

Interdependence and global threats:

Increasing globalisation has brought about a greater interdependence between nations, relying on good governance in individual countries, as well as a healthy global economic, political and social order. As problems faced in one part of the world can have a ripple effect across the globe, this has made the world more vulnerable.

Because of increasing globalisation and the resultant greater interdependence between nations, we have all become reliant not just on good governance in individual countries, but also on healthy global economic, political and social order.

As the long-running Syrian Civil War demonstrated, a major upheaval in one country can have a destabilising ripple effect in the region and around the world. This feature of the globalised world has not promoted stability, but instead has made the world more vulnerable.

A global financial crisis (such as in 2008), a terrorist attack within a state's borders, regional war sparked by miscalculation, an outbreak of illness in a single area, or mass atrocity crimes committed by a dictatorial regime can flow on immediately and affect the rest of the world.

Benefits of interdependence:

There has been a growth in volume of international law which experience a high degree of compliance. International law is mostly created by consensus; all treaties are negotiated, and no state is forced to sign a treaty, but rather agree to commit themselves to treaties' provisions because of mutual benefit. Whether the treaty relates to finance, transport, trade or security, the majority are recognised by parties as benefiting them in some way.

Interdependence is the interconnection of two or more states to such an extent that they are mutually dependent on each other for survival and mutually vulnerable to crises

The goal of world order is to balance power between nations in such a way that military conflict is minimised

- The use of force can have a negative impact on social, political and environmental areas.

A balance between competing interests is needed to:

- Promote peace
- Minimise the impact of conflict
- Protect human rights
- Protect the environment

		- Promotes human rights		
UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide			- Hard law - Created in response to WWII – Genocide	- Only binding to states that ratify the treaty
Universal Declaration of Human Rights			- Outlines human rights	- Not legally binding
Geneva Conventions	International treaties that contain the most important rules limiting the barbarity of war		- Protects people who do not take part in the fighting and those who can no longer fight and people not taking part - Limits the effects of war	
UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees	Aims to protect stateless people		- Protects and reinforces rights to seek asylum	- Not legally binding
Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty 1996	Recognition of the increased stockpiling of nuclear weapons and hence the signing of the NPT 1966 did reduce the stocks of nuclear weapons held by nuclear nations		- Protects peace rights from nuclear war	
Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CNTBT) 1996			-	- Only 9 of the signatories have ratified it - The lack of political will to comply For example, North Korea's weapons testing in October

abandon the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty of 1972. This was seen as a threat by other major powers who feared this signalled the US putting weapons into space. Furthermore, in 2002, the US announced it was prepared to use 'pre-emptive' action, a statement which devalues basic UN principles.

In the 2005 World Summit, no progress was made on the NPT following five weeks of negotiations. While President Obama's commitment to NPT and UN Resolution 1887 (2009) was a positive step, no real progress has been made in this area. A 2010 NPT Review Conference emerged with a 64-point action plan, however, there has been minimal steps for implementation. And finally, a 2015 NPT Review Conference failed to produce a final document.

The UNSC and Nuclear Disarmament

While the UNSC was unable to achieve much progress in this area during the Cold War, they have been able to function more collaboratively since.

One of the most vital responsibilities of the UNSC is to provide leadership in the area of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and relieve the threat of nuclear war. The UNSC has a disarmament role under art 47, as well as the legal authority to act on matters that affect international peace and security (art 39). Therefore, it is integral that the UNSC works effectively in this area.

Non Legal responses

Following the shortcomings of the NPT Review Conference in 2005, a new organisation was formed, with the objective of working towards an international treaty banning nuclear weapons. The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) was created in Australia in 2006 and launched internationally in Vienna in 2007.

The threat of nuclear weapons poses a major threat to human existence. More concerning is the fact that a decision to launch a nuclear attack rests with one individual. This decision may occur without consultation and can effectively bring about nuclear annihilation. In order to maintain peace and security, continued multilateral cooperation is necessary; however, given the track record of the UNSC, compliance with the NPT and progress of the NPT Review Conferences, it appears that the SC has fallen short in their role of promoting and maintaining peace and security.

In **2014 and 2015**, government forces backed by the Janjaweed led counterinsurgency campaigns in Darfur where they repeatedly attacked villages, burned and looted homes, and beat, raped, and executed villagers.

In **2016**, President Omar al-Bashir announced a unilateral ceasefire in conflict zones. This ceasefire was extended until the end of **2018**. However, throughout 2017 and 2018, government forces continued to attack villages throughout Darfur, causing deaths and massive displacement of citizens.

In August **2019**, al Bashir's rule was replaced by a transitional government of both military and civilian members. In February **2020**, the Sudanese government officially agreed to hand al-Bashir over to the ICC to face war crime and genocide charges.

Has there been any involvement by the neighbouring states in the region? If so, what?

The physical conflict that has taken place in Sudan has remained within their borders, as their conflict is between the north and south.

The conflict in Darfur has increased tensions in neighboring Chad and the Central African Republic as hundreds of thousands of refugees have streamed over the two countries' borders to escape the violence. However, both Chad and the Central African Republic have not been directly involved with the conflict.

Has there been any involvement by the international community, including the UN? If so, what?

The international community have responded by taking action, regarding the crisis in Darfur. In 2005, the United Nations Security Council referred the situation in Darfur to the ICC, to prosecute President Omar al Bashir. In 2009, he was officially issued an arrest warrant for crimes against humanity and, in July 2010, a warrant for arrest on charges of genocide.

When he was overthrown as the president of Sudan, by the military, in 2019, Omar al Bashir remained in custody in Sudan's capital, Khartoum, on domestic charges of corruption and killing protesters. Following this, in 2020, the Sudanese government then agreed to hand Omar al Bashir over to the ICC to officially be charged with war crimes and genocide, as Sudan was not a state party to the Rome Statute and needed to physically allow the ICC to prosecute him as they had not been under their jurisdiction.

North Korea remains one of the world's most repressive states. The government restricts all civil and political liberties, including freedom of expression, assembly, associations, and religion.

The government routinely uses arbitrary arrest and punishment of crimes, torture in custody, and executions to maintain fear and control over the population. GDP (per capita) = \$1800

According to Human Rights Watch, the United Nations, and international powers, the North Korean regime is among the world's worst human rights abusers, with an estimated 80,000 - 120,000 political prisoners and a history of murder, torture, and sexual violence perpetrated against its citizens.

Who are the key nation states involved in the crisis? What do they have to gain and/or what is their interest in the matter?

China

- Prefers North Korea bordering them as for at least some period of time American troops would be stationed in a country that borders China
- Should the Kim regime fall, North Korea will descend into chaos. Having that kind of instability, with millions of refugees flocking to the border
- Having America, Japan, and South Korea worried about North Korea takes the focus of China - China has many objectives in the region, such as in the South China Sea

USA

- Ally of South Korea with 28,500 US troops stationed in South Korea
- North Korean propaganda portrays America as an evil imperialist aggressor hell bent on subjugating the Korean people
- The threat of nuclear war and the nuclear and ballistic missile capabilities to reach American land

South Korea

- Bordering South of North Korea
- Involved in the Korean War which ended in an armistice
- There have been several skirmishes with North Korea