

Relevance of the Global Institutionalization

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Abstract: International organizations are not a creation of the XX or XXI century but in these two centuries they increased their importance due the current issues that the world has to face and due to the changes that occurred in particular after the World War II. The oldest International organization still in operation is the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine established in 1815. This organization involved very few states, just 5, and its actions were strictly related to the Rhine area and its security. Now, the most important and powerful IOs is undoubtedly the United Nations, composed by 193 countries. Through its agencies and organs, the UN influence many sectors from politics to justice, from security to monetary policies. Not only the UN, but all the international organizations in general in the last century have widened their goals and area of intervention

Keywords: International organizations, Central Commission, century, United Nations.

1. INTRODUCTION

This paper will deal with the issue of why we need the International Organizations and how large is their relevance at world level. Theories and practical examples, both in favour and against IOs, will be presented in the paper in order to find an exhaustive answer to the issue about the necessity of them in the international context. In the paper the principle reasons for their creation are explained, some of their successes, as well as some failures and critics.

2. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND FOR THE FOUNDATION OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Today, IOs exist on multiple human activity plains, including political, economic, social, human rights, and others. At present, people or states create IOs for different missions and purposes. However, if one closely analyses the IOs that have the most political global impact on the global community, one will come to a conclusion that states concluded them to tackle an imminent armed threat or to address drawbacks in state activities. Science also served as the major actor that hastened the necessity of a supranational force to keep its potential at bay. As a result of the global damage potential of science and individual political ambition, League of Nations and later its progeny, the UN (Kerikmäe, 2000), were founded to ensure a peaceful and rational utilization of progress to preserve humanity and its serene existence.

Indeed, science has always been something that state rulers and the political elite use to boost and exercise their ambitions. Instead of treating the social drawbacks and advancing peaceful progress, state rulers often encourage scientists to progress their experiments to advance weaponry and increase the military potential of their states. As a result of such philosophy and ambition, WWI was a shock that shook Europe and beyond. "Anarchic nationalism plus material development led to the formation of large empires, but also gave the will and the power to assert freedom to different nationalities within those empires" (Barnett, 1999). Subsequently, the anarchic nationalism, misuse of science in the military field, and materialism purported the commencement of WWI, which later resulted in the Allies' comprehension that such forces should be regulated transnationally to avoid malfeasance (Monroy Pérez, 2016). The League of Nations was founded in 1920 as the result of ending WWI. It was the first intergovernmental organization that the Allies formed to maintain world peace. That being said, the world peace was a reaction that resulted from addressing a philosophy. "Only through making the League a great reality can we reach the threshold of that better world for which the flower of the world's youth died" (Deutsch, 1968). In other words, anarchic nationalism and its misuse of science were the major reasons for the foundation of the League and the statutory concept of IOs. Thus, world peace and the international

comprehension of states that a supranational order is a necessary philosophy are the primary causes for the conclusion of IOs and their contemporary existence. However, the League failed its mission because anarchic nationalism could not be eradicated so swiftly.

Since nationalistic seeds were present in the League in relation to Germany, the philosophical confrontation between the latter and overconfidence of the Allies led to WWII and the foundation of the UN. The nationalistic foundation of WWII, the charisma of Fascism, and the advancement of science in the military field proved devastating to the whole world and created a paramount danger for global human security overall. The UN was founded in 1945 after the conclusion of WWII as the progeny of the failed League. Its mission diverted from world peace, as a response, to an activity that aimed at prevention. The new vector of activity of the UN, as an IO, was to promote international inter-state cooperation and world order. The foundation for such an approach included the focus on human security, individual rights and freedoms as core values of state activity in a nation-state and state-nation relation, the basis for which is an individual whose projection is manifested in communities that form societies that comprise nations. Thus, the UN became the standard for international organizations that had the supranational statutory authority that aimed at upholding humanity's security through world order (Färber, 2017). The UN convicted nationalism as a dangerous philosophy that has already brought about uncountable damage to humanity and the world, which was why equality of states (and nations, subsequently) and the protection of human rights and freedoms were to become new core values of international relations and sovereign rules of states.

Although there are many IOs and international NGOs, as well as transnational corporations, that have a large political and economic influence on international relations, the high values of the UN and the activity of its structural units are the focus of this paper. The UN and other major IOs and international NGOs that promote human welfare, benevolence, security, and peace have a larger long-term perspective of influence on the world and humanity. The historical premise for their eruption was nationalism, a philosophy of discrimination and aggression, which makes IOs matter only if they promote a benevolent vector of supranational activity to keep the political narcissism and greed in check. Although wars still occur in the world, the perspective of WWII is still successfully postponed due to the existence of the UN and other influential IOs. However, the necessity to end WWII in a swift and powerful way resulted in adapting the atomic energy into an armed military form - an atomic bomb. Consequently, a frightening hazard to human security appeared that required supranational governance and standardization in order to uphold human security and world order.

3. FUNCTIONALITY

Today, in the 21st century, there is no state on the planet that would not be a part of the international system and would not be part of any international organization. The question remains why there are international organizations and we really need them?

Looking back to history, especially until establishment of the first peace international organization, the League of Nations, we see the efforts of the new states of the international community and of the old, to participate in the peaceful settlement of disputes between peoples. In my opinion, this organization exceeded its time with its set goals. Solving conflicts peacefully at the international level in the 1920s and 1930s in my opinion could be achieved by allowing Germany to participate in the organization from the very beginning and when the United States and the Soviet Union would be part of this organization also from the very beginning. It is very admirable, however, that states, at least in part, have decided to solve their problems at an international level, at a time that has not played them straight into the cards. Unfortunately, this organization was not so functional (Troitiño, 2013).

Other international organizations are formed after World War II. The world has been divided into two parts from the end of the Second World War until the 1990s. Almost every advanced state in the world was under a certain ideology and it was therefore important to include these states under certain international organizations. Western states, in their choice and participation in international organizations, have the option of making their own decisions, for example, as regards NATO and the European Communities, the eastern states as Soviet Union satellites did not have this option.

After the collapse of communist regimes in Central and Eastern Europe, these states sought to gain membership in the European Community (EU) and NATO. What did these states push from the newly acquired autonomy and democracy to become part of international organizations that would suppress and still suppress their sovereignty? Why did these states choose to leave their existing international organizations and join others?

There are several obvious facts, such as the desire to break free from the concept of the East and become part of Europe again. For decades, the Soviet Union has restricted the sovereignty of its satellites, and in the eyes of many people this initial relationship has turned into a hostile relationship. Except for the return to the European field among European nations and the restoration of broken ties during the Communist era, organizations such as the European Community and later the European Union saw the possibility of economic development and protection against an old friend of the Soviet Union, later of the Russian Federation.

On the other hand, there are also European states who believe that the European Union is not the right way and that the right way is independence. Such cases may be Switzerland and Norway, for example, and their access to European integration. Recently, the British also decided to do so. The so-called "Brexit" was the victory of the Eurosceptic in the UK, when people in the referendum decided to leave European Union to determine the fate of their country outside the European Union (McMahon, 2017). In this case, I believe that even though Britain remains a member of all other international organizations and have decided to "only" leave the European Union, its international security and economic situation, which may worsen, will remain more or less stable compare to Central and Eastern European states. Why? Because the United Kingdom is still one of the world's largest economies (Graziatti, 2018) and is also part of the Security Council of the League of Nations with a veto right.

One of the reasons why states are entering international organizations is that they want to be part of a larger unit and have some certainty of survival. Another reason may be participation in decision-making on important issues (Tanel, 2015). For example, with the accession to the European Union, a member state, in addition to certain obligations, also has the right to decide on individual policies within the organization and therefore it seems advantageous to be part of this organization rather than outside it. Another possible reason is to strengthen the foreign influence of their country. The countries of Central and Eastern Europe after the break-up of the Iron Curtain and after the breakup of some states did not have such a strong influence on foreign affairs, for example due to their size, population size and economic strength. With their accession to the European Union, their influence has increased in my opinion, even though they have no such possibility to influence foreign affairs themselves and do not have such an impact on the international system on their own, with the help of the European Union, and their 28 states represent one of the most developed and richest regions in the world with an option to influence international relations. An example may be the crisis in Ukraine (Troitiño, 2015), when Russia annexed the Crimean Peninsula, and the European Union imposed Russian sanctions on Russian merchants and politicians, not only on them but on Russian products, and forbade, for example, to export military equipment to Russia. However, as mentioned above, some states, even if geographically beneficial, decided to stay out of the organization (Kerikmäe, 2012), especially Norway and Switzerland. However, in the case of these states, it is not entirely clear whether they have retained their sovereignty, since they have to adopt a certain *acquis* in order to have access to the free European market (Russett, 1999).

When looking at international organizations from the point of view of the superpowers or the states that have a large area, the population reaches several hundred million inhabitants and more, the economic power of these states is enormous and they have great influence in the world, so is their participation in international organizations important for them? In this regard, I am not sure whether yes or not. We can list it as an example of China. The economic reforms launched in the 1970s made China the world's second-largest economy with a global impact (Haas, 1990). China has decided to spread its influence through bilateral and multilateral agreements with states around the world and has decided to resume a long-forgotten business trip - a Silk Road. In 2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping introduced the modern equivalent of an ancient Silk Road to connect China with Central and West Asia, Africa and Europe. One Belt One Road is to link these world regions by rail, pipeline, gas pipeline, and road plus sea routes. However, it is not only about the physical interconnection of a part of the world, but also about political coordination, business and financial collaboration, social and cultural cooperation. In 2015, the One Belt One Road Action Plan was approved, with two major parts, the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road (Hawkins, 2006). The One Belt One Road economic forum was held in Beijing in 2017, where more than 70 world delegates attended, and where President Xi Jinping pledged up to \$ 113 billion in additional funding for a new silk path initiative and urged countries around the world, to join him in the drive for globalization. The president calls the One Belt One Road project a century-old project, and the project fits into the Chinese story of an example of globalization and filling the emptiness left behind by the United States in the case of President Donald Trump's "America First" (Huang, 2017). But even though China has enormous economic potential and

has the potential to promote its interests through bilateral and multilateral treaties, it becomes a member of international organizations. The question is why? Does China really need an international organization to exploit its potential and influence, or does it just want to engage in the structures of globalization and become a global player using its influence according to the clear rules of international organizations? In my view, China has realized that its influence in the world is better able to push through international organizations, but they are not afraid to go into their own projects and spread their influence across the world through investments and economic projects (Troitiño, 2017).

4. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS RELEVANCE

All things considered, if states are members of such organization they can gain lots of benefits, especially those whose economic power is insufficient. The membership in the organization provides states with the equivalent status within the organization and allows them to take all advantages which could be very hard to obtain on their own. International organizations create relations based on equity, sovereign equality, and interdependence among all member states. In spite of their different economic and social systems, organizations correct inequalities and put a lot of emphases on eliminating the widening gap between the developed and developing countries. For that reason, many of international organizations were established to take action on the issues confronting humanity in the 21st century, including: peace and security, climate change, sustainable development, human rights, disarmament, terrorism, humanitarian and health emergencies, gender equality, governance, food production, international trade, helping developing countries achieve economic security, establishing norms regarding how countries make trade agreements, and resolving conflicts. One of the major humanitarian activities of international organizations is focusing on poverty reduction mainly in the Third World and peacekeeping. In this field the United Nations, as an umbrella organization with its agencies, plays a significant role. Many people in the Third World live on less than USD 1.90 a day (Troitiño, 2013). The recent estimation from 2013 reveals that approximately 11 percent of world's population live in these conditions compared to 12.4 percent in 2012. In comparison with the 1990 it is down from 35 percent. Even though there has been marked progress on reducing poverty over the past decades, the number of people living in extreme poverty globally remains unacceptably high. One of the millennium development goals of the United Nations is in particularly "to eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere and to reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty by 2030" (UN, 2015). The United Nation's other main goals like ensuring healthy lives for people of all ages, providing quality education, achieving food security, reducing famine as well as ensuring the access to clean water are reasons why I think that international organizations like the UN have a justified existence in today's world (Joamets, 2016).

Another important organization which clarifies the necessity of international organizations, from my point of view, is the European Union, even though the Union is considered as a supranational organization rather than an international organization. The European Union's fundamental values are respect for human dignity and human rights, freedom, democracy, equality, and the rule of law. The EU tries to promote these values upon which the Union is founded among both member states and candidate countries (Europa.eu, 2018). In my opinion, the European Union provides its members with lot of benefits and it could be said that advantages mostly overtake disadvantages (Kerikmäe2001). Notably, the EU tries to foster the mutual trade between member states. The Single Market (1992) is an illustration of this, providing the opportunity for free movement of labour, capital, goods and services within the Union. This means that member states can easily trade together without any obstacles since tariffs between member states were abolished. Couple years ago, in 2004 a group of 10 states of the 5th enlargement of the EU – Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia – became the members of the EU. This group of states is not considered as the most important in the Union related to the economic performance of states. These countries, excluding Poland and the Czech Republic, had in 2016 a GDP of less than 1 % of the EU total (Keedus, 2018). Their share in the GDP of the EU is ranking among the lowest economies in the EU meaning that they are bringing up the rear of the EU. However, it is essential for their livelihood to be part of the Union. They are ensured with trade opportunities which are due to develop their economies. As the significant part of their exports goes to EU countries, in particularly, Estonia with 75 percent, Hungary with 81 percent, the Czech Republic with 84 percent, and Slovakia with 85 percent in 2017 (Eurostat, 2017), these countries are entirely dependent on trade relations within the organization. Any economic changes in the Union may have tremendous impact on these highly opened economies which might be on the other hand a serious threat to their economies.

5. CONCLUSIONS

All in all, international organizations have played an important role since their inception. Their fundamental aims and reasons of establishment were affected by historical development of the whole world. Firstly, it was transportation and communication which set the foundation for establishing international organizations. After World War I and World War II there was need to ensure safety and to prevent the emergence of another war (Keohane, 1972) by creating the entities which might be responsible for peacekeeping in the whole world. Later, in regards to international trade, states found it essential to unit their tariffs to encourage their mutual trade. Many international organizations were found to defend human rights, democracy and equality of all people. To sum up, there are more and more reasons why we need international organizations which should not be taken as granted.

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