

SRMUN'23

15 - 17 April



UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY (LEGAL)

**Revisiting the doctrine of
Armed Humanitarian
Intervention.**

BACKGROUND GUIDE

EXECUTIVE BOARD
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Introduction

BeginningThe United Nations General Assembly(UNGA) , also known as the ‘Town Hall of

the World’ , is the largest and most representative organ of the UN system. All UN Member States are represented in the General Assembly. Each Member State has one vote. Decisions on such key issues as international peace and security, admitting new members and the UN budget are decided by a two-thirds majority. Other matters are decided by simple majority. Many decisions are reached by consensus without a formal vote. Under the UN Charter, the functions and powers of the General Assembly (GA) include:

- To discuss any question relating to international peace and security (except when a dispute or situation is being discussed by the Security Council);
- To make recommendations for the peaceful settlement of any situation which might harm the friendly relations among nations;
- To discuss and make recommendations on the powers and functions of any organ of the United Nations;
- To request studies and make recommendations to promote international cooperation, the development of international law, the protection of human rights, and international collaboration on economic, social, cultural, educational and health issues;
- To receive and discuss reports from the Security Council and other UN organs;
- To discuss and approve the UN budget;
- To elect non-permanent members of the Security Council, the members of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and additional members of the Trusteeship Council (when necessary); to elect the judges of the International Court of Justice (jointly with the Security Council); and on the recommendation of the Security Council, to appoint the Secretary-General.
- Although the General Assembly’s recommendations on global issues are an important expression of world opinion, the Assembly cannot force a Member State to follow its recommendations on a particular issue.

The Assembly holds its annual regular session from September to December. When necessary, a special session on subjects of particular concern may be called at the request of the Security Council, of a majority of the Member States, or of one member if the majority of the Member States agree. In addition, an emergency session can be called within 24 hours in the same manner. An example of this was the Eleventh emergency special session of the United Nations General Assembly, which addressed the Russian invasion of Ukraine. At the beginning of each regular session the General Assembly holds a General Debate when many Heads of State come to express their views on the most pressing international issues.

Following the General Debate, most issues are discussed in one of the Assembly's six main committees:

First Committee (Disarmament and International Security);

Second Committee (Economic and Financial);

Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural);

Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization);

Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary);

Sixth Committee (Legal).

Establishing and adopting the agenda is the first order of business in each GA session. Most of the more than 160 items on the agenda are considered on a regular basis, and only a few new items are added or deleted each year. Resolutions and decisions, including those recommended by the six main committees, are adopted in plenary meetings, usually before the end of the regular session in December. The Assembly adopts its resolutions and decisions by a majority of members present and voting. Important matters, including recommendations on international peace and security, the election of members to other UN organs and budgets are decided by a two-thirds majority. The day-to-day work of the United Nations during the year is determined by the resolutions and decisions made during the Assembly's regular session. This work is carried out by various committees and other bodies established by the Assembly to study and report on specific issues, such as disarmament, peacekeeping, development and human rights.

Introduction to United Nations General Assembly Sixth Committee:

The United Nations Legal Committee is a group of representatives from member states of the United Nations who come together to discuss and make recommendations on legal issues that are relevant to the work of the United Nations. The committee focuses on topics such as international law, human rights, and the peaceful resolution of disputes between countries. The goal of the committee is to promote respect for international law and to ensure that the United Nations operates in a fair and just manner. Essentially, the UN Legal Committee is a group that helps the United Nations make decisions based on legal principles and international norms. Think of it like a group of referees trying to keep the players on the field from getting too rough with each other, except in this case the players are countries and the field is the entire world.

It is like the ultimate game of international dodgeball, and the UN Legal Committee is there to make sure nobody gets hit in the face with a legal ball. The Legal Committee also provides a forum for the discussion and negotiation of treaties and other international agreements. The committee plays a key role in the development of international legal instruments, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Law of the Sea. Therefore, the mandate of the committee, for the delegates is to not just argue and come to a consensus-it is to foster peace which could also mean proposing new frameworks, committees, instruments or other checks and balances in place. One of the primary functions of the Legal Committee is to review and make recommendations on the work of the International Law Commission (ILC), which is responsible for developing and codifying international law. The Legal Committee works closely with the ILC to ensure that international law remains relevant and responsive to the needs of the international community. In addition to its work with the ILC, the Legal Committee also considers other legal issues of international concern. This can include issues related to the law of the sea, the status of refugees and stateless persons, and the rights of indigenous peoples, among other topics. The committee works to promote respect for international law and to ensure that the United Nations operates in a fair and just manner. The biggest significance of the UN legal system is that it allows representations from all over the world, to discuss and prioritize on the issues facing the international community. The nature and focus of legal implications for lack of compliance become extremely relevant for us today, and so the legal committee is “special”-since it directly impacts governance and plays a huge role in deciding how international administration will be shaped.

Reassessing the Doctrine of Armed Intervention

Introduction

The discourse surrounding armed humanitarian intervention is first and foremost a debate on a state's right to sovereignty v/s human rights. Non - Intervention is pretty much an accepted norm in the international arena, but what happens to the citizens of a state, whose government is unwilling, incapable or actively participating in the gross violations of their human rights? Does the international community have a right and a responsibility to protect the rights of the citizens (of a different nation) as prescribed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights? This is a very heated debate with various ethical and legal dimensions.

Legally speaking, a state's right to sovereignty is the fundamental pillar of international relations that dictates how states interact with one another. The same has been enshrined in Article 2 of the United Nations Charter. However, The Chapter 7 of the same UN Charter, grants UNSC the power to intervene in case of any "threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression and to take military and nonmilitary action to restore international peace. It also grants states the right of individual and collective self defence. Apart from ethical considerations, there are rational considerations as well. It is important we understand that whenever a nation descends into chaos, it has a regional and global impact. We live in a globalised world, borders are porous - chaos always seeps in. In cases of grotesque violence caused by civil war, persecution of minorities or terrorism , it usually triggers a refugee crisis. The pouring in millions of refugees poses a heavy economic, social and security burden on the recipient nation. The Syrian refugee crisis since 2011, the recent Rohingya crisis in Bangladesh are some examples of the same. In 1971, India faced a major influx of millions refugees due to the crackdown of (East) Pakistan on Bangladesh (Then called as West Pakistan). This added to the burdens of an already crippling economy and prompted a swift military action from India that led to Bangladesh's independence. In such cases, State A, despite not being directly impacted by incidence of human right violations happening in State B , has its own peace and sovereignty threatened/breached due to the refugee crisis and chaos.till now, The most common arguments in favour of humanitarian intervention have been laid down. However, principles and practice do not always go hand in hand.

Critics of AHI view it as just a form of 'neo-colonialism'. It gives the western world just another excuse to violate the sovereignty of other nations, usually from the developing or the underdeveloped world. They argue that the intentions behind such interventions are far from noble. They are usually just a facade to win public opinion while the real objective is expanding influence and capital gains. The weapons industry is heavily criticised for its role in lobbying in favour of such interventions and using them as an advertisement for the effectiveness of their machinery. Another question that comes forth is ; when do such intervening powers leave? Many times such intervening powers overstay their welcome by keeping their military bases active which hurts the sovereignty of the intervened state. In several cases, instances of hasty and unplanned withdrawal of forces without facilitating the formation of a strong and competent government simply result in a vacuum of power that is then filled in by other nefarious and terrorist organisations, simply restarting the cycle of chaos followed by yet another intervention and so on. The Middle East serves as the best example for the same. The failed US intervention in Libya led to the destabilisation of the entire northern African region that caused more chaos and interventions. The recent embarrassment faced by the US in Afghanistan is yet another example of the harsh realities of a failed intervention.

The current discussion can not be divorced from either the ethical responsibilities of the international community to uphold the dignity of the UN charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights or the abysmal track record of such interventions.

Key Definitions

Sovereignty - The principle of sovereignty, means supreme authority within a territory. It is a pivotal principle of modern international law. The 1945 United Nations (UN) system itself is based on (albeit, not entirely but on the precedence set by) the principle of Sovereignty. Providing that States have supreme authority within their territory, the plenitude of internal jurisdiction, their immunity from other States' own jurisdiction and their freedom from other States' intervention on their territory. Legally speaking, sovereignty also puts nations of all sizes (population, economic, geographic, military) on equal footing with other sovereign states.

Human rights - are rights we have simply because we exist as human beings - they are not granted by any state. These universal rights are inherent to us all, regardless of nationality, sex, national or ethnic origin, color, religion, language, or any other status. They range from the most fundamental - the right to life - to those that make life worth living, such as the rights to food, education, work, health, and liberty.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) - adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1948, was the first legal document to set out the fundamental human rights to be universally protected. The UDHR continues to be the foundation of all international human rights law. Its 30 articles provide the principles and building blocks of current and future human rights conventions, treaties and other legal instruments.

Humanitarian Intervention - the highest form of engagement to the direst political situations available in the UN toolkit. The UN itself views the action as follows: collective action, in a timely and decisive manner, through the Security Council, in accordance with the Charter, including Chapter VII, on a case-by-case basis and in cooperation with relevant regional organizations as appropriate, should peaceful means be inadequate and national authorities manifestly fail to protect their populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity". Importantly, intervention can take softer and less direct forms such as sanctions or political boycotting. Though the agenda specifically deals with armed interventions, non-armed methods of intervention will be relevant to the discussion as well.

R2P (Responsibility to protect) - a term currently used to justify interventions led by the UN, as a new agenda after the failings in Rwanda and Yugoslavia. Referring to the responsibility that the state has towards its people, the UN defines it as “a political commitment to end the worst forms of violence and persecution. It seeks to narrow the gap between Member States’ pre-existing obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law and the reality faced by populations at risk of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity”.

Brief History

Armed humanitarian intervention refers to the use of military force by one state or group of states to intervene in the affairs of another state in order to prevent or stop a humanitarian crisis, such as genocide, ethnic cleansing, or other serious human rights abuses. The idea of armed humanitarian intervention dates back to the 19th century, when the great powers of Europe intervened in the affairs of weaker states to protect the lives and property of their own citizens. However, it was not until the 20th century that the concept of humanitarian intervention began to take shape in its modern form. One of the earliest examples of armed humanitarian intervention took place during the Spanish Civil War in the 1930s. A group of international volunteers known as International Brigades fought on the side of the Spanish Republican government against the fascist forces of General Francisco Franco. While the intervention did not ultimately prevent Franco's victory, it is considered an important early example of armed humanitarian intervention. The next major example of armed humanitarian intervention occurred in the aftermath of World War II, when the United Nations was established with the goal of promoting peace and security around the world. The UN Charter allows for the use of military force by member states under certain circumstances, including in cases of self-defense and to maintain international peace and security. However, it was not until the 1990s that armed humanitarian intervention became more common. The end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union created a new international order in which states were more willing to intervene in the affairs of other states in the name of humanitarianism. One of the earliest examples of this new era of armed humanitarian intervention was the Gulf War in 1991, when a coalition of countries led by the United States intervened in Kuwait to liberate it from Iraqi occupation. The intervention was justified on the grounds of protecting Kuwaiti civilians and preventing further aggression by Iraq.

In the years that followed, armed humanitarian intervention became a more common tool of international diplomacy. Some of the most significant examples include: The NATO intervention in Kosovo in 1999, which was aimed at preventing ethnic cleansing by Serbian forces against the ethnic Albanian population. The Australian-led intervention in East Timor in 1999, which aimed to prevent violence and protect civilians following a referendum on independence from Indonesia. The US-led intervention in Afghanistan in 2001, which was aimed at removing the Taliban regime and preventing further terrorism following the 9/11 attacks. The NATO intervention in Libya in 2011, which was aimed at protecting civilians from violence by the government of Muammar Gaddafi.

Despite the growing use of armed humanitarian intervention, the practice remains controversial. Critics argue that it violates the principle of national sovereignty and can lead to unintended consequences, including civilian casualties and the destabilization of entire regions. Supporters argue that in cases of extreme human suffering, the international community has a moral obligation to act.

Neocolonialism and AHI

The relationship between armed humanitarian intervention and neocolonialism is complex and controversial. Neocolonialism refers to a form of indirect control that developed nations exercise over the Global South through economic, political, and cultural means. Neocolonialism seeks to maintain the economic and political dominance of developed nations over the Global South while appearing to grant them autonomy.

Armed humanitarian intervention, on the other hand, refers to the use of military force by a foreign power to protect vulnerable populations in a state that is unable or unwilling to protect its own citizens from atrocities such as genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.

Critics argue that armed humanitarian intervention can be a tool for neocolonialism, as it allows developed nations to interfere in the affairs of sovereign states under the guise of protecting vulnerable populations. These critics argue that the real motivation for intervention is often to advance the strategic interests of the intervening state, such as access to natural resources or geopolitical advantage, rather than to protect human rights.

Furthermore, critics point out that the implementation of armed humanitarian intervention is often uneven, with interventions focused primarily on states in the Global South, while states in the developed world are not subject to the same level of intervention.

In this way, armed humanitarian intervention can be seen as a manifestation of neocolonialism, as it allows developed nations to interfere in the affairs of the Global South while maintaining economic and political dominance. However, supporters of armed humanitarian intervention argue that it is a necessary tool to protect vulnerable populations in the face of atrocities and that it is motivated by a genuine desire to promote human rights and prevent mass violence.

On the Legality of AHI

The legality of armed humanitarian intervention is a complex and controversial issue that has been debated among legal experts, policymakers, and international organizations for decades. The debate centers around the tension between the principle of state sovereignty and the responsibility to protect populations from mass atrocities.

On the one hand, proponents of armed humanitarian intervention argue that the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) principle provides a legal basis for the use of force in cases where a state is unwilling or unable to protect its citizens from mass atrocities. They argue that the international community has a moral and legal obligation to intervene in such cases to protect human lives, even if it means violating the principle of state sovereignty.

On the other hand, opponents of armed humanitarian intervention maintain that the use of force without the authorization of the United Nations Security Council is illegal under international law. They argue that the use of force can only be justified in self-defense or with the approval of the Security Council under Chapter VII of the UN Charter.

Moreover, critics of armed humanitarian intervention argue that it can lead to unintended consequences, including the escalation of violence and loss of innocent lives. They argue that humanitarian intervention may also be motivated by political or strategic interests, rather than genuine humanitarian concerns. The debate on the legality of armed humanitarian intervention has intensified in recent years due to the increasing number of conflicts and humanitarian crises around the world. The use of force in Syria, for example, has been a subject of intense debate among international actors, with some arguing for intervention to protect civilians from the atrocities committed by the Syrian government, and others opposing it as a violation of international law.

In addition, the emergence of new geopolitical powers, such as China and Russia, has complicated the debate on armed humanitarian intervention. These countries are skeptical of intervention in the internal affairs of other states and have used their veto power in the Security Council to prevent intervention in cases such as Syria.

Overall, the debate on the legality of armed humanitarian intervention is ongoing and remains a contested issue in international law and relations. While the R2P principle has gained widespread acceptance, there is still no clear consensus on the circumstances under which armed intervention can be justified.

R2P and the Report of the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty

The Report of the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty, commonly known as the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) report, was a landmark document that fundamentally changed the international community's approach to humanitarian intervention. The report was published in 2001 by the Canadian government and laid out the concept of the Responsibility to Protect which asserts that states have a responsibility to protect their populations from mass atrocities and that the international community has a responsibility to assist states in fulfilling this responsibility.

The R2P report emerged at a critical moment in world history. The 1990s had seen a number of devastating humanitarian crises, including the genocide in Rwanda and the ethnic cleansing in the former Yugoslavia. These crises had exposed the limitations of traditional state sovereignty and the international community's ability to respond to humanitarian emergencies. The R2P report sought to address these limitations by reframing the relationship between state sovereignty and humanitarian intervention.

The report's key insight was that state sovereignty is not an absolute right but a responsibility. In other words, states have a responsibility to protect their populations from mass atrocities, and if they are unable or unwilling to do so, then the international community has a responsibility to intervene. The report emphasized that the use of force should always be a last resort, but it also recognized that there are situations in which the international community may have to use force to protect populations from mass atrocities.

The R2P report was significant for several reasons. First, it provided a new framework for thinking about the relationship between state sovereignty and humanitarian intervention. Prior to the report, the international community had been reluctant to intervene in the affairs of sovereign states, even in cases of mass atrocities. The report challenged this traditional view and argued that the international community has a responsibility to protect populations from mass atrocities, even if it means violating state sovereignty.

Second, the report helped to establish a normative framework for humanitarian intervention. The R2P concept quickly gained traction among policymakers, activists, and scholars and became a widely accepted norm in international relations. The report's emphasis on the responsibility to protect helped to legitimize humanitarian intervention as a tool of international diplomacy and provided a basis for justifying the use of force in cases of mass atrocities.

Third, the R2P report helped to bridge the divide between proponents of humanitarian intervention and defenders of state sovereignty. By reframing state sovereignty as a responsibility rather than an absolute right, the report recognized the importance of state sovereignty while also acknowledging the need for international intervention in cases of mass atrocities. This approach helped to bring together diverse stakeholders and paved the way for a more nuanced discussion of the role of sovereignty in international relations.

Despite its many strengths, the R2P report has also faced criticism. One of the main criticisms is that the report's emphasis on the responsibility to protect could be used to justify intervention by powerful states in the affairs of weaker states. Critics argue that the R2P concept could be used as a pretext for neo-colonialism and that it could undermine the principle of state sovereignty.

Another criticism of the R2P report is that it focuses too narrowly on the use of force as a tool of intervention. Critics argue that the report should have placed more emphasis on non-military forms of intervention, such as diplomacy, economic sanctions, and peacekeeping. This criticism reflects a broader debate within the humanitarian intervention community about the appropriate use of force in cases of mass atrocities.

Despite these criticisms, the R2P report remains a seminal document in the history of humanitarian intervention. The report helped to reframe the relationship between state sovereignty and humanitarian intervention and provided a new normative framework for thinking about the use of force in cases of mass atrocities. The R2P concept has been invoked in a number of high-profile cases, including the intervention in Libya in 2011 and the ongoing crisis

Nicaragua Judgement-ICJ

The case involved a dispute between Nicaragua and the United States of America. Nicaragua accused the US of violating its sovereignty and international law through a series of military and paramilitary activities in the region.

After carefully examining the facts and arguments presented by both parties, the ICJ ruled that the United States had indeed violated Nicaraguas sovereignty by supporting the Contras, a rebel group that was fighting against the Nicaraguan government at the time.

The Court also found that the US had violated international law by mining Nicaragus ports and territorial waters, and by carrying out military overflights over Nicaraguan territory. The ICJ ordered the United States to cease its activities and pay reparations to Nicaragua for the damage caused by its actions.

The Court also emphasized the importance of the principle of non-intervention in international law, which prohibits states from intervening in the affairs of other states. The Nicaragua Judgment is considered a significant ruling in international law and has been cited in numerous other cases since then.

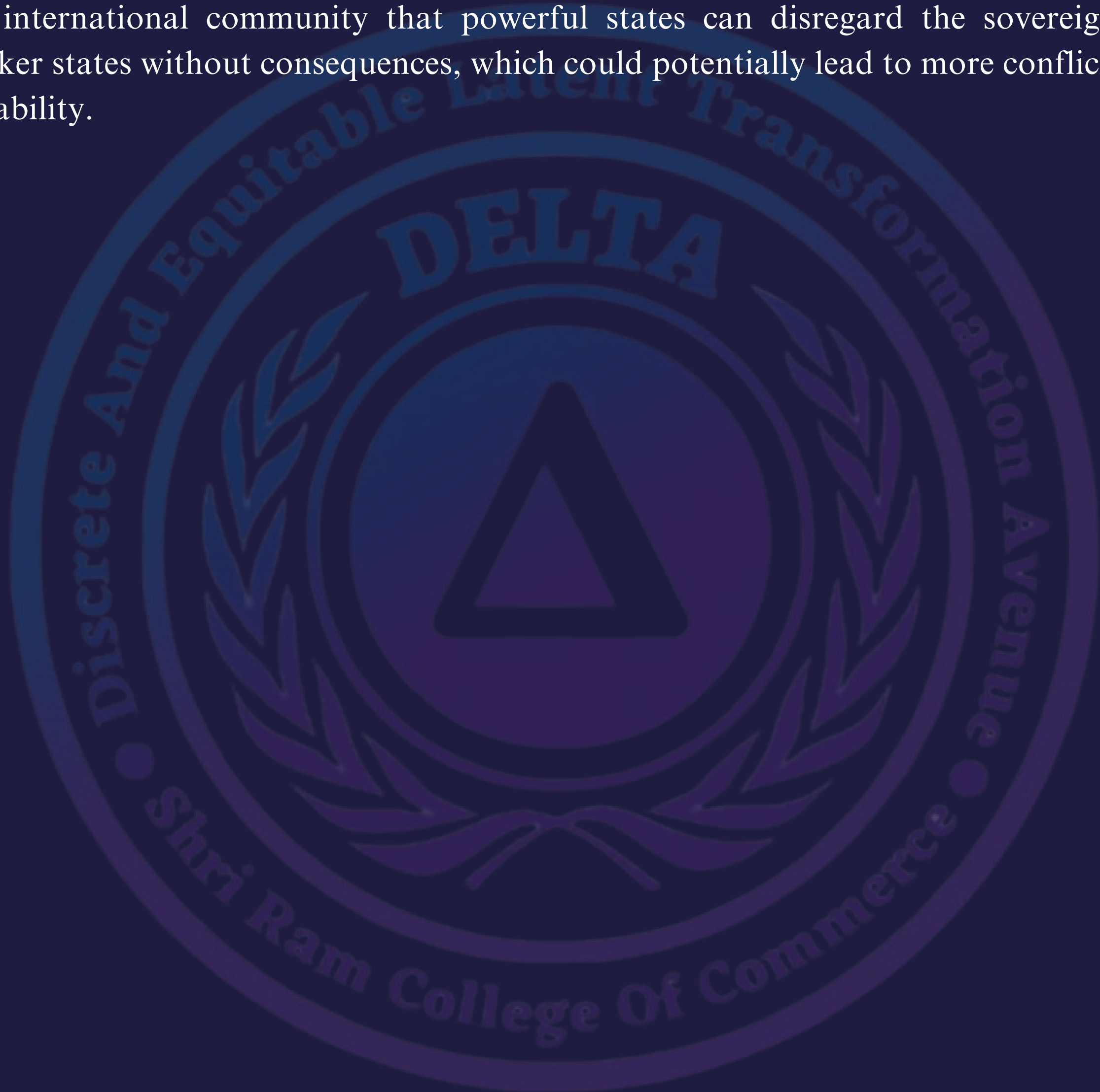
The Nicaragua Judgment by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) is significant for several reasons. Firstly, it affirmed the principle of sovereignty, which is a fundamental principle of international law that recognizes the independent authority of each state over its own territory and people. The ICJ ruled that the United States had violated Nicaraguas sovereignty by supporting the Contras and engaging in other military and paramilitary activities in Nicaragua.

Secondly, the judgment reaffirmed the principle of non-intervention, which is another fundamental principle of international law that prohibits states from interfering in the internal affairs of other states. The ICJ found that the US had violated this principle by providing support to the Contras and engaging in military activities in Nicaragua.

Thirdly, the Nicaragua Judgment is significant because it was one of the few cases in which a developing country was able to successfully challenge the actions of a major world power in an international court. This ruling has set a precedent for other developing countries to assert their rights under international law and challenge the actions of more powerful states.

Overall, the Nicaragua Judgment is a significant milestone in the development of international law and the protection of state sovereignty and the principle of non-intervention.

If the Nicaragua Judgment by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) was reversed, it would have significant implications for the development of international law and the principles of sovereignty and non-intervention. Reversing the judgment would undermine the principle of state sovereignty and the ICJ's authority as the main judicial body responsible for resolving disputes between states. It would also send a message to the international community that powerful states can disregard the sovereignty of weaker states without consequences, which could potentially lead to more conflicts and instability.



DATE

EVENTS

October 1945

Establishment of the UN and with it the UNSC - From this date one can refer to the existence of UN properly, as well as the international order it has formed

**1956-1967 -
Suez Canal
Crisis -**

First authorized UN intervention, that was upposed to help reinstate order after failed attempts of France and the UK in the region; 1964 - Intervention in Cyprus - One of the longest running UN missions, initially created to ensure peace and ceasefire between the Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots;

**1971 Shift in the
P5 Membership**

Replacement of the Republic of China (modern day Taiwan) with People's Republic of China;

**1992-1993 - I
Intervention in
Somalia**

EUS-led intervention in Somalia as a response to the regime change that resulted in increased hunger and the willingness of the state to cooperate with other international bodies such as the International Red Cross; 1992-1995 - Intervention in Yugoslavia - One of the major failures of intervention policy; resulted in many deaths of both peacekeeping personnel as well as civilians (especially during the Srebrenica genocide)

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1993-1995 - II Intervention in Somalia

A follow-up military intervention attempt in Somalia, aimed at further stabilizing the situation in the state. On the contrary, the peacekeeping forces got into more fights with Somali informal resistance and confronted them in brutal fights on the streets of Mogadishu. The operation failed to provide an adequate peace foundation, leaving Somalia in discord.

1993-96 - Intervention in Rwanda

Regarded as the greatest failure of UN intervention as it has not only allowed for a genocide to happen, lost a considerable number of skilled personnel, but also indirectly influenced further discord and crisis in neighbouring countries (see Great Lakes refugee crisis)

1993-97 - I Mission in Liberia

Observer mission of the UN, focused on ceasefire, democratization of the state, electoral observation, and humanitarian aid facilitation;

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**1998-2000 - I
Mission in
Central African
Republic (CAR)**

UN operation focused on “maintaining and enhancing security and stability in Bangui and vicinity; supervision, storage control, and monitoring the disposition of weapons retrieved in disarmament exercise” ;

**2003-2018 - II
Mission in
Liberia**

A peacekeeping operation aimed at stabilising the state after the Second Liberian War. One of the largest UN-led missions; 2005 - Adoption of the R2P Principle in Interventionist Policies

**2007-2010 -II
Mission in the
CAR**

UN Mission focused on human rights and support of civil society within the state, with little to no success; 2011 - Mission in South Sudan - A less military and coercive mission of the UN, dealing with the capacity building in fields of security, economy, finance, and general state welfare;

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2013

**Intervention in
Mali**

A UN-led mission established after failed endeavours of their cooperation partners (France and the AU), that has to manage with moderate success to restabilise the region and decrease the number of civilian casualties;

**2014 - Current
Mission in the
(CAR)**

A UN- authorized mission with over 17 thousand personnel, dealing with “transition process; facilitating humanitarian assistance; promotion and protection of human rights; support for justice and the rule of law; and disarmament, demobilisation, reintegration and repatriation processes.”

Trends in Armed Intervention UN Perspective

In recent years, the UN has become increasingly involved in peacekeeping and peace enforcement operations, including armed interventions, in conflict zones around the world. The trend has been towards more multi-dimensional interventions that combine military, political, and humanitarian components in order to address the root causes of conflicts and promote sustainable peace.

One trend that has emerged is the use of regional organizations and coalitions to undertake armed interventions, with the UN providing support and coordination. This approach has been seen as more effective and efficient than relying solely on UN-led interventions, and has been used in places like Mali, Somalia, and the Central African Republic.

Another trend is the emphasis on protection of civilians as a core objective of armed interventions. This has been reflected in the development of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) doctrine, which holds that states have a responsibility to protect their populations from mass atrocities and that the international community has a responsibility to act.

At the same time, there has been increasing scrutiny of the use of armed intervention, particularly in the context of humanitarian interventions. Critics argue that armed interventions can lead to unintended consequences, including the perpetuation of violence and the exacerbation of humanitarian crises. Overall, the trend in armed intervention is towards more complex and nuanced interventions that aim to address the underlying causes of conflicts and promote sustainable peace. At the same time, there is ongoing debate and discussion around the role and limitations of armed intervention in achieving these goals.

Case Study 1 ; India's Intervention in Bangladesh

Responsibilities of an Intervening State; The Indian Perspective

The principle of Armed Humanitarian Intervention (or AHI). Humanitarian Intervention refers to the use of military force to protect the rights of the citizens (of a different nation) whose government is unwilling, incapable of protecting their human rights, or actively participating in the gross violations of their human rights. It has various ethical and legal dimensions.

Scholars from around the world have discussed and debated this topic at length. These discussions tend to focus primarily on western intervention from the 1990s onwards. Such discussions usually centre around interventions in Yugoslavia and Syria or inaction in Rwanda. America's 'unjustified' and failed interventions in Iraq and now Afghanistan take centre stage in the attack against AHI. While many scholars have examined the above-mentioned cases to try and develop standards for Humanitarian Intervention and the duties of Intervening states. However, A very unique experience has been largely overlooked. This is the Indian experience.

Successfully Changing the Face of South Asia

India's intervention in Bangladesh is one of the most significant yet overlooked cases of Humanitarian Intervention. Prominent Indian scholar Pratap Bhanu Mehta referred to it as widely and fairly regarded as one of the world's most successful cases of humanitarian intervention against genocide. A professor at Princeton, Michael Walzer, has on various occasions pointed to the 1971 war as a foremost example of justified humanitarian intervention. Prompted by East Pakistan's genocidal crackdown on a linguistically different West Pakistan. The intervention led to the formation of Bangladesh, the world's 8th most populated state and a growing economic hub. It literally changed the face of South Asia.

A significant feature of this intervention was that it was carried out by a non-western nation. Sceptics of AHI have often accused such interventions of being another form of 'Neo-Colonialism'. Former colonial masters hide their nefarious intentions to

influence former colonies and violate their sovereignty under the banner of humanitarian causes. Hence, India also represented the interpretation and capabilities of newly independent Asian and African nations when it came to dealing with mass human rights violations and genocide.

Common Criticism

At the outset, I would like to do away with two common criticisms of India's intervention in Bangladesh. Many have argued that India's intervention was led more by realpolitik and strategic motives than humanitarian ones. Though India definitely did achieve certain strategic goals through the Bangladesh war. It does not cancel out humanitarian concerns and impacts. As the Report of the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty on The Responsibility to Protect notes; Mixed motives are the reality of International Relations as they are of life. Wars pose a huge economic cost and threat to the lives of the personnel, which are ultimately borne by the people. In a Democracy like India, there is a need to claim some self-interest to justify one's actions apart from humanitarian concerns. Moreover, the ICISS report recognises security threats in the form of a huge outflow of refugees and terrorists as justified concerns.

The second criticism surrounds India's unilateral actions during the intervention. Though this is true, this criticism forgets to consider the global political climate India found herself in. The world wasn't as welcoming of the idea of Humanitarian Intervention as it would become two decades later. Furthermore, The 1970s were marked by a raging cold war between the US and the Soviet Union. India found herself head to head with two hostile veto powers in the Security Council. One was the United States, led by a disgustingly racist and anti - Indian President, Richard Nixon. Another was China which had embarrassed India during the 1962 war a decade prior. Both nations were fierce supporters of Pakistan due to their own vested interests and turned a blind eye to Bangladesh's sufferings. India, on the other hand, was only backed up by the Soviet Union. India did not choose to act unilaterally; instead, it was forced into self-help due to an uncooperative UN. As one Scholar put it, "far from being a hegemon rewriting the rules of global order, or a rogue state unconcerned with world opinion, India was desperate for foreign approval."

Pre-Intervention

Pre-Intervention Humanitarian Intervention is first and foremost a "jus ad Bellum" question. When is resorting to military force justified? India built her case on three grounds. India drew attention to the large-scale violation of human rights of the East Pakistani people and the genocide of Hindus and Bangladeshis being committed by the Pakistani forces. Jayaprakash Narayan, a prominent activist, called for the "defence of the political and human rights" of the Bengalis. Upon finally liberating Bangladesh,

India's foreign declared that the "fundamental human and political rights of the people would be restored and respected." Finally, India pointed to the large influx of refugees from Bangladesh to India to invoke Chapter VII of the UN charter. As India's then Prime Minister mentioned in her speech, "They (Pakistan) are threatening the peace and stability of the vast segment of humanity represented by India's Therefore India met with what would later be referred to as the 'Just Cause Threshold' .Moreover, India resorted to military force as a last resort.. A poor economy at the time, India wasn't keen on carrying the economic burdens of war. India initially hoped for a political solution between the two Pakistans. India had also set up various camps and tried her best to provide for the needs of the refugees. It was after all other possible solutions had been tried and failed did India resort to a military intervention in a reasonable and proportional manner. In her conduct and intent, India displayed a 'Responsibility to Protect' way before the rest of the world could formulate this idea.

Post Intervention

Though in most cases, nations try to set up puppet governments or continue their military presence post-war in hopes of influencing government policies. However, India always respected Bangladeshi sovereignty and had no plans to encroach upon it. After liberating Bangladesh, India quickly adhered to Security Council's vetoed resolutions calling for withdrawal. India withdrew its army from the newly formed Bangladesh. This action was in consonance with India's claims that she was there to liberate the Bangladeshi people and not to conquer their lands. P.N Haskar, a powerful bureaucrat, would tell Indian officials, "The act of recognition shows a voluntary restraint which we have imposed upon ourselves" . He further adds that. "It signifies our desire not to annex or occupy any territory. India very well understood the need for a smooth and quick withdrawal. S. Sharma, India's delegate to the International Law Association, while addressing the platform, mentioned that the potential abuse of humanitarian intervention could be prevented by the application of requirements of necessity and proportionality, including a prompt withdrawal. India's Political leaders agreed with her bureaucrats. Indira Gandhi, during her wartime speech, declared." We do not want anybody's territory; India does not desire to interfere in their country and will not do so. While Foreign Minister Singh told the Security Council: "Golden Bengal belongs to the people of Bangladesh and to nobody else."

India's treatment of Pakistani POWs is just another example of India's commitment to championing humanitarian law. India treated 90,000 Pakistani prisoners of war as per the protocols enshrined in the Geneva Convention. Moreover, India protected Pakistani POWs from the wrath of the Bangladeshi government, which wanted to put them on trial. One can only imagine what would have happened if India had not intervened and quickly secured those 90000 POWs. Moreover, India did not use those POWs for her own political gains. The Simla Agreement was signed, and Pakistani

POWs were exchanged for Pakistan's official recognition of Bangladesh; The agreement spoke nothing about India's own problem with Pakistan, especially Kashmir. Many in India criticised the government for not using POWs as leverage to find a conclusive solution to the Kashmir problem. However, this shows India's commitment to humanitarian principles. Despite India's treatment of Pakistani POWs, Pakistan did not return this favour. To this date, 54 Indian POWs remain unaccounted for. International Humanitarian Law is not based on the principle of reciprocity; India stuck with this principle of non - reciprocity in her treatment of 90000 POWs.

Conclusion

In a world where Humanitarian Interventions have become the norm, India's intervention serves as a prime example of an ideal intervention. It was a battlefield where humanitarian ideals clashed with the cold and harsh realities of war. Global consensus points to India passing with flying colours through her honourable conduct. The world can take many lessons on the responsibilities of an intervening nation; justified cause, force as a last resort, and non-reciprocity, among others. As we chart the future of International Humanitarian Law and try to develop standards for intervention, perhaps the answer for the same lie in a forgotten war half a century ago.

Case Study 1-Responsibility To Protect:

Live Action Case Examples

R2P or Responsibility to Protect refers to an exception, which is highly impactful to the successful working of the UN. In the proceedings of the UN, it has been observed that the veto power is often abused, and the power dominance by developed nations leaves the vulnerable exposed to great harm. Therefore, to coordinate efforts and avoid deadlocks, the UNGA, in 2005, stipulated that states should have a responsibility to protect their populations from crimes against humanity.

One example of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) principle being invoked is the case of the Libyan conflict in 2011. In February 2011, protests erupted in Libya calling for the end of the long-standing regime of Muammar Gaddafi. The Gaddafi regime responded with violence, leading to a civil war in which Gaddafi's forces used indiscriminate force against the civilian population.

In March 2011, the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 1973, which invoked the R2P principle and authorized member states to take measures to protect the civilian population in Libya. The resolution authorized the establishment of a no-fly zone over Libya, as well as other measures to protect civilians, such as the use of force to protect civilian populated areas. In response to the resolution, a coalition of member states led by France, the United Kingdom, and the United States launched a military intervention in Libya.

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In response to the resolution, a coalition of member states led by France, the United Kingdom, and the United States launched a military intervention in Libya, which helped to weaken the Gaddafi regime and eventually led to its downfall. The intervention was controversial, with some critics arguing that it went beyond the scope of the Security Council resolution and violated Libya's sovereignty. The Libyan conflict is an example of the R2P principle being invoked to protect civilian populations from atrocities. While the intervention was controversial and raised questions about the limits of the R2P principle, it also demonstrated the international community's commitment to protecting civilians from mass atrocities.

The Responsibility to Protect (R2P) principle has been invoked concerning the conflict in Syria. Since the conflict began in 2011, the Syrian government, led by President Bashar al-Assad, has been accused of committing war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide against its own population.

In 2011, the United Nations Security Council passed a resolution that condemned the Syrian government's actions and called for an end to the violence. In 2012, the Security Council passed another resolution that expressed support for the Arab League's peace plan for Syria and called on the government to allow humanitarian aid to reach those in need. Despite these resolutions, the violence in Syria continued, and in 2013, the Syrian government was accused of using chemical weapons against civilians. In response, the United States and other Western countries threatened to use force to protect civilians and enforce the R2P principle. However, the proposed military intervention was ultimately not authorized by the UN Security Council due to disagreements between member states, particularly Russia and China. Instead, a diplomatic solution was pursued, and in 2013, the Syrian government agreed to give up its chemical weapons stockpiles under the supervision of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

The conflict in Syria is an example of the challenges of invoking the R2P principle in practice. While the international community has condemned the Syrian government's actions and called for an end to the violence, disagreements between member states have prevented a more robust response to the crisis. The situation in Syria remains complex and continues to pose significant challenges to the R2P principle and

international efforts to protect civilians from mass atrocities.

Case Study 2: ICC

The International Criminal Court is a principal institution for the maintenance of law and order in society. To understand the relevance of ICC in the UN, it is important to understand its significance-which has been displayed often in this age of continuous crises.

1. The Situation in Uganda: The ICC opened its first investigation in Uganda in 2004, focusing on the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), a rebel group that had been involved in a long-running conflict in northern Uganda. The ICC issued arrest warrants for several LRA leaders, including Joseph Kony, for crimes against humanity and war crimes.
2. The Situation in Darfur, Sudan: In 2005, the United Nations Security Council referred the situation in Darfur, Sudan to the ICC. The ICC issued arrest warrants for several Sudanese officials, including President Omar al-Bashir, for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide.
3. The Situation in Libya: The ICC also investigated and prosecuted crimes committed during the 2011 conflict in Libya, which led to the downfall of the Gaddafi regime. The ICC issued arrest warrants for several senior Libyan officials, including Muammar Gaddafi, for crimes against humanity.
4. The Situation in the Central African Republic: The ICC has been investigating the situation in the Central African Republic since 2012, focusing on crimes committed during the country's ongoing conflict. The ICC has issued arrest warrants for several individuals, including a former president of the country, for crimes against humanity and war crimes. These cases demonstrate the ICC's role in investigating and prosecuting individuals for the most serious crimes of international concern, and in holding perpetrators accountable for their actions. The ICC's work also sends a message that impunity for such crimes will not be tolerated, and can help to deter future atrocities.

Russia's Humanitarian Intervention in Ukraine:

The term "Russia's humanitarian intervention in Ukraine" is a controversial one that refers to Russia's actions in the ongoing conflict in eastern Ukraine. Russia has claimed that it is intervening in Ukraine for humanitarian reasons, specifically to protect ethnic Russians and Russian speakers living in Ukraine who it claims are under threat.

The conflict began in 2014 when protests in Ukraine led to the ousting of pro-Russian President Viktor Yanukovich. Following Yanukovich's removal, pro-Russian separatists in the eastern Ukrainian regions of Donetsk and Luhansk declared independence and seized control of several towns and cities.

Russia has been accused of providing support to the separatists, including military equipment and personnel, and of annexing the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine. Russia has argued that it is supporting the separatists to protect the Russian-speaking population in eastern Ukraine, and has referred to its actions as a "humanitarian intervention."

However, many countries, including Ukraine, the United States, and the European Union, have rejected Russia's claims of humanitarian intervention and have instead characterized Russia's actions as an illegal annexation of Ukrainian territory and a violation of international law. They argue that the situation in Ukraine does not meet the criteria for a legitimate R2P intervention and that Russia's actions have only contributed to further destabilization and violence in the region.

While Russia has claimed that its actions in Ukraine are motivated by humanitarian concerns, including the protection of ethnic Russians and Russian speakers in Ukraine, many other countries have criticized Russia's actions and have characterized them as a violation of Ukraine's territorial integrity and a breach of international law. It's worth noting that there is a lot of debate about whether Russia's actions in Ukraine should be characterized as humanitarian intervention or not.

That being said, Russia has pointed to several examples of what it characterizes as humanitarian efforts in Ukraine. For example, after the conflict began in 2014, Russia began sending aid convoys to areas of eastern Ukraine that were under the control of separatist forces. These convoys included food, medicine, and other supplies that were intended to help civilians who were affected by the conflict.

Russia has also criticized the Ukrainian government for its actions in the conflict, including what it sees as indiscriminate shelling of civilian areas. In response, Russia has accused Ukraine of violating international humanitarian law and has called for an end to what it sees as the Ukrainian government's "anti-terrorist operation" in the eastern part of the country.

However, it's worth noting that many of these aid convoys were criticized for their lack of transparency and for being used by Russia to provide support to separatist forces rather than the civilian population. Additionally, the aid provided by Russia was seen by many as a way to legitimize Russia's involvement in the conflict and support separatist forces.

The UNGA has also continued to provide a platform for Ukraine to call for international support and assistance. In 2022, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky addressed the UNGA and called for support in the face of ongoing Russian aggression. He also called for international pressure on Russia to withdraw its troops from Ukraine and respect Ukraine's sovereignty. In addition to these symbolic actions, the UNGA has continued to provide a platform for the international community to provide humanitarian assistance to Ukraine.

As of 2022, the UN's Humanitarian Response Plan for Ukraine has called for \$168 million in funding to support humanitarian efforts in the country. Overall, while the UNGA's powers are limited, it continues to play a role in bringing attention to the conflict in Ukraine, mobilizing international support for Ukraine, and providing a platform for Ukraine to call for assistance and air its grievances.

The role of delegates is to understand how an action having huge level of impact can be seen as an act of aggression, as well as an act of kindness, based on the level of direct engagement and additional agendas an actor might carry with themselves. To conclude, the UNGA needs to bolster the intervention to provide aid to civilians, and needs to play a robust role in safeguarding international peace.

Humanitarian Intervention in Afghanistan

Humanitarian intervention in Afghanistan has been ongoing since the early 1980s when the country first became embroiled in conflict. The focus of intervention has shifted over the years, but it has generally involved providing aid to address the needs of Afghan civilians impacted by war and conflict.

The first phase of humanitarian intervention in Afghanistan occurred during the Soviet-Afghan War in the 1980s, when the United States and other Western countries provided aid to Afghan resistance groups fighting against Soviet forces. This aid was primarily in the form of weapons, but also included food, medicine, and other supplies. Aid workers also provided healthcare and education to civilians impacted by the war.

After the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan in 1989, the focus of humanitarian intervention shifted to addressing the needs of Afghan refugees who had fled to neighboring countries. Aid organizations provided assistance with basic needs such as food, shelter, and healthcare, as well as education and other services.

In the 1990s, Afghanistan was plunged into a civil war between various factions, which led to widespread violence and displacement. Humanitarian aid continued to be provided to Afghan refugees, but aid workers also began working inside Afghanistan to address the needs of civilians impacted by the conflict. This included providing food

and medical aid, as well as supporting reconstruction efforts.

After the 9/11 attacks in the United States in 2001, a US-led coalition invaded Afghanistan with the goal of dismantling the Taliban government and capturing Al-Qaeda militants responsible for the attacks. While the initial focus was on military objectives, humanitarian aid also continued to be provided to Afghan civilians impacted by the conflict. This aid included food, shelter, and medical supplies, as well as support for reconstruction efforts such as building schools and hospitals.

In the years since the invasion, humanitarian aid has continued to be provided to Afghanistan, with a focus on addressing the needs of internally displaced persons and refugees. However, the situation has become increasingly complex and challenging, with ongoing conflict between Taliban forces and the Afghan government, as well as the rise of ISIS in the region. Humanitarian aid workers continue to face significant challenges in accessing populations in need, and the security situation remains tenuous.

The United Nations has played a significant role in the ongoing crisis in Afghanistan, particularly in terms of addressing humanitarian needs and promoting a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

One of the primary roles of the UN in Afghanistan has been to provide humanitarian aid to the millions of people impacted by the conflict. The UN has worked with a number of aid organizations to deliver food, shelter, medical supplies, and other forms of assistance to those in need. In addition, the UN has been involved in efforts to promote education, protect human rights, and provide support for women and children affected by the conflict.

Another important role of the UN in Afghanistan has been to facilitate political negotiations aimed at ending the conflict. In 2020, the UN helped to broker talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban, which ultimately resulted in a peace agreement. While the situation remains uncertain, the UN continues to play a key role in promoting dialogue and negotiations aimed at ending the conflict.

The UN has also been involved in efforts to promote security and stability in Afghanistan. This has included the deployment of UN peacekeeping forces to the region, as well as support for efforts to combat terrorism and promote good governance.

Overall, the UN's role in the Afghan crisis has been critical in terms of providing humanitarian aid, promoting a peaceful resolution to the conflict, and supporting efforts to promote security and stability in the region.

The impact of terrorism in Afghanistan has been devastating for the Afghan people. Over the years, the country has experienced numerous terrorist attacks, many of which have resulted in the loss of innocent lives, injuries, and widespread destruction of property.

Terrorism has led to a climate of fear and insecurity across the country, with many Afghans living in constant fear of attack. The frequent attacks have also resulted in displacement of people from their homes, with many forced to flee their communities to seek safety elsewhere. This has resulted in a major humanitarian crisis, with millions of people in need of food, shelter, and medical assistance.

Terrorism has also had a major impact on the economy of Afghanistan. The instability created by the ongoing conflict has made it difficult for businesses to operate, leading to high levels of unemployment and poverty. This has had a particularly devastating impact on women and children, who have been among the most vulnerable groups affected by the conflict.

Overall, terrorism in Afghanistan has had a profound impact on the lives of millions of people, leading to loss of life, injuries, displacement, and widespread suffering. The international community, including the United Nations, has been working to address the impact of terrorism in Afghanistan, by providing humanitarian aid, promoting peace and stability, and supporting efforts to combat terrorism and promote good governance.

Suicide bombings, car bombings, and targeted killings have all contributed to the high death toll, including women, children, and other vulnerable groups.

The ongoing threat of terrorist attacks in Afghanistan has also taken a major toll on the mental health of many Afghans, leading to anxiety, depression, and other psychological issues. This is particularly true for children, who have grown up in a climate of fear and insecurity.

Guiding Questions

The following questions identify the various areas of controversy and debate that can provide for fruitful discussions, delegates are requested to research upon the same. The following are just recommendations and are not binding at all. That said, the committee may definitely use them as moderated caucus topics (if framed properly).

1. When is the use of armed forces to intervene justified ?

What are some prerequisites for a situation to call for an armed intervention. How can we distinguish between an isolated incident compared to a threat to international peace and security? Should we always wait till we have exhausted other peaceful means before resorting to force?

2. Does sovereignty of a state take primacy over human rights in international law?

Do gross human right violations justify the use of force by another state to intervene or should the sanctity of a state's sovereignty always be maintained.

3. What are the responsibilities of an intervening power, during and after the intervention?

Do the intervening powers have a responsibility to oversee and facilitate nation building and establishment of a legitimate regime , or is their job done once they have neutralised the threat. How can we combat the possibility of ulterior motives of the said intervening power. Is there a need for an international legal framework to oversee interventions.

4. What are some lessons that can be learnt from previous humanitarian interventions?

Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya - the list just doesn't end. What are some of the lessons learnt from the successes and failures of past interventions and what are some solutions to overcome these failures?

World leaders and what they said

Various leaders have expressed different views on armed humanitarian intervention. Some leaders have supported it as a necessary tool to protect human rights and prevent mass atrocities, while others have criticized it as a form of neocolonialism and a violation of state sovereignty. Here are some examples of what various leaders have said about armed humanitarian intervention:

Kofi Annan, former Secretary-General of the United Nations, supported armed humanitarian intervention but emphasized the need for it to be authorized by the UN Security Council. He stated, "The challenge is to find a way to act together in the name of our common humanity. That is the challenge of armed humanitarian intervention."

Former US President Bill Clinton supported the use of armed intervention to protect human rights and prevent genocide, as evidenced by his decision to intervene in Kosovo in 1999. He stated, "If we had gone in sooner [in Rwanda], I believe we could have saved at least a third of the lives that were lost...We should have done it, and we didn't. We all have to take our share of responsibility."

Chinese President Xi Jinping has been critical of armed humanitarian intervention, arguing that it violates the principle of state sovereignty. He stated, "The affairs of every country are handled by its own people, and every country should respect the sovereignty of others."

Russian President Vladimir Putin has also been critical of armed humanitarian intervention, arguing that it is often motivated by geopolitical interests rather than a genuine concern for human rights. He stated, "We see how such humanitarian interventions end, and no good comes of it."

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expressed support for the Responsibility to Protect principle but has been cautious about armed intervention, emphasizing the need for it to be authorized by the UN Security Council. He stated, "India supports the Responsibility to Protect doctrine...but the use of force must be sanctioned by the UN Security Council."

French President Emmanuel Macron has expressed support for armed humanitarian intervention, arguing that it is necessary to prevent mass atrocities and uphold international law. He stated, "When there are crimes against humanity or genocide, there is no other choice but to intervene, to act. We need to be true to our values."

Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair supported armed intervention in Iraq in 2003 on the grounds of preventing weapons of mass destruction and protecting human rights. However, the intervention was controversial and remains widely.

Bloc Positions

P55 - Interested in maintaining the status quo in order to continue enjoying key roles in humanitarian interventions as well as their veto rights. However, they may entertain and appreciate certain amendments and reforms.

USA -

The United States has always been a strong proponent of interventions, keeping it as a key feature of their foreign policy. However, the US has had to face backlash from its own people and the international community due to failures in Afghanistan and alleged selfish intentions.

China and Russia -

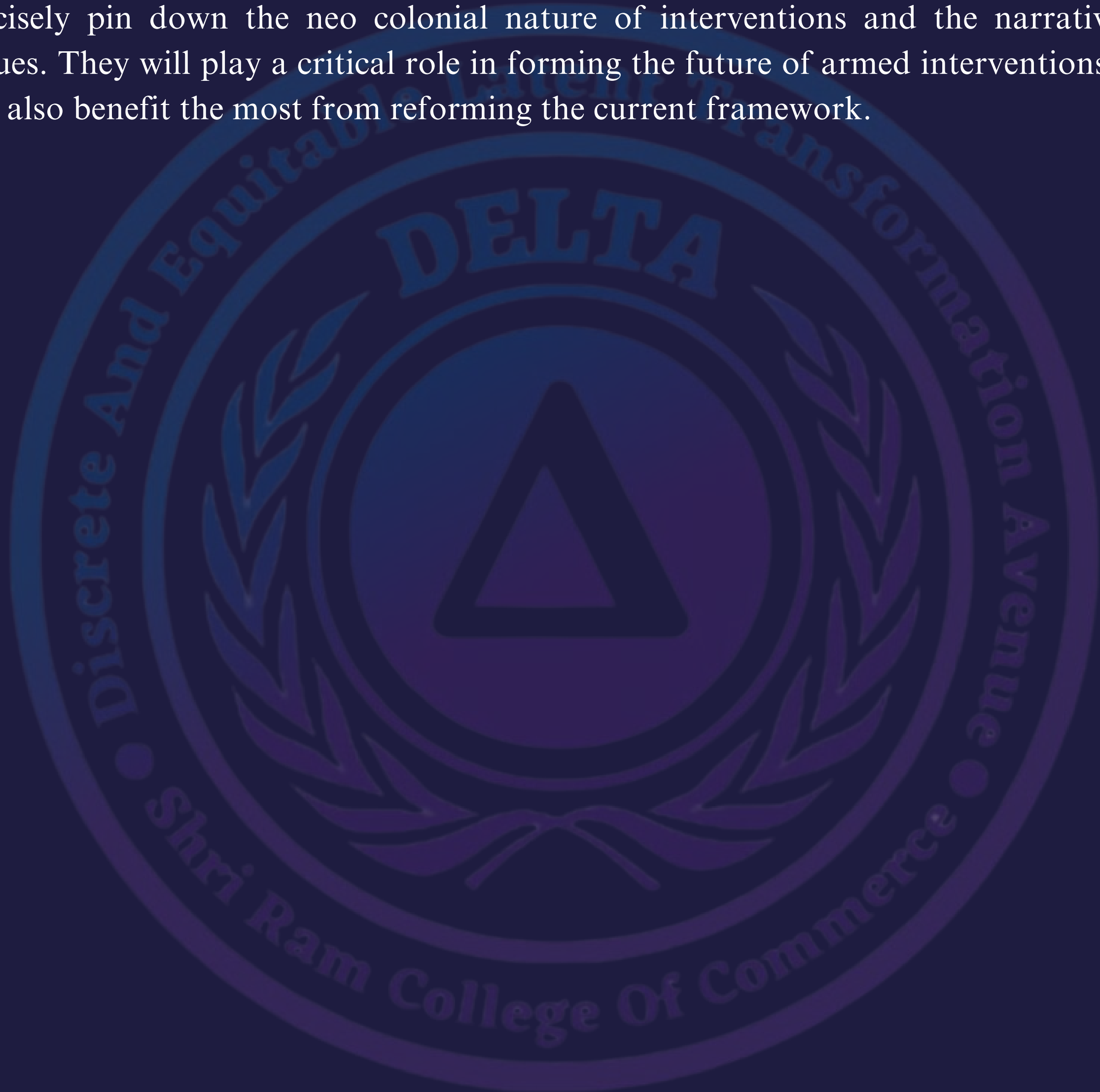
act as strong voices against Humanitarian Intervention, possibly in view of their own questionable behaviour in Hong Kong, Crimea, and now with Uighur Muslims and Ukraine. Argue in favour of sovereignty and against the colonial and unilateral nature of US interventionist policy.

Developed and the western world

Nations like Canada, Germany and UK would preferably like to keep the armed intervention as a useful tool in their arsenal. It helps provide them an opportunity to spread their own national values and boost their soft power potential. However, they must tread lightly as they are the ones that have to bear the economic costs of such interventions as they are the most significant contributors to peacekeeping missions.

Developing and the non - western states ;

These nations have faced the brunt of interventions and their failures. They can precisely pin down the neo colonial nature of interventions and the narrative that ensues. They will play a critical role in forming the future of armed interventions. They will also benefit the most from reforming the current framework.



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