well-being of their citizens, amidst global competition. The quest for international regional integration in various spheres, ranging from economic, political security and social are rooted in such efforts. History is replete with such efforts and desires right from time immemorial. Today some ancient societies signed treaties for cooperation with others. In modern times, there exist instances of a number of countries forming themselves into international regional blocs for attainment mostly of economic and other gains. Some International Regional Organisations are listed below:

- African Development Bank Group (ADB)

- African Union (AU)

- Association of South Eastern Asian Nations (ASEAN)

- ASEAN – Japan Center

- Asian Development Bank (ADB)

- Asian Productivity Organisation (APO)

- Asia/Pacific Cultural Center for UNESCO (ACCU)

- Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

- European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

- European Union (EU)

- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

- Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

- International Development Finance Club (IDFC)

- International Development Research Center (IDRC)

- International Finance Corporation (IFC)

- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

- International Labour Organisation (ILO)

- International Monetary Fund (IMF)

- International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)

- South African Development Corporation (SADC)

- Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

- Organization of American States (OAS)

- United Nations Centre for Regional Development (OECD)

- United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD)

- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

- United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)

- United Nations Development Program (UNDP)

- United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)

- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

- United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-HABITAT)

- United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)

- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

- United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (UNSIAP)

- United Nations University (UNU)

- United Nations World Food Program (WFP)

- World Bank

- World Bank Tokyo Office

- World Health Organization (WHO)

- World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

- World Trade Organization (WTO)

However, for the purpose of this discussion, the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and European Union (EU) would be extensively discussed as case studies.

2.0.   OBJECTIVE

At the end of this unit, the students should be able to:

- Identify some international regional organizations
- Understand the rational for the formation of the organizations

Remarks: None of the last two objectives appears to have been executed here.

3.0   MAIN CONTENT

7.1   The World Trade Organisation

The World Trade Organisation came into being in 1995 as one of the youngest of the international organizations. The WTO is the successor to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) established in the wake of the World War II. It all began with trade in goods from 1947 to 1994. GATT was the forum for negotiating lower customs duty rates and other trade barriers since 1995, the updated GATT became the WTO's umbrella agreement for trade in goods, it annexed dealing with specific issues such as state trading, product standards, subsides and actions taken against dumping.

The WTO overriding objective is to help trade flow smoothly, freely, fairly and predictably. It does this by

- Administering trade agreement
- Acting as a forum for trade negotiations
- Settling trade dispute
- Relieving national trade policies.
- Assisting developing countries in trade policy issues, through technical assistance and training programmes
- Cooperating with other international organization.

Organization Structure:

The WTO has 153 members accounting for almost 95% of world trade, about 30 others, are negotiating still membership status. Decisions are made by the entire membership. This is typically by consensus. A majority vote is also possible but it has not been used in the WTO,

and was extremely rare under WTO's predecessor, the General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade (GATT). The WTO's agreements have been rectified in all members' parliaments.

The WTO's top decision-making body is the Ministerial Conference which meets at least one every two years. Below this, is the General Assembly (normally ambassador and heads of delegation in Geneva, but sometimes officials sent from members' capital) which meet several times a year in the Geneva headquarters. The General Council also meets as the trade policy review body and the dispute settlement body.

At the next level, the Goods Council, Services Council and Intellectual Property (TRIPs) Council report to the General Council.

Secretariat

The WTO Secretariat is based in Geneva, Switzerland, has about 625 staff and is headed by a director general. It does not have branch offices outside Geneva since decisions are taken by the members themselves, the secretariat does not have the decision-making role that other international bureaucracies are given. The Secretariat's main duties are to supply technical support for developing countries, to analyse world trade and to explain WTO affairs to the public and media.

All WTO members must undergo periodic scrutiny, each review containing reports by the concerned and the WTO Secretariat

The Multilateral Trading System

At the heart of the Multilateral Trading System are the WTO's agreements, negotiated and signed by a large majority of the world's trading nations, and ratified in their parliaments. These agreements are the legal rules for international commerce. Essentially, they are contracts guaranteeing important trade rights of the member countries. They also bind governments to deepen their trade-policies within agreed limits and to everybody's benefit. The agreements were negotiated and signed by governments. Their purpose however is to improve welfare of the peoples of the member countries. Apart from lowering trade barriers, the WTO system also breaks down other barriers between peoples and nations.

The system was developed through a series of trade negotiations, or round held under GATT. The first rounds dealt mainly with tariff reductions but later negotiations included other areas

such as anti-dumping and non-tariff measures. The last round, 1986 – 94 Uruguay Round led to the WTO's creation. This agenda added negotiations and other work on non-agricultural tariffs, trade and environment, WTO rules such as anti-dumping and subsidies, investment, competition policy, trade facilitation, transparency in government, procurement, intellectual property, and implementing the present WTO agreement.

7.2   The European Union (EU)

The European Union (EU) has evolved through stages and names changing leading to the present nomenclature EU. The EU has its administrative headquarters at Brussels, Belgium. The genesis of EU integration began in 1952 when Belgium, France (West) Germany, Italy, Luxemburg and the Netherlands created a common market for coal, iron and steel products, called the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC). Its success prompted the six countries to sign the Treaty of Rome on March 25, 1957, which established the European Economic Community (EEC). The EEC was meant to facilitate trade among European states. Continued economic success led the six countries namely...? to establish a hard arching organization, the European Community (EC) in 1967. Then in 1993 a new name, the European Union (EU), was adopted in the Maastricht Treaty to denote both the existing advanced degree of integration and the EU's goal of becoming a single economic entity. As of July 1st, 2013, the European Union (EU) has comprised of 28 member states and they are Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom.

The mission of the EU was to organize relations among their peoples in a coherent manner and on the basis of solidarity. The main objectives of EU include:

- To promote economic and social progress. In other to achieve this, a single market was established in 1993 and a single currency was launched in 1999.
- To assert the identity of the European Union on the international scene through European humanitarian aid to non-EU countries, common foreign and security policy action in international crisis and common position within the International system.
- To introduce European citizenship, this does not replace national citizenship, but compliments it and confers a number of civil and political rights on European citizens.

- To develop an area of freedom, security and justice-linked to the operation of internal market and more particularly the freedom of movement of persons.

- To maintain and build on established European Union Laws: all the legislations adopted by the European institutions, together with founding treaties.

The EU's organizational structure is so complex. Being an inter-governmental organization, however the governance structure of the EU is not exactly a government, but it is arguably moving in that direction and it shares most of the institutional characteristics of a government. Moreover, like a government the structures and the authority of the various EU Units play an important part in determining how policies are made. The EU's government is divided into five levels.

- Political leadership (The Council of European Union)

- Bureaucracy (The European Commission)

- Legislative (The European Parliament)

- Judiciary (Court of Justice)

- Court of Auditors

The EU has had several achievements since the inception but its achievements have been shown in the improvements of trading standards, among its members like (Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Latria, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Sweden) before enlargement. In 2007, almost 80% of all exports of the new members (compared with 13 ¼ % in 1999). In the same vein, the old member states sell 7 ½ % of their exports to the new members, up from 4 ¼ % a decade ago. New members have gained market shares by increasing the capital and technology intensity of their exports, in large part as a result of investments from the old member states. These have made the new member states to have rapidly modernized their economies. They have also increasingly aligned their production structures with those of the old members.

In a similar vein, the global economic crisis has posed some challenges to national policies. The crisis has impacted all member states through declining trade, reduced availability of financing, plummeting household wealth and deteriorating confidence. Although EU membership provides protection and stability anchor that expands the comfort zone of investors, the crisis puts a large premium on sound domestic policies. Notably, that all member states have not only experienced a credit boom but have developed similar

vulnerabilities, such as a high dependence on foreign savings and weak balance sheets in the corporate and household sector. Though the EU's policy framework is helpful in facing these challenges and enables the new member states to continue to inject dynamism into their economies in the medium and in the long run, however, the results will depend mainly on sound domestic policies or an appropriate institutional framework. Domestic policies and institutions have not always been adequate in the past and often deviated substantially from EU's recommendations. The recent enlargements of the EU were a milestone in the process of unifying Europe. And have brought benefits to all citizens throughout the Union.

SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE

How would you describe the objectives of international organisations?

8.0   CONCLUSION

The WTO is a central trade body piloting the affairs of the regional trade blocs. The major factor for the formation of International Regional Organisations all over the different continents of the world was to promote and facilitate trade among their members. These regional organizations although established in different periods have different aims and objectives and not without achievements and challenges.

9.0   SUMMARY

This unit lists several benefits of international regional organisations as it triggers economic integration including an enlarged market with economic of scale and scope, improved resource allocation with free movement of factors of production, improved resource pools with inflows of capital, investment and labour, an increased competition leading to improved efficiency and innovation, among member-states.

10.0   TUTOR-MARKED ASSESSMENT
(a) Critically analyse the achievements of African Union (AU) since its inception in July 9, 2002.
(b) Assess the role of WTO in the global economic order on trade policies.

11.0   REFERENCES /FURTHER READING

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UNIT 4: THE INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION (INGO)

1.0.   INTRODUCTION

An International Non-Governmental organization is a philanthropic group that is international in scope and has out posts around the world to deal with specific issues in many countries. It can further be defined by its primary purpose which is meant to foster the community based planed of engagement within each country via different projects and operations. Some are advocacy-based, meaning that their primary purpose is to influence the policy-making processes of different governments. Others are faith based such as Catholic or Lutheran Churches. Whereas others emerge in the aftermath of World War II, to become large entities like SOS Children's Villages, Oxfam, Catholic Relief Services, Care International and Lutheran World Relief.

2.0.   OBJECTIVES

At the end of this unit, the students should be able to:

- Understand the purpose of the establishment of INGOs.

- Explain the operational tools of the INGO

- Analyse the criticisms labelled against the INGOs.

- Identify the different types of INGOs and their primary purpose.

3.0. MAIN CONTENT

3.1. Meaning of INGO

The main focus for International Non-Governmental Organisations is to provide relief and developmental aid to developing countries. In relation to states, the purpose of INGOs is to provide services that the state is unable or unwilling to provide for their people. Such services could be projects in health such as HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention, clean water and malaria prevention, and in education, like schools for girls and provision of some academic materials, all to developing countries. It also helped provide the social services that some states are unable or unwilling to provide at the time. It should be noted that NGO are also some of the first responders to natural disasters, like hurricane, and floods, or crises that need emergency relief.

3.1.1. Qualifications/Criteria for Registration and Recognition

To be associated with the United Nations Department of Public Information, an INGO (and NGOs) must follow these criteria below.

- The INGO must support and respect the principles of the charter of the United Nations;
- Must be recognized to be of some international standing;
- Should operate solely on a non-for-profit basis and have tax exempt status;
- Must have the commitment and the means to conduct effective information programmes with its constituents and to a broader audience about UN activities by publishing news-letters, bulletins and pamphlets; organizing conferences, seminars and round tables; or enlisting the attention of the media;
- Should preferably have a satisfactory record of collaboration with UN information centres/services or other parts of the UN system prior to association;
- The INGO should provide an audited annual financial statement, indicated in US currency, and conducted by a qualified, independent accountant;
- The INGOs should have statutes/by-laws providing for a transparent process of taking decisions, elections of officers and members of the board of directors and finally
- Should have an established record of continuity of work for a minimum of three years and should show promise of sustained activity in the future.

3.2.   Operations and Types of INGOs

It is worthy of note that the INGOs in general account for over 15% of total overseas development aid, which is linked to the growth and development process. It has been estimated that aid (partly contributed by INGOs) over the past thirty years has increased the annual growth rate of states' economies by one percent.

Many international projects and advocacy initiatives promoted by INGOs encourage sustainable development via a human rights approach and capabilities enhancing approach. INGOs promote human rights advocacy issues in part and try to set up international judicial standard that respects the rights of human beings and promote the empowerment of disadvantaged communities.

Other organizations, like the international justice mission, are working in effective and legitimate judicial systems, which enhance a country's legitimacy and development. Still others, such as those promoting micro-financing and education, directly impact on the capabilities of citizens and communities by developing skills and human capital while encouraging citizen empowerment and community involvement. INGOs, along with domestic and international governmental initiatives, are a critical part of global development.

Nearly every INGO originates and persists by the voluntary action of individual actors with explicit rationalized goals. Under bold norms of open membership and democratic decision-making, they seek to spread "progress" throughout the world, in the purposes of encouraging safer and more efficient technical systems, more powerful knowledge structures, and better care of the body, friendly competition and fair play. In order to achieve these goals, they highlight communication, knowledge, consensual values and decision-making and individual commitment. INGOs have five basic world-cultural principles underlying between ideologies and structures that is universalism, individualism, rational voluntary authority, human purposes of rationalizing progress, and world citizenship.

Types of International Non-Governmental Organisation

INGO case studies show both the short-term relief and long-term campaigns that INGOs promote. Income statements and expense breakdowns of each INGO can be found at charity

navigator which details the amount of money that large INGOs have at their disposal and how effectively they deploy to different organizations for utilization.

Care International

Care International is a large humanitarian INGO that is committed to fighting poverty. They take a special interest in empowering poor women because "women have the power to help whole families and entire communities escape poverty". The mission and explicit goals of care, as described on their website, are to lasting omission?

- Strengthening capacity for self-help
- Providing economic opportunity
- Delivering relief in emergencies
- Influencing policy decisions at all levels
- Advertising discrimination in all its forms

One of care's project is responding to natural disasters. For example, care has been an integral part of the relief effort in the outbreak of cholera in Haiti. Some of care's relief tactics in Haiti are:

- Distributing high-energy biscuits, water purification tablets, oral rehydration salts, and hygiene kits,
- Instructing Haitians on how best to avoid and prevent cholera, and
- Providing clean water and safe latrine facilities to people living in camps for survivors of Haiti's January 12 earthquake.

Amnesty International

Amnesty International is an INGO that is dedicated to the promotion and protection of internationally regarded human rights as declared in the universal declaration of human rights. Their goals, as described on their website, are to:

- Stop violence against women
- Defend the rights and dignity of those trapped in poverty
- Abolish the death penalty
- Oppose torture and combat terror justice
- Free prisoners of conscience

- Protect the rights of refugees and migrants
- Regulate the global arms trade

This organization uses more of an advocacy approach to promote change and human rights within the government. Their website claims they mobilize "public pressure through mass demonstrations, vigils and direct lobbying as well as online and offline campaigning" in order to promote their on-going campaigns, which reflect their goals.

Oxfam International

Oxfam International is an INGO which works with local partner organizations and people living under poverty trying to exercise their human rights. The areas Oxfam focuses on include development, emergencies, campaigning, advocacy and policy research. The details to each areas as follows:

- Long-term programs to eradicate poverty and injustice
- Deliver immediate life-saving assistance to people affected by natural disasters or conflict
- Raise public awareness of the causes of poverty
- Encourage ordinary people to take action for a fairer world
- Press decision makers to change policies and practices that reinforce poverty and injustice
- Speak with authority as a result of research and analysis

Examples

- **Humanitarian aid**
- **Khalsa aid**

Multi Interdisciplinary Projects

- Adra
- Cafod
- Care
- Oxfam
- Lakshyam NGO
- SOS Children Villages

- World Vision International
- Mercy Corps
- Save the Children
- Good Neighbours International

Health

- Doctors without borders
- Healthright International
- Charity: water

Children and Youth

- Lakshyam NGO
- Compassion International
- Plan
- World Association of girl scouts (wagggs)
- Save the Children International
- SOS children villages
- Reggio children foundation
- World organization of the scout movement (WOSM)
- World vision international
- International federation of catholic parochial youth movements (FIMCAP)

Education

- Actionaid
- The library project
- Openmindprojects – ingo
- European Association of History Educators

Human Rights

- Amnesty International

- Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative
- Friends of People Close to Nature
- International Christian Concern
- International Federation for Human Rights
- International Stateless Persons Organisation
- Survival International

Environmental

- International Pops Elimination Network
- International Union for Conservation of Nature
- Green Peace
- World Wide Fund for Nature

Religion

- International Federation of Catholic Parochial Youth Movements (FIMCAP)
- Lutheran World Relief
- Forum of European Muslim Youth and Student Organisations (FEMYSO)
- Diplomatic Society

Space and Technology

- Cospar
- Saalome Global

3.3. Criticisms of INGOs

There are important controversies and criticisms regarding the effectiveness of INGOs. The first criticism is that money provided by INGOs does not actually reach the neediest people. At times people wonder if their money is going to help developing nations or going into a Chief Executive Officer's pocket. Of course, if a country's government is corrupt, there is also the possibility that INGO funds are being siphoned off by the government officials.

Even if INGOs funds are being effectively used, some critics would argue that the means the organization promotes might prove to be in effective in combating in combating the issue. For example, Singer gives an example of INGOs giving out bed nets, saying:

> they will, if used properly, prevent people from being bitten by mosquitoes, while they sleep, and therefore will reduce the risk of malaria. But not every net saves a life: most children who receive a net would have survived without it.

Jeffrey Sachs, attempting to measure the effect of nets more accurately, took this into account and estimated that for every one hundred nets delivered, "one child's life will be saved every year", "a long-lasting insecticide-treated bed net costs an average of $5," so assuming the bed net lasts one year, saving one child's life can reasonably be assumed to cost $500.

4.0. CONCLUSION

An International Non-Governmental Organisation (INGO) has the same mission as a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), but it is international in scope and has outposts around the world to deal with specific issues such as natural disasters, poverty to mention but few in many developing countries of the world.

5.0. SUMMARY

These INGOs are committed towards fulfilling their mission by serving humanity through selfless sacrifice ranging from material supplies to health maintenance. Nevertheless, these INGOs need to account for possible consequences. For example, INGOs such as Oxfam and Green Peace influence many people's lives as they provide important social and relief services. The beneficiaries, do not have the means to affect the activities of these INGOs, thus, in order for the INGOs to exercise their power responsibly and work for the sake of the people who are affected by their activities, they need to be accountable in the utilization of funds to achieve specific ends. Websites like Charity navigator and Give Well are intended to provide information on the breakdown of money and donations spent within the organization. Along with the approval of the UN based criteria on accountability within the INGOs. These websites promote transparency and accountability in INGOs so that people looking it out to make donations can informed decision based on what they want to support and if their money will be properly utilized.

6.0. TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT

Identify the different types and primary purposes of some INGOs.

What are the criticisms labelled against INGOs in the choice of operations?

7.0. REFERENCES/ FURTHER READINGS

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MODULE 5: THE EMERGING ISSUES IN THE INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL SYSTEM

INTRODUCTION

This module looks at the emerging issues within the global politics. In this module, you will understand the phenomenon of terrorism and its impact on the international political system and also the issue of weapon of mass destruction with basic emphasis on nuclear powers and its typology. This module will make you to have good insight into various weapons tagged WMD. The module concludes with a unit that captures the international pressure group as one of the relevant players in the international system.

For better analysis, this module has three units which are:

Unit 1 Terrorism
Unit 2 Politics of Weapon of Mass Destruction
Unit 3 International Pressure Groups

UNIT 1: TERRORSIM

1.0   INTRODUCTION

This unit will explain the concept of terrorism and its influence on international political system

2.0   OBJECTIVES

- To explain the concept of Terrorism

- To analyse its influence on international system

3.0   MAIN CONTENT

3.1   Meaning of Terrorism

Terrorism is generally understood as the use of violence and threat to further a political cause. Though there is no specific universal definition of terrorism, the acts have increased globally in the recent times. In another perspective to the definition of terrorism, United Kingdom Terrorism Act 2000 defines terrorism as ' the use or threat of action designed to influence the government or an international governmental organisation or to intimidate the public, or a section of the public, made for the purposes of advancing a political, religious, racial or ideological cause. By and large, it results to the following causes:

- Violence against a person or group of persons

- Damage of properties

- Threat to life

- Threat to public safety

Although terrorism is not a 21st century phenomenon, its roots could be traced to the early but brutal forms of resistance against political domination. The Sicari scenario was an early Jewish terrorist group established in the first century AD. It was aimed at overthrowing the Romans in the Middle East. The leader of the group was known as: Zealots, Judas Galilee,

who believed that the Jews should be ruled by God alone and felt the need to organised armed resistance in effect. As reported in the history, Josephus during 50AD, "the Sicari would mingle with the crowd, carrying short daggers concealed under their clothing, with which they stabbed their enemies. When they fell, the murderers would join in the cries of indignation and, through this plausible behaviour, avoided discovery. There were many other instances of terrorism before the modern era of terrorism. The failed attempt of Guy Fawkes to reinstate a Catholic Monarch is an example of ancient terrorism. The reign of terror during French Revolution could be stated as an example of state terrorism.

SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE

How do you define the term 'terrorism'?

3.3   Terrorism and International Political System

The use of terrorism to further ones political cause has been accelerated in the modern era of the global politics. The emergence of modern terrorism can be traced to the end of World War II. The rising of nationalist movements in different states and particularly in the European powers with the aim of fighting colonialism largely accounted for that development. The anti-colonial movements have recognise dearly enough that terrorism would have a greater impact on international politics. It was equally recognised that terrorism could generate enough publicity. This actually recognises the ability of terrorism to both generate the publicity for the cause and influence global policy. According to Bruce Hoffman, a former Director of the Centre of Security Studies at Georgetown University, that "the ability of these groups to mobilize sympathy and support outside the narrow confines of their actual 'theatres of operation.' Consequently, some aggrieved persons increasingly saw terrorism as an effective means of transforming hitherto local conflicts into international issues"

The above development could be described to have paved way for international terrorism. However, terrorism became more pronounced globally after the shock of September 11, 2001 attack on World Trade Centre at the United States of America. The attack which was estimated to have killed over 3000 people was deadliest terrorist act in the history of mankind. Subsequently, the war on Terror resulted into the invasion of Afghanistan and Iraq in 2001 and 2003 respectively.

However, terrorism which has become a virus threatening global peace and security is caused by three major factors. These layers as highlighted by Crenshaw include the following:

1. **Situational Factors**: This is as a result of condition that allows the movement of radicalisation and motivation of feeling against enemy. Also, specific condition can as well trigger actions resulting to attacks

2. **Strategic Reason**: The target for political change could result to bloody revolution. In a similar vein, nationalist fighting an occupying force could degenerate to attacks

3. **Individual Motivation:** This has a link with psychology and the character traits of terrorist.

The global trend of terrorism has resulted to an international campaign against the act. This has been tagged 'war on terror' which globally is propagated to eradicate religious extremism and any action that could propel the destruction of lives and properties. However, the modern trend of terrorism through the use of suicide attack remains a dangerous approach of terrorists across the globe. The Global Terrorism Database (GTD) has simplified the objective of any terrorist organisation as group of people aimed at threatening peace (locally or internationally) via the use of illegal force and violence to attain political, economic, social and religious goals through force, coercion and intimidation. However, in order to consider an action to be an act of terrorism, GTD highlights the following attributes as constituting the basis of any terrorist act:

The incident must be intentional- the actions must have emanated consciously by the perpetrators. The attackers do attack deliberately

There must be element of violence or threat of violence- Any damaging violence that could result to destruction of properties and lives shares attribute of terrorism

The perpetrators must be subnational actors- As included in the database, the perpetrators are mostly non state actors

In view of this, the Global Terrorism Database clarifies that two out of the three criteria must be present in terrorism act. Firstly, the act must be targeted at attaining a political, economic, religious or social goal. Secondly, there must be evidence of intention to coerce, intimidate and convey message to larger audience. Finally, the act must be outside the context of legitimacy. The warfare activities must be outside the parameters of the international humanitarian law. In the long run, it is clear that terrorism as an act is nothing but unlawful

activities aimed at creating fear through the use of violence with the intention of having far reaching psychological effects beyond immediate victims.

SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE

How do you describe attributes of terrorism?

4.0 CONCLUSION

The issue of terrorism is a global concern which threatens the peaceful co-existence of diverse humanity in the international system. The basic aim of terrorist group is to create fear through the use of violence and coercion which comes with socio-economic and political motives.

5.0 SUMMARY

In this unit, the meaning of terrorism has been explained and its applicability to the understanding of international political system has been examined.

6.0 TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENT

 Define and explain the concept of terrorism?
 Examine the impact of terrorism on international political system?
 Highlight the basic attributes of terrorism?

7.0 REFERENCES/FURTHER READINGS

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UNIT 2: POLITICS OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

1.0   INTRODUCTION

This unit will explain the phenomenon of weapons of mass destruction and its relevance to the understanding of international political system

2.0   OBJECTIVES

To examine the concept of weapon of mass destruction

To analyse its relevance to the international system

3.0   MAIN CONTENT

3.1   Meaning of Weapons of Mass Destruction

The term weapon of mass destruction (WMD) is commonly used to refer nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. This literal meaning was given by the Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission in 2006. However, no treaty or international law that has given specific definition of WMD. Given this, international law has been applying the term to specific categories of weapons which might not necessarily be among the aforementioned ones by the WMD. It is on this basis that some analysts have viewed it from a broader perspective, while some see it as an arrow issue. For instance, United States and other nuclear powers regard WMD as biological and chemical weapons while some scholars have categorised radiological weapons, antipersonnel land mines and the use of carpet bombing as parts of WMD.

According to the United States Defence Department, WMD is any weapon capable of large scale destruction and to the extent of capable of mass killings. WMD can be high explosives or nuclear, biological, radiological and biological weapons that can cause mass damages. The Federal Bureau of Investigation includes conventional weapons as potential WMD (Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1999). However, Harigel (1998) argues that 'only nuclear weapons

are completely indiscriminate by their explosive power, heat radiation and radioactivity, and only they should therefore be referred to as a weapon of mass destruction'. Given the above scenario, nuclear and biological weapons are known to be weapon of terrors when used against civilians. On the other hand, it can be tagged weapon of intimidation if used against military personnel.

SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE

How would describe the weapons of mass destruction?

3.2   Types of Weapon of Mass Destruction in the International System

The issue of weapon of mass destructions is a phenomenon within the international system whereby the international laws are made to control and regulate countries with such weapons. However, for better understanding of WMD within the international system, the types and categories of the weapons need to be clarified. By and large weapons included in WMD are as follow

- **Nuclear Weapons:**   Some countries have declared to have possessed nuclear weapons. Notable among them are China, France, India, Pakistan, Russia, United Kingdom, North Korea and the United States. Iran has produced fissile materials which is believed can be transformed to nuclear weapons. Other countries such as Belgium, Germany, Italy, Netherland and Turkey have accessed nuclear weapons through nuclear sharing agreements. North Korea apparently have developed and tested her nuclear weapons. The first nuclear weapons based on nuclear fission were detonated in 1945. By 1950, United States and Soviet Union detonated 'hydrogen' bombs based on nuclear fusion. However, despite warning that nuclear weapon is illegal according to international laws, countries have been developing it which invariably remains an instrument of harassment and intimidations with the international system.

- **Chemical Weapons:** This is also known as CW which is designed to produce direct injury to any target and it is contrary to explosive weapons with blast effect. Though during the 1899 Hague Declarations, countries were warned not to use CW, it was however used in the First World War to complement to the use of tear gas, mustard gas and chlorine gas. Around 120,000 ton of CW was used during World War I which resulted to 1.3 million casualties. In 1925, the Geneva Protocol for the prohibition of CW and all analogue liquids was inaugurated (Geneval Protocol, 1990). }*Incomplete*

sentence? However, the protocol only prevented the use but not the development and production of these weapons. Despite the Geneva Protocol, the use of CW continued. For instance, Italy used mustard gas during its invasion of Abbysinia, (Ethiopia) and Japan made use of mustard gas and tear gas to invade China. The US and UK also stockpiled CW during World War II. Following the Second World War, Egypt used CW in Yemen and mustard gas and nerve gases during Iran- Iraq face off. In the 1960s and 1970s the United States used both tear gas and herbicides in Vietnam. Many countries use tear gas to quell civil disorder.

- **Biological Weapons:** This depends on the ability of the microorganism to infect and multiply in the organism so attacked. Unlike CW, BW are very difficult to control and are not predictable in their use. The effects of BW has been summarised by the U.S to be the intentional use of living organism or their toxic product to cause death, damage, disability in man, animal or plants. The target is meant either by causing death or damage through reduction in his food supplies or agricultural products. It is an act called public health in reverse. During World War I, Germany was alleged to have made use of equine disease glanders against the cavalries of Eastern countries in the Europe. During World War II, prisoners concentrated in Germany were tested infected with BW. It was the fear of Germany, which made U.S and UK to develop their own BW respectively. After the Second World War, the development of BW continued in various countries. The recent test on clinical management talks about of bioterrorism as the advance stage of BW(Adalja, et al, 2015)

- **Land Mines:** More than 54 countries have been identified and confirmed to be affected by landmines. However massive antipersonnel mine contamination was believed to be in existence in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Turkey and possibly Iraq. These land mines have been tagged weapons of mass destruction. They have also been placed in the rural areas thereby posing some threats to residents of the area and by affecting large scale farming activities. According to the International Campaign to Ban Landmines in 2014, land mines have led to approximately death and injuries of 3000 persons. However, since the introduction of Anti-Personnel of Landmine Convention of 1997, the causalities rate have drastically reduced, hence preventing untimely death of millions as experienced before the convention.

- **Radiologic Weapon:** It is believed that dirty bombs consisting of conventional explosives could be mixed with radioactive materials. Another radiologic material is

called depleted uranium. Depleted Uranium (DU) which is both radioactive and toxic can be used militarily as a component for armor- penetrating shells. Also DU has been said to cause contamination of the soil and ground water. The use of DU is considered legal by the countries using it while other nations view it as illegal laying claim to the Geneva Convention and other Treaties.

- **Small Arms and Light Weapons:** In the report of the United Nations Secretary General to the General Assembly at the start of the Millennium, Kofi Annan categorised all small arms and light weapons as WMD. His argument was that weapons have caused more casualties. According to him, the devastation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki could be traced to the development of atomic bombs which was an improved technology of small arms and light weapons.

There are several ways that WMD in which health professionals can control and eliminate weapons of mass destruction. Health professionals can educate themselves and their colleagues and larger communities about the dangers of WMD and how to prevent it. Secondly, health workers can advocate for stronger domestic and international policies to control and eliminate weapons of mass destruction. These can be done via rigorous campaigns to influence policy makers to strengthen the CWC and BWC. More importantly, the health professionals can design a number of ways to abolish nuclear weapons (Levy and Sidel, 2008).

SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE

How would you analyse the various types of weapons of mass destruction?

4.0   CONCLUSION

The weapons of mass destruction have remained phenomenal within the international system. However, the destruction of lives and properties as a result of WMD is alarming. This necessitates the call for health professionals to strategize on how to curb the menace and abuse of WMD.

5.0 SUMMARY

In this unit, the meaning of weapons of mass destruction has been examined. Also, the classification of WMD has been highlighted and their application to the international politics has been demonstrated.

6.0 TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENT

Explain in details the weapons of mass destruction?

Highlight and explain the typology of weapons of mass destruction?

In what ways do weapons of mass destruction relevant in international system?

7.0 REFERENCES/ FURTHER READINGS

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UNIT 3: International Pressure Groups

1.0   INTRODUCTION

This unit will explain the role of international pressure group within the international political system

2.0 OBJECTIVES

To explain the concept of international pressure group

To examine the role of international pressure groups in the international political system

3.0   MAIN CONTENT

3.1   International Pressure Groups

The international system as obtainable in the domestic politics cannot undermine the influence of group activities. The use of organisational and propaganda techniques has remained the power instruments of those groups wishing to be powerful. However, the opportunity was given to the citizens to widen their participation in the formulation of government policies. Pressure groups are known as organized set of people that hold similar set of values and beliefs but act not to take over government power but to influence decision making process and implementation in any system be it domestic or international.

At the level of international politics, non-governmental organizations are the frontrunner of what is termed international pressure groups. And as applicable in the domestic politics, international pressure groups activities are targeted at influencing decision making. This makes the groups be vibrant non state actors within the international system. The growing literature on the issue of transnational actors, in this context, interest or pressure groups, has made the happenings within the international system to be properly understood via the role of pressure groups.

The involvement of interest groups in international politics has become most noticeable after the World War II. But it was in the late 1960s, that the vibrancy of international pressure

groups became vastly improved within the international system. A number of factors have accounted for this improved status of international pressure groups. For instance, the emergence of international organizations particularly the United Nations and some regional organizations such as EU, AU, and other related ones have extended politics beyond national borders. The issues affecting different societies ranging from environmental management, terrorism, fight against child trafficking e.t.c requires approach through increasing awareness and advancing communications across the globe. These issues emanating across the international system warranted the setting up of international organisations that would be non-governmental with specific missions toward resolving socio-economic and political problems at various levels at the different countries of the international system. For instance, the Amnesty International remains a vibrant group that gives remarks on violation of human rights and abuse of international law across the globe. The Amnesty International has made pronouncements regarding various countries' practise on human rights and protection of humanity.

The international public interest is believed to be well protected with a wide range of groups focusing on issues of broader perspectives such as human rights, child welfare and status of women. These multiple and broader issues actually contributed to the growing numbers of international pressure groups. These NGOs are over 2000 which many of them work in several countries. In world politics today, every state tries to enjoy the cooperation of the international pressure groups to ensure smooth operations of their policies.

However, the concern nowadays is the need to regulate the interest groups which to some analyst might be used to undermine government in both democratic and authoritarian systems. The argument is that those groups might be used by a small segment of the society to undermine the activities of the government. This concern remains the major criticism of interest groups either at local and international levels. It is believed that interest groups might project themselves to be fighting for public interest but in practise they often serve narrow interest of some selfish individuals or groups.

Nevertheless, as long as politics within the international system remains dynamics, the formation and existence of interest groups cannot be over emphasised. Globalization has increased the call for international pressure groups as a result of increasing interdependence between various domestic and international interests.

SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE

How do you define international pressure groups?

4.0 CONCLUSION

The international pressure groups have been active in influencing decisions at the international political system. They remain non-governmental institutions with laudable voices on socio-economic and political issues affecting different states within the international system. The international pressure groups have specific goals and their operations cut across human society.

5.0 SUMMARY

In this unit, we have examined the concept of international pressure groups and their role in determining decision making within the international system

6.0 TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENT

Examine the concept of pressure groups?

Analyse the role of international pressure groups in world politics?

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